

THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB

P.O. BOX 154,  
STANTHORPE, Q., 4380.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 1978/79

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VICE PRESIDENTS

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NEWSLETTER SUB COMMITTEE  
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DORE MCCOSKER  
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MAURICE PASSMORE  
ROBIN MCCOSKER  
ERROL WALKER  
DON LIGHTFOOT  
DAVID PERUNDER  
TOM CHAPMAN  
JEAN HARSLETT  
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 - \$3.00

FAMILY \$4.00

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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MINUTES ANNUAL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 26th JULY, 1978.

Present 24      Apologies 6.

The President extended a welcome to all present.

MINUTES - The minutes of the previous Annual Meeting were read and it was moved by Ray Marsden and seconded by Don Lightfoot that they be adopted. CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE - nil

FINANCIAL STATEMENT - Balance sheet for 1977/78 was read and Mrs. D. Archer moved that it be accepted. Seconded by Mr. C. Hockings. Carried. Credit Balance of \$6.24.

PRESIDENTS REPORT - It was a good year and thanks were extended to the leaders of the outings, all of which were varied and interesting. Office Bearers and Club members were also thanked for their support to the club.

ELECTION OF OFFICER BEARERS

President - C. Hockings	Nominated by T. Archer.	Accepted.
Vice President - T. Archer	" " M. Marsden	"
D. Lightfoot	" " T. Archer	Accepted
R. Marsden	" " T. Archer	Declined
D. McCosker	" " M. Marsden	Declined
R. McCosker	" " D. Archer	Declined
Secretary - Janet Hockings	" " T. Archer	Accepted
Treasurer - Dot Archer	" " J. Harslett	Accepted
Newsletter Ed. - Jean Harslett	" " D. Archer	Accepted
Newsletter Sub. Com.	Aileen McAllister Nominated by D. Archer	Accepted
Publicity officer - Joan Stevenson	Nominated by D. Archer	Accepted
Librarian - Millie Marsden	" " D. Archer	Accepted
Flora Officer - Dore McCosker	Nominated by D. Archer	Accepted
Fauna Officer - Brian McDonagh	" " D. Archer	"
Geology Officer - Maurice Passmore	" " J. Harslett	"
Youth Officer - David Pfrunder	" " J. Stevenson	Declined
Robin McCosker	" " J. Harslett	Accepted
Bush Walking Officer - Errol Walker	" " M. Marsden	Accepted
Committee - D. Lightfoot	Nominated by D. Archer	Accepted
D. Pfrunder	" " J. Harslett	"
T. Chapman	" " T. Archer	"
J. Harslett	" " M. Marsden	"
F. Wilkinson	" " J. Harslett	"

THANKS - All Club members would like to endorse the remarks of gratitude to Tom Archer as President, and the efforts of the executive, expressed by Mrs. J. Harslett. Mrs. Harslett as Newsletter Editor, was supported by Tom Archer who both expressed their thanks to the loyalty and willingness shown by the team responsible for publishing and mailing the monthly newsletter.

### GENERAL BUSINESS

A Committee meeting to organize events of the coming year is to be held at Mr. & Mrs. T. Archer's house at 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 2nd. Committee members attending are asked to provide a plate for supper.

It was moved by Mr. Ardron and seconded by Mrs. J. Harslett that the annual subscription rates be increased to single \$3.00 and Family \$4.00. Carried.

There being no further business, the annual meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

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### MINUTES MONTHLY MEETING - Wed. 26th July, 1978.

Apologies and attendance as per Annual Meeting.

MINUTES - That the minutes be taken as read in the July Magazine was moved by Joan Stevenson and seconded by Don Lightfoot. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE - Inward:- Mr. L. Cockburn (re Brookvale Park Australian Heritage Festival);  
Australian Conservation Foundation (re Club Membership); Press Statement National Park and Wild Life Service.  
Magazines - Habitat Vol 6 No. 1 1978, N.P.A. Vol.48 No.4  
A.C.F. Newsletter Vol.10 No.1, The Darling Downs Nats  
Vol.1 No.1 1978, Toowoomba Field Naturalist No.296.

Outward - 40.S., Mr. D. Vernon, Mrs. D. Brown  
(re S.G.A.P. Flower Show).

Inward received, outward endorsed was moved by T. Archer and seconded by Mrs. Butler.

FINANCIAL REPORT - Mrs. D. Archer moved that the credit of \$6.24 be received and accounts for postage \$6.09 and \$4.00 for rent be passed for payment. Seconded by M. Marsden. Carried.

Outing Report - Mr. Don Lightfoot reported on the outing to The Caves area, thoroughly enjoyed by the 40 members and friends who attended.

Next Outing - Final arrangements for the August outing to the Australian Heritage Festival at Brookvale on SUNDAY 27th AUGUST are to be finalized at the monthly meeting. (please note next page)



AUGUST GENERAL MEETING HAS BEEN CHANGED FROM THE 23rd TO AUGUST 30th  
at 8 P.M. in the C.W.A. Rooms. Guest Speaker will be Tom Archer  
- - showing slides taken in Canada - "40° BELOW ZERO".

Re OUTING on August 27th - we will meet at Brookvale Park - Sunday  
27th of August - be sure you come - should be interesting.

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MINUTES continued: -

General Business - Following discussion on the closure of a road  
in the vicinity of Applethorpe, it was moved by Mrs. J. Harslett  
and seconded by Mrs. Marsden that the Club should not enter a  
protest, although individual members were free to make objections.  
Carried.

It was moved by Mr. T. Spiller and seconded by  
Mr. T. Archer that correspondence from the Australian Conserva-  
tion Foundation (A.C.F.) regards Club Membership be held over  
for consideration at the next meeting. Carried.

Mrs. Marsden thanked Mr. Spiller for reminding  
members of the anniversary of Joan Westcott, a past member of  
the club.

Arrangements for the sending of flowers to  
Brookvale Park were still to be finalized.

It was moved by Mrs. J. Harslett and seconded  
by Mr. T. Archer that letters be forwarded to Chinchilla,  
Toowoomba and Queensland Naturalist Clubs inviting them to  
organize the combined campout for 1978.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m. to  
be followed by a programme of slides entitled "Remember Last Year"  
after which supper was served.

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#### SEPTEMBER NEWS

SEPTEMBER 10th - Extra Wildflower Outing

SEPTEMBER 24th - TEXAS AREA - under leadership of Laurie Jeffrey

SEPTEMBER MEETING - Speaker - Errol Walker touring the "European  
Alps"

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DID YOU NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE FOR THE AUGUST MEETING

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 30th -

\* \* \* \* \*

August. 1978

## THUNDERBOLT

To add a little colour to the outing on 23rd. July which included the area known as Thunderbolts Caves, Mr. Don Lightfoot has provided these few notes:- From December 1864 to May 1870 Thunderbolt (Fredrick Ward) lived at large in the region between Newcastle and the Queensland border. He favoured no gang, though once or twice took on an apprentice, at first the help of a half-caste woman, who also bore him some children. When she fell ill with pneumonia he risked his life to secure her shelter in a farm house where she later died.

Thunderbolt was a native of Hawkesbury, the cradle of Australia and on 26th. May 1870 he was shot at Uralla N.S.W. in a duel with a police officer. Flowers are still placed on the grave at the Uralla Cemetery, and I believe a letter addressed to Thunderbolt was left there. Thunderbolt's Leap at Tenterfield is claimed to be 29 feet across jumped in a bid for freedom, with one of his splendid horses.

Don Lightfoot.

A few notes on his possible activities in the Stanthorpe District from records held by Jean Harslett. From newspaper of the day 100 years ago 7.11.1966 = Warwick 7.11.1866:- "The bushranger Thunderbolt" stuck up a band on the Maryland road. When the bushranger had obtained possession of money from the band, a little parleying took place. The bandmaster said it was very hard to take money from a poor man, and the sum the bushranger had got, was the result of several days playing. Thunderbolt replied, "he did not care- if it was his brother he would take it". But he coolly said that if the party would give him their names and addresses he would return the money to them if he succeeded in sticking up some person who had a good sum.

The previous day he stuck up a man called Hart and robbed him of £105. He said he wanted the money and said he had a mind to take the horse as well. Hart expostulated upon the hardness of taking the money, stating he was a poor man, and his horse "Minstrel" had won him the money. The bushranger said as he was a poor man he would return him £5. which he did. Two men were also stuck up on Saturday and robbed of £6; since then nothing has been heard of Thunderbolt."

Another version of the same story comes from a later historian, "His most whimsical exploit so legend has it, was an encounter was with a German band on their way to Tenterfield races. He took their money and then made them play for him. He liked their playing their playing so much that he promised to return their money if he robbed the biggest winner at the races. The eventual victim was a man named Hart. Later the amazed band returned to Warwick to find Thunderbolt had kept his promise and their money was waiting for them."

It is said he planted the large old peartree (still standing) at Jenner's Creek. That he hid in the caves we visited. Also that in the Glen Aplin district a few miles south of the town there is a rock locally known as "Thunderbolt's Rock or Lookout" It stands on a ridge from 200 to 300 feet high and commands view of the country for miles around.

Does anyone to-day have any idea to which granite slab this reference is made to? The road before Stanthorpe's origin in 1872, two years after Thunderbolt's death was the old New England road from Tenterfield to BoonooBoonoo, Jenner's Creek, Maryland, The Gap to Warwick and the places mentioned were the changing stops for the coach horses. Thus the stories of local bushranging certainly have some basis of truth, but what is fact? The stories of bushrangers always engage the imagination and whims of storytellers and it's a challenge to decide which is correct. The outing gives us the opportunity to allow our imagination some freedom and to muse upon the past.

Jean Harslett.

PERSONAL We welcome our new president for 1978-79 year and note with interest that concurrently with Colin, his father, also well known to us is president of the Queensland Naturalist Club. We wish father and son well in their respective clubs.

Congratulations to our member Mrs. Aileen McAllister a foundation member of the Association of Civilian Widows being paid the honour of being made a Life Member of the organization. She has the outstanding record of service to this organization commenced in Stanthorpe in 1958 of five years president of the Stanthorpe Branch, 3 years vice-president, 5 years secretary and 3 years as treasurer, as well as representing the district at State Conferences. Knowing Aileen as we all do and her concern for detail and efficiency this is, indeed a fine record of service and we are proud you have been thus honoured.

#### INVITATION

To the Australian Heritage Festival at Brookvale Park near Oakey and it is held from 19th-27th August 1978. (see the clubs plan previously noted) The central theme of the flower show as part of the festival to mark the gifting of the Australian Gardens to the Nation, will be a huge map of Australia depicting the flowers of each area. They would like each State to contribute flowers, and the Stanthorpe Naturalist Club has been asked to assist. Members are invited to visit the Park either on the planned outing or any time during that week.

The club or individual members have been invited to support the Australian Conservation Foundation. Member bodies of the A.C.F. pay \$24.00 a year and receive the A.C.F. Newsletter and if you join before 31st Oct you will receive a free copy of the 1978 Directory of Australian Conservation Organization. The magazine Habitat of Australia (subscription \$7.00 for six issues) may also interest you. The address is A.C.F. 364 Albert Street, Melbourne 3002.

MINISTER'S REPLY. Mr. Tom Chapman asked the club to act on a conservation theme and the reply by Mr. T.G. Newbury Minister for Culture and National Parks is of interest and a very reasonable one, and we include it for members interest.

" I refer to your letter in connection with an article



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which appeared in the Sunday Mail on 19th March 1978,  
titled "Desert Foxes as Guides for Army".

As a result of a recent discussion which my Director of National Parks and Wildlife had with Messrs. O'Sullivan and Tipper concerning the newspaper article and their activities in the Simpson Desert, my Director has advised me, that he is satisfied that the newspaper article was a gross misrepresentation of the true situation, and that in fact the reference to eating native animals was made only in response to a query as to what could be done to survive in the event of being broken down and out of food and water. He is also satisfied that both of these persons are very conscious of the need to preserve the environment of this area.

In the course of the above mentioned discussion the attention of Messrs O'Sullivan and Tupper was drawn to the provision of the legislation particularly in relation to the necessity for them to obtain permits to traverse the Simpson Desert National Park. It should be noted that most of their travel is through private property which is adjacent to the National Park.

You may be assured that my Director will carefully scrutinise any applications for permits to traverse in this area.

Yours Sincerely

Tom Newbery (Minister for  
Culture, National Parks and Recreation.)

BIRD NOTES.

Cleaning windows has always been, according to the song, a good way of providing interest in observations. This may even be applicable to the country cousin engaged in the job. While cleaning windows the other day I noticed two kookaburras actually mating while 20 yards away a third member of the party of kookaburras was investigating a possible hollow for a nesting site in an Angophora tree. How does this fit into what is usually thought to be fairly rigid territorial rights? Are the younger generation being bowed down to in the bird world. Koo-hoo-hoo-hoo-haa-haa, things are not what they used to be. Despite the moment of nonsense the observation was quite serious.

Also another small observation, a pair of galahs are also investigating a hollow and last year they raised a family there, and promise to do likewise again this year. While passing visits are often made by galahs this is my first record of them actually pausing long enough to raise a family, so far away from the maddening of other galahs. How often are galahs reported as nesting in the Granite Belt? Please let us know if you have any records.

Jean Harslett.

May our new year in NATS bring many interesting observations, happy outings and the enjoyment of fellowship with people with interests in common. A successful and rewarding year to the new executive and committee members.