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THE  
**GRANITE BELT  
NATURALIST**



Monthly Newsletter of the  
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club



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

P.O.BOX 154

STANTHORPE, Q., 4380.

OFFICERS OF CLUB FOR 1990 - 1991.

PRESIDENT

KRIS CARNELL. (835268)

VICE-PRESIDENTS

RAY MARSDEN (811593)

JEAN HARSLETT B.E.M. (833185)

SECRETARY

DESLEY McDONAGH (813074)

TREASURER

JULIA BROWN.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

MARGARET CARNELL (835268)

NEWSLETTER SUB-COMMITTEE

VAL WHITE and DORE McCOSKER.

PUBLICITY OFFICER

TOM ARCHER (811754)

FLORA and FAUNA OFFICER

BRIAN McDONAGH. (841284)

GEOLOGY OFFICER

COLIN HOCKINGS (811978)

YOUTH OFFICER

ROBIN McCOSKER. (835371)

BUSHWALKING OFFICER

ERROL WALKER (812008)

LIBRARIAN

ESME COLLEY (812927)

COMMITTEE; NOMINATED OFFICIALS WITH POWER TO CO-OPT.

HONORARY AUDITOR.

JOAN FERRIS.

MEETINGS - 4th. WEDNESDAY of each MONTH at the Q.C.W.A. ROOMS  
at 8pm.

OUTINGS - The Sunday PRECEDING the 4th. Wednesday of each Month.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

SINGLE . \$8.

FAMILY. \$15. per annum.

Rent donation per family per meeting.

AIMS OF THE CLUB.

1. To study all branches of Natural History.
  2. Preservation of the Flora and the 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 and post to members.
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No 219.

- 1 -

August, 1990

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club held in Q.C.W.A. Rooms on Wednesday, July 25th 1990 at 8. p.m.

Opening: President Ray opened the meeting and welcomed all present especially Gordon and Noor Davis, Frank James and Mrs. Patricia James.

Minutes: Secretary Dot Archer read the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Wed. July 26th 1989 and it was moved by Lyle Thompson and seconded by Dore McCosker that they be adopted as read.  
Carried.

Correspondence: Nil

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Julia read her report for the period June 30th 1989 to June 30th 1990.

Credit Balance June 30 1989	50.17	
Total receipts for past year	694.15	752.32
Less Expenses for past year		504.00
Credit Balance June 30th 1990		248.24
O/S cheques 8.00, 22.00, 6.00		36.00
Bank Statement Cr. Balance		\$284.24

Julia moved that her report be received. Seconded by Joan Stevenson.  
Carried.

President's Report: President Ray read his report for the past year's activities and moved that it be received. Seconded by Colin Hockings.  
Carried.  
Rob McCosker spoke on the President's report and complimented Ray and the Executive for the past year and interesting outings.

Election of Officers for 1990-1991

As Ray Marsden was not standing for President this year he remained in the chair and called for nominations for:

President: Kris Carnell nominated by Rob Harslett - Accepted and was duly declared elected.

Vice Presidents: Ray Marsden nominated by Joan Stevenson - accepted.  
Jean Harslett nominated by Dot Archer - accepted  
Both declared duly elected.

Secretary: Desley McDonagh nominated by Millie Marsden - accepted and duly declared elected.

Millie Marsden expressed a vote of thanks to retiring Secretary Dot Archer.

Treasurer: Julia Brown nominated by Dot Archer - accepted and duly declared elected.

Newsletter Editor: Colin Hockings nominated by Jean Harslett -declined  
Margaret Carnell nominated by Dot Archer - accepted and duly declared elected.

Newsletter Sub-Committee: Val White nominated by J. Brown - accepted  
Dot McCosker volunteered to assist.  
Both duly declared elected.

### Election of Officers (continued)

Librarian: Esme Colley nominated by Millie Marsden - accepted - duly declared elected.

Publicity Officer: Tom Archer, nominated by Ray Marsden - accepted duly declared elected.

Flora & Fauna Officer: Brian McDonagh nominated by Dot Archer - accepted duly declared elected.

Geology Officer: Colin Hockings nominated by Tom Archer, accepted duly declared elected.

Youth Officer: Rob McCosker, nominated by Dot Archer - accepted - duly declared elected.

Bushwalking Officer: Errol Walker nominated by Tom Archer - accepted duly declared elected.

Committee: Moved by Millie Marsden, seconded by Esme Colley that the nominated officers become the Committee with power to co-opt if necessary. Carried.

Hon. Auditor: Joan Ferris nominated by Julia Brown, seconded by Lyle Thompson. - accepted and duly declared elected.

### General Business:

Incorporation was discussed and it was moved by Tom Archer and seconded by Kris Carnell that the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club become incorporated. Further discussion took place and the motion was carried.  
Subscriptions were discussed - all felt it should be raised with the added expense of incorporation. The suggestion that the subscription be left as is and reviewed in 6 months was made. A motion was made by Brian McDonagh that subs be raised by \$2.00. Seconded by Rob McCosker.  
Jean Harslett moved an amendment to the above motion that family sub be \$15.00 and the single sub be \$8.00. Seconded Margaret Carnell.  
The amendment was put to the meeting and carried and became the motion. This was put to the meeting and was carried.  
The annual meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

Dot Archer.

General Meeting Followed the Annual Meeting.

Minutes: Moved by Desley McDonagh and seconded by Jean Harslett that the minutes of the June 27th meeting be taken as read in the July newsletter. Carried.

### Correspondence:

Inwards received from:

1. State Library of Qld - receipt for newsletters received
2. Australia Post re Registration charges and booklet on

# Minutes of General Meeting (contd)

## Correspondence:

3. Environmental Australia

4. The Threatened Species Network (Old)

1. Darling Downs Naturalist

2. Chinchilla Field Naturalists' Club Inc.

3. Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club.

Outward sent to 4QS Radio Station with outing and meeting notices

Moved by Val White and seconded by Rob McCosker that the Inward Correspondence be received and the Outward endorsed.  
Carried.

## Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Julia read her report for 27th June to 25th July 1990.

Cr. Balance as at 27th June		252.34
Receipts received	52.00	
Room Rent Collection	4.00	
June Bank Interest	9.10	65.10
		<u>317.44</u>

### Expenditure:

Room rent	6.00	
Magazine Duplication	6.00	
Magazine Postage	22.00	
Apr., May, Jund Fed Tax	1.20	37.80
July Fed Tax	60	<u>37.80</u>
Bank balance (cr) as at 25th July 1990		\$279.64

Julia moved her report for adoption and the following accnts passed for payment: Room rent \$12.50; Magazine duplication \$6.00; Magazine Postage for August \$22.50. Seconded Herb Colley  
Carried.

Outing Report for July 22nd: Ray reported a good outing with 53 attending. We visited Stone House then on to the Mt. Norman Picnic area for lunch and then on to inspect the Round House. Millie Marsden gave some interesting history of the Stone House and the Round House. All in all it was a very enjoyable and informative outing.

Specimens: Millie brought a Mugga - red flower from Iron Bark tree at the Foxbar Outing.

Jean Harslett spoke on a nest and bird from the Giraween outing. She also spoke on calcified 'buttons' from Crayfish, also Acacia from Girraween.

Brian McDonagh spoke on an article he had read on herbs which listed lemon scented Eucalypts.

General Business: Dore McCosker spoke re Magazine Cover - as more have to be printed it was decided to bring new design to next meeting.



Special Meeting to arrange programs and outings will be held on July 31st at the home of the Archers at 7.30 p.m.  
Meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

"Remember last Year" organized by Rob McCosker and Errol Walker with the slides brought by members was enjoyed by all. Our thanks to Rob and Errol and all who brought slides.

The evening closed with a welcome 'cuppa' and fellowship.

Dot Archer.

### STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALISTS M PRESIDENT'S REPORT

July 25th 1990

I take pleasure in presenting this report for the year 1989-90. It has been another successful year with particular emphasis on the aims of the Club.

The outings have been varied, some close ot home, some farther afield. Much interest has been created in various fields - natural history, history, flora and fauna and photography, the scenery on many outings has left us with a lasting impression. My thanks to all who took on the leadership of outings and a special thanks to the organisers of the campouts, These take a little more time to co-ordinate. Unfortunately the camp-out organised by Colin Hockings for the May week-end had to be cancelled. It is hoped these plans may be included in next year's program.

The weather has not always been kind to us, and many of the outings were in doubt until the last minute - such is the unpredictability of nature.

I would suggest that the incoming committee look at having extra hald day outings, especially during the flowering of the wildflowers in various parts of the district.

The club has never come through the year with such a healthy bank balance. This is due to the sales table, rent box and the fact that the magazine was not issued when the cancellation of outings made it redundant for that month.

Our thanks are extended to Tom Archer and Rob McCosker for attending the incorporation meeting in Warwick and the subsequent report. A decision will have to be made as to our future direction. Subscriptions must also come under review as the room rent has risen, for the first time in many years. Rent is now \$10.00.

The programs presented at the meetings have been top class, and I sincerely thank those involved. It is said to be a bad day if you don't learn something. I am sure you will all agree that we never have had done in Noto with the outings and programs being a 11 of

### President's Report (contd)

Tom Archer has done a magnificent job as publicity officer and this aspect has brought in many new members. Thanks also to Millie Marsden who has provided photographs of our activities for the Border Post and the Daily News.

All office bearers have served the club well and this has made my job so much easier. I thank secretary Dot Archer and treasurer Julia Brown for keeping the books in order and the meetings running smoothly; vice-presidents Jean Harslett and Rob McCosker for chairing meetings when I was not available. The newsletter editor and committee have worked well together to keep por news in front of the members, while librarian Val White has kept the magazines for future reference. Joan Ferris was once again a very capable auditor.

I wish to thank members for the opportunity to have served as your president for the past few years, and I wish the incoming executive every success, and will help in whatever capacity I am needed.

(1981 - 1982)

### OUTING REPORT

Outing to stone houses in Girraween on July 22. Leader Ray Marsden

The Stanthorpe Field Naturalists were blessed with a perfect winter day for the outing to Girraween on July 22 when the object was to view the two homes constructed from local stone, at the southern end of the park.

Fifty-three people assembled at Wallangarra Lions Park and moved in a convoy of 16 cars to the first stop at the gate ay to Ky Nealing's former property on Paling Creek Road. Several peiole, attending their first outing with the club were welcomed, including Jand and Mark Newman and family, Gordon and Noor Davis, and Frank James.

The morning tea stop gave members time to marvel at the work which had been put into the erection of the granite piers at the gateway and wonder how the huge log was placed atop these piers.

On the walk to the stone house, many asides were made to look at the wild flowers in bloom, Many varieties seemed to be unseasonally early. The stone house with its turf rood was admired by all, and the other buildings inspected. Most people felt a sense of sadness that after a all the work involved, and the time involved in collecting the rocks, the home was only occupied for a short time.

We were told that it was envisaged that the property would be developed into a riding school cum trail riders haven, with cabins being built to house the visitors. Mrs Nealing was very interested in horses and the stables which are still standing certainly supported the idea of a riding school. An old spiked wheel fordson tractor was used on the property to collect the stones used for the buildings. We were

6  
told that this was affectionately known as "Von Ryan's Express" though it is hard to imagine that anything could be "express in that terrain.

Information gleaned from various sources has it that a nearby 'hippie' settlement provided much of the labour used in the building of the house and out-buildings. The remains of a wattle and mud building further up the valley lends support to this information.

The stone house had a handsome open fireplace, lead light windows which we believe came from Warwick and also a superb slate floor, which also came from Warwick. Ky Nealing used to construct coffee tables from local pine, which he sold in southern capitals to finance the building of the stone mansion in his Girraween complex. It is a shame that his dreams never came to fruition.

Members moved on to the picnic area in the Mt. Norman area where it was quite a sight to see the entire log surround of the picnic area being used as seating, as the members enjoyed their lunch in the sunshine.

The state of the road made it necessary to walk from this point to view the "round" house, built by commercial artist, John Ward and his wife Melissa. While both the stone houses were built about the same time, in the early 1970's, their design was very different. The two story round house in another wonderful feat in building, with windows and doorways perfectly executed in the local granite rocks. This house has relics of the gas fittings, open fire place and originally had lead light windows and a charcoal cool box safe. On the flat near the house is the remains of a mud oven. This was probably used before the house was built on the flat rock area. A rectangular 'bath' was seen near the creek. It is said that this was used as an acid bath to take the paint off the windows while building was under way.

We were told that efforts had been made in the flat area to grow crops and that some citrus trees were planted in an area behind the house. It was said that the same people were involved in the building of the stone house adjacent to the Boonoo Boonoo River.

Moving along to another beautifully constructed home which we were privileged to see, that of the New Holland honeyeater. This snug home was cup shaped and made from strips of bark and lined with soft bark and grasses. The nest was about shoulder high in a banksia bush and inside was one pinkish-buff coloured egg with reddish brown spots. We hoped that this home will be un use until the young is raised. 'On returning to the picnic area, notes were compared, afternoon tea eaten and members returned to their homes after a wonderful day in the bush.

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Burn down your cities and leave our farms, and your cities will grow again as if by magic, but destroy our farms and grass will grow in the streets of every city in the country.

William Jennings Bryan  
(1860-1925)



OUTING FOR AUGUST 19, 1990

Pre outing notes as supplied by Brian McDonagh.

Meet at Weeroona Park at 8.30 a.m., then Wallangarra Lions Park at 9.00 a.m. We will travel into New South Wales about 4 miles to Wanstalls property. Morning tea is at Wanstall's house. At 10.00 a.m. we will drive further into the property to start the walk to the Sunnyside trig station, which will take about 2 hours. It will be easy walking along a property road, lunch and drinks to be carried. For those who do not wish to take part in the walk there is quite an interesting area close to the cars.

Items of interest will include a slab hut, ringtail possum nests in the garden, orchids on rocks and a mini rainforest area.

For the "sleepy heads" there will be NATS signs from Brushabers Road, 3 miles south of Wallangarra on the highway, but you must be at Wanstall's by 10.00 a.m.

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MEETING NOTICE

At the general meeting on 22nd August several important motions will have to be passed concerning the incorporation of the club.

The program will be provided by Jean Harslett "Birdsville and Beyond" (in a good season).

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The outing to the rock houses was not a wildflower outing. Apart from splashes of gold here and there from the earliest Wallangarra wattles (Acacia Adunca) other blooms were scarce, needing a few more weeks to reach their peak. The winter blue daisy (Olearia Ramoisissima) usually very common in that area was hard to find - probably hidden by the dense growth of broad leaved Persoonia and Dodonea viscosa. Two violets, viola lectonicifolia, and a Patersonia are a couple of months early. Leucopogons, Epaeris, and Pultanaea will improve..

Dore McCosker.

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Members are asked to supply items for inclusion in the magazine. Articles can be left at Chelsea House & Garden (Sylvia Murphy) at the Stanthorpe Plaza, or post to Margaret Carnell, P.O.Box 33, Severnlea 4352. Deadline for the September issue is September 6th.

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