



198 JUN 1992

# THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST



Monthly Newsletter of the  
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club

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## OFFICERS OF CLUB FOR 1991-92

Pre 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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- 3 -

MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC. HELD IN THE CWA ROOMS STANTHORPE MAY 27TH 1992 AT 8.00 PM.

Chairman Kris Carnell opened the meeting and welcomed all present including members and visitors.

Attendance and apologies :- as per Attendance book.

The Precis Minutes of the April meeting were adopted as a correct record with a motion, moved by Patience James and seconded by Robin McCosker and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE :- INWARD -

1. Biolinks - Newsletter
2. Toowoomba Bushwalkers - Footprint.
3. Qld Nats - Qld Natural History Award.
4. Chinchilla Nats - Urimbirra
5. Scout Assoc - Request for Support for Children of Chernobyl project.
6. Ollims Hotel Brisbane - Advertisement.
7. Info Line - Financial Service
8. Cheque from Dept of Environment and Heritage towards Photocopier.
9. Info Australia - Ad for Business Book Club.

OUTWARD :- To - 4QS -(1) ; Radio 963 -(2) - Notes for Broadcast and confirmation of change to 963. & Shire Clerk, Stanthorpe - Appreciation for setting up of room for the meeting on the 29th.

The inward correspondence was received and the outward adopted on a motion moved by Jean Harslett, seconded by Margaret Carnell and carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Statement for 29/4/92 to 27/5/92

Balance as at 29/4/92 \$485.63

Receipts

Subscriptions	\$ 15.00	
Rent Collection	10.50	
Change Postage	2.00	
Loan Kris Carnell	300.00	
	<u>327.50</u>	<u>327.50</u>
		<u>813.13</u>

Expenditure

Room rent	6.50	
Mag duplication	6.00	
Mag postage	30.00	
Deposit Photocopier	600.00	
Room rent/May	<u>10.00</u>	
	<u>652.50</u>	<u>652.50</u>

Balance as at 27/5/92 \$160.63

Accounts passed for payment :- Room rent :- \$10.00; Mag Dup :- \$6.00; Postage:- \$30.00; Matrix (PhotoCopier) :- \$1000.00; Border Post (Paper):- \$50.00. Julia Brown moved and Joan Stevenson seconded the adoption of the Financial statement and payment of accounts. Carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. The photocopier has arrived and the next magazine will be produced on it.
2. Letter to go to Mrs Pam Bates in appreciation of outing on her property.

OUTING REPORTS

Jean Harslett reported on the outing on the 24th. Report is in magazine.

NEXT OUTING will be to Wellington Rock - directions as were in the magazine.

SPECIMENS Jean Harslett brought specimens of Granite for our inspection.

Desley McDonagh had prints from the Ghost Gully/ Tenterfield area outing; and the Campout at Moogerah Dam and the Scrap book containing newspaper cuttings of club activities. Kris Carnell exhibited 2 prints of Wellington Rock.

Programme:- Brian and Noela Dodd presented a well prepared and extremely interesting programme on Parks and Canyons of Western USA. Thank you for sharing your travels and excellent photography.

Next Meeting's Programme will be given by Jean Harslett.

OUTING ON 21ST JUNE 1992

As May's outing had to be changed because of wet weather, the next outing will be to Wellington Rock. Details are as they were printed in May's magazine. We will meet at Weeroona Park at 8.45am for a prompt 9am start. Leaders are Kris and Margaret Carnell. Phone 835268 for any information or queries.

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NEXT MEETING - 24th JUNE 1992

Jean Harslett will present the programme at the next meeting which will be held in the C.W.A. rooms, Stanthorpe at 8 p.m. The programme is "Lights and Moods in Nature".

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People ask me why I went in search of myself in California instead of India. Just because my soul is sick it doesn't mean I have to give up room service.

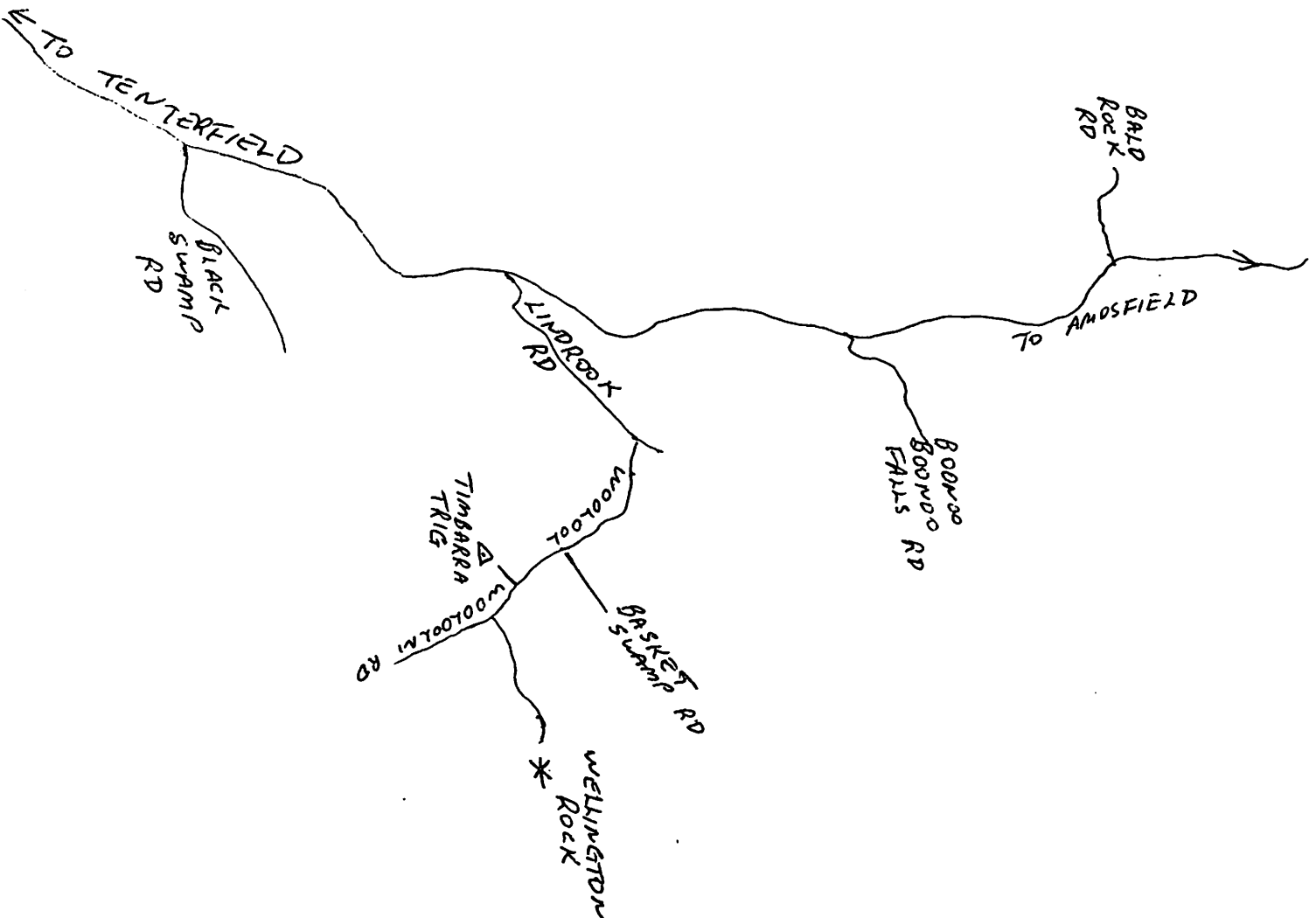
Ruby Wax

I have a simple philosophy. Fill what's empty. Empty what's full. And scratch where it itches.

Alice Roosevelt Longworth

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These last two pages are printed on the club's new photocopier. As you can see it will do justice to your articles, including sketches.



REPORT ON THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB, SUNDAY 24th.MAY 1992, TO THE BALLANDEAN STATION AREA AND THE " CLARRIE LYNAM WATERHOLES" SEVERN RIVER.

Members gathered, for the earlier start for the proposed visit to the Wellington Rock area, but with very recent rain, President and leader of the outing, Kris Carnell, had to make the decision that the roads were too slippery to undertake the outing and it was too late to notify everybody and have enough 4WD vehicles on call. At the time there was obviously some disappointment, but quickly members displayed their willingness to set off and enjoy, whatever was provided. The small executive who have to make quick decisions, sometimes, is very grateful for this fine co-operation. The day was perfect, a calm, crystal clear Autumn one, and the party a fairly large one, 46 in all moved off in the direction of the historic Ballandean Station, first pausing just inside the boundary at Washpool Creek, to speak of the property's very early history. Washpool Creek gained its name by the fact that the run's "wash-pool" for sheep was situated on this stream. (sometimes known as Stacey's Creek) a later manager who gave permission, readily, for picnics on its banks.

In the late 1830's squatters took up land in the northern "New England", which title the Granite Belt had until separation of Queensland. In the 1830's this land was described as "Beyond the Limits of Civilization." The 'limit' was rather a misnomer, in that it was a misdemeanor to pass the 'limit' which was supposedly guarded by a cordon of police. This was quite impractical to enforce, and the property owners undermined the scheme by letting each other know when the 'cops' were around. In 1839 Robert Ramsay MacKenzie ("R.R. Mac") "acquired" Ballandean Run" and on 9th. July 1840 the N.S.W. Government Gazette recorded that he had a licence to depasture stock there, rather loosely describing "Ballandean Run" at the head of the Clarence River in the New England. H.H. Nicol soon became manager & by at least 1844 was owner. The rural "crash had come and Mackenzie was in the bankruptcy courts and insolvent. At the cement causway, where we stood, Patrick Mc.Cosker always actively exploring found two dates, one in 1948 was attractively by small coloured waterworn pebbles bedded in the cement, the other 1960 just scratched into cement, both designating various crossing improvements.

We then drove between the old & new homesteads to the site of the Ballandean cemetery. In the early 1950's this had fallen into disrepair, but funds from the Ballandean School's 50th Jubilee were used to repair it. The first name recorded is Mar. 1860, making it one of the earlier cemeteries in the district. Here I read briefly from the Ballandean History." Mrs. Willcocks presented the brass plaque, Norm Bridle the materials for the fence. Frank Wilkinson, the perfectionist had designed & built the memorial. Ray Marsden with the aid of Mc.Cosker's crane had placed the huge granite tablet in position."... Frank commented, "not just the perfect angle'..but, almost the impossible dangling it into position' remarked Ray. The plinth upon which it stands has small black rocks with white markings, carefully gathered by the late Mervyn Fletcher, and placed by Frank. A Pied Butcher Bird sang



the clear notes for a musical background while we were here.

We then proceeded through Ballandean station to Lynam's Road, then walked through private property to some fine waterholes on the Severn River. The rock formations, the height of the river, with miniature and larger waterfalls, made it very attractive. The members explored at will, enjoyed the sunshine and warm rocks, and fellowship. Lunch was taken here.

Moving on, a couple of brief stops were made, the first at the "2nd Crossing (or 'Bent's Crossing') where water was freely flowing over the causeway. There are some old and beautiful specimens of River Oaks here and the River Wattles showing plenty of bud. (respectively *Casuarina cunninghamiana* and *Acacia floribunda*.)

The next stop was on the site of the ancient river bed. This can probably be best described by the report on the geology of the district in 1898 by the then Queensland Government geologist and I quote, "The Ancient River Channel" "The great southerly bend of the Severn River running down to the pre-emptive block of "Ballandean Run" is a new channel and the river formerly in historic times cut across the loop to the north, in a much more direct course. The bed of this ancient river is marked by a sandy-gravel hollow, along which later and in part a road was surveyed." In 1897 Sydney Skertchly (Qld. Gov. Geologist) stated that in his opinion it ought to be prospected for tin, especially towards the centre, where the elvan of diorite dykes will cut beneath the deep sands, and there in all probability brought up tin." end of quotes. Indeed those who had vineyards in the earlier days on part of this bed, found remarkable depths of sand. The type of granite in this area is referred to locally as 'Altered granite' and of course we lunched along the bed of the new channel. It is also of interest that where Wash-pool creek and Accommodation Creeks join this 'recent' Severn River channel it is very rough and rocky, and the river is actually higher than its tributaries, which is overcome by the Severn waters disappearing through this tumble of rocks, underground to the other level.

The homeward journey was along backroads - new to a few - to Marshall's Crossing, then following along the western side of the river all the way to Emu Swamp, and from Glover's Corner, west of Glen Aplin, Collin's Rd. to the Thorndale Road. and back to 'square one' in a series of circles, rather like Canberra's circular road designs. Finally, on behalf of the leaders Kris and myself we appreciate and thank members for the manner in which they accept unexpected alterations to fixed plans, and enter into the new ones, with enthusiasm. It is hoped that the Wellington Rock outing will be the next one, thanks to Patience James graciously foregoing the plans she had to lead.

Jean Harslett..Leader.