



# 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

SURFACE  
MAIL

POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA



## OFFICERS OF CLUB FOR 1992-93

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	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.

\*\*\*\*\*

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

I would like to apologize to everyone, and particularly to Ray Marsden for printing the first page of July's magazine last month, instead of August's. I hope I have learnt not to do two things at once from now on.

Ray's Outing report is printed below.

Margaret Carnell

\*\*\*\*\*

OUTING TO McDONAGH'S END OF  
GIRRAWEEEN

Sunday's outing to the McDonagh end of Girraween National Park proved to be a surprise for everyone. It was planned to be a walk along the creek but evolved into an interesting combination of creek and hillside walking.

38 people attended the outing and were met by Brian at his home and led to the extremity of his property where an early morning tea was eaten. One of the party elected to walk through to the Junction and another group decided to explore the area at their own pace. The rest set off along Bald Rock Creek with frequent stops to examine the rock formations, the different soil types and vegetation. After crossing the creek the group set off up a gentle valley. Brian explained how bush fires have changed the floor of Bald Rock Creek over the years he has known it. Vegetation is also changed following fire, and some of the stands of trees which were there in the 1940-50's are no longer to be seen. The wattles have regenerated very thickly following the bush fires in recent years.

Many more varieties of wild flowers were in bloom than was expected, including three acacias - *adunca*, *ulicifolia* and *juncifolia*. The blue daisy was very lovely and some good stands of *mirbelia* were also seen. Others included *senneccio*, *hovea*, trigger plant, *deodenear*. Brian pointed out three different *callistemons* growing in the space of a two metre square. At the top of the hill on a lovely rocky area a virtual rock garden delighted everyone, *Phebalium* was in full bloom making a wonderful splash of colour. Water was lying in the rock pools following the rain of the previous day.

Leaving this picturesque area the group broke into two parties, Ray leading one group straight down to the creek, while the others went with Brian back down another valley. The idea was to regroup for lunch. However one lot had a slight mishap when one of the party slipped on a wet rock into the icy cold water to shoulder depth. A stop was called at a nearby sunny area to try to get some warmth to dry out. This gave the rest of the party ample time to explore the rocky terrain with the water an added bonus. The rest of the party joined up here and the lone walker was back from the Junction walk. A leisurely walk down the creek back to the cars was enjoyed by all. Evidence of recent ground disturbance by feral pigs was noted with dismay, and a wallow was also seen nearby. Some of the group saw the culprits - a large sow with a family of piglets.

The area showed wonderful promise of a bountiful spring blooming and some plans have been made to revisit in September.

While birdlife was heard in the tree tops one little wren gave a lot of pleasure at the first creek crossing. This variegated wren flitted about for quite some time and was seen by many of the party.

Ray Marsden

\*\*\*\*\*

The speed of the leader determines the rate of the pack.

OUTING TO BLUFF ROCK

September 20th 1992

Rating 6

A little of the nature and history of the area taken from information supplied by the Tenterfield Tourist Information Centre:

The rock and surrounding area consists of granite which cooled from molten magma beneath the earth's surface about 225 million years ago, and subsequent uplift and erosion have exposed them to the surface. In road cuts along the New England Highway near Bluff Rock, a variety of granite called adamellite is exposed. It is composed of the mineral feldspar (cream and pale pink), quartz (clear and glassy) and biotite (dark mica). Large crystals of pink feldspar are set in a finer-grained matrix, giving the rock a speckled or porphyritic appearance. According to geological theory, Bluff Rock stands above the surrounding area because it has been more resistant to erosion, probably due to its having fewer cracks (termed joints) along which water can penetrate and accelerate the erosion process.

A rather notorious part of the area's history is referred to as the Bluff Rock Massacre. In 1844 as a result, apparently, of the murder of a shepherd named Robinson, by aborigines, men from Bolivia Station were armed and sent out to find the culprits. In one account by a one time overseer of the station the aborigines were attacked at Pye's Creek and the survivors then fled across country to Bluff Rock from where they were thrown from the top, killing and injuring many more. None of that tribe which survived were seen again on Bolivia Station. The owner of the station, Edward Inby, wrote of the incident - "The blacks heard us coming and hid themselves among the rocks. One, in his haste dropped poor Robinson's coat, so we knew we were onto the right tribe. If they had taken to their heels they might all have got away. Instead of doing so, they got their fighting men together to attack us, so we punished them severely and proved our superiority to them."

We will meet at the Rotary Park (on the right as you enter Tenterfield from the north) at 10am, allow 1 hour to drive from Stanthorpe. After morning tea we will continue south along the highway 10km and turn off to the right at Bluff Rock, just past the picturesque bridge surrounded with poplars, which has now been bypassed by new road works. We will turn off this road to the left at the bottom of the hill (at a gully with an impressive tunnel for the now abandoned railway line on the right), and drive a further couple of kilometres through sheep paddocks. The track should be suitable for all vehicles unless heavy rainfall occurs in the meantime. We will carry lunch to have on top of Bluff Rock, but should have plenty of time to return to the cars for afternoon tea. With a rating of 6 this outing should be within everyone's capability, but if you don't feel up to the steeper bits (not as steep as South Bald Rock) there is scope to explore the gully near the cars and the chance to see a Lyrebird - one was seen on the pre-outing.

Leader Rob McCosker.

Phone 835371

\*\*\*\*\*

OUTING REPORT, 23RD AUGUST, BALD ROCK TO SOUTH BALD ROCK

47 people, including at least 7 visitors left Weeroona Park at 8.15am, arriving at Bald Rock just before 9. As we disembarked and got all our things together, Bill Goebel appeared out of the scrub.

It was overcast when we left on the 6k walk to South Bald Rock, along a track bordered in parts by spectacular wild flowers. Where we stopped for morning tea we had views of Mallee Ridge, Mt Norman, Castle Rock, Pyramids, Slip Rock and the Signboard. We arrived at South Bald Rock at 11.30. Unfortunately some of the energetic NATS went to the far end of the rock to the easy way up and waited in vain for the rest of the party. We were going up the rock at a more



difficult spot about 1km away. Bill took about half the group up the rock. Some needed assistance with a rope. The rest had their lunch at the base of the rock.

On top of South Bald Rock there was quite a brisk breeze with a chill factor of about 20 degrees. It was freezing! Views were rather hazy but we could see Mt Lindesay, Mt Earnest and Mt Barney as well as the landmarks we saw at smoko.

After lunch Bill took quite a few around to the entrance of the caves, before we started the trip homeward. A couple of families went a short way into the caves and some other NATS were very pleased to find out where the caves were, so they can go back. There was quite a good display of ferns just outside the cave entrance - 7 or 8 varieties I think.

We came home like Brown's cows. By the time the last of us arrived back at the Bald Rock picnic area, the first arrivals had had afternoon tea and left. Some didn't come home along the track but, I gather, climbed over a couple of the large rocks a little way off the track.

Of interest along the track was the remains of a shed where the Innes boys used to store their tools when they were on the tick gate at Sugarloaf and responsible for the maintenance of that section of the border fence. We also saw what we presume was a feeder used to poison feral pigs.

A record was kept of wild flowers seen on the track. We noted 42 different species, including 3 different Hoveas, 3 Leucopogons, 7 wattles and 4 orchids. There were about 30 *Pterostylus curta* (Greenhoods) in one clump.

I would like to express my thanks to Bill Goebel for leading the outing, and for his thoughtfulness in assisting those who could not walk all the way to the rock and back.

Kris Carnell

#### LIST OF FLOWERS IN BLOOM

Banksia	spinulosa	pterostylis	nutans
	integrifolia	(greenhoods)	longifolia
Chiloglottis	(bird orchid)		curta
hardenbergia		everlasting	white & yellow
pimelea		acacia (7 including prickly moses &	
senecio		A floribunda)	
leucopogon	(3)	patersonia	(native iris)
kennedia	(running postman)	mirbelia	(egg & bacon)
olearia	(star bush)	3 or 4 other egg & bacon	
daisy	mauve	phebalium	
pomaderris		hovea (3)	
fruit salad bush		isopogen	(drumstick)
glycine		native violet	
boronia	pink	eriosstemon	
wahlenbergia	(blue bells)		

Other people may have seen more wildflowers than these. I hope you will forgive me for any mistakes made in identifying this list.

Kris

\*\*\*\*\*

NEXT MEETING: 23rd September 1992 at 8.00 p.m in C.W.A. rooms Stanthorpe.  
Programme "Tasmania" by Desley McDonagh.

\*\*\*\*\*

A man's worst difficulties begin when he is able to do as he likes.

T.H. Huxley



MINUTES OF THE AUGUST MEETING OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC.  
HELD IN THE CWA ROOMS, STANTHORPE AT 8.00 PM ON WEDNESDAY AUGUST 26TH.

The meeting was declared open by President Kris Carnell, who welcomes all present, and especially Bill Yull from Melbourne who had been a visitor about the same time last year.

Attendance and Apologies:- as per attendance book.

The minutes of the July meeting were accepted as a correct record of that meeting on a motion moved by Tom Archer seconded by Tom Archer and carried.

Correspondence - Inward:-

1. Mahlab Listing in Index 2. Info Aust - Directory of Aust Associations.
3. T'ba Field Nats D.D.Naturalist 4. Naylor & Vaisey - letter & sub.
5. Matrix - Account Photo Copier 6. T'ba Bushwalkers - Footprint
7. S'thorpe Camera C - half P.O.Box Rental 8. Errol Walker - letter and Sub
9. Inter Pub Relations - Green Guide Listing 10. Megan Thomas - Sub
11. C.B.A. Cheque & Deposit Book 12. Margaret Compton - Sub & Change of add.
13. Richmond V F N - Newsletter 14. Q'ld Nats Club - QNC News.
15. Chinchilla Field Nats 'Urimbirra' 16. Lake Broadwater Natural History Association - National parks weekend 1993.

Outward -

1. Minister for Environment - Financial Statement for proof of use of Grant for Photocopier. 2.& 3. Radio 863 & 4QS - Broadcast notes.
  4. Matrix - account payment
  5. Lake Broadwater Natural History Association - re Nat. Parks Weekend 1993.
- The inward correspondence was received and the outward adopted on the motion moved by Millie Marsden and seconded by Noela Dodd and carried.

Business arising from the Correspondence.

1. Letter from Errol Walker with greetings, sub for 1992/3, a brochure about the Jervis Bay botanical gardens and advice of planned return in October.
2. Lake Broadwater Natural History Assoc Inc - advising that the National Parks day Weekend will be on 27/28 March 1993 and that details will be forwarded closer to that date.

Treasurer's Report:-

Moved Julia Brown, seconded Ailsa Wilkinson that the Treasurer's report be adopted, and the accounts be passed for payment. Carried.

Balance as at 26/8/92 \$290.08

Accounts to be passed for payments :- Room rent \$12.00; Dept of Justice \$19.00; Petty Cash (Secretary) \$20.00

Outing Report :- Kris Carnell gave a report of the outing to Bald Rock and South Bald Rock which was an excellent outing, with many wildflowers seen.

Moved Joyce Smith, seconded Val White that the secretary write a letter of thanks to Bill Goebel for his assistance on this outing. Carried.

Next outing:- will be to Bluff Rock. Robin McCosker, leader, advised that the walk? is rated 6; we are to meet at the Park in Tenterfield at 10.00am, and we need to carry water and lunch.

Campout in October:- Kris gave details of the coming camp-out. Gibraltar Range is about 2 - 3 hours away from here - some going down on Friday night; there will be 4 walks arranged; morning and afternoon Saturday and Sunday.

Specimens:- Millie Marsden brought the scrap book with Field Nats photos in it; Dore McCosker brought flower books and fern types; and Kris Carnell had specimens of the 7 kinds of wattle seen on the outing.

Next meeting will be chaired by Rob McCosker, and the programme will be on Norfolk Island given by Desley McDonagh.

Programme:- Frank Wilkinson brought us greetings from Jean & Bob Harslett in Denmark, then presented to us a very interesting and informative programme on Egypt, showing us the pyramids, sphinx, temples, the Nile and The Valley of the Kings. Thank you to Frank and Ailsa for a very interesting insight into Egypt and its history!

Following this, Ray Marsden showed slides of Blackwood National park, where the Marsdens had visited, and Kris and Margaret Carnell were planning to visit. This 'extra programme' was much enjoyed by all.