



18 OCT 1991



THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST



Monthly Newsletter of the
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club

Registered Publication No. QBH 1824
Category B
If not claimed please return to
P.O. Box 154, Stanthorpe, Q. 4380

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**

OFFICERS OF CLUB FOR 1991-92

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|--------|
| President | Kris Carnell | 835268 |
| Vice-Presidents | Rob McCosker | 835371 |
| | Jean Harslett B.E.M. | 833185 |
| Secretary | Desley McDonagh | 813074 |
| Treasurer | Julia Brown | |
| Newsletter Editor | Margaret Carnell | 835268 |
| Newsletter Sub-Committee | Val White & Dore McCosker | |
| Publicity Officer | Frank & Patience James | 811853 |
| Librarian | Esme Colley | 812927 |
| Management Committee | President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer. | |

Meetings: 4th Wednesday of each Month at Q.C.W.A. Rooms at 8 p.m.

Outings: ~~The~~ Sunday preceding the 4th Wednesday of each Month.

Annual Subscriptions: Single \$8.00 Family \$15.00 per annum July to June

Rent: Donation per family per meeting.

SCALE OF DIFFICULTY FOR WALKS ON NATS OUTINGS

1. Flat walking road or track.
2. Road or track gentle hills.
3. Track some hilly sections
4. Track some steep sections
5. Cross country easy open forest, gentle slopes.
6. Track steep section common, with steps.
7. Cross country some hills, some thick undergrowth.
8. Cross country steep section with scrambles over rocks etc. Some thick undergrowth.
9. Cross country steep, hilly, rough, thick undergrowth.
- 10 Mountain climbing, hard going, higher level of fitness or plenty of time required.

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 & plants.
4. To assist where possible in scientific research.
5. To publish a monthly newsletter and post it to members.

BORDER RANGES - LION'S ROAD CAMPOUT - 19/20 OCTOBER 1991

Leaders Errol & Annette Walker

Reference: RACQ road map "Gold Coast and Northern Rivers"

Scale of Difficulty for walks: 2

Border Ranges National Park reserves a large slice of the McPherson Ranges from Mt Lindsay to the mountains overlooking the Tweed Valley and Mt Warning.

The Brisbane Sydney railway line has passed beneath the McPhersons for many years, employing a unique spiral loop in the line to gain 20 metres in height.

In 1971 the Lions Club financed a road which followed the railway line crossing the range at Richmond Gap.

Our outing will take in some of the scenic highlights of the Border Ranges National Park. The roads we shall travel on are all bitumen (some a bit lumpy) or good gravel. As I write there is still good water in the rainforest creeks and there is little evidence of the drought on the high tops.

We shall camp beside Grady's Creek along the Lion's Road where we will have the use of toilets, picnic tables and even a dressing shed. The weather should be warm, enabling use to be made of a perfect swimming hole with a sandy beach.

The camp and swimming hole may be enjoyed on the Sunday morning until about 11am when we shall travel north along the rest of the Lions Road.

This road is most interesting and spectacular but be warned that it is not recommended for caravans and there is a height limit of 2.8m.

Road directions: Stanthorpe - Liston - Legume - Woodenbong (via Tooloom Falls and Urbenville is recommended) - turn right along Summerland Way 4.5km east of Woodenbong - Grevillia - Old Grevillia - turn left down Findon Creek Road at Old Grevillia for just over 1km until coming to a bridge. DO NOT CROSS THE BRIDGE but turn right into a parking area at Moore Park.

If you have followed recommended directions you will have covered approximately 150km from Stanthorpe.

I recommend an 8am departure from Stanthorpe which will allow a stop for smoko and a quick look at Tooloom Falls. We should meet at Moore Park at around 11am where we can enjoy a short interesting walk before lunch. A 12.30pm departure from Moore Park is desirable so that we can get to our campsite by 4.30pm after another two hours driving plus sightseeing.

Further trip details and local maps will be available at Moore Park. The trip home may be varied to suit your taste in driving and scenery.

Further information? Phone Errol or Annette on 812008

In the latest QCWA journal mention was made of relatives of two of our members. Tewantin-Noosa presented Mrs McDonagh with a silver badge. (Mrs McDonagh is the mother of Desley and Brian).

The other was Colin Hocking's grandmother to whom tribute was paid: We regret the passing of Jessie Hockings aged 91 years, a very special and gracious lady with the unique distinction of being the Foundation Secretary of the most northerly Branch of C.W.A. Thursday Island, and the most southerly Branch of Springbrook.

SEPTEMBER OUTING REPORT

The Mystery Tour of Girraween on Sunday the 21st was to Fletcher's Ridge, near Bald Mountain, the name given to the now non-existent Railway Siding before Wallangarra when travelling south. After the usual 9.00am start from Weeroona Park we stopped at the Railway overpass bridge where the objective for the day was pointed out and a little of the history of Fletcher's property was passed on. We drove on to the property, parked the cars and had smoko before setting off across cleared sheep paddocks. A large clump of King Orchids with masses of bloom was seen on a rock which must have been high enough to give protection from the goats grazing with sheep. The property boundary fence proved a bit of an obstacle with 2m high netting and an electric wire 20cm above the ground on either side. However, we Nats. were up to the challenge and were soon walking steadily up the ridge. The electric wires were there to keep out feral pigs and are very successful considering the amount of damage seen in the National Park.

We reached the large group of boulders seen from the railway bridge and found a wonderful cool spot to rest under the shade of huge boulders, with a view to a canopy of Moreton Bay fig and Wallangarra White Gum leaves. What I had intended to be a 10 minute stop turned into our lunch stop as there was so much to see. Some of the more agile members climbed to the top for views over Wallangarra and the Army Depot, while others walked out on the eastern "verandah" to find masses of King Orchids "*Dendrobium speciosum*" and a fine specimen of the climbing orchid "*Galeola cassythoides*" on the trunk of a white gum *E. scoparia*. It's something to marvel at the way these plants, often growing on bare granite, can store enough energy to produce beautiful blooms while around them other bush plants are drought stricken.

After lunch all except four of our party continued up the ridge, stopping frequently to admire the views and catch our breath, until at last we were at the top. Looking to the North we could see the Pyramids, Castle Rock and Turtle Rock behind a large plateau of granite so typical of Girraween. An unusual feature here was a natural rock bridge which delighted the photographers. After soaking up the views we started back, detouring a little to see a magnificent group of Elkhorn Ferns growing on a rock less than 2m above ground. It was particularly pleasing to see these and the King Orchids apparently untouched by feral goats on this outing. Disappointing was the lack of the more common wildflowers, no doubt due to the drought, though *Boronia* and *Phebalium* were seen in bloom as well as some very tall, over 3m high, *Kunzia capitata*.

The outing attracted 36 people, including John and Mark Fletcher, fourth generation members of a pioneering family. The house their great-grandfather lived in was built over 100 years ago of local granite, with 15" thick walls, and is still in use. It is unusual because it has a cellar, with a stone floor, while the house floor is supported on round cypress pine logs, to resist white ants. I am very grateful to the Fletcher family for allowing us access to this area of Girraween for the outing, many thanks. I'm sure everyone enjoyed the day in spite of its being a "mystery" to begin with.

Rob McCosker.

Dore McCosker has supplied the following information about a skeleton fern we saw growing in a rock crevice on Fletcher's property.

Psilotum nudum (skeleton fern) One of two species occurring in Queensland, it usually grows in rock crevices, in sub-tropical areas and it is so firmly anchored it is virtually impossible to remove by ordinary means. Damaged plants, when forcibly removed are said to be virtually impossible to grow again.

This species has been cultivated in Japan for over 400 years and about 100 different clones have been selected and named.

Psilotum nudum (contd)

Valued by collectors the rarer ones fetch very high prices - very slow growing outside the tropics.

Although usually green in this district the golden form really catches the eye. The specimen we admired on Sunday was the most highly coloured that I have seen, with swollen sporangia like yellow flower buds.

Information from Keith Williams
"Native Plants"- Queensland" and
"Australian Ferns and Fern Allies"
by D.L. Jones & S.C. Clemesha.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INCORPORATED HELD IN THE CWA ROOMS, STANTHORPE ON SEPTEMBER 25TH 1991.

OPENING: President Kris Carnell opened the meeting with a welcome to all present, particularly visitors Val Richardson, Patricia Reilly, Steven Short and Heather Mengel.

ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES: as per attendance book.

MINUTES: The minutes of the August meeting were adopted as a correct record on the motion of Frank Wilkinson, seconded by Joan Stevenson and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Inward: 1. Darling Downs Naturalist
2. David Wilson - Sub 1991-92
3. Qld. Government - Environment Magazine.
4. Toowoomba Bushwalkers - Footprint.
5. ACF Catalogues
6. Chinchilla Nats - Urimbirra.

Outward: 1. Mrs Dean - appreciation of help for outing.
2. Peter Hazelgrove - appreciation of programme for meeting.
3. Community Billboards - Club news.
4. Round the Ridges - " "

Moved Desley McDonagh, seconded Val White that the Inward Correspondence be received and the outward adopted. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Financial Statement for 28/8/91 - 25/9/91.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Balance as at 28/8/91 | 660.49 |
|-----------------------|--------|

Receipts

| | | |
|----------------------|-------|---------------|
| Subscriptions | 15.00 | |
| Room Rent Collection | 9.00 | |
| Change Postage | 56 | 24.56 |
| | | <u>685.05</u> |

Expenditure

| | | |
|----------------------|-------|--------------|
| Room rent | 10.00 | |
| Magazine duplicating | 6.00 | |
| Magazine Postage | 28.00 | |
| 2 receipt books | 3.10 | 47.10 |
| | | <u>47.10</u> |

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Balance as at 25/9/91 | \$637.95 |
|-----------------------|----------|

Accounts to be passed for payment: Room rent \$10.00; Magazine Duplication \$6.00; Magazine Postage \$30.00; Val White Postage \$1.11.

The Treasurer's Report was adopted on the motion of Julia Brown, seconded by Errol Walker and carried.

MINUTES (Contd.)

OUTING REPORT: There was an apology from Robin McCosker - he was in Brisbane to become a Life Member of the Australian Postal Institute.

It was reported that the outing was very enjoyable, easy in spots, quite rugged and difficult in others. There were not many wildflowers because it has been so very dry. Some adventures were reported with an electric fence. There was a 360° view. Wildflowers seen were rock orchids and a leaf less orchid - galeola.

PRE-OUTING REPORT: October 6th - Amiens Forestry - we have a permit - no smoking - no matches etc. Leaving Weeroona Park at 1.p.m.

CAMP-OUT WEEKEND: Camp-out to Main Range area 19-20 October. Errol Walker advised that tents would be more satisfactory than caravans - campsite on Lions' Road

NEWS: Photographs from the previous outing were on show.

It was reported that Eric Rees (whip man from Kilarney) and his Grandson (4 years old) had been on TV, and that the Grandson would be whipcracking at the Calgary Stampede in Canada.

Millie Marsden reported from the CWA magazine articles on relatives of Nats members - the passing of Colin Hockings' grandmother in her 90's; and the presentation of a silver service badge to Mrs McDonagh.

OCTOBER MEETING PROGRAMME: Frank James will bring a programme on Japan to us.

PROGRAMME: Jerrol Walker took us "To the Gulf and Back". As always, Errol's programme was one of excellent photography, interesting information presented in an excellent manner. The 'arm chair travellers' could enjoy the scenery without effort, while those who had been there re-lived their travels, and the rest started planning their trip to check the places out for themselves. (THANK YOU ERROL! Sec.)

THE FOLLOWING IS THE SECOND HALF OF THE LIST OF PLANTS SEEN ON OUTING 25-8/91 AT INGLEWOOD ENVIRONMENTAL RESERVE:

PROTEACEAE: Isopogon anemonifolius, Grevillea florabunda, Hakea dactyloides (in seed) - Xylomelum pyriforme (Woody Pear)

SAPINDACEAE: Dodonaea attenuata (possibly) (flowers only no fruit)
The other hop bush Mrs Dean spoke about.



leaf: shape

Dodonaea triangularis.



3 pointed green "hop"

GRAMINEAE: Triodia mitchellii (spinifex)

DILLENIACEAE: Hib-ertia linearis (Yellow rock rose)

CASUARINACEAE: Casuarina inophloia (Stringy Sheoak)

List compiled by Jean Harslett & Millie & Ray Marsden.

COMING EVENTS

October Meeting 23rd

November Outing 24th

November Meeting 27th

December Outing 8th

Japan by Frank James

Mallee Ridge Mt Norman led by Jean Harslett

Mt Mottatt by Kel Dominy

Christmas Break-up - C. Hockings

The most wasted day is that in which we have not laughed. - Sebastian Chamfort.