



THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST

91



**Monthly Newsletter of the
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club**

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

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**

Could not contribute to the newsletter. I have their copy for the
issue of the edition by the second Sunday of the month if at all possible.
Copy may be sent to P.O. Box 33, Stanthorpe 4380 or left with Sylvia Murphy
at Chelsea House & Garden at the Stanthorpe Plaza.

OFFICERS OF CLUB FOR 1990 - 91

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 & Dore McCosker	
Publicity Officer	Tom Archer	811754
Flora & Fauna Officer	Brian McDonagh	841284
Geology Officer	Colin Hockings	811978
Youth Officer	Robin McCosker	835371
Bushwalking Officer	Enrol Walker	812008
Librarian	Esme Colley	812927
Committee	Nominated Officials with Power to co opt	

Meetings: 4th Wednesday of each Month at Q.C.W.A. Rooms at 8pm.

Outings: The Sunday PRECEDING the 4th Wednesday of each Month.

Annual Subscriptions: Single \$8.00 Family \$15.00 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 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.

ADDRESS CHECK

Could all members please check that their address is correct, and if not notify the secretary immediately.

COPY FOR NEWSLETTER

Could all contributors to the newsletter please have their copy in the hands of the editor by the second Sunday of the month if at all possible. Copy may be sent to P.O.Box 33, Severnlea 4352 or left with Sylvia Murphy at Chelsea House & Garden at the Stanthorpe Plaza.

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC.
HELD IN THE C.W.A. ROOMS, STANTHORPE, ON FEBRUARY 27th 1991.

Opening: President Kris Carnell welcomed all present, particularly visitors Chris and Alison Peaty, Brian and Noela Dodd, Ted Lockhorst, and Cathy Walters.

He advised the meeting that the club was now Incorporated, and advised the meeting of the decisions made at the first management committee meeting which was held in January. There is to be a meeting of the management committee held before the monthly meeting every second month.

Minutes The minutes of the December meeting were accepted as a correct record of that meeting on the motion of Frank James, seconded by Leila Hermansson and carried.

Attendance and Apologies as per attendance book.

Correspondence

- Inward:
1. Toowoomba Nats - Darling Downs Naturalist
 2. Mrs Foresto - Membership and outing query.
 3. Border Post - Account and Account rendered.
 4. Sport and Recreation Department - Bulletin.
 5. Commonwealth Bank - Statement.
 6. Info Australia - Directory of Associations.
 7. Toowoomba Bushwalkers - Footprints January 1991.
 8. State Library - Receipt of magazines.
 9. Chinchilla Nats - Urimbirra - January.
 10. C.U.I Insurance - Insurance Certificate.
 11. Queensland Twitch - Appeal for funds and help.
 12. International Public Relations - Green Guide. (2 copies).
 13. Field Nats Victoria - Aust. Natural History Medallion.
 14. Australia Post - advice of increase of charges for Private Box Holders.
 15. Blue Nursing Service - Annual appeal.
 16. John Coulter - Spokesman for Environment for the Australian Democrats survey.
 17. Chinchilla Nats - Urimbirra - February.
 18. C.U.I. Insurance - Insurance Policy Documents.
 19. Toowoomba Nats - Darling Downs Naturalist.
 20. Wendy & Neil Donges - change of address.
- Outward:
1. 2 letters to Mrs Foresto - membership.
 2. Dr Taylor - Thanks for outing (campout).
 3. Peter Hazelgrove - Ditto.
 4. 4QS "Round the Ridges" x 2.
 5. Mike Bathersby - thanks for help with Incorporation.
 6. Mrs Dianne Arnold - membership advice.

Desley McDonagh moved and Dot Archer seconded the motion that the Inward Correspondence be received and the outward adopted. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Julia Brown moved the treasurer's report for adoption, and the accounts be passed for payment - Room Rent \$10.00; Magazine Duplication \$6.00; and magazine postage \$25.00. Seconded by Lyle Thompson and carried..

Treasurer's Report (contd)Statement for 28/11/90 - 27/2/91

Bank balance as at 28/11/90		\$502.13
Receipts :		
Subscriptions	38.00	
Room rent collection	15.00	
Change postage	1.00	54.00
		<u>\$556.13</u>
Expenditure		
Room rent	10.00	
Magazine duplicating	6.00	
Magazine postage	25.00	
Border Post	115.63	
Commercial U.I.	77.00	
Fed Gvt tax Nov'90	1.05	
Dec'90	1.10	
Ja Jan	0.15	235.93
		<u>\$320.20</u>
Balance as at 27/2/91		

Outing Report:

Colin Hockings gave a comprehensive report on the outing to Wyberba Falls and Underground River etc. President Kris complimented Errol and Colin on the planning for an excellent outing.

Next Outing: The next outing will be to Killarney, and will be a weekend camp-out at Queen Mary's Falls. March 23/24. Some members will be staying there Friday and Saturday night. \$2.50 per person per night. Saturday will be to go up the Gorge, Sunday 8.30 at P.O. Killarney. Jean Harslett is arranging this outing.

Next Programme: Gordon and Noor Davis will present the programme at the next meeting.

Specimens: Leila Hermannson brought a mud swallow's nest.
Colin Hockings brought an orchid book with the orchid observed on the previous outing marked.

General Interest: President Kris encouraged the members to think about the April outing as it was to be arranged by Jean Harslett, and Jean is very much involved in the March Outing.

Programme: Errol Walker presented an excellent programme of slides and a video of the areas in Western Australia that he and Annette recently visited. Thank you Errol for taking us on an armchair ride to those beautiful places, with the usual excellent photography you always present.

The meeting closed after the members showed their appreciation of Errol's programme in the usual manner.

Desley McDonagh
(Hon Sec)

ONLY ONE TO A CUSTOMER

This bright, new day. Complete with 24 hours of opportunities, choices, and attitudes. A perfectly matched set of 1440 minutes. This unique gift, this one day, cannot be exchanged, replaced or refunded. Handle with care. Make the most of it. There is only one to a customer.

MINUTES OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC.HELD ON 23rd JANUARY 1991 at 4 PIERPOINT STREET, STANTHORPE AT 8 pm

Present: Val White, Jean Harslett, Dore McCosker, Errol Walker, Desley McDonagh, Col Hockings, Rob McCosker, Margaret Carnell, Kris Carnell, Tom Archer & Brian McDonagh.

Apologies: Esme Colley

The President Kris Carnell advised the meeting that there were matters required to be dealt with at this meeting related to incorporation.

1. Appointment of Secretary of the Management Committee.
Tom Archer moved and Col Hockings seconded that Desley McDonagh be appointed to that position. Carried.
2. Form 8 was to be completed and returned - this related to the secretary's appointment.
3. A copy of the rules certified as directed was to be lodged with the Justice Department.

Rules: Moved Jean Harslett, seconded Val White that the rules as presented to the meeting be adopted. Carried.

Some discussion on who should hold copies of the rules was held. It was suggested that a photocopy of the Certificate of Incorporation be held with each copy of the rules.

Public Risk Insurance: The Certificate of Currency was with the Secretary.

Letter of thanks: Tom Archer moved and Errol Walker seconded the motion that a letter of thanks be sent to Mike Bathersby, thanking him for his work in incorporation of the club. Carried.

Management Committee Meetings: It was decided that Management Committee meetings be held every two months immediately prior to the monthly meeting.

Business: Outing changes. The March outing has had to be changed. February will now be a campout on 23/24 in the Kilarney area. Sunday is to be the main day. Jean Harslett is the leader. March outing will be led by Errol Walker and Colin Hockings, to Wyberba Falls on March 24th. Errol Walker passed on a membership enquiry from Mrs Dianne Arnold from Tenterfield. The Secretary will write to Mrs Arnold with the details requested.

The meeting then closed, there being no further business.

Desley Mc Donagh

Hon Sec.

OUTING REPORT - GIRRAWEEEN SUNDAY 24th FEBRUARY

The assembled vehicles departed from Weeroona Park and travelled in convoy to the Doctor Robert's Waterhole parking area where we met up with fellow members and visitors.

After morning tea we were "drafted" through the gate and a head count taken. 41 members and visitors were present.

The aim of the morning was to visit the site of a recent rock-fall. I was lucky to have taken a photograph of the balancing rock, prior to its falling, so now have before and after shots.

We proceeded along the track past Dr Roberts' Waterhole, pausing to admire two large flower spikes of *Cryptostylus subulata*, a ground orchid. Jean Harslett gave details to the gathered crowd, of the most unusual way in which this genus of orchids is pollinated. The flowers attract male ichneumon wasps which mate with them, resulting in pollination. Interestingly these same two *Cryptostylus* have been flowering continuously for 3 months as Janet and I first noticed them in late December.

We left the recognised track and made our way cross-country to join up with a rock out-crop which opens out on top of a ridge, to give a magnificent view of The Pyramids and of Mt Norman, the highest peak in Girraween National Park.

Immediately below us was heard the sound of rushing water from Bald Rock Creek as it tumbled over The Cascades, or as it is known to some, Wyberba Falls.

After taking in the view, we carefully made our way down into the gorge, pausing to examine specimens of another ground orchid, *Cryptostylus leptochila*.

At the bottom of the gorge members spent some time examining the fresh rock-fall which, it appears, may have been caused by a lightning strike. The patches of hard, "sugar-frosting" on the top of what remains of the balancing rock, had members wondering whether it could have been caused by lightning. It must have been a terrifying spectacle when the event took place.

After much deliberating and careful examination of the rock-fall we made our way back up the gorge to cross the creek immediately above the waterfall. The crossing was achieved thankfully, without any more than feet getting a little damp.

The party then rock-hopped or in the case of some, rock-crawled upstream to view a large, almost circular pool which, I can assure you, is the perfect place for a refreshing dip on a hot day.

In this area can be found many patches of Tongue Orchid, *Dendrobium linguiforme*, growing on the boulders and rock faces.

We returned via the rock out-crop overlooking The Pyramids and Cascades. The party paused to take in the creek at the lower end of Dr Roberts' Waterhole before returning to the cars for lunch.

Enroute, the ground orchid *Prasophyllum archeri* was spotted by a sharp-eyed member. This small orchid, identified by Jean Harslett, was carefully examined by many.

Another small ground orchid, *Spiranthes sinensis*, was observed throughout the low swampy vegetation either side of the track, on the return walk to the cars. This orchid with its pretty pink flowers arranged in a spiral on the stem, is found in many parts of the world including Siberia and up to 2500m (8000 ft) in the Himalayas.

Col Hockings

SECOND HALF OF OUTING

Lunch was taken by the vehicles at Dr Roberts' Waterhole after which our convoy of cars proceeded a few km west towards the National Parks headquarters.

Each car found a spot to park on the edge of the road or in the bush before a long trail of 'Nats' proceeded in single file through light scrub up a boulder-strewn hillside.

A bit of bush bashing brought us to a low granite outlook which gave us views over swampy land bordering Bald Rock Creek, behind which the Pyramids and the

sliprocks loomed in their special majesty.

We descended rather sharply to a valley containing massive granite boulders perched at all angles above and beside the cascading waters of Bald Rock Creek, only a few metres before it reached the swamp plain.

We watched and photographed the young 'Nats' enjoying a moss covered water slide in the creek for more than half an hour before we could coax them to further upstream adventures.

Bald Rock Creek has carved its image deep underground in this valley. To gain access to this cavern meant wading chest deep in cool water, guessing what might be under your feet at the next step. With no torches to see our way we were relying on reflections on the swirling water from shafts of daylight penetrating the cavern from inconspicuous openings. The odd glowworm could be seen in the pitch black crevices of the cave roof.

A good percentage of our group braved the cavern while others explored the creek and its boulder-strewn shore line. The more adventurous (or foolhardy) exited the underground creek dripping but quite refreshed for the easy walk out to the road via a different route.

The area explored on this part of the outing was new to most of us. For those of us who hadn't been there for 20 years or more it was a reminder of just how spectacular and interesting our Granite Belt can be.

E. Walker
Co-leader

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CAMP-OUT TO KILLARNEY

22-23-24 March

The March outing is a camp-out at "Kinkuna" on the Head Road, Killarney. "Kinkuna" is the old Queen Mary's Falls school which is now a Guide Camp administered by the Warwick Girl Guides.

Camping is either in the quarters or your own tent using the facilities, at a cost of \$2.50 per person per day. It is situated on the right-hand side of the road, 3km past Queen Mary's Falls.

Robert and Nancy Stevens are prepared to act as guides for our outings. They, together with Jean Harslett, have gone to a lot of trouble to arrange an interesting weekend.

Some "Nats" may wish to camp on Friday night. If you do, simply make your own way to "Kinkuna". The rest of the programme is as follows:

Saturday 9am Day's proceedings start from "Kinkuna". Most of the day will be spent in the general vicinity of the falls.
Sunday 8.30am Sunday is the main day, and we welcome day visitors as well as campers.

Meet at Killarney Post Office. We will travel in 4 wheel drives up the Condamine Gorge to The Head. We will have a picnic lunch and a swim. During the day we will see a bullock wagon and team, and meet Nellie the well-known dingo lady.

There will be seats available for those who don't have their own 4 wheel drive.

Don't forget to vote before the outing at the Council offices. You may vote during office hours from now until the 23rd.