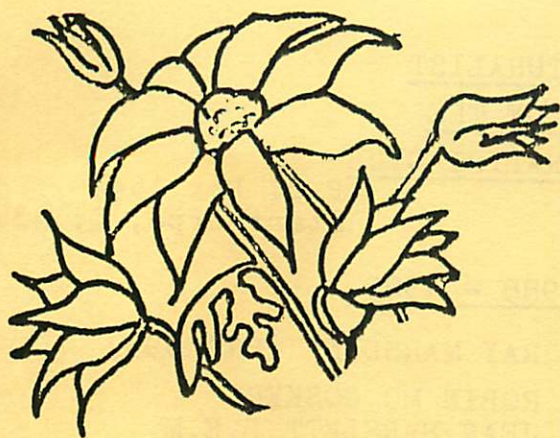


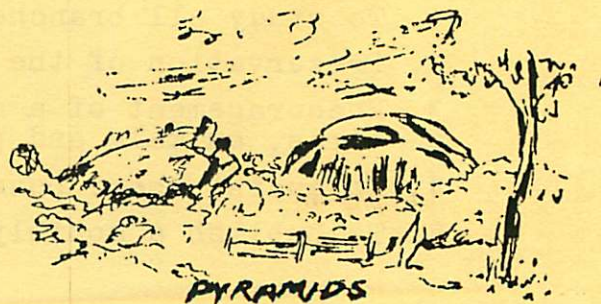
12 JAN 1989



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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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, held in the Q.C.W.A. rooms Victoria Street, Stanthorpe on Wednesday November 23, 1988 at 8pm.

Present 36

Apologies 7

Opening. President Ray Marsden opened the meeting and welcomed all, especially visitors to the meeting.

Minutes. It was moved by Tom Archer and seconded by Dore McCosker that the minutes as printed in the November Newsletter be taken as read and confirmed. Carried.

Correspondence. Inward received from :- *. Southern Downs College of Technical and Further Education requesting copies of the magazine be forwarded for their library. 2. Dia 1 aSafari 3. Order forms for the book "Lake Broadwater" 4. Granite Belt Grape Vine Newsletters received from 1. Darling Downs Naturalist 2. QLD Naturalist Inc 3. Richmond Valley Naturalist 4. Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club. Outward forwarded to :- 1. Letters of sympathy to Betty McKenzie and Janet Hockings 2. 4QS re outing and meeting notices. It was moved by Val White and seconded by Jean Harslett that the inward correspondence be received and the outward endorsed. Carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Julia read the treasurers report			
Balance as at 26/10/1988	Credit	\$	319-26
Receipts	Subscriptions	\$56.00	
	Room Rent	6.60	
			62-60
			<u>381-86</u>
Expenses	Magazine Postage	17.00	
	Magazine Duplication	6.00	
	Room Rent	8.00	
	Photocopying B.P.	5.00	
	Magazine Covers	7.50	
			43.50
Balance as at 23/11/88		\$	<u>338.36</u>

Treasurer Julia moved her report for adoption and the following accounts be passed for payment. Magazine postage \$17; Room Rent \$8; Magazine Duplication \$6; Stencils \$26.40; Magazine Covers \$15. Seconded by Diana Holley. Carried

November outing report. Robin McCosker, leader of the outing to the "Forgotten Country" proved to be a well attended and interesting camp-out. Rob set up camp on the Friday and the remainder of the campers arrived on Saturday. Ray Klenk, of Baryulgil led the group on an outing of interest on Saturday afternoon, while on Saturday night some of the campers attended a dance in nearby

Outing Report (continued)

Baryulgil hall. Pat Bancroft, of Lionsville, led the campers to visit a mine, members brought back some lovely samples. At this campout platypus, fish, turtles and several snakes were seen.

The secretary was requested to write letters of thanks to Ray Klenk and Pat Bancroft for their time so generously given and for the use of 4WD vehicles.

Christmas Break-up. As the majority of those present preferred to have the break-up on December 11 it was changed from December 4 to December 11. Members to arrive at Harslett Farm after lunch with insect search and walks on the program. Jean Harslett offered to supply salads for the barbecue so please bring meat and sweets.

Next Outing. A half day walk out from Britannia Street crossing to Petrie's Crossing to be led by Ray Marsden. Members to meet at Britannia Street at 1.30pm.

January Program. The meeting on January 25 will convene at 8pm and the guest speaker will be Mr. David Hockings.

Specimens. Several people brought calsite samples and Col Hockings spoke on these. Robin McCosker brought two birds nests - one he wished to have identified. Books were on display to identify the ticks and mites and other "nasties" experienced on the camp out. Jean Harslett spoke on these.

General Business. Jean Harslett presented the book "Plant use by the Aboriginal People" compiled by Glenn Teiper of Beenleigh. Glenn runs the Jacob's Well School for Natural Science for school children and the book was a gift from him. The secretary was asked to forward a letter of thanks to him.

Editor asked the members if they wished to have lists of flowers and birds to be included in the newsletter. All were in favour of continuing it.

Brian McDonagh spoke on a turquoise parrot nest on his property which has two surviving young in it.

Meeting closed at 845pm.

After Meeting Program. President Ray introduced Errol Walker the guest speaker for the evening. Errol presented a most interesting slide program on his recent trip which took in Broken Hill, Lake Eyre, Flinders Ranges and the Birdsville track to mention but a few places.

This was greatly enjoyed by all present and appreciation was shown by acclamation. A vote of thanks was moved to Errol for bringing such a variation of scenes and especially for the photography skills exhibited.

Dorothy Archer.
Hon. Sec.

November Outing Reporton camp-out to Washpool Creek.by LeaderRobin McCosker.

The camp-out to Washpool Creek in the Forgotten Country was held on November 19 and 20, 1988.

The name for this outing was taken from the book of the same name, about the gold mining areas roughly from Grafton to Tenterfield written by Mrs. Isabel Wilkinson of Top Plains in the Clarence River valley. The area I had suggested for the outing was around the former townships of Lionsville and Solferino, particularly the Garibaldi mine where a "crystal cave" had been discovered and an enormous quantity of the crystal had been mined and sent to Germany.

On the pre-outing trip we called at information offices in Tenterfield and Glen Innes, and, although we could pinpoint the area on maps, no one knew much about it. We began to think it really was the forgotten country. Fortunately a couple of phone calls after we returned home gave us two contacts who would be willing to be guides and we obtained permission to camp on Washpool Creek. We have Mrs. Isabel Wilkinson to thank for providing the contacts with Pat Bancroft and Ray Klenk.

I was still unsure of a campsite so I drove down on the Friday morning to establish one. Soon after leaving the Bruxner Highway, the Plains Station Road passes through Frasers Cutting with magnificent views down to the Clarence River. We enjoyed the Wilkinsons hospitality at Top Plains for smoko and learned a lot more about the area. Trish envied the tropical rainforest garden which they have created at their home. The bitumen road surface changed to gravel after Yates Crossing, as we continued to Baryulgil (pronounced Baryoogle) where we turned right towards Lionsville. The sealed road from Baryulgil through the Yulgilbar (Yooglebar) perhaps indicates its importance. It is at present owned by Myers, as also is the small store at Baryulgil a subsidiary of Myers. The station became renowned for its castle, built by the original owners the Ogilvies.

We crossed the Clarence River again, then on to find a campsite on Washpool Creek, which rises in the Washpool National Park. After lunch and setting up camp, we had an enjoyable afternoon swimming and learning from local Pat Bancroft, how to make the creek crossing negotiable for low clearance 2 WD vehicles. That night we tried fishing and landed a nice catfish, while next morning Danny caught another after actually seeing the fish take the bait - since the water is so clear. Earlier in the morning I saw Platypus in the creek and watched them for over an hour. Fred and Lillian had arrived on Friday also and the chance of catching a fish interested Fred. On Saturday morning, as he had no bait, Fred quickly fashioned a shrimp net from some wire and netting. He soon had a few nice shrimps which a little later in the morning enabled him to catch an eel. We were paid another visit from Pat Bancroft, who showed us his collection of mineral samples including asbestos, copper, gold and mercury ore as well as some Iceland Spar, the calcite crystal from the Garibaldi Mine.

When the main party arrived and set up camp we had a total of 36 members present. Our guide for the afternoon, Ray Klenk from Baryulgil, arrived about 2pm and we followed him across Washpool Creek, through the site of the Lionsville township and on to the

November Camp-out report(Continued).

remains of the Lion Mine. Although we searched hard, the only treasure discovered was a nice specimen of a hyacinth orchid. Back at Lionsville, we spent a lot of time looking at the remains of what was once a thriving community. Only two slab huts are left standing now, one complete with a bedroom partitioned off with canvas.

We then headed off to look at Solferino, but didn't get too far with the two wheel drive vehicles. Fortunately there was enough room on the 4WD's (would you believe 22 people on board Ray Klenk's Toyota - Oh what a feeling!). The track was quite steep and rough but worse was the lantana growing over it, causing quite a bit of discomfort to some. We eventually arrived at Solferino Creek and the site of the once predominantly Italian township. The scrub and lantana have almost obliterated all trace of it now, although we found two wells lined with stones and what appeared to be a couple of building sites. We turned around there and headed back to camp although the track does continue to the next watercourse Mogrigar Creek, said by Ray to be even prettier than Solferino, with its tree ferns and staghorns etc. Everyone was very grateful to Ray for so freely giving us his time, his knowledge of the area and especially the use of his vehicle.

Some nine members were to meet Ray again that night, as we turned up at the Baryulgil hall for a dance. The town usually has only one dance a year and as this was their second we really were privileged. We had a most enjoyable time too.

Next morning we set off in the vehicles again at about 7.30am and followed Pat Bancroft to the foot of the range beyond Lionsville. At the end of the track we met an interesting chap with one artificial leg, who regularly camps there to mine for gold in the creek in his spare time. He was a mining engineer and told us of all the trouble he was having with native cats trying to get his food, and the crayfish in the creek eating holes in a canvas pump hose. The ounce and a half of gold he showed us looked to be ample reward for his troubles however. We set off on foot along the picturesque but stoney creek, then left it to follow the now overgrown roadway to the Garibaldi Mine. It was interesting to note the size and diversity of the rainforest type trees growing on areas which Pat could remember as clearings some fifty years ago. The "mile or so" walk seemed like five by the time we reached the mine tunnel. It was certainly worth the effort as large chunks of calcite crystals were seen littering the ground. Pat made sure everyone had a nice specimen before we headed off down the track again and inspected a large boiler on the way. Although rusty and decrepit now, and hosting a couple of staghorns, the immense boiler made one consider the men who brought it there and the tremendous ordeal they must have had to overcome to establish the goldmine in such a wilderness. The return to camp was almost uneventful - Kel Dominey picked up the carpet snake, which we had seen on the way up, and allowed everyone who was interested to have a close look and a feel before letting it go.

Back at camp we enjoyed a final swim in the creek before reluctantly packing up. Upon Pat's advice about the road, some members returned home the way they had come, while the remainder

November Camp Out Report(continued).

followed him along the Lionsville Forest Road through Ewingar State Forest to the Ewingar North road. We left Pat here, after thanking him profusely and wishing we had the time to see more of the area. The forest roads were in quite good condition and the scenery was magnificent as we followed along the top of the Gibraltar Range before dropping down to the Clarence River valley to meet the Plains Station road again near Yates Crossing. It was then a three hour drive home to end what had turned out to be a great camp-out, thanks especially to Mrs. Wilkinson, Ray Klenk and Pat Bancroft.

Christmas Break-up outing and barbecue.

The outing was arranged to be an insect search and some leisurely walks around the Harsletts property at Amiens. Owing to the showery conditions the insects, like the Nats. members, were keeping very much to the dry places and were hard to locate.

Between showers a few insects were found and Jean was able to tell us about their habits, some were taken inside to be examined under the magnifying glass before being released. While the rain was tumbling down the 43 members present were invited to peruse the wide range of nature books available in the Harslett home and Jean, a talented entomologist, showed her butterfly and insect collection to those who had not seen them before. An indoor barbecue seemed to be the order of the day.

A visit to the dam was of great interest because of the birdlife seen, ducks, moorhens and to everyone's delight a family of black swans. This is the first time that the pair have nested on the dam and their family of seven were very well trained. They kept in perfect order swimming behind Mum and Dad and kept a distance from the interested humans on the dam wall.

It was brought to our notice that birds suffer from the storms and strong winds as two nests had been brought down. These were brought along for display - one was a bulky stick, vine and wire nest of a magpie and the other was a dainty web and bark nest of a honeyeater.

President Ray Marsden thanked Rob and Jean Harslett for their hospitality and wished one and all the compliments of the season and a happy and healthy new year.

January Outing.

The outing will take the form of a walk out from Brittania Street to Petrie's Crossing along Quart Pot Creek and the Severn River. Ray Marsden will be the leader and members are asked to meet at the Brittania Street crossing at 1.30pm on January 22. It is envisaged that cars will be available to ferry drivers back to Brittania Street to pick up their vehicles.

Bird List from Washpool Creek Camp-out.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Sacred Kingfisher | 27. Crimson Rosella |
| 2. Azure Kingfisher | 28. Rainbow Lorikeet |
| 3. Kookooburra | 29. Wonga Pigeon |
| 4. Dollar Bird | 30. Scaly Breasted Lorikeet |
| 5. Crow | 31. Spurwinged Plover |
| 6. Peewit - Magpie Lark | 32. Red Browed Finch |
| 7. Magpie (Black Backed) | 33. Silvereye |
| 8. Wagtail | 34. Scarlet Honeyeater |
| 9. Currawong(pied) | 35. Lewin Honeyeater |
| 10. Grey Butcher Bird | 36. White Throated Warbler |
| 11. Pied Butcher Bird | 37. Cicada Bird |
| 12. Ibis (straw necked) | 38. Satin Bower Bird |
| 13. White Winged Chough | 39. White Throated Treecreeper |
| 14. Easter Whipbird | 40. Yellow Robin |
| 15. Grey Crowned Babbler | 41. Grey Shrike Thrush |
| 16. Black faced Cuckoo Shrike | 42. Satin Flycatcher |
| 17. Superb Blue Wren | 43. Grey Fantail |
| 18. Variegated Wren | 44. Bell Bird |
| 19. Red Backed Wren | 45. Koel |
| 20. Coot | 46. Yellow Tailed Thornbill |
| 21. Dusky Moorhen | 47. Scrub Wren |
| 22. Sea Eagle | 48. Spotted Pardalote |
| 23. Black Duck | 49. Noisy Friar Bird |
| 24. White Cockatoo | 50. Wedge Tailed Eagle |
| 25. Glossy Cockatoo | 51. Owl ? |
| 26. Eastern Rosella | 52. Pipit |

January Program.

The first meeting for 1989 will be held in the QCWA rooms in Victoria Street at 8pm on January 25. It is hoped that there will be a good roll up as the program will be presented by Mr. David Hockings and will be on "The Top End".