NO. 57. THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST February, 1975.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB

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

Officers & Committee 1974-1975

President	Mr. F. Wilkinson
Vice-Presidents	Mr. N. Butler
	Mr. M. Passmore
Secretary	Mr. D. Pfrunder
Treasurer	Miss G. Lancaster
Newsletter Editor & Typist	Mrs. M. Flinn
Newsletter Sub-Committee	Mr. & Mrs. W. Cathcart
Librarian	Mrs. Z. Newman
Flora Officer	Mrs. D. McCosker
Fauna Officer	Mr. MB. McDonagh
Geology Officer	Mr. M. Passmore
Youth Officer	Geoff Marsden
Bushwalking Officer	Robin McCosker
Committee Members	Mrs. J. Harslett
	Mr. E. Walker

ACTIVITIES

MEETINGS: 4th Wed. of each month at C.W.A. Rooms at 8.00 p.m.

OUTINGS Each Sunday preceeding the 4th Wednesday.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Single - $1.50 Family - $2.00

PROGRAMME

FIELD OUTINGS

PLACE	DATE	ORGANISERS
Tooloom Falls	23rd February, 1975	F. Wilkinson
Glen Lyon Dam & The Pinnacle	- 23rd March, 1975.	Ian Jackson

NEXT MEETING 26th February, 1975 SPEAKER - Dot. Archer To Canada and a White Christmas.

FEBRUARY 1975 OUTING

Tooloom Falls Sunday, 23rd Feb./75 Departure time is 9 a.m. SHARP from Weeroona Park.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 22nd January, 1975.

The meeting opened at 8.20 p.m. Present 16
Apologies 8.

The President extended a welcome to members and a special welcome back to Mrs. T. Archer on her return from overseas.

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING:

Moved by Mrs. W. Newman and seconded by Mrs. N. Butler that the minutes be "Taken as Read" in the newsletter, be confirmed. CARRIED.

INWARD CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from the Australian Conservation Foundation seeking more information about the club - re our application for inclusion of the club in their Directory.
Letter from the Queensland Naturalists Club advising that Mrs. N. K. Thornthwaite is their new secretary.
Letter from Mr. M.S. Moulds, Greenwich N.S.W., enclosing cheque for $1.50 membership subscription. He would like all back issues of The Granite Belt Naturalist and offered to make further payment for them if available.
An Account Rendered for $19.40 from Samuel Lee & Co. for printing of Magazine covers.
Circular from Minister for Tourism, Sport and Welfare Services re applications for grants for sporting associations subsidy for Junior Coaching, and subsidy for building projects.
Newsletters from:- The National Parks Association of Q'ld - Vol.45-No.1
Toowoomba Field Naturalist Club - No. 257
University of Queensland Speleological Society, Vol.13 No.5.
Chinchilla Field Naturalists Club - Vol.8.No.6.

OUTWARD CORRESPONDENCE:

Letters of thanks to Mr. R. Payne, Park Ranger, Gibraltar Range National Park for his help in arranging the week-end camp-out at the Park on November 23rd & 24th; and to Mr. J. Riepon for his excellent presentation of slides of Orchids of the Park to members at the camp.
Letter to Mr. M.S. Moulds, Greenwich N.S.W., telling him of the aims and activities of the club and details of membership.
Monthly report of Club activities to the Board of Adult Education
Advertising of Meeting and outing activity submitted to Board of Adult Education.
Letter to Board of Adult Education reminding them of applications for Speakers fees for Mr. Noel Bonner in August and Mr. Errol Walker in November.
Letter to the Australian Conservation Foundation including additional information required about the club re our application for inclusion in their Directory.

Moved by Mr. D. Pfrunder and seconded by Mr. N. Butler that the Inward Correspondence be received and the Outward adopted. CARRIED.

February/75.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE: Mrs. J. Harslett advised of letter from Mr. J. Riepon expressing enjoyment of our Club's visit to Gibraltar Range National Park.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance brought forward 27/11/74	$105.05
Income for Month	10.50
	$115.55
Expenditure for Month	34.40
Balance, Jarnuary 22nd, 1975.	$ 81.15

Moved by Miss G. Lancaster and seconded by Mr. W. Newman that the Treasurer's report be adopted and accounts be passed for payment. CARRIED.

OUTINGS REPORTS

Christmas Barbeque - December 15th, 1974. Mrs. W. McCosker reported that about 40 attended the B.B.Q. which was enjoyed in the traditionsl Christmas spirit.

January Outing to the"Third Crossing" in the Ballandean Area on 19/1/75. Mr. F. Wilkinson reported a small attendance of 14 over this holiday period. Features noted during the morning were the "Altered" Granite; former bed of an ancient river; lightning strikes on rock. In the afternoon Mrs. J. Harslett guided the party to the Queen's Mine and returned via the banks of the Severn River.

NEXT OUTING: Sunday, 23rd February, 1975
Leader - Mr. F. Wilkinson
Location - Tooloom Falls.
Details - Depart Weeroona Park 9 a.m. SHARP.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, February 26th, 1975 C.W.A. Rooms 8 p.m.

After Meeting Programme: Guest Speaker - Mrs. T. Archer
Subject - CANADA.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING:

The President and Secretary reported on the Committee Meeting held at the residence of Mr. F. Wilkinson on January 8th when a schedule of proposed monthly Field Outings up until August was drawn up together with a tentative list of Guest speakers for after meeting programmes.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Moved by Mr. B. McDonagh and seconded by Mrs. J. Harslett that proposed outings and forthcoming meetings be listed in "Coming Events" column of local paper. CARRIED.

Meeting closed at 9 p.m.

AFTER MEETING PROGRAMME - Members Night. Members brought along a variety of botanical and geological specimens for discussion along with some fine tapes of bird calls.

Some local specimens identified: Acacia Falciformis - Mountain Hickory.
Acacia Implexa - Hickory
Acacia Irrorata - Black Wattle.
Leucopogon Melaleucoides - Snowflower
Cryptandra Amara.

WEEKEND OUTING - January 19, 1975 - "THIRD CROSSING" - F.Wilkinson & Mrs.J. Harslett.

This outing will have 2 reports, one by me for the first portion and by Jean Harslett for the second.
The holidays probably caused the small attendance - less than 20 attended.
We proceeded to but couldn't negotiate the 3rd crossing owing to the height of the water so parked in a convenient spot where we had lunch to the deafening chorus of cecadas. After lunch we made our way to the site of a lightning strike; lightning had struck several times in an area of about 60 sq. metres and hurled several tons of granite around. It was here Pat Finch injured a finger; we thank Morwenna Harslett for first aid. The injury was such that it necessitated a trip to town and a doctor, so I left and Jean Harslett kindly took over. My thanks to you Jean.

Report 2.

When we visited the Queen Mine, walking up the old road all was very silent. The black cyprus pines (Callitris Calcarata) stood guard - their dark green erect shapes contrasting startlingly with silver grey of the spreading broad leafed Silver Ironbarks. The upturned soil of past mining activities carried the rich ochre and russet shades created by the copper and Sulphur contents. Silent had the area been until 1888 when Mr. Ted Lewis discovered a mineralized lode here - but it probably was not worked until 1897 for the first time by the Aspinall Bros. The Severn River Copper & Silver Mining Syndigate was formed in 1898. A storekeeper in Stanthorpe, Mr. J. Whittard, worked with this syndicate and combined his activities with the mine, by providing a small store for provision for the miners. The ore at this stage was sent to Cockle Ck. N.S.W. for treatment and the first 6 tons produced 50 ozs. of Silver, 14% zinc and 20% Sulphur. No mention of the copper content was made.
In 1904 Baker Bros. of N.S.W. worked the mine, and a good deal of development took place when £600 worth of machinery was installed - but it did not last - and in 1906 the Ballandean Queen Silver, Lead and Copper Mining Co. was formed. The inclusion of so many minerals in the title may have been wishful thinking. It was registered with a capital of £5000 and work continued until 1908. Another Company was formed in 1912 also with £5,000 Capital but it seems its fate was similar to the first so no great fortunes have been made but much activity has taken place and the deeper shaft is 160 ft. in depth.
The Lord Nolan Tin Mine is on the opposite bank of the river. We did not cross to it owing to a fresh in the river. It was registered in

Jean Harslett's report continues -

1909 with a battery and Wilfley concentrator erected and a good deal of tin was won.
An apiarist came to look at the quality of the Broadleafed Iron bark blossom for honey and told us what a splendid source it was for quality ho honey.
On our trip down to the area the convoy paused and looked at samples of "Altered" granite and also to observe the ancient river channel between Marshalls' and Bents' crossings. The road follows part of this and the deep sandy nature of the country and change in growth pattern is readily noted. A glance at the map will show the circuitous route the Severn river now takes - almost completing a circle through very hard granite country.

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OBJECTION TO MINING LEASE OF "THE PINNACLE" by Maurice Passmore.

Under the Mining Act it is possible for any person to object to the granting of a lease, but it is necessary to overcome two very large obstacles if an objection from an organisation such as the Stanthorpe Naturalists Club is to be successful.

Firstly we object on the grounds that the granting of a lease would be against the public interest. To be successful we must contend with a Supreme Court ruling that this must be the whole of the public, and not a section of it. Obviously the people of Cooktown or Birdsville are not likely to be affected by a local case, so one assumes it becomes virtually impossible to make an acceptable case.

Secondly the Mining Warden only recommends, and the final decision rests with the Minister, to whom access is limited, and from whom we have no idea of what other parties have stated.

Nevertheless, while it may seem a hopeless cause, it is essential that the conservationists' case be put on every possible occasion, in the hope that eventually conservative government attitudes may be finally altered. It also makes one wonder if "green bans" are in reality the only course open to those who realise the dangers that face us from environmental destruction.

We were joined in our objection by two other parties.

1. The owner of the land, Mr. B. Coventry, who has gone to some lengths to see the whole area has been preserved, and who expressed similar objections to ours.
2. The Inglewood Shire Council, which had made a move to have the area declared an Environmental Park. This had been over-ruled by the Mines Dept. however. The Council was also concerned with other aspects such as road damage.

However, despite these objections, the Warden saw fit on the basis of the Supreme Court decision to recommend the granting of the lease, but stated he would draw the Minister's attention to the objections raised. The applicant has a lease close to the area, and stated that he wanted to protect this lease by preventing others from mining the adjacent Pinnacle. In fact he stated that his company would not mine The Pinnacle. The management could, of course, always reverse such a decision.

Maurice Passmore continues -

It would thus seem that an Environmental Park, as suggested by the Inglewood Council is the logical answer, and it is possible that this could be the ultimate outcome.

Details of our submission to the Mining Warden were:

We, the members of the STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB, wish to object to the granting of Mining Lease 454 to TOOLIAMBI MINERALS, situated in 14V Gunyan over an area popularly known as The Pinnacle. We do this in accordance with Regulation 139 of the Mining Act 1968-71 on the grounds that the granting of such a lease would be detrimental to the public interest.

To support this contention we submit the following arguments:

(1) The area being quite rough has not been subject to clearing and being in its natural state has a considerable attraction as a scenic area. This ecological type is virtually unprotected by any existing National Park, and the large limestone outcrop is rather unique, especially in this area.

The construction of the Glen Lyon Dam in the adjacent area will undoubtedly attract many visitors, and in a locality somewhat devoid of other scenic attractions the loss of The Pinnacle would be particularly significant.

(2) There are several important scientific considerations.

(a) The flora represents the remnant of the rain forests which previously covered much of the area. Obviously such areas are now limited, but those on limestone are particularly so. The potential for medical and agricultural uses of these rain forest species is quite high, and as yet only partially explored.

(b) The area is a significant wild life refuge, and again the full potential remains unexplored, particularly for the smaller animals.

(c) Geologically The Pinnacle represents a rather unique large coral outcrop. The Rugose and Tabulate corals of the period were not large reef builders (in contrast to those of the present day) and thus an outcrop of this size is well worth preserving.

(3) Proximity to the N.S.W. Border will encourage the maximum use of Section 92, thus payments to Government will be minimal. By contrast extensive road damage could be expected from heavy vehicles, thus placing a burden upon the Shire which it can ill afford.

(THE ABOVE WAS SIGNED BY 30 PEOPLE). (- the original was handed to the Mining Warden on 8th Nov.1974 and a copy posted to the Company, Toolambi Mines Pty. Ltd., Links Ave., Eagle Farm, Q.,4007 on the same day. Copy also forwarded to the Inglewood Shire Council who also oppose the application.)

To Maurice Passmore we extend a vote of thanks for all the time and work he put into this objection.

BIRD MIGRATION - by Zaidee Newman.

There are migrants in the modern sense, among fishes, mammals, insects, reptiles and amphibians as well as among birds but birds are the best known and have the most numerous migrant species - migration being defined as a journey out and a journey back.

During the last few weeks a great number of birds not seen or heard for months have been gradually reappearing. The return of the Dollarbirds is always noted with interest. There is a story that once the Dollarbirds appear the frosts of winter are over but this year someone obviously erred as birds were sighted here on the 25th of September and widespread frosts have been reported since that date. The Cuckoos too are now heard persistently calling - The Fantiled, Pallid, Channel-billed and the monotonous cooee of the noisy Koel. The white-throated warbler, more commonly known as the Bush Canary, with its distinctive song of descending notes which immediately conjures up a foretaste of summer and the E-Chong and varied ringing calls of the Rufous Whistler are most noticable. The Sacred Kingfisher has arrived and sounds its loud Kee-Kee-Kee note on and on, while perched high on dead limbs near watercourses and Rainbow birds pass overhead in small flocks calling our attention with their own unmistakable pirring calls. Amongst others to arrive are the Goldfinch, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Mistletoe bird and Reed Warbler.

These are regarded as total migrants although there is another group of birds which is nomadic in their habits and follow no direct seasonal pattern but move to various areas according to the availability of food. The beautiful little Scarlet Honeyeater is in this group.

In Australia there are three main migration movements, the largest and most obvious being the transquatorial. This includes the birds that breed in Northern Asia and spend their winter in Australia. They number some twenty-five species and include snipe, dogwits, curlews as well as Golden plovers, sandpipers and two Swifts the Spinetailed and the Forktailed. A smaller group is the trans-Tasman, the most noticable of these being the Double-banded Dotterel although several sea-birds also breed in New Zealand and migrate to Australia. The continental movement is of most interest to our district and the migratory movement is between Southern and Northern Australia.

Migration has been recognised in Australia since the first observers came here but the full extent of true migration is only now starting to be realized. The combined efforts of the Australian Bird Banding Scheme and the C.S.I.R.O. Division of Wildlife, in the past ten years has yielded a great deal of information but systematic work by progressive bird watchers who record the birds in their own districts month by month has in the past and will in the future make a significant contribution to our overall knowledge in this area of research.

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DIRECTIONS TO GET TO TOOLOOM FALLS. - Proceed to Amosfield and take the Mount Lindsay Highway to 8 miles past Legume where we leave the highway and take the road on our right and continue on