

10 JUN 1988



THE  
**GRANITE BELT  
NATURALIST**



**Monthly Newsletter of the  
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club**





THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB

P.O. Box 154,  
Stanthorpe, Q4380.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 1987 - 1988

PRESIDENT	RAY MARSDEN (811 593)
VICE-PRESIDENTS	ROB MCCOSKER JEAN HARSLETT B.E.M.
SECRETARY	DOT ARCHER (811 754)
TREASURER	JOAN STEVENSON
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	MILLIE MARSDEN
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE	DORE MCCOSKER LOUISE FISCHER TOM ARCHER
PUBLICITY OFFICER	JANET HOCKINGS
LIBRARIAN	BRIAN MCDONAGH
FLORA AND FAUNA OFFICER	COLIN HOCKINGS
GEOLOGY OFFICER	GEOFFREY WALKER
YOUTH OFFICER	ERROL WALKER
BUSHWALKING OFFICER	
<u>COMMITTEE</u>	Frank Wilkinson Roy Werner Esme Lacey Bob Lacey Ailsa Wilkinson Lyle Thompson

Hon. AUDITOR

JOAN FERRIS

MEETINGS - 4th WEDNESDAY of each month at the C.W.A. Rooms  
at 8 p.m.

OUTINGS - The Sunday PRECEDING the 4th Wednesday of the month.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Single - \$6.00

Family \$10.00

Donation .50c per family per  
meeting to cover rent.

AIMS OF THE CLUB

1. To study all branches of natural history.
2. Preservation of the Flora and Fauna of Queensland.
3. Encouragement of a spirit of protection towards native birds, animals and plants.
4. To assist where possible in scientific research.
5. To publish a monthly newsletter.

Minutes of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club General Meeting Held on Wednesday, May 25th, 1988, in the Q.C.W.A. Rooms at 8 p.m.

Present - 12

Apologies 11

Opening - President Ray called the meeting to order and welcomed all present.

Minutes - The minutes of the April Meeting were taken as read in the May Newsletter. Moved by Rob McCosker and seconded by Lyle Thompson. Carried.

Correspondence - Inward was received from  
Elizabeth Russell, Sec. Toowoomba Field Naturalist Club  
Jean Harslett in Birdsville  
Community Development Officer in Stanthorpe  
Q'ld Recreation Officer in Warwick  
Margaret Compton re joining our club  
Registration Renewal from Stanthorpe P.O.  
Senator John Coulter re protecting the Ozone Area.

Newsletters received from  
Toowoomba Bush Walkers

Chinchilla Field Naturalist Club  
The Darling Downs Naturalist Club  
Richmond Valley Naturalist Club

Outward sent to  
4 Q.S. re outing and meeting notices  
Margaret Compton  
Moved by Dore McCosker and seconded by John Walter that the  
Inward Correspondence be received and the outward endorsed.  
Carried.

Treasurer's Report -

Balance as at 27.4.88		183.94 cr.
<u>Receipts</u>		
Subscriptions	26.00	
Room Rent collected	7.70	
Bring & Buy table	<u>3.59</u>	
		<u>37.29</u>
		221.23
<u>Expenses</u>		
Room Rent	8.00	
Magazine Postage	15.75	
Magazine Duplication	6.00	
Secretary Petty Cash	10.00	
Refund of Sub Overpayment		
M.Compton	4.00	
F.D.T. Jan	.15	
F.D.T. Feb	<u>.15</u>	
		<u>44.05</u>
		<u>\$177.18 Cr.</u>

Moved by Treasurer Joan and seconded by Errol Walker that  
her report be received and the following accounts passed for  
payment Newman Special School 8.00 Mag. Duplication 6.00  
C.W.A. 8.00 Mag. Registration 40.00  
Magazine Postage 15.75

Carried.

May Outing Report

On Sunday, May 22nd, 30 people travelled in 11 cars to the Homestead at Pikedale and had smoko. All enjoyed a good day hearing and seeing many points of interest. Lunch was eaten at Washpool after which a fence was erected around an old grave which was thought to be that of a man named Stoddard in 1878.

This outing was not only of interest to the Naturalist Club - but members were joined by a group from the Stanthorpe Historical Society as well.

Ray Spoke on the amount of birdlife seen in particular an eagle Hawk's nest was of great interest - this had been lined with green leaves. Pomegranets growing in the Homestead garden were tasted but those who tried them were not overly unressed. Our thanks to Don Lightfoot for organising this outing.

Proposed Campout to Gympie was discussed and it was decided to postpone this until next year as it was not possible to get the smaller bus for the long weekend in June.

June Outing - 19th of June - it was decided to have an outing on our regular outing date to Boonooboonoo under the leadership of Roy Werner. There will be more details re this in the June Newsletter and it will depend on the condition of the roads as to whether we'll be able to go all the way.

Next Meeting will be on June 22nd. Guest Speaker for this will be Tom Archer who will give an illustrated talk on Wild Flowers in the Amiens area.

July Outing on Sunday July 24th - Secretary to write to the Warwick Officer of the Q'ld Recreation Council to get a suggestion for this from them as it is 'Recreation Week' from July 24th to July 31st. Their theme is "Discover Life on a trail".

Specimens - Dore spoke on a Devils Bird and Osage Oranges. Lyle spoke on a lovely opal he had found.

General Business - Errol moved that copies of our magazine from June, 1987 to July 1988 be put in the Time Capsule.  
Seconded by Lyle Thompson and Carried.

Secretary to give these to the appropriate person.

Meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

After Meeting Program - all present enjoyed some beautiful slides taken by Errol Walker on his trip with his family to the Snowy Mtns. and home again showing some beautiful scenic spots seen on the trip. Many thanks Errol.

Dorothy Archer  
Hon. Sec.

\* \* \* \* \*

TREASURE

In scenery where mountains loom  
We thrill to grandeur all around,  
But in a single, modest bloom  
Beauty's perfection may be found.



Latest news from the Bird Colony in Archer's Garden

I've told you before about all our feathered friends who regularly visit us and they still come for their special tit bits. Our Wattle birds still enjoy their nectar bottle - as a matter of fact the bottle seems to empty much quicker these days. The mystery was solved when to my surprise earlier this week, I saw not a Wattle Bird enjoying a drink but a Blue Mountain Parrot. Up in a nearby Tree was a very very hostile Wattle Bird but all its raucus noise didn't deter the Parrot who quietly continued drinking - the bubbles in the bottle proved this to be so. No wonder the bottles of nectar didn't last as long as they usually did - and I wonder how many other parrots had enjoyed a drink too!!

\* \* \* \* \*

MAY OUTING REPORT by Leader, Don Lightfoot

The May outing of the club was held on Sunday May 22nd and members were joined by the Stanthorpe Historical Society for an outing to Pikedale under the leadership of Don Lightfoot. Cars met at Weeroona Park at 9 a.m. and members were given a brief outline of the days program. Cars travelled via Texas Road to the Pikedale Stockyards where morning tea was enjoyed and a headcount showed 34 people were present. The party then had a look around various old sheds and the remains of the old Pikedale Homestead. Some history of this Station was given from when it was first taken up and about the past owners up to the present time. Also about the sheds and how they were used in the past - in particular the old Blacksmith shop - the country being traprock it was very necessary for horses to be shod otherwise they were of no use,--Old Stables with Iron Bark blocks for the floor in the ground about 2 feet; harness and machinery sheds etc. Another very interesting story was the starting method of a Field Manchell diesel tractor (one cylinder) which was once used on the property. Pikedale Homestead was a landmark for many years. It stood on three acres of landscaped gardens with tennis courts where social games were played. The gardens were once a show place - a credit to the owners and gardeners alike. There still is a stone fence standing today built possibly 100 years ago. The homestead was destroyed by fire in August 1963.

The party next travelled via Inglewood Road turning off through some paddocks of rolling hills and then down to the Washpool on Pikes Creek where lunch was enjoyed. A brief history of the working of the Washpool was given. The purpose of the Washpool was to wash hot the sheep in full wool before shearing. The sheep were forced into yards and races into the water where the washing took place by hand. When this process was finished, the sheep were let go into a  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile lane (in those days was called a pony fence). The sheep would not be herded until wanted in the shearing shed and the fence went right into the old shearing shed about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles away.

The reason the Historical Society members joined the outing was not only for historical information re the Homestead and property but to also put a new fence around an old grave on the bank of the creek. It is not definite but is thought to be the grave of a man named Stoddard who died in 1878. While the refencing took place some Nats members enjoyed a walk and saw some interesting bird life. A wegetail eagle was seen also tree creepers, blue wrens, King parrots and a couple of finches.

May Outing continues -

All members joined together back at the Inglewood Road for Afternoon tea and an enjoyable day came to a close as cars wended their way home at 4 p.m.

Many thanks to Don for a very interesting historic outing. Ed.

June 19th is the date for the next outing of our club. It had been planned for that outing to do a trip through Boonooboonoo to Boorak Road and joining up with the Buxner Highway - but this has had to be changed due to wet weather and the impossible condition of some parts of the road. An alternate trip to Boonooboonoo Falls is being planned and cars are to meet at Weeroona Park at 9 a.m. Roy Werner is the leader and he will give details of the outing before we set off.

Next Meeting is on Wednesday, June 22nd at 8 p.m. Tom Archer will be the Guest Speaker and will give an illustrated talk on wild flowers in the Amiens Area and Stanthorpe district.

JUST A REMINDER RE OUR JULY 27th Meeting is our Annual Meeting with the election of officers for 1988/89. "Remember Last Year" is our aftermeeting program. We also have a "cuppa" to finish off the night so a plate for supper would be appreciated.

The following is a list of past outings to refresh your memory so that you can bring your slides of them for viewing -

August 23 Jibbenbar  
 August 30 Special Wild Flour outing to Blue Mountain  
 Sept. 20 Inglewood Wild Flowers  
 Sept. 26 Chinchilla Nats to Nancy Aiken  
 October 25 Basket Swamp  
 Nov. 22 - 23 - Spicer Gap - Mt. Greville Campout  
 Jan. 24 Girraween National Park  
 Feb. 21 Demon River- Rocky River  
 March 20 Walkout from Junction of Quart Pot Creek and Broadwater to Finney's Falls.  
 April 22 - 25 - Campout Lions Road etc.  
 May 20 Pikedale Station & Washpool  
 and this months outing June 19 th to Boonooboonoo.

\* \* \* \* \*

JUNE 19 th - meet at Weeroona park at 9 a.m.

Just a reminder of our next outing.

\* \* \* \* \*