



# THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST



Monthly Newsletter of the  
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club

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## OFFICERS OF CLUB FOR 1991-92

President	Kris Carnell	835268
Vice-Presidents	Rob McCosker	835371
	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	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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Minutes of the November Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. held in the C.W.A. Rooms, Stanthorpe on 27th November 1991 at 8.00 p.m.

Present: as per attendance book. Two new members from Warwick were welcomed.

Apologies: As per attendance book.

Minutes: Val White moved & Patience James seconded that the minutes be confirmed, Carried.

Correspondence: The Inward Correspondence was received & the Outward adopted on the motion of Frank Wilkinson, seconded Errol Walker. Carried.

Inwards: Toowoomba Field Nats - D.D. Naturalist  
 Richmond Valley Nats - Newsletter  
 Queensland Nats Club - Newsletter  
 Dept of Environment Q- Grant guidelines  
 Minister for Environment (Aust) - Biolinks  
 Wild Country Safaris - Ad for safaris  
 Toowoomba Bushwalkers - Gootprints  
 Chinchilla Nats - Urimbirra  
 Toowoomba Field Nats - D.D. Naturalist  
 In Australia - Directory Entry  
 Aust. Conservation Foundation - Raffle info.  
 Info Australia - Directory Entry

Outwards: Community Billboards - Notice for club activities  
 Round the Ridges - Notice for club activities

Ray Marsden moved & Col Hockings seconded that we apply for a grant for a photocopier from the Dept. of Environment & heritage.

Treasurer's Report: The following Treasurer's Report was received on the motion of Julia Brown, seconded Frank James. Carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT for 23.10.91 to 27.11.91.

Balance as at 23.10.91 698.64

Receipts:	Subscriptions	23.00	
	Room rent collect.	12.50	
	Change postage	46	35.96
			<u>734.60</u>

Expenditure:			
	Room rent	10.00	
	Magazine duplication	6.00	
	Magazine Postage	30.00	46.00
Balance as at 27.11.91			<u>\$688.60</u>

Accounts passed for payment: Room Rent \$10.00; Magazine Duplication \$6.00; Magazine Postage \$30.00.

Outing Report: Jean Harslett gave a report on the outing to Mallee Ridge in the Mt Norman area.

Next Outing: will be the break-up, to be held on 8th December in the Rotary Park by Quart Pot Creek. It will take the form of a barbeque, and a walk along the creek.

General Business: Tom Archer brought a sample of skeleton weed which is a noxious weed. In previous years it had appeared on Showground Hill and Archer's place. After being dug out it appeared again after 15-20 years. The plant looks like a dandelion, then later sends up flowering stems.

Minutes contd.

General Business contd.

Tom Archer commented on the Kurrajong trees flowering profusely. He last observed this during the last drought. The leaves fall, and are followed by masses of flowers and a terrific crop of seeds. These seeds are attacked by multitudes of insects. The last time this happened Tom collected seeds to send to Geoff Fearnside at Injune.

Two lots of photographs were on display. The first was of the outing through Fletcher's property and The Pinnacle by Kris & Margaret. The second by the Marsdens were of numerous outings.

Ailsa Wilkinson said a few words about Skin Cancer Awareness Week. (All Nats were wearing hats thank goodness). Ailsa displayed posters, and explained that nobody is immune to skin cancer, even dark people. Brochures were handed out.

Patience James offered to keep a scrapbook of photographs supplied by Millie Marsden and others.

The C.W.A. statewide is selling raffle tickets in aid of a room for the relatives of leukaemia patients. Jean Harslett asked members to support the C.W.A and thanked them for allowing us the rental of their room for meetings.

Jean Harslett spoke of the Girraween Natural History Association which is planning to erect a plaque commemorating Alan Cunningham's visit. It was moved by Tom Archer, seconded Errol Walker that a letter of support be written to the Minister for Environment re the Cunningham plaque.

Programme: Kel Dominey presented the programme on Mount Moffatt. President Kris thanked him for a very interesting programme.

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MINUTES OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB  
HELD IN THE C.W.A. ROOMS ON 27th NOVEMBER 1991.

Present: Kris Carnell, Julia Brown, Jean Harslett.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed

Apologies: Robin McCosker Desley McDonagh

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report showed a very healthy balance of \$688.60

The meeting closed at 8.05p.m.

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Former member, Pam Harvey was visiting Stanthorpe during the holidays and asked to be remembered to members. She is now in Rockhampton and enjoying being a member of the Rockhampton Nats. group.

Dot Archer thanks everyone for good wishes. She is back home and progressing satisfactorily.

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The past is a guide post not a hitching post.

To give vent now and then to his feelings, whether of pleasure or discontent, is a great ease to a man's heart. - Francesco Guicciardini

# OUTING TO MURPHY'S GULLY

23rd February, 1992

Leaders: Esme & Herb Colley

Road conditions will depend on the amount of rain we receive before the outing. River crossing was still under water when the pre-outing was done on January 27, however, unless major storms are experienced it should be able to be crossed with care.

Plans are to meet at Weeroona Park at 9 a.m. and proceed to Ballandean School where those from the southern end of the district will meet up. This is planned for 9.30 a.m., when we will travel in convoy. First stop will be at the weir where it is planned to have morning tea and allow time for a walk around in this area.

On then to the river! It is thought that there is more space for parking at the river rather than at the Murphy's Gully crossing. It is only a short walk to the gully from the proposed riverside parking spot.

It will be a 'do what you wish' outing from this point. Some may like to explore the river bank or go swimming or paddling. There is a big water hole here and it is suitable for children to swim as well as the adults. The banks of Murphy's Gully with their granite surroundings, will lead one on and on. For those who need a more challenging outing there is a steep hillside beyond the creek which will appeal.

Lunch will be at the riverside so there is no need to carry anything.

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## NATS OUTING TO BOONOO BOONOO

The last outing of the Stanthorpe Naturalists was to where Harrigan's Lane crosses the Boonoo Boonoo River. This crossing is about 40 kms. from Stanthorpe and off the Liston Boonoo Boonoo Road.

It is a very pleasant Picnic spot and here the river runs over granite rock and boulders with a couple of small water falls and swimming pools. If there is a good flow of water it is quite an impressive sight with all the cascades and white water.

The Boonoo Boonoo River between the Falls and Rivertree runs through quite a deep valley or gorge. At Harrigan's Lane crossing the river is about 500 m (1700 ft) lower than the Liston Tenterfield road. While the road down is a bit steep in places the scenery is good. The climate obviously is a bit warmer as there are Brush Box trees in places, growing beside the road.

Wildlife is fairly plentiful in the area and there are platypusses, platypi or whatever, in some of the pools. They are easily scared. They usually start to come out in the evening and you have to be quiet and somewhat lucky to see them. There might also be the odd dingo.

On the flat rocks at the crossing where soil from the road has been washed down there are traces of mineral sand.

The Harrigan's Lane Road continues on over the river and eventually joins the Bruxner Highway below Tenterfield and those who made the round trip said it was well worth while, with interesting scenery and reasonably good road. The crossing over the river is firm but rough.

Tom Archer



# THOSE WHO FLY IN CARNELL'S GARDEN

This summer we have seen a different selection of butterflies in our garden from last year's. There have been a few Big Greasies (*Cressida cressida*) and Painted Ladies (*Cynthia kershawi*) feeding in the garden as well as numerous blue tigers (*Danus hamatus*) flying by. I had not seen blue tigers here before or a chequered swallowtail (*Papilio demoleus*) which paid a visit when the callistemon was in bloom.

The usual lemon migrants, crows, meadow argus and grass blues have been around (the thyme was a favourite feeding ground) and there have been large numbers of orchard butterflies. When the eggs hatch on the young lemon tree, I transfer them to the orange as it is much bigger and has more leaves to eat. My family are quite convinced I'm crazy. The orange tree has also been attacked by large, pungent smelling, dark purple shield bugs with orange legs and feelers.

One of the most exciting butterflies for me was a huge female Common Eggfly (*Hypolimnas bolina*) which was settling on the grass and wandering jew in the front yard. She had a very dark brown background with some white circles and blotches on her wings, and a bright orange blotch at the bottom of her first set of wings. I was able to see the details when she settled on my foot. When I identified her, I realized I had previously seen a couple of much smaller males of the same species, which are black with white blotches which have a bluish sheen to them.

I find the butterflies are attracted to a number of exotics in my garden, as are the honeyeaters. We were entertained for weeks by Eastern Spinebills in the alstromeria outside the kitchen window. They became quite tame and pretended we weren't watching them from a few feet away. Only one of the dozen or so photos we took came out clearly. The yellow-faced honeyeaters and white-eared honeyeaters have also feasted in the Chinese lantern tree, the *Erithrynum* and *Agapanthus*. At present the white-eareds and silvereyes are eating ripe figs outside the window as I type.

The trend seems to be to plant a native garden to attract birds and butterflies, but I feel a combination of natives and exotics is just as good.

Margaret Carnell

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## NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on 26th February at the C.W.A rooms Stanthorpe at 8.00 p.m. Desley McDonagh will be presenting the programme titled "Reflections". Desley tells me not to expect a programme made up entirely of reflections in water.

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## COMING EVENTS

Well worth a visit is the special display on Insects at the Queensland Museum. It includes specimens collected by Frederick Parkhurst Dodd, The Kuranda Butterfly Man. The display "Living with Insects Friends and Foes" runs from 12th February to 15th March 1992.

March 21st & 22nd	Camp Out to Moogerah Dam organized by Peter Kerr
March 25th	Meeting with programme by Mr & Mrs Benny
April 26th	Outing to Poverty Point organized by Colin Hockings

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There is no duty we so much underrate as the duty of being happy. - R.L. Stevenson