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THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST



Monthly Newsletter of the
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club

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OFFICERS OF CLUB FOR 1992-93

President	Kris Carnell	835268
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	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
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.

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.

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.

ADDRESS CHECK

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

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 *OXYLOBITUM 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.

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 Qaite Institute in South Australia spent several days in the Stanthorpe District collecting all the *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 in the Kununurra area, which was not attractive to geese and ducks. It was thought that if the *Solanums* were harvested before they fruited they would not be eaten.

Margaret Carnell

STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1991/92

It is with much pleasure that I present the 1991/92 Annual Report of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.

The Outings of the club have been very well attended during the year. We had eight full day and three half day outings and two camp outs.

Because of many and varied reasons there were considerable changes to the suggested outings. I would like to sincerely thank the members responsible for organizing the outings.

Our meeting programmes have always been of considerable interest to members and guests. As I have commented on many occasions, we have some very talented photographers in our club and sincere thanks must go to them for allowing us to share their slides and in some cases, be quite envious.

I would like particularly to thank the fellow office bearers of the club, Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, Editor, Magazine Committee and Publicity for a job well done. Running a successful club is a team effort and everyone has pulled their weight to make the year a successful one.

During the year we purchased a photocopier, and I must again thank the Dept of Environment, Heritage and National Parks for the grant towards this purchase. This will mean that we will have considerably more flexibility in the printing of the magazine. I would encourage (beg) members to submit articles for the magazine. We will now be able to print sketches, maps, photos etc. as well as text so please help. (I notice that other magazines often print comments etc. on outings some months previous.)

All in all the past year has been a very successful one in all respects and I believe that we can look forward to another successful one next year.

Kris Carnell
President.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Stanthorpe Shire Council, as a part of -subdivision in the town area, requires either land for parks or payment in lieu. The developer of the new estate, just of the Passmore crossing has donated to the council a strip of land fronting Quart Pot Creek to be used for a park, and also a strip of land joining the park to the new street. This means that residents of Kingston Road and the new estate will be able to walk along the creek to the Red Bridge on the southern side of Quart Pot Creek, and then cross the creek and continue into town, all on council controlled land.

Do not wish to be anything but what you are, and try to be that perfectly.
St Frances De Sales

Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.

NEXT MEETING: 26th August 1992 in C.W.A. Rooms Stanthorpe, at 8.00 p.m.
PROGRAMME; Monuments Along the Nile by Frank Wilkinson.

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MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC. HELD IN THE CWA ROOMS STANTHORPE ON WEDNESDAY 22/7/92.

The general meeting was opened following the Annual meeting opened at 8.35pm. Present and apologies as per attendance book.

The minutes of the June meeting were accepted as a correct record on the motion moved by Ray Marsden, seconded by Leila Hermansson and carried.

Correspondence:- Inward

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. DD Naturalist July 92 Twba Field Nats | 2. Q.N.C. Newsletter |
| 3. Hotel Nikko Sydney - Advertisement | 4. Card for Gordon & Noor Davis |
| 5. Gondwana Rainforest Sanctuary -Invit. | 6. Richmond Valley Nats News./ July. |
| 7. Footprint - Twba Bushwalkers' Club | 8. Sub. - Lucks |
| 9. Invit to list in Nats Directory - \$55 | 10. Dept Of Justice - Return/ Inc. |
| 11. Sub - H.D. & A.J. Gibson | 12. Sub - Mrs E. Mc Cullock |
| 13. Megan Thomas - change of address | 14. Sub - Mrs M Taylor |
| 15. Sub - Peter & Darlyn Langdon | 16. Sub - Alyson McCall |
| 17. A.C.F. catalogue | 18. Chinchilla Nats - Urimbirra |
| 19. Richmond Valley Nats - Newsletter - August. | |
| 20. Current Info Services - Invit to subscribe to Current Environmental Issues. | |

Outward - Notes for Broadcasting - 4QS and Radio 963.

Moved Desley McDonagh, seconded Joyce Smith that the inward correspondence be received and the outward adopted. Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial statement for 24/6/92 - 22/7/92

Balance as at 24/6/92 \$140.63

Receipts -

Subs	\$285.00	
Room Rent Coll	17.40	
Change postage	2.00	
Bank Interest	<u>18.20</u>	
	<u>322.60</u>	<u>322.60</u>
		<u>463.23</u>

Expenditure

Room Rent	12.50	
Mag Post	31.50	
FGT- May .45		
June 1.05		
July <u>1.35</u>		
2.85	<u>2.85</u>	
	46.85	<u>46.85</u>
		<u>\$416.38</u>
Balance as at 22/7/92		<u>\$416.38</u>

Julia Brown moved and Val White seconded the adoption of the Financial Report and the payment of the following accounts - Room Rent - \$12.50; Loan Kris Carnell \$300.00; 200 stamps \$90.00. Carried.

Millie Marsden moved and Rod Hutchin seconded that Kris Carnell be repaid the loan for the Photocopier. Carried.

Outing Report: Ray Marsden reported on the outing to the area where Girraween National Park meets Brian McDonagh's property at Lyra. He expressed the members thanks to Brian for his part in the outing. Full report in magazine.

Next Outing : Bald Rock to South Bald Rock on August 23rd. It was resolved that we meet at 8.00 am at Weeroona Park so that we can enjoy time on the walk and at South Bald Rock.

Meeting for planning of next year's programme: This will be at Esme & Herb Colley's place - 6 Pierpoint Street Wednesday 29th at 7.30pm.

Next Club Meeting: Programme will be presented by Frank Wilkinson - Monuments along the Nile.

Specimens :- Prints from the outing; Books illustrating wren & blue daisies; Brian McDonagh spoke of a young wombat trapped inside his property which dug itself out with much trouble and time.

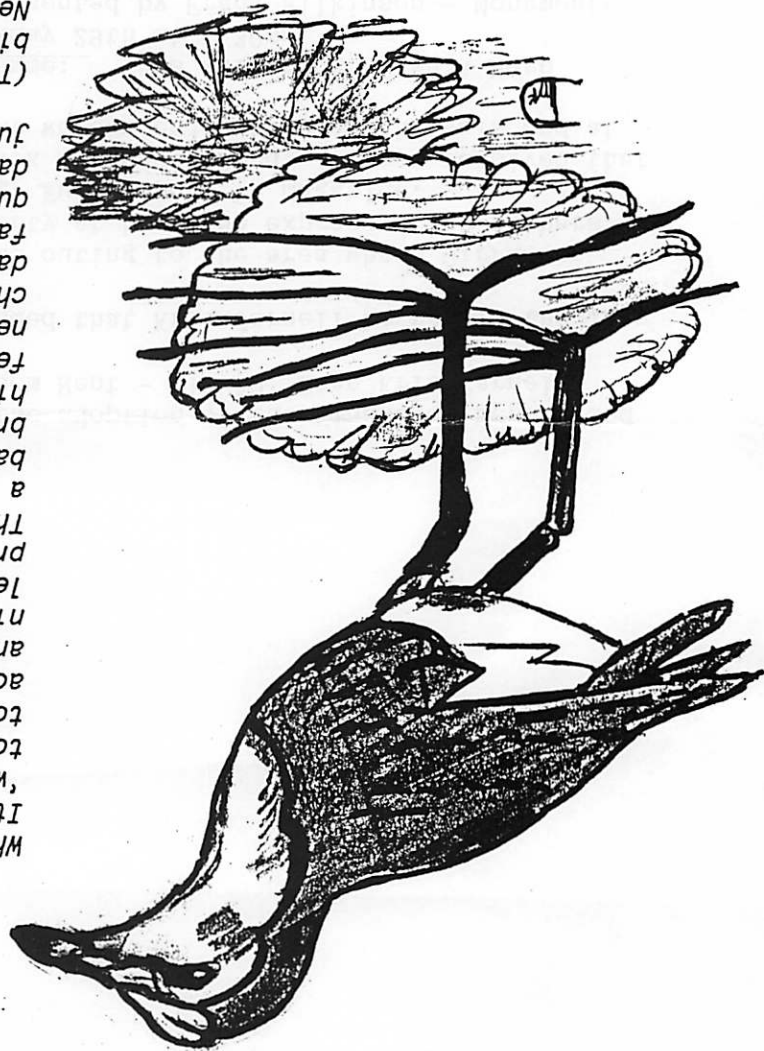
Programme: - Rob McCosker screened the slides for the "Remember last year" programme, a tradition of the annual meeting. Thanks Rob!!!

Supper followed this programme.

THE LOTUS BIRD

The Lotus bird is the only member of the Jacana family in Australia. They are found from Borneo in Indonesia and Mindanao in the Philippines to New Guinea and northern and eastern Australia to just south of Sydney. Jacanas are medium sized pond birds with long necks and very long legs, toes and toenails. They are the only group of birds known to pick up and move their eggs and small chicks with their wings. They nest on floating vegetation of ponds.

I have seen Lotus birds on two occasions only. My father pointed one out to me on a lagoon near Brandon NQ when he, Mum and I were on our way around Australia over 20 years ago. I think he was remembering the Lotus birds that he knew when he lived up north in his youth. The other Lotus bird I saw recently while I was on a trip home from Ingham on the Sunlander. I was passing the time by watching for birds from the window when I saw a Lotus bird on a lily pad.



Why my interest in the Lotus bird? It is a fascinating bird that can 'walk on water' because of long thin toes which enable it to balance on top of the lily pads as it walks across the top of the water holes and lagoons it frequents. One of its nicknames is the 'Jesus Bird'. Its legs are long but the toes are in proportion extraordinarily long. The bird is about 23cm long and has a fleshy comb on its forehead; its back and upperwing is pale or dark bronze brown; it has a black crown, hind neck, breast band, flight feathers and tail. It has a white neck and abdomen; golden yellow cheeks, side and base of neck with a dark stripe in front of its eye. In fact, it is quite colourful and its dashes around on top of the water or just stands there without sinking.

(The scientific information from bird books by Peter Slater and

Neville Cayley.)

Desley McDonagh