



13 OCT 1992



# THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST



## Monthly Newsletter of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club

### 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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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.

Postal Address: Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club, P.O. Box 154, STANTHORPE Q 4380



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OFFICERS OF CLUB FOR 1992-93

President	Kris Carnell	835268
Vice-Presidents	Rob McCosker	835371
	Colin Hockings	811978
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.	
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COMING EVENTS

Programme for meeting 28th October - "Alaska" by Brian and Noela Dodd.  
 Outing 1st November half day "Orienteering" with John Bourne.  
 Outing 22nd November Murphy's Gully with Esme and Herb Colley.

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## Being a good neighbour

### Introduction

Queensland has more than 330 national parks covering more than five million hectares. Neighbours of national parks total thousands and the common boundaries extend for many thousands of kilometres. The Department of Environment and Heritage faces the challenge of being a 'good neighbour' to all. This draft policy has been prepared by Department of Environment and Heritage officers and representatives of rural industry and producer groups whose members have the greatest contact with national parks.

The document sets a framework for good neighbourly relations to encourage mutual trust and respect by landholders, rural producers, Department officers and national parks staff. Its statements are to be used by the Department to guide responses of its staff in their relations with neighbours, and by producer groups to guide their members actions.

The policy will succeed through commonsense and flexibility based on local knowledge, local discussion and goodwill.

Good neighbourly relations are very important in rural Queensland and are vital for good land management. To help generate a working friendship between national parks and neighbours, the Department and rural producers are producing a 'good neighbour' policy.

Above are short extracts from a draft document prepared by the Department of Environment and Heritage. The document gives draft policy on the management of National Parks.

Since the draft was prepared there has been a State election and a new minister in the Environment portfolio. Hopefully the new government will continue with what I consider, is a very positive move in the management of National Parks. Further information would be available from the Department of Environment and Heritage, 158 Hume Street, Toowoomba. 4350.

Kris Carnell

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There is nothing so easy but that it becomes difficult when you do it with reluctance.  
 Terence

### Principles

- National parks and other protected areas are a form of rural landholding. Their managers are like other landholders in rural Queensland. They are responsible for the good management and care of large areas.
- As custodian of national parks, the Department of Environment and Heritage does not place itself above other rural landholders. It will conform to agreed standards of neighbourly behaviour and will share responsibility for land management.
- The Department's primary roles are conserving nature and protecting the environment. The Department, other landholders and producer groups agree that the principle guiding their land management is the wise and sustainable use of natural resources for this and future generations.
- Management of land for national park purposes is one of many appropriate uses of our resources.
- Success of this good neighbour policy depends on continuing discussions by the parties and on resolving issues at a local level within agreed guidelines.



OUTING TO BLUFF ROCK 19th SEPTEMBER

by Rob McCosker

As the outing date coincided with the start of school holidays, I was surprised to see the number of people waiting at Tenterfield. After morning tea we drove to Halliday's property at Bluff Rock where our party of 34 people set off along a gully. Although there was water in the gully it was obvious that the country had suffered badly in the recent drought, from the young re-growth on the trees and the number of sheep remains seen in the paddocks.

We had a steep climb from the gully to a plateau behind Bluff Rock where the more energetic members walked to the top of a rocky hill to the south of Bluff Rock. This hill provided a good vantage point to view the cliff face of Bluff Rock towering above the old railway line and the highway. We made our way back to the track and followed the rest of the group to the top of Bluff Rock. The cold wind felt earlier had almost stopped and everyone enjoyed the balmy spring day sitting in groups for lunch, taking in the view. To add to our pleasure there were several plant species in full bloom, and those with less interest in botany were happy to sit and watch the stream of traffic on the highway below. After what must have been the longest 'lunch hour' for a Nats. outing we made our way back to the cars via a different track. We had afternoon tea then headed home after a rather short but very enjoyable outing.

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BLUFF ROCK WILDFLOWERS

by Dore McCosker

As spring advances more orchids are evident - *Caladenias* were plentiful - *C. carnea* - pink and white form and the blue of *C. caerulea*.

The hillside, across the creek from where the cars were parked, was covered with a tall *leptospermum* in full bloom. Unless some means of control is found for this native it will be almost the only flower of the future. Since coming to the Wallangarra area over 40 years ago I have watched its spread and also some of the efforts to eradicate it. Many newcomers to the district are impressed by the "wilderness" and feel that their land must be in its original pristine state. However we know that those hard-headed, hungry stockmen from overseas, 150 years ago did not drive their cattle and sheep 500 miles and more from Sydney to country that had to be cleared first before their stock could feed. They came to rich grassland where their herds could fatten and increase with the minimum of effort on the part of the owner.

Bill Peach - the well known radio and T.V. personality endeavoured to follow the route taken by Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson over the Blue Mountains. He found that the journey, owing to density of regrowth and introduced species, would, today be quite impossible. And so it would be for Alan Cunningham in this area.

Well, after that diversion, back to the flowers. *Hardenbergia* graced a road cutting south of Tenterfield. It seems to thrive in these conditions and could be used to enhance all such places. A few mauve flowers identified a much chewed *Solanum* near our parked cars. In the grass along the way were white creeping violets - *Viola hederacea*, 2 *Pimelea*, *Hybanthus monopetalus*, 2 *Goodenia*, *Bossia* (*schorteokini*), *Drosera* and an unusually pink *Epacris*.

On top of the rock, with the exception of the showy *Acacia*, the shrubs were very bedraggled - fire, goats, drought. There was *Zieria compacta*, *Phebalium*, *Kerandrinia*, *Cryptandra*, *Micranthemum* - all potential garden species. Young plants of *Stylidium laricifolium* looked like little pine trees. Some had started to flower and a few

more members learned the trick of releasing the "trigger" (style) which gives them the common name of Trigger plant.

Butterflies were very numerous - mainly the Australian Painted lady - *Vanessa cardui* kershaw. They were smaller than those visiting my garden and also mine have a bright orange red bar on the underside of the fore wing.

(This year there have been hundred of these butterflies observed feeding in the blossom of the orchards at Severnlea. - Editor)

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Little Miss Muffet sat on her tuffet,  
Watching her own T.V.

There came a big spider from the ceiling above and ----  
It was the "in the news" white tailed spider so she made inquiries. An article in "Womens Day" by Jenny Trustrum with pictures from the Australian Museum, Sydney places it 5th among Australia's most dangerous spiders. It stated that the venom can cause massive skin tissue inflammation or even gangrene as well as other illness.

It is still being researched since first documented in the late 70's. However some experts seem to think that some people may be allergic to a greater degree to spider venom, and as yet there is no scientific evidence to prove otherwise. It is very common and very wide spread. For my part, I have no wish to test my vulnerability. It is wellknown that a bee sting can be fatal for some.

Miss Muffet

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#### HALF-DAY OUTING - 1ST NOVEMBER

I have followed up a suggestion made at the last meeting re a half day outing to the Orienteering Club's Area in the Amiens Forestry. John Bourne will meet us on the 1st November at 1.30 p.m. at a clearing off Harsletts Road Amiens - follow signs from Goldfields Road.

John will give a brief talk about maps, their legends and how features are shown, as well as the techniques of Orienteering. We will then go with him as a group to be shown first hand, and members will have the opportunity to try on their own if they wish. John's wife will also be there to take a group.

Rob McCosker

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#### MAGAZINE COVER

You will notice a change in the cover of the magazine. As we no longer need the address panel, there was space at the bottom of the cover. We would like to hear any comments or criticisms, and are open to suggestions to improve it, in spite of the quote below.

The inside of the cover can be used for articles, notices, etc. if we have our aims on the front.

Editor

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Just do a thing and don't talk about it. This is the great secret of success in all enterprises. Talk means discussion; discussion means irritation; irritation means opposition, and opposition means hindrance always, whether you are right or wrong.

Sarah Grand

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MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC. HELD IN THE CWA ROOMS, STANTHORPE AT 8.00 PM ON WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 23 RD.

Vice President Rob McCosker opened the meeting and welcomed all present, particularly Val Richardson as a visitor, and welcomed Jean and Bob Harslett home from their overseas trip.

Present and Apologies:- as per attendance book.

The minutes of the August meeting were accepted as a correct record of that meeting with the correction of Blackwood National Park to Blackdown National park. This motion was moved by Millie Marsden, seconded by Val White and carried.

Correspondence - Inward:-

1. Bionomics - Environmental Choice. 2. Twba Field Nats - DD Naturalist
3. Minister for Environment & Heritage Letter & Budget paper No 6.
4. ACF catalogue of stationery products for 1993.
5. ACT office of Sport & Recreation - Canberra 2 day walk.
6. Beddows - Sub. 7. USQ serials librarian - Missing Magazine
8. Chinchilla Nats - Urimbirra 9. Twba Bushwalkers Club - Footprint.
10. Wild Country Safaris - Safaris for 1993.

Outward -

1. Bill Goebel, thanks for help with Bald Rock outing.
2. & 3. Radio 863 & 4QS - B'cast notes. 4. Incorporation Return to Justice Dept.

The inward correspondence was received and the outward adopted on the motion moved by Leila Hermannson seconded by Joan Stevenson and carried.

The meeting agreed that the secretary write a letter of sympathy to Bill Goebel on the death of his mother.

TREASURER'S REPORT

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 26/8/92 to 23/9/92

BALANCE AS AT 26/8/92 \$290.08c

Receipts

Subs	\$ 38.00	
Rent Coll	5.55	
	43.55	<u>43.55</u>
		333.63

Expenditure

Room Rent	12.00	
Petty Cash	20.00	
Dept of Justice	19.00	
	<u>51.00</u>	<u>51.00</u>
		<u>\$282.63</u>

Balance as at 23/9/92 \$282.63

Accounts to be passed for payments :- Room rent \$13.00;

Julia Brown moved the adoption of the treasurer's report and the payment of the accounts. Dore McCosker seconded this motion which was carried.

General Business:-

Millie Marsden spoke about the recent Orienteering Championships held at Amiens. She suggested that the Field Nats and the Orienteers get together. After some discussion the meeting resolved that it would be a good idea. The arrangements will be made and advised through the magazine. Tentatively - half day on November 8th.

Outing Report :-

Rob McCosker reported on the outing to Bluff Rock - 34 people - Patty Ainsworth from the Tenterfield Info Centre joined the outing. Flowers were outstanding. A letter of thanks is to go to property owners whose property we went on.

Next Outing :- Campout Gibraltar Range - some to go down Friday - walks arranged for Saturday morning and afternoon and also Sunday. Arrangements in the magazine - Kris & Margaret Carnell leading the outing.

Programme :- Desley McDonagh took us to Norfolk Island, giving some of the early history of the Island, and showing slides taken during a holiday there. Frank & Ailsa Wilkinson who had spent time on the island added to the interesting presentation by joining in the commentary. Frank, Ailsa and Desley recommend Norfolk Island as a beautiful place to visit and soak up the history and scenery.

CAMP-OUT 23rd 24th & 25th OCTOBER

The October camp-out will be at the Mulligans Hut camping area in the Gibraltar Range National Park. Travelling time is 2½ to 3 hours from Stanthorpe. Some members will be setting up camp on Friday afternoon. The programme has been planned in ½ day segments to cater for staggered arrival times. The camping area at Mulligans Hut has basic facilities with pit toilets, fire places, cold showers and hooks for solar showers etc.

On Saturday morning at 9 a.m. we plan to walk to the Needles (6 k return - no water) This walk takes in both Eucalypt forest and softwood rain forest. The track terminates at The Needles which are actually six granite outcrops from which magnificent views may be seen. There is a short steep section at the end of the track, but all members should be able to manage. Difficulty 3 to 4.

On Saturday afternoon there are two alternatives.

No 1 is a walk to the Waratah Trig through heathland with (hopefully) plenty of wildflowers. The walk is 4 to 5 k return with a 360 degree view from the top. Difficulty 3 to 4.

No 2 is the Coombadjha Nature Stroll in the Washpool National Park. This is a self guiding nature stroll of about 1.1k, taking in 14 stops showing different aspects of the rainforest. Difficulty 1.

For both the Saturday afternoon walks we will have to drive back to the highway.

The Sunday morning walk will be the Surveyors Creek circuit starting at 9 a.m. A park ranger will be accompanying us on the walk. The walk of 4 to 5k follows Surveyor Creek up to the Granite outcrops and skirting these, winds back to the road, again good wildflower country. Difficulty 1.

Although these are the planned walks, there are many other walks of varying difficulty in both the Gibraltar Range and Washpool National Parks. Members may wish to go to these instead. There are swimming holes in close proximity to the camping ground. Platypus are sometimes seen in early mornings or late evening. The ranger has advised that the waratahs have started to bloom, and should be at their best on this weekend. There are also numerous other wildflowers in bloom.

If you have any queries please contact Kris on 835268.

