

THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST CLUB.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE

THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB.

P.O. BOX. 154.

STANTHORPE. QLD. 4380.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 1977-78.

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MRS. IRENE CHAPMAN.

MEETINGS 4th. WEDNESDAY of each MONTH at the C.W.A. ROOMS.

AT 8p.m.

OUTINGS Each SUNDAY PRECEDING the FOURTH WEDNESDAY.

SINGLE. \$2.00.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

FAMILY. \$3.00.

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.

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JUNE OUTING. Bald Rock Creek.

Date. Sunday 25th. June 1978.

Leader Mr. Robin Mc.Cosker and Mr. Brian Mc. Donagh at Lyra end.

Departure Time and Place. 9.30a.m. Weeroona Park.

June Meeting. Mr. D.P. Vernon, Ornithologist at the Queensland Museum.

Subject. Severn Wildfowl Trust and Queensland birds.

Place and Time. C.W.A. Rooms, 8 p.m. June 28th. 1978.

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING held FRIDAY 26th. MAY 1978.

Present 17

Apologies 9.

The President extended a welcome to all present with a special welcome to the guest speaker and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. David Hockings.

MINUTES. It was moved by Mr. Robin Mc. Cosker and seconded by Mr. Colin Hockings that the minutes as per the May magazine be taken as read. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE. Inward correspondence was received from as follows, Magazines:- Conservation of Norfolk Island, N.P.A. May Vol. 48 No. 3. "Down Under" Vol. 17 No. 2., Q.N.C. News No. 105, 106, Urimbirra Vol. 12 No. 4., and Vol. 12 No. 5. and Toowoomba Nats No. 295. National Parks and Wildlife, Information notes, press statements, International Park Tours, Mr. I Gordon, Mr. D. Binns, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wilkinson, Department of Forestry Warwick. Outward was forwarded to :- Department of Forestry in Warwick for a camp permit., Mr. and Mrs. I Gordon, 4 Q Sand Hunter Publications.

It was moved by Mr. David Pfrunder and seconded by Mr. Don Lightfoot that the inward correspondence be adopted and the outward be endorsed. Carried.

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| <u>FINANCIAL REPORT.</u> | Bank Balance April 26th. 1978 | \$74.16 |
| | Deposits. May rent collection | \$ 3.40 |
| | Total | \$77.56. |
| | Payments April 26th. C.W.A. rent | \$4.00 |
| | Magazine Postage | \$ 5.43. |
| | May 26th. Dr. Bank Balance | \$ 9.43. |
| | May 26th. Cr. Bank Balance | \$68.13. |
| | Accounts to be paid C.W.A. rent | \$4.00 |
| | Lees Newsagency and Bookshop | \$13.42 |
| | Stencils and Newsraps | \$21.30 |
| | Total | \$34.72 |

Mrs. D. Archer moved that this report be received and that the accounts be passed for payment. Seconded by Sister Klara O'Dempsey. Carried.

OUTING REPORT. As the May outing was cancelled because of wet weather no report was given.

NEXT OUTING. Mr. Colin Hockings gave an outline of the proposed programme for the camp-out to Dalrymple Creek on June 3rd.-5th. 1978.

PLACE. Bald Rock Creek.

DATE 25th. June

LEADER Mr. Robin Mc. Cosker. Members are to meet at Weeroona Park for a 9.30a.m. departure. For further information refer to the May Magazine.

NEXT MEETING On Wednesday 28th June, Mr. Don Vernon an ornithologist with the Queensland museum will bring specimens to speak on Queensland birds and endangered species. He will also show slides of modern museums and exhibits in the United Kingdom.

GENERAL BUSINESS. It was decided to forward a magazine and a membership subscription rate to Mr. Doug Binns of Urbinville N.S.W. who is interested in becoming a club member.

Due to cancellation of the May outing because of wet weather Mr. Robin Mc. Cosker offered to lead the Bald Rock Creek outing in June.

Mrs. Jean Harslett extended her thanks to Mr. Geoff Marsden who printed the May Magazine in the absence of Mr. Ian Jackson.

Mrs. Dot Archer commended the Editor for printing the aims of the club on the title page of the magazine.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40p.m. Mr. Tom Archer (President) introduced the guest speaker Mr. David Hockings who presented a slide programme on "Plants of Tropical North Australia".

Janet Hockings
Hon. Secretary.

Club members were delighted to hear a letter read from Frank and Ailsa Wilkinson who are on Norfolk Island. They also, thoughtfully sent the club a publication on, "The Conservation of Norfolk Island". Frank and Ailsa are staying with friends at Anson Bay on a property with a horse stud and a citrus orchard. Frank is in his spare time using his art-

-istic ability in building an open fireplace with some his-
-toric old stones which have been cut by the convicts. Thanks
for communicating with us, we all enjoyed it and wish you a
happy time for the rest of your stay.

OUTING. Mr. R. McCosker has kindly offered to take the Bald
Rock Creek outing which was cancelled for this month's outing.
Since the directions were rather complex he would like them
repeated again. Here they are:- "Our outing, for those of us
who feel up to it, will be a walk down Bald Rock Creek from the
junction with Ramsay's Creek, and Bald Rock Creek known offic-
-ially as the "Junction", to the junction of Doctor's Creek
which is on Mr. Brian Mc. Donagh's property at Lyra. This wind-
-ing, torturous course is interspersed with small waterfalls,
noisy cascades and large placid pools, etc, etc. People who
are not so energetic can drive to Brian Mc. Donagh's property
and under his guidance meet the other party for lunch. I
anticipate a 9.30 a.m. start from Weeroona Park., travel via
Storm King Dam and Eukey to Wyberba. The energetic will walk
from the "Junction", while the remainder arrange their tran-
-sport and drive on to Mc. Donagh's place. Stout shoes and lunch
are required. For those requiring to go direct to Mc. Donagh's
proceed south along the highway and immediately on the northern
side of the Accommodation Creek bridge turn left and go beneath
the railway bridge. At the fork in the road take the right-
-hand road keeping the creek fairly close on your right and
follow the road out to its end and Mc. Donagh's home. For any
further details ring Robin Mc. Cosker at 835217.

Robin Mc. Cosker.

Bad weather has rather dogged the plans of the club lately
and not only the previous outing had to be called off, but
also the Queens Birthday Weekend Campout. We had been warned
because of heavy soil forestry roads this might be the case.
Members were disappointed and also sorry for the respective
leaders, Robin and Colin and Janet Hocking (all of whom had
done some preliminary runs to ensure that plans would go
smoothly) that we had to forego these occasions. Thank you
leaders for your planning. I hear on the grape vine that
some of our members, the Marsden and the Thompson families
got itchy feet by the second day and took off on their own
to Moogerah Dam, spent a fairly overcrowded and wet night in
a hired van in the Aratula Caravan Park and climbed Mount
Cordeaux the next day. Its good to see your initiative and

and the enthusiasm for our type of activities.

MAY PROGRAMME REPORT. We had a fairly small attendance at the May meeting for various reasons. The date had to be altered and several of our very regular members had previous commitments, which was sad as the programme was rather a special one by Mr. David Hockings. We were sorry, indeed not to have Tom and Irene Chapman with us, for the reason of Tom's accident!

Mr. David Hockings has been an active member of S.G.A.P. since 1956 or 1957 and acted as secretary and treasurer of that organization. For some years he has been working on material for publication for a book on 'The Pests and Diseases of Native Plants'. This is nearing publication and is eagerly looked forward to by many native plant growing enthusiasts. It is a field where there are many problems, yet very little work has been done on the subject. David knows his subject of native plants very well and is highly regarded in botanical circles.

The programme delivered to us was really splendid and featured tropical plants of Australia, and in pictorial he took us to many Northern National Parks and introduced us to little known, rare plants. I liked his displaying of a 'feature plant' for each area. Palms, he told us are the "in fashion plants" of the moment and we saw some incredible species most worthy of cultivation. We learned of bamboo, banana and ginger species which are indigenous to Queensland. Or of trees that live in such deep dark forest that they have developed a system of flowers directly off the main bole. We also learned that cassowaries and pigs disturbed in the northern scrubs, and taken unawares can be quite aggressive. It was also good value to see fine flowering specimens of our only Australian rhododendron, found in this case on Mt. Lewis and other most colourful, exotic looking and rare plants from this area too.

As a bonus we saw some interesting nesting sea birds from coral atolls off the Queensland coast, plus some of the unusual plants which have adapted for these areas.

Jean Harslett.

Please remember we have a guest speaker coming specially from Brisbane next month and try and have a good roll-up, it's your gain. Mr. Don Vernon has been for a good many years the ornithologist at the Queensland Museum. He is bringing some specimens from the Museum, and will also show us some pictures

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taken on a recent overseas study tour. This includes the Severn Wildfowl Trust, Endangered Species of birds and pictures from the new and spectacular "Man" display which cost £1 million to produce in England and is in the British Museum of Natural History.

NO OUTINGS. NO OUTINGS REPORTS. What did we miss. What is one mans pleasure is another's poison, and I've got to fill up the page so here is "Farewell to Queensland" by a disappointed New Chum.

Oh Queensland Thou art a land of pests
From fleas and flies one never rests
E'en now mosquitoes round me revel
In fact they are the very devil
Sandflies and hornets, just as bad,
They nearly drive a fellow mad.
The scorpion and the caterpillar
With stinging ants of every breed
Fever and ague with the shakes,
Tarantulas and poisonous snakes
Iguanas, Lizards and Cockatoos
Bushrangers, logs and Jackaroos
Bandicoots and swarms of rats
Bullants and native ts
Stunted timber and thirsty plains
Parched up desert and scanty rains,
There's rivers here you cant sail ships on
There's nigger women without shifts on
There's humpies, huts and wooden houses
And nigger men who won't wear trousers
There's Barcoo Rot and Sandy Blight
There's Dingoes howling all the night
There are curlews which wail and croaking frogs
There's savages, blacks and native dogs,
There's scentless flowers and stinging trees,
There's poisonous grass and darling peas,
Which drive the cattle raving mad,
And make sheep and horses just as bad.
Then it never rains in reason
There's drought one year and floods next season
Which sweep the squatters sheep away
And then there's the old man to pay.
To stay in Thee, Oh Land of Mutton
I would not give a single button
But bid Thee now a long farewell
Thou scorching sunburnt land of Hell.