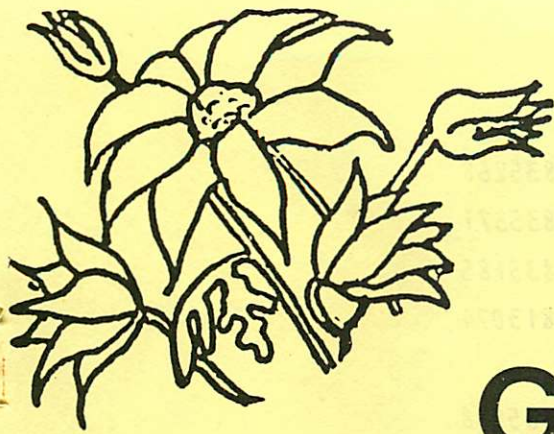


July 1992



# THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST



Monthly Newsletter of the  
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club

Registered Publication No. QBH 1824  
Category B  
If not claimed please return to  
P.O. Box 154, Stanthorpe, Q. 4380

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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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### 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.

\*\*\*\*\*



Wellington Rock



Solanum Aviculare

OUTING REPORT 21.06.92

The outing to Wellington Rock on 21st June began on a clear morning which gave promise of a perfect day, although some cloud gathered as we proceeded. There were 62 people in 17 vehicles which was quite a surprise.

We travelled along Sugarloaf Road to Mt Lindesay Road, and along to Basket Swamp turnoff where we met the Ballandean contingent. We travelled to Timbara trig where some people climbed the metal ladder to the top of the rock, where the wind was very cold. The rest of us were to content to look at the view of Tenterfield Wellington Rock, and other landmarks, including Mt Norman, from lower down. Narelle found five different orchids at the trig, one of which was in bloom.

On leaving the trig we followed the road to the Wellington Rock turnoff. We followed the narrow winding track through to within about 300 metres of Wellington Rock, doing a little bit of road clearing on the way. We were not expecting the Holdens to go so far, but they were keen to keep going. Special mention must be made of Joy Wallace who braved the dips, bog and rocks in her Statesman. At least it took her mind off her botany exam which was on the next day.

As we walked along the track to the rock Narelle and David found a small helmet orchid *CORYBAS UNGUICULATUS*. There was a forest of nine in bloom as well as a couple of solitary ones. There was also another helmet orchid which had finished flowering.

After lunch we set out to explore Wellington Rock. After a short climb we saw a lyrebird's nest at the base of a rock. This was not in evidence on our two previous trips, the second of which was two months before. Most people climbed up to admire the view over the Casino Road towards Rocky River, after which we set off across the saddle to another rocky knoll, sometimes called Little Wellington Rock. Many members commented on the aptly named holly bush which used to be known as *OXVLOBIUM TRILOBATUM*, and is now *O. ILICIFOLIUM*. and on the broad leaved acacia which was prevalent. There was a large specimen of ink weed on the way, as well as Kangaroo Apple (*SOLANUM AVICULARE*), and masses of *INDIGOFERA AUSTRALIS* in bud. Some of us heard a lyrebird calling in the gully.

Once again most people climbed up, via Norm's knee to admire the view of Wellington Rock, with some of our party standing on top of it. Some of us botanised around the rocks. There were several blueberry ash trees, and a cousin of *BORONIA - ZIERIA ABBORESCENS* - which had small white flowers and strongly-scented foliage - as well as several different orchids and ferns, and a couple of big staghorns.

On the way back we bush-bashed around the base of Wellington Rock through bracken, that was waist high or above, and one of the boys found a wombat hole the hard way - he fell into it. John Kenna discovered another at the base of a rock. After afternoon tea we walked back to the cars and headed home, some via Tenterfield, some through Sugarloaf and a couple of car loads via Lindrook Road and Boonoo Boonoo River Road. All in all it was a very pleasant outing.

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I would like to thank Jean for supplying me with the following information about the Kangaroo Apple *SOLANUM AVICULARE*. It grows on the margins of rainforest, and also in drier areas such as brigalow forests, and flowers sporadically throughout the year. Several species of *Solanum* are cultivated in USSR, Europe and New Zealand as a source of *SOLASODINE* for the production of Cortisone and other steroid drugs.

A few years ago a scientist from the Waite Institute in South Australia spent several days in the Stanthorpe District collecting *Solanums* and checking them for steroid drug content. The exercise had a dual purpose - 1. to produce our own steroid drugs which are nearly all imported and 2. to produce a crop which was not attractive to geese and ducks, in the Kununurra area. It was thought that if the *Solanums* were harvested before they fruited they would not be so likely to be eaten.

Margaret Carnell



Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. held in the C.W.A. Rooms, Stanthorpe on 24th June 1992.

Opening: Chairman Kris Carnell opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

The Minutes of the May meeting were adopted as a correct record on the motion of Rod Hutchin, seconded by Patience James and carried.

Correspondence: The inwards correspondence was received and the outwards adopted on the motion of Margaret Carnell, seconded Jean Harslett. Carried.

- Inwards:
1. Richmond Valley Nats - Newsletter June
  2. Wild Country Safaris - Programme for 1993
  3. Toowoomba Nats - Darling Downs Naturalist
  4. Kirketon Hotel - Ad. for budget accommodation
  5. Toowoomba Bushwalkers - Footprint June 1992
  6. Qld Forest Service - Project concerning yellow bellied glider.
  7. Queensland Nats - Journal Queensland Naturalist June 1992.
  8. IPC - Directory Information
  9. Foresto - re membership
  10. Chinchilla Field Nats "Urimbirra"
  11. Ronin Films - Advertisement for films
  12. D.H Wilson - subscription
  13. S. & J. Kenna - subscription
  14. M. Moulds - subscription
  15. B. & M. Clarke - subscription

- Outwards:
1. P. Bates - Thanks for outing hospitality
  2. Radio 963 - Notes for Broadcast
  3. 4 QS - Notes for Broadcast

Finance: Financial Statement for 27/5/92 to 24/6/92

Receipts		Expenditure	
Balance b/fwd	160.73		
Subscriptions		Magazine duplication	6.00
Room Rent Colleciton	14.00	Magazine postage	30.00
Change Postage	2.00	Matrix Photocopier	1000.00
Grant - photocopier	1000.00		
	1176.73		1036.00
		Balance c/fwd	140.73
	\$1176.73		\$1176.73

Bob Harslett moved and Ray Marsden seconded that the financial report be adopted and the follwing accounts be passed for payment: Room rent \$12.50.

Outing Report: Margaret Carnell gave a report on the successful outing to Wellington Rock which was attended by 62 people, on 21st June 1992.

General Business: Discussion was held about the yellow-bellied glider and several members took leaflets about it. Members were asked to keep a watch for feed trees during outings and walks in bushland, and to report sitings to the Queensland Forest Service.

Next Outing: Our next outing is planned for Half Moon to be led by Ray Marsden.

Next Meeting: The meeting on 22nd July will be the Annual Meeting. The programme will be "Remember Last Year" and members were asked to bring slides of outings during the last twelve months.

Members were also asked to bring any ideas for outings for the next year. There were books for sale by Jack Benny who gave a programme in March.

Programme: Jean Harslett entertained us with a delightful programme entitled "Lights and Moods in Nature".

### PRE-OUTING REPORT

Leaders Ray & Millie Marsden

The next outing on 19th July will be to a part of Giraween National Park adjoining Brian McDonagh's property at Lyra.

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9 a.m and travel to the top end of Brian's grape patch where we will park the cars and have smoko. Lunch will be carried for a walk up Bald Rock Creek inside the national park. The day can be as easy as you like to make it.

There are some very interesting rock formations to be seen. Those who feel inclined can walk up to a creek junction, or can climb the escarpment that is visible from Devil's Elbow. This is a more difficult activity, for those who enjoy a challenge.

### NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd July at 8 p.m in the C.W.A. rooms, Victoria Street, Stanthorpe. This is our annual meeting and members are asked to bring supper.

Our programme will be "Remember Last Year", and will be organized by Robin McCosker. If you have any slides taken of outings during the last twelve months please bring them along to share with us.

Subscriptions are due at this meeting, for 1992/93. The cost is \$8.00 per single subscription and \$15.00 per family.

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Just a reminder for those who may be new members, or who have not been told - when travelling in convoy on outings please make sure you keep the car behind in view, and stop if they stop.

\*\*\*\*\*

If you are thinking a year ahead sow a seed.  
If you are thinking ten years ahead plant a tree.  
If you are thinking one hundred years ahead  
educate the people.  
By sowing seed once, you will harvest once,  
By planting a tree, you will harvest tenfold.  
By educating the people, you will harvest  
one hundredfold.

Anonymous Chinese poet, 2500 years ago.

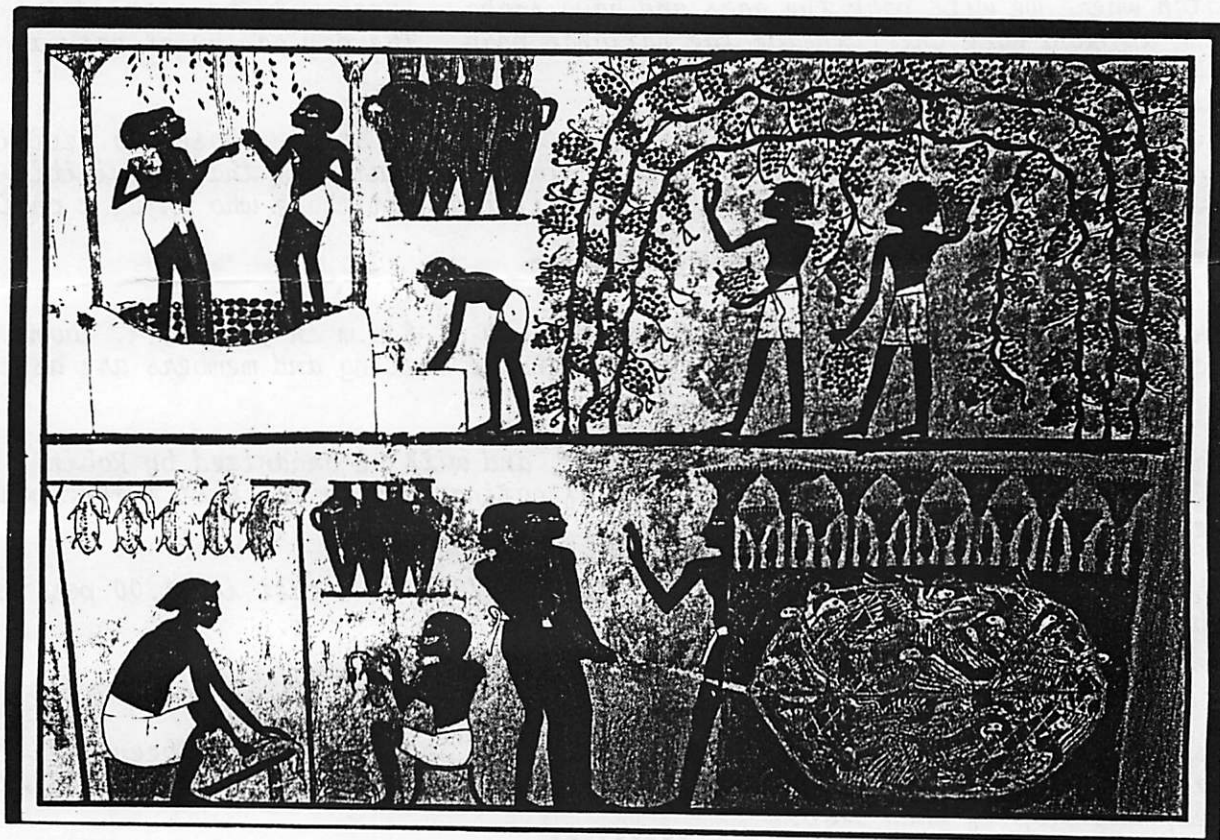
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The Texas Department of Transportation has been planting wildflowers along its road verges for 50 years. The department estimated that meadows represent a 25% saving in annual mowing costs alone.

Some ninety wildflowers were assessed for their ability to re-seed and for their colour through the growing season. This produced a list of 13 recommended plants. Included on the list are cornflower, pink evening primrose, California poppy, crimson clover, white yarrow, two coreopsis species (we know how well they grow) sulphur cosmos, gallardia, black-eyed susan, partridge pea and golden rod. Perhaps we should develop a mix of our natives to plant on our roadsides.



# GREETINGS FROM EGYPT

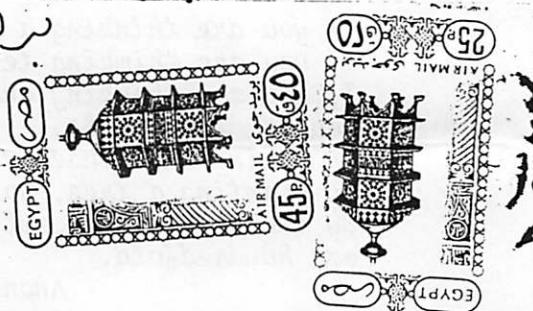


Luxor / June 10 ب. ل. ١٠

Dear Chris & Margaret,  
Great monuments  
here but very little  
wild life - except for  
the tourists!

A few birds - kingfishers  
etc. The only big trees  
are Eucalypts! Annual rain  
= zero, Temperature =  $46^{\circ}\text{C}$  in  
shade. lovely habitat!

- for Pharaohs!  
Love to all  
Linda &  
Norm.



Chris Carnell et al  
Field Nats.  
POB 154  
STANTHORPE  
AUSTRALIA

4380

ب. ل. ١٠