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# THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST



Monthly Newsletter of the  
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club

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Mr & Mrs H Colley  
6 Pierpoint Street  
Stanthorpe 4380

## OFFICERS OF CLUB FOR 1991-92

President	Kris Carnell	835268
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	Jean Harslett B.E.M.	833185
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Newsletter Sub-Committee	Val White & Dore McCosker	
Publicity Officer	Frank & Patience James	811853
Librarian	Esme Colley	812927
Management Committee	President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer.	

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

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

Annual Subscriptions: Single \$8.00 Family \$15.00 per annum July to June

Rent: Donation per family per meeting.

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## SCALE OF DIFFICULTY FOR WALKS ON NATS OUTINGS

1. Flat walking road or track.
2. Road or track gentle hills.
3. Track some hilly sections
4. Track some steep sections
5. Cross country easy open forest, gentle slopes.
6. Track steep section common, with steps.
7. Cross country some hills, some thick undergrowth.
8. Cross country steep section with scrambles over rocks etc. Some thick undergrowth.
9. Cross country steep, hilly, rough, thick undergrowth.
- 10 Mountain climbing, hard going, higher level of fitness or plenty of time required.

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## 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 & plants.
4. To assist where possible in scientific research.
5. To publish a monthly newsletter and post it to members.

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## ADDRESS CHECK

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

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OUTING REPORT FOR 25TH AUGUST

The August outing was to the Coolmunda Dam to see a rare species of ironbark, *Eucalyptus virens*, that was only discovered about five years ago. We met at the old Greenup store on the South East side of the dam. Altogether there were twenty-one people and ten cars, some coming directly from Warwick. Peter Haselgrove was to be one of our leaders but unfortunately sickness in the family prevented him from coming. Laurie Jeffrey and Mavis Campbell came from Texas.

On the way to the first stop some of us thought they saw a "turtle crossing" sign, but a prankster had added legs and a head to a sign meaning a hump or crest on the road. We stopped to see our first ironbark found by Laurie. The main difference to other ironbarks is that its leaf is longer and narrower, and a much brighter green.

A little further down the road we went looking for the special reserve set aside for these rare trees. After missing it, I called at a house. A lady came out, it was Mrs Ruth Dean half expecting us. She and her husband were instrumental in having the land set aside as a reserve. So on the spur of the moment she decided to show us around it, as none of us had been there before.

We left our cars on the side of the road and walked around the edge of the park. Some wildflowers were coming out, such as *Hovea*, *Grevillea* and a *Wedding bush*. A good example of *E. virens* was seen along the way in a neighbour's paddock. On the way back Mrs Dean kindly offered us some water which was welcome as the day was rather warm. After returning to the cars, the park at the base of the dam wall was the venue for lunch. Many birds were in the dam spillway, even seagulls having lunch too. From the top of the dam wall we pondered at the mechanism for lifting the sluice gates.

At this point some returned home, while the rest of us went to the main picnic area for a visit. We had refreshments and after looking at the swans and pelicans, returned home. At this point I would like to thank Mr Laurie Jeffrey for showing us *E. virens* and a thank you to Mrs Ruth Dean in giving us her time and a welcome drink of water.

Frank James

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Outing for the 22nd of September.

Rob McCosker will lead a "Mystery Tour" in Girraween National Park. We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9 a.m. or at the turnoff on the left of the road at the bottom of Saxby's Hill, for those who live south of Stanthorpe. Lunch will be carried. There will be walks to suit everyone, from quite easy to more challenging for those who prefer.

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Half-day outing on the 6th of October

The outing is to Amiens to see wildflowers, led by Frank James. Smoko is to be carried. We will leave from Weeroona Park at 1.00 p.m.

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Meeting on 25th September

Errol walker will present the program, titled "To the Gulf and Back".

EUNGELLA - WHERE THE CLOUD LIES DOWN\*\*\*\*\*  
ON THE MOUNTAIN

For quite some time, Kris and I had the urge to visit Eungella National Park where we were told you could see platypus in the daytime. So in June we packed our car with camping equipment and headed north.

We left Mackay and headed for the hills passing through canefields for quite a bit of the way, till we reached the range, which climbs 1000m in 3km, from the township of Finch Hatton. The road is two lane bitumen, and was reconstructed after severe landslides closed it a couple of years ago. We stopped part way up to photograph glorious views of the Pioneer Valley below.

While Kris was making enquiries about our camp site, I was entertained by an Eastern Spinebill in a grevillia. We opted for a walk-in camp site a little distance from the amenities block (with hot showers!), as it was more secluded. After several trips from the car, and the supervision of a couple of scrub turkeys our camp was set up, and we proceeded to the viewing platform. We didn't see any platypus on our first viewing as there was too much noise from tourists, but later, at dusk they were out in force.

The campsites are in rainforest, so there were large numbers of birds about. One of my favourites was the white-browed scrub wren which hopped about, scolding, a few centimetres from my shoe. Lewin's honeyeaters, spectacled monarchs, yellow robins and grey fantails all came to call, and the whipbirds were calling to each other close by. A possum left footprints on our esky overnight, but we didn't identify him for a few days, when he climbed onto the table looking for food.

Quite close to our campsite was a greenhood, *Pterostylis criterton* which the park ranger had discovered and named. He had also produced a beautiful book, "Wildflowers of Central Queensland" when he was at the Blackdown Tableland National Park. We attended an excellent slide evening presented by him, about the park.

Our first walk was an easy one along the Broken River, and here we saw our first Ulysses butterfly, flashing blue above the river. We had hoped to see the Eungella honeyeater, but were disappointed in this.

One of the highlights of our visit was a walk along the Cedar Grove walk, where I was hugged by a red cedar tree, by standing between its buttress roots. As we walked beside a gully we heard a rustling in the undergrowth and paused for some minutes to watch. Our view of the bird was partly obscured, and it wasn't until it called that we realized it was a whip bird, and its mate was close by. We started this walk opposite the Rainforest Cafe, so on completing it, we adjourned to the cafe where we had apple streudel for lunch. That's really roughing it! We admired the very beautiful pieces of furniture made by the owner, from red cedar and other timbers. It was an effort to drag ourselves away.

I felt sure that there should be a platypus in the pool in front of our tent, and after three days of watching, I was rewarded by seeing one. It was much more exciting than seeing them from the viewing platform, and I felt this was my own private platypus. It really was shy, disappearing at the slightest movement and staying hidden. I also saw a cormorant in the water there, and watched it for quite some time.

Eungella means "where the cloud lies down on the mountain", and on our fourth day that's just what it did, so we walked in the cloud. We saw a number of birds, including a crested shrike-tit, and a black snail with a flattened shell, which I presumed was a native, but the views were obscured. In the afternoon, after a shower of rain, we observed a large bird on a stump. It proved to be a Pheasant Coucal with his feathers hung out to dry, looking very bedraggled and miserable.

Eungella contd.

To the west of the National Park is the Eungella Dam which is reached by travelling over some very corrugated dirt road through iron bark forest. On the wall of the dam there lives a colony of rock wallabies. They obligingly sat out on the rocks, and on the track at the bottom of the wall, to be admired. Every now and then they would bound for shelter, only to re-appear if we were patient. On our way back to camp we turned a corner, and there in the middle of the road was a large, self-possessed bustard. He walked into the grass at the side of the road in a very regal manner and refused to have his photo taken.

We spent six days at Eungella and really enjoyed our stay, although I realized for the first time that rainforests are very drippy places when it's wet. On the day we left we drove down into bright sunshine, and saw the cloud still lying on the mountain behind us.

Margaret Carnell

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MINUTES OF THE AUGUST MEETING OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INCORPORATED

HELD IN THE C.W.A. ROOMS, STANTHORPE ON WEDNESDAY AUGUST 28TH AT 8.00 P.M.

OPENING: Jean Harslett, Vice-President opened the meeting presenting an apology from President Kris Carnell, and welcoming Peter Hazelgrove, Ranger from Sundown National Park.

ATTENDANCE: and apologies as per attendance book.

MINUTES: The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a correct record on the motion moved by Gordon Davies, seconded by Herb Colley and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Inward:

- |                                                                                                           |                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Info Australia - Brochure update                                                                       | 2. Foresto - Sub 1991-92  |
| 3. Darling Downs Naturalist                                                                               | 4. Ridge - Sub 1991-92    |
| 5. Australia Post - Regis. Public. increase in postage.                                                   |                           |
| 6. Film Australia - Brochures                                                                             | 7. P. Power - Sub 1991-92 |
| 8. Happy Valley Restaurant - Christmas party advert.                                                      |                           |
| 9. Shire Council - thanks for clean up at Red Bridge and advice that the two car bodies had been removed. |                           |
| 10. C.B.A. Bank statement.                                                                                | 11. A.C.F. Brochures      |
| 12. Macmilan Publishers - Ad for books.                                                                   |                           |

Outward:

- |                                                         |                                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Foresto re membership.                               | 2. Round the Ridges - notes for broadcast.                 |
| 3. Radio 963 Community Billboard - notes for broadcast. | 4. Return to Dept of Justice with regard to Incorporation. |

It was moved by Patience James and seconded Errol Walker that the inward correspondence be received and the outward adopted and carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Financial Statement for 24/7/91 to 28/8/91

Balance as at 24/7/91 364.10

Receipts

Subscriptions 366.00  
Room Rent collection 22.00

734.10

Less expenditure

Balance at 28/8/91

73.61

\$660.49

Expenditure

Room rent	10.00
Magazine duplicating	6.00
Magazine postage	26.00
V. White	2.71
Minute book	9.85
Incorp. fee	18.00
Fed Govt. Tax	1.05

## MINUTES Contd.

Accounts to be passed for payment: Room rent \$10.00; Magazine duplication \$6.00; Julia Brown (2 receipt books) \$3.10.

Moved Julia Brown, seconded Val White that the Financial statement be adopted and the accounts be passed for payment. Seconded Val White and carried.

OUTING REPORT: Frank James reported on the outing held the previous Sunday. The group met at Greenup School at 10.00 a.m. Laurie Jeffrey from Texas joined the group, then they looked for the Iron Bark Reserve. Mrs Dean guided the Nats around the Iron Bark Reserve. Lunch was at Coolmunda Dam. Wedding bush was out, good range of acacias out, lots of birds on the dam. A letter of thanks is to go to Mrs Dean for her assistance for the outing. Jean Harslett talked about a sign on the road which looked like a turtle sign - it was a decorated hump sign.

NEXT OUTING: 22nd September - southern end of Girraween - leader Robin McCosker.

CHINCHILLA NATS: are coming to the next meeting. Val White suggested supper and the meeting agreed.

SPEAKER FOR THE PROGRAMME: Peter Hazelgrove spoke on the evolution of geology of the Granite Belt. It has recently been discovered that the Continental Drift is related to the Texas Beds. Peter delivered a very interesting talk, and illustrated it with slides which made it evident that he had spent much time preparing for this talk. Ray Marsden moved a vote of thanks to Peter which was carried by acclamation.

SPECIMENS: Patience James brought a small piece of Hakea, and a hovea.

Jean Harslett had a moth; also the Eastern Chestnut Marsupial mouse and a picture of "Ayers Rock" built by the Leyland Brothers north of Tuncurry.

The Meeting then closed.

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STOP PRESS! The Chinchilla Nats will not be attending the September meeting because of the drought. THERE WILL BE NO SUPPER AT THE MEETING.

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PLANTS SEEN ON FIELD NATS OUTING 25.8.91 ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESERVE (extremely dry period)

LEGUMINOSAE: *Acacia polybotra*; *Acacia juncifolia*; *Acacia conferti*; *Acacia cultriformis*; *Acacia decora*; *Acacia* sp. (small catkin - deep yellow) *Hardenbergia Monophylla*; *Daviesia* sp. shaped seed vessel; *Bossiaea rhombifolia* (var *concolor*); *Pultenaea foliolosa*; *Aotus subglauca*; *Hovea heterophylla*.

MYRTACEAE: *Calythrix tetragona*; *Calythrix longifolia* (in bud); *Melaleuca thumifolia*; *Kunzea opposita*; *Eucalyptus fibrosa* ssp *Kiubila* (Dusky ironbark) *Eucalyptus virens* (Shiny leafed ironbark) *Eucalyptus trachypholia* (Bloodwood) *Eucalyptus acmenoides* (White Mahogany) *Eucalyptus parida* (Ironbark) *Angophora costata* (smooth barked apple) or Rusty Gum.

RUTACEAE: *Boronia glabra*; *Boronia polygalifolia*.

EPACRIDACEAE: *Melichris urceolatus* (4 corners); *Stuphelia viridis* (5 corners); *Lissanthe strigosa*; *Leucopogon* s $\frac{1}{2}$ / (thought to be new species)

IRIDACEAE: *Patersonia* (probably *Sericia*) Wild Iris

THYMELEACEAE: *Pimilea lilifolia*.

ORCHIDACEAE: *Caladenia carnea*; *C. caerulea*.

EUPHORBIACEAE: *Ricinocarpos boumanii* (probably furtherst east it is recorded)

Compiled by Ray & Millie Marsden & Jean Harslett  
to be continued next month.