

March 1978.THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST CLUB.MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OFTHE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB.

P.O.BOX 154.

STANTHORPE Qld.4380.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 1977-1978.

PRESIDENT.
 VICE-PRESIDENTS
 SECRETARY
 TREASURER.
 NEWSLETTER EDITOR.
 NEWSLETTER SUB-COMMITTEE
 PUBLICITY.
 LIBRARIAN.
 FLORA.
 FAUNA.
 GEOLOGY.
 YOUTH.
 BUSHWALKING.
 COMMITTEE.

Mr. Tom Archer
 Mr. Noel Butler
 MR. Colin Hockings
 Mrs. Janet Hockings.
 Mrs. Dot Archer.
 Mrs. Jean Harslett.
 Mrs. Aileen Mc. Allister
 Mrs. Ailsa Wilkinson
 Mrs Millie Marsden.
 Mrs. Doré Mc. Cosker.
 Mr. Brian Mc. Donagh.
 Mr. Maurice Passmore.
 Mr. Ian Jackson.
 Mr. Errol Walker.
 Mrs. Jean Harslett
 MR. Tom Chapman.
 Mrs. Irene Chapman.
 MR. Frank Wilkinson.

MEETINGS. 4th WEDNESDAY of each MONTH at the C.W.A. ROOMS at 8p.m.
OUTINGS. Each SUNDAY PRECEDING the FOURTH WEDNESDAY.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.SINGLE \$2.00.FAMILY \$3.00.

MARCH OUTING. BOONOO BOONOO FALLS AREA. Date MARCH 19th. 1978.

Leaders Tom and Irene ChapmanDepart WEEROONA PARK 9a.m. (SHARP).

Those wishing to catch up later, Tom says any stops will be made on the road after the old New England Highway (at Boonoo Boonoo old Post Office) and the Falls road, is joined. If cars are not readily visible from the road at the proposed lunch spot, a water hole about half way along 'NATS' signs will be clearly displayed.

MONTHLY MEETING HELD WED. 22nd.FEB 1978.Present 18 Apologies 3.

The President welcomed all present with a special welcome to the guest speaker Mr. John Harden, who was accompanied by his father. Mr. Robert Shallcross, Mr. Jim Wright and Mr. Greg March all science teachers from Warwick were also welcomed.

MINUTES. It was moved by Mr. Colin Hockings and seconded by Mrs. J. Harslett that the minutes as per the November magazine be taken as read. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE. Inward:- Was received from National Parks and Wildlife Service, 2 press statements, Mr. K.B. Tomkins Minister for Lands Forestry National Parks and Wildlife Service, re programme for feral pigs at Girraween; Mr. D. Vernon (ornithologist Queensland Museum) Mr. Barber (avicultural Society of Queensland) and Mr. Ted Carroll (Secretary Apple and Grape Harvest Festival)
Magazines:- N.P.A. January 1978 Vol 48 No.1. Down Under Vol. 16 No.5 1977, Darling Downs Naturalist Club Dec. 1977, Jan 1978 No. 291. Contact Vol 5 No.3 Dec. 1977, Urimbirra Nov. 1977 Vol. 11 No.2. and Q.N.C. Newsletter Feb and Mar. 1978 Nos. 101 and 102.

OUTWARD. was forwarded to Mr. J. Harden, 43S, (Christmas Break-up monthly outing and meeting for February) It was moved by Mr. Ian Jackson and seconded by Mrs Joan Stevenson that the inward correspondence be adopted and the outward endorsed. Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

November Bank Balance \$123. 68.

Subscriptions received \$7.00

Rent Collection \$3.40.

\$134.08.

Expences.

C.W.A. rent November Meeting. \$4.00

Rover Scouts Dup. Magazine. \$6.00

Postage for Magazine. \$6.17.

Dec. Advert in Border Post. \$9.00

\$25.17.

February Bank Balance. \$108.91.

FINANCIAL REPORT Cont.

Mrs. Dot Archer moved that this report be received and the following accounts passed for payment:-

Dec Advert in Border Post \$9.00 (already paid over Christmas recess)

Rover Scouts Magazine Dup. \$3.00

Postage for mailing Magazine \$11.34

Seconded by Mrs. Jean Harslett. Carried.

OUTING REPORT As written by Mr. Errol Walker (see over)

NEXT OUTING. Place:- Boonoo Boonoo

Date 19th March 1978.

Leader:- Mr. Tom Chapman.

NEXT MEETING. On Wednesday March 22nd. 1978 Mr. Christopher Cameron a member of the Chinchilla Field Naturalist's Club will be the guest speaker. As a member of the Photographic Index of Australian Birds expedition to Iron Range, a rain-forest area in Cape York, his slide programme will be a photographic record of the camp activities and the more elusive birds of the area and the surrounding environment.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

Jean Harslett thanked Mrs. Dot Archer and Mrs. Aileen McAllister for the inserts in the February newsletter.

It was moved by Mrs. Jean Harslett and seconded by Mr. Colin Hockings that the club retain the usual meeting night, but that Friday night meetings would be organized should this be more convenient for visiting guest speakers who had long distances to travel. Carried.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30 pm. to be followed by a lecture entitled 'Plant Protection and the Environment', presented by Mr. John Harden, Senior Lecturer of Plant Protection at Gatton Agricultural College.

Janet Hockings.

Hon. Sec.

OUTING REPORT. It is very pleasing to have again an outing report from the outing leader Mr. Errol Walker, for who but the leader can do it better. This used to be a regular plan but has on some occasions lapsed lately. Thank you Errol.

THE SIGNBOARD 19:2:78.

Amid the confusion of 30 other cars trying to assemble for a 9 am. departure to a similar venue ,we were able to sort out our little convoy of 6 cars and 20 happy 'Nats' and get under way by 9.20 am.

The journey past Storm King Dam towards Girraween was uneventful. The weather was warm and clear and the countryside looked good after recent rains. By 10 am. we were climbing up gentle granite slopes, enjoying the views towards the 'Pyramids' in Girraween. Those who knew where to look were able to pick out Mt.Barney and Wilson's Peak more than 60 miles to the north-east. Our Danish visitor friend Miss Jette Thomsen noted that the granite scenery was unlike areas she had seen before. We hope she will enjoy the rest of her visit to Australia. She is one of the International Agricultural Exchange Group ,nine of whom are spending four months in our district.

Noting some examples of wildflowers (listed later) we followed the granite heights till we had views of most of the features in our Park. The views from the top of the Signboard were the climax. A grandstand view of Bald Rock was to be had also. An eagles nest previously noted on an outing here could not be re-located,so we contented ourselves with picture taking and peering over the steepening edge of the Signboard where once a man did fall to his death.

Keeping these thoughts aside, the party took an even more gentle slope downwards towards the vehicles. Interesting weathering patterns were noted on this descent. By noon we were at Girraween National Park where the official opening of the Information Centre was taking place. The Hon.T.Newbury declared the Centre open and we had very interesting speeches on National Park matters from Dr.Graham Saunders Director of National Parks and Wildlife Service,Mr.Peter McKechnie M.L.A. Member for Carnarvon and Councillor F.A.Rogers Chairman of the Stanthorpe Shire. Lunch followed after which we inspected the very well appointed Information Centre.

We can all be proud of our National Park and the amount of

interest being shown by Government and private bodies. Let us all hope this publicity will not detract from the natural beauty of our park and that we will still want to return to enjoy its facilities and learn more of its natural history through the incorporated displays.

Our party then split up into groups each pursuing a different goal of relaxation or exercise for the rest of the afternoon

Our park still offers many areas for further outings which I hope we will take advantage of in the future. :

Errol Walker.

NOTES ON FLOWERS On OUTING.

It is most pleasing to have these notes from Mrs. Betty Mc. Kenzie member of the Queensland Naturalist Club when she and Wally joined us on an outing. Thank you for your participation in both ways.

Most flowers seen were those in the rock gardens and of those the most numerous were the tiny daisy *Brachycome stuartii*. There were some small attractive clumps of the pale pink 'Wild Geranium' *Pelargonium australe* and china blue *Lobelia gracilis*. Tucked away in one or two of these gardens were the tall robust seed pods of the 'Bearded Orchid', *Calochilus robertsonii*, while clumps of the trigger plant *Stylidium laricifolium* crowned with masses of empty seed cases, were in sunny situations. One or two plants of another trigger plant *Stylidium graminifolium* were seen in flower. Along the rock crevices, utilizing any small amount of water were numerous clumps of the white *Isotoma anethifolia*, flowering perhaps more bravely than anything else. This plant is one freely associated with the Granite Belt and granite areas of some of the New England, but not frequently met with elsewhere.

On the grassy slopes flowers noted were the fringed violet, *Thysanotus tuberosus*, and the mauve lawn lily, *Murdannia* species, *Podolepis* and *Velleia* species. Dozens of small plants of the violet *Viola betonicifolia* in a recently burnt area give promise of a lovely display in the coming spring.

Betty Mc. Kenzie.

Mr. John Hardens Visit.

Those members who had the privilege of hearing Mr. John Harden's lecture on Plant Protection and the Environment, found him a most interesting and inspiring person to listen to and his subject was one which proved to be most interesting in content, and one few of us knew anything about. He and his team are turning out a small number of graduates each ^a year from Gatton College as a nucleus of a trained team of whom they hope in time will set up what he described in simple terms as "plant doctors".

They will set up almost as innpractice to perscribe chemicals for the control of plant pests and diseases, and thus have so much control over the use of risky chemicals which are at the moment used very foolishly and wantonly by anyone at all who wishes to use them in any sort of quantities of dosage they wish to use (often more than double or triple the quantities which are recommended) all of which can make reasonable chemicals rather hazardous. Many of our members remember the wonderful world of fungi to which Mr. Harden introduced us to on his previous visit to our club.

PERSONAL

All members would like to congratulate Tom Chapman President of the Apple and Grape Festival Committee and his wife Irene on the tremendous success of the 1978 Festival and their untiring efforts. We hope as leaders of our next outing it will be a totally relaxing experience for them, they deserve it. It is lovely to have back in our midst after their adventures overseas Errol, and Annette Walker and their children Geoffrey, Susan and Alex and also members Bert and Neta Noakes and it was pleasing to have them one and all on our last outing, much travelled but still full of spontaneous enthusiasm for their own land. Welcome back to you all.

PROGRAMMES AND PLANS.

March should provide anouting to Boonoo Boonoo of high Standard so please don't forget it. Also an excellent programme is assured for the meeting night with a splendid young and enthusiastic speaker; both programmes well up to standard of our Festival month.

Yours in Nats. Jean.