

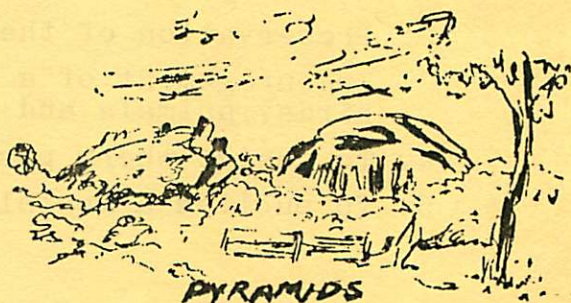
17 OCT 1983



THE
**GRANITE BELT
NATURALIST**



Monthly Newsletter of the
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club



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

P.O. Box 154,
Stanthorpe, Q., 4380.

OFFICERS OF CLUB FOR 1988 - 1989

PRESIDENT	RAY MARSDEN (811 593)
VICE-PRESIDENTS	ROBIN MC COSKER JEAN HARSLETT B.E.M. DORE MC COSKER
SECRETARY	DOT ARCHER (811754)
TREASURER	JOAN STEVENSON
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	MILLIE MARSDEN
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GEOLOGY OFFICER	COL HOCKINGS
YOUTH OFFICER	ROBIN MC COSKER
BUSHWALKING OFFICER	ERROL WALKER
LIBRARIAN	VAL WHITE
HON. AUDITOR	JOAN FERRIS

MEETINGS - 4th WEDNESDAY of each month in the Q.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

Rent donation per family per meeting

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 General Monthly Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalists Club held in the QCWA Rooms, Victoria Street Stanthorpe
Wednesday September 28, 19 88 at 8pm.

Present 23

Apologies 7

Opening

In the absence of president Ray Marsden, vice-president Jean Harslett chaired the meeting and welcomed all present especially Julie Brown and her two young daughters Rebecca and Annita and members Wendy and Niel Donges from Melbourne.

Minutes.

Moved by Lyle Thompson and seconded Tom Archer that the minutes of the August be taken as read in the September Newsletter and confirmed. Carried

Correspondence.Inward: Subscriptions received from Julie Brown, N. Gooding, Warwick; Megan Thomas, Taringa; Chrissie Plant and M. Moulds. Newsletters and journals from Queensland Naturalist News, Toowoomba Bush Walkers; Darling Downs Naturalist August and September; Richmond Valley Naturalist Club; Order form for Wilderness and Natural Australia diaries. Moved by Val White seconded Errol Walker that the inward correspondence be received. Carried.

Finance.

There was no treasurer;s report presented to the meeting. Moved by Kris Carnell and seconded by Rerie Thompson that the following accounts be passed for payment: Magazine duplicating \$6; Room rent \$8; Border Post \$5; Magazine postage \$17. Carried.

Outing Report. Leader Brian McDonagh reported 16 people attended the outing and enjoyed it. The morning walk was the easier of the walks. Lovely orchids were seen 13 in number. After lunch a walk to the Falls was enjoyed with a quicker than anticipated return because of an approaching storm. Brian reported that most of the wild flowers were past their best. Jean expressed appreciation to Brian for clearing a track to making the walking a lot easier.

It was moved by Jean Harslett and seconded Val White that a letter of thanks be forwarded to Peter Rodger for allowing access to his property. Carried.

Next Outing. The outing on October 23 is to Racecourse Creek area with Robin McCosker as leader. Details will be in the October Newsletter.

October Program. The after meeting program for October 26 will be presented by Jean Harslett, B.E.M. and entitled "Stanthorpe and District History".

Specimens Tom Dunn brought in a black fish known as the "slippery" because of no rigidity in fins.

Robin McCosker brought in some unusual looking back rocks, sand cemented with peat. He also brought a crane fly or "daddy long legs" which Jean Harslett spoke about.

Dore McCosker brought along a collection of flower specimens from the Sunday outing.

General Business. The articles which appeared in the September Newsletter were greatly appreciated. Keep them coming members.

Meeting closed at 8.37pm.

Program. Brian McDonagh gave a very interesting program entitled "1770" showing many interesting coastal spots. Using some of his father's slides to augment his own collection to show some good fishing spots and some pictures of the good catches as well.

Many thanks Brian for sharing some happy family outings.

Dorothy Archer
Hon. Sec.

Financial statement of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist's Club as supplied for the October Newsletter by treasurer Joan Stevenson.

Credit balance as at 8.8.88 \$145.61

Receipts (subscriptions) 140.00

Total \$285,61

Expenses Magazine Postage 15.75

Magazine Duplication 6.00

Room Rent 8.00 29.75

Balance as at 26.9.88 \$255.86.

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Outing Report September 1988 Lyra area.

Leader Brian McDonagh.

A total of 16 people took part in the outing on September 25 to the Lyra area.

The morning walk was to a small wildflower area north of Doctors Creek, which had a large number of species of flowers, but no massive shows as we saw the previous month at Amiens. An outing was held to the same area about ten years ago, when the display was much better. There has not been a fire through the area since about 1956, and a number of species, particularly *Eriostemon myoporoides* seem to have reached the end of their lives. The numbers were there and the tree-pea, *Oxylobium arboretum* and *Kunzea* did make a bright display.

September outing.(con't'd)

Lunch was held back at the cars, when a couple of members left and we were joined by Peter Rodger and son whose family own the property of the afternoon walk. Millie also joined us at this time. We were pleased that, once again, Jean brought along an agricultural exchangee and we made Knud Jespersen very welcome.

Doctors Creek forms a spectacular gorge as it drops from the Eukey tableland. We walked along the northern side of the gorge at a botanists pace(one mile in X number of hours) pausing to examine and photograph. The first official spell was in an area with a spectacular display of *Boronia amabilis*(probably the best of the local boronias, or from anywhere else for that matter) set off by *Wyberba* wattle, *Acacia pulicifolia*. At this point one could look down into the gorge with its rainforest creepers and other odd plants which are rather rare on the Granite Belt.

After about half a mile of easier walking, still with a good selection of flowers, we reached the area of the falls, where the going was very rough. At the falls one finds a different selection of wildflowers. Very beautiful on this day was the *Leucopogon biflorus*, which may well be the pick of the heath family. Also in this area was *Hakea propinqua* with its tiny flowers but massive nobbly seedpods. Some staghorns were seen.

Finally we fought our way back to the top of the falls, and the first member was climbing down to get a look at them when the thunder started. Nobody really saw the falls, as a vote was taken to return quickly to the cars. In the 20 minutes taken to return to the cars, we didn't get really wet, but very damp.

The day was really a ground orchid day, almost everywhere the wax-lipped orchid *Glossodia major* was making a show; three species of *Caladenia*; four species of greenhoods, fourteen species in all. Orchid list:

<i>Caladenia dilatata</i>	- Spider orchid
<i>Caladenia carrea</i>	- Pinkie
<i>Caladenia alba</i>	- Larger than the Pinkie and white
<i>Diuris aurea</i>	\$ Double tailed Donkey ears
<i>Dendrobium linguiforme</i>	- Tongue orchid
<i>Glossodia major</i>	- Purple Waxlip
<i>Glossodia Major</i>	- the rare white form of above
	- Red Parrot beak.
<i>Pterostylis nutans</i>	- Parrot greenhood
<i>Pterostylis mutica</i>	- Small greenhood
<i>Acianthus exsertus</i>	- Gnat orchid
<i>Acianthus reniformis</i>	- Mosquito orchid
<i>Calochilys robertsoni</i>	- Bearded orchid(buds only)
<i>Pterostylis rufa</i>	- Red hooded

Jean Harslett and I visited the mosquito orchids *Acianthus reniformis* a week later and found a few extra species also in taht area.

Brian McDonagh
Leader.

Historical Aspects of the Lyra.Outing.

By Brian McDonagh.

In 1824 Cunningham brought his team of jaded men and exhausted packhorses down the valley. If the vegetation was as it is now, he would have had to cut a track through.

After camping overnight somewhere in the valley, he climbed the bluff and saw open country to the west, and, from the tone of his diary, heaved a sigh of relief. The range to the north, the edge of the Eukey plateau, he called a "formidable range".

This information came from research carried out by the late Mervyn Fletcher.

Another part of interest is that, for many years an illicit still was operated in the gorge, producing "fire-water" for the men building the railway line through to Wallangarra. A member of the family found a smoke-blackened rock and a small pile of bottles many years later. On going back to the area some 20 years later no trace could be found of the spot.

The bluff to the south was a training ground for the Queensland University Rock Climbing Club, lead by Fred Fromm, who lost his life on Mt. Everest a couple of years ago.

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Outing to Racecourse Creek area on October 23.

By leader Robin McCosker.

Although I had no particular place in mind, upon consulting maps of this area of Girraween National Park, I have decided that a trip to West Bald Rock should be well within the scope of our members.

The plan is to park our cars at the Mt. Norman parking area and walk about 3km to West Bald Rock for lunch. After lunch, we will follow the gullies downstream until we meet the road, where it crosses Racecourse Creek (approx. 3km). Then we will return to the cars along the road (approx 2km).

As I have not done a pre-outing trip, I can only guess at walking conditions, but would rate it at 7 or 8 out of ten. Remember we will have to carry lunch and water, and be prepared to get our feet wet as we will be walking past perhaps the largest highland swamp in the National Park - some 1.5km long.

Would anyone wanting a lift, please contact me by phone or be at Weeroona Park for an 8.30am start. Others may wish to join the outing at Lions Park at Wallangarra at 9am or at the Mt. Norman parking spot if you know the way. Contact me on 835217.

Robin McCosker - Leader.

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October Program.

The October meeting will be held in the QCWA rooms Victoria Street at 8pm on October 26. The program will be presented by Jean Harslett B.E.M., and her subject is "Stanthorpe and District History". Jean is well known for her presentation of excellent programs and this will be one not to be missed.