



13 NOV 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 and plants.
4. To assist where possible in scientific research.
5. To publish a monthly newsletter and post it to members.

Meetings: 4th Wednesday of each Month at QCWA Rooms at 8.00pm.
Outings: The Sunday preceding the 4th Wednesday of each Month.
Subscriptions: Single \$8.00 Family \$15.00 per annum July to June.
Rent : Donation per family per meeting.
Address: Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc., P.O. Box 154, Stanthorpe Q
4380.

The page before page 1
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.	

THE LAMENT OF THE MULLIGAN'S HUT CAMPERS

October 23-25, 1992

Currawongs, those currawongs,
 Their eyes are beady yellow.
 Currawongs, those currawongs,
 Their eyes are beady yellow.
 They take your food at breakfast time,
 Come back for more at dinner time.
 Currawongs, those currawongs,
 Their eyes are beady yellow.

Currawongs, those currawongs,
 They swoop down on the campers,
 Currawongs, those currawongs,
 They swoop down on the campers,
 Tom lost his bread to feathered foe,
 Hot toast from Fred was next to go.
 Currawongs, those currawongs,
 They swoop down on the campers.

Currawongs, those currawongs,
 They loudly call to wake you.
 Currawongs, those currawongs,
 They loudly call to wake you.
 Don't leave your lunch without a guard,
 Or finding food for tea is hard.
 Currawongs, those currawongs,
 They loudly call to wake you.



Written for the Nats who went to the recent Campout -
 With apologies (very sincere apologies indeed) to the
 Traditional German Carol - O Christmas Tree.

You may sing it if you wish but I don't think that I want
 to hear it !!!!! Desley McDonagh

This will be the last magazine for the year, so I would like to take this
 opportunity to wish all members a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new
 year. - Ed.

"There is something that is much more scarce, something rarer than ability.
 It is the ability to recognize ability.

Robert Half

NATS. TRY THEIR HAND AT ORIENTEERING

On Sunday 1st November members of the club had an interesting half-day outing, experiencing the simple basics of orienteering. The seed of the idea came after Millie and Ray Marsden had been catering for an orienteering event. The afternoon was excellently explained by well known Stanthorpe leaders and exponents of the sport John & Joan Bourne. I think 27 attended and we found our way to the starting point by suitable signs. Beside club members we had two young people from Denmark, one from Switzerland and one from Japan - the latter still struggling with English found the map of international understanding - with systems and symbols.

Before setting out John spoke to us about orienteering and the enjoyment which the sport can provide - the personal satisfaction, if you do not wish to be competitive or the enjoyment as a family. It commenced in Sweden in 1919, came to Australia in 1969 and now forty countries participate. Locally the Bullecourt Bounders started in 1983, largely through the enthusiasm of Christine Gregg. This district is highly regarded for challenging terrain, and cool conditions, and national and state titles have been held here.

Basically the sport is the art of navigating a course - locating control points in a set order and completing it in a reasonable time. Courses are colour coded - nominating the difficulty. Colours range from ones for beginners to full blooded difficult courses. Topographical maps are in five colours from white to deep green, white being open country to deep green denoting very dense vegetation. Maps are produced in the scale of 1:15,000 or 1cm to 150 metres. International symbols describe details of the terrain. Maps are quite a work of art, and local maps are amongst some of the best in Australia.

Each person was given a strip of map, a compass and an official card to record their personal movements. Controls had been set up before hand on a preouting by the Bournes - a clip at each one with appropriate figurations, checked your movements.

After completing a simple course reading the maps, Joan took some by one route and John gave the rest a more challenging exercise. John paused regularly to explain possible personal thinking processes, and why different options could be taken to achieve a better end result. For example perhaps a flat rock was marked as grey on our maps, though a more devious direction might prove advantageous, timewise, instead of the route through very rough undergrowth. As long as the next control was located the decision made "on the run" may mean vital minutes saved on the final result. It also gave time for him to explain some of the infinite detail which could be gained from the map.

We all finally arrived back at the starting point, enjoyed a cup of tea, and Millie moved a vote of thanks to John and Joan for providing a very interesting afternoon.

Jean Harslett

HAPPY VALLEY BOTTLEBRUSH AT "ORANA"

We have two Happy Valley bottlebrush (Callistemon) side by side in our garden. Last year one of them was attacked by a borer which appeared to have ring barked it not far above the ground. The shrub shot from the bottom and we thought the top was going to die. However, the damaged plant now has a number of flowers on it, while the one beside it has masses of new shoots and no flowers. Perhaps we should treat it a little more roughly.

The Callistemons were grown from seed collected from plants along the un-named tributary of Back Creek which flows (when we're not in drought) through our property.

Editor

OUTING TO GIBALTAR RANGE OCTOBER, 1992

A number of people arrived to set up camp on Friday 23rd October, to be greeted by Millie and Ray and their friends, Betty and Fred who had arrived the day before. Some of us saw a Waratah on our way in and admired the Hakea in full bloom.

We were awakened early on Saturday by the currawongs, and Tom very generously fed his breakfast to them. These birds are becoming a menace, and I feel that the National Parks should make a concerted effort to prevent people from feeding them. I'm sure if signs were posted explaining that feeding them makes them aggressive, campers would co-operate, and after a time the currawongs would feed on their natural diet.

Everyone was ready to walk at 8 o'clock instead of 9 as planned so we set off for The Needles. The track passes through heathland and Eucalypt forest at the beginning, where we saw our first Waratahs (*Telopea speciosissima*). Most of these were not quite in full bloom, and seemed as if they may have been slightly scorched on the sepals by frost. As well as the Waratahs there were masses of Golden Glory Pea (*Gompholobium latifolium*), some *Boronia microphyllia*, Matchsticks (*Comesperma ericinum*), two varieties of *Dampiera* and a wonderful forest of tall grass trees (*Xanthorrhoea*). The purple mintbush (*Prostanthera*) was lovely and there were *Calandenia carnea* (pink fairies) in bloom. We were accompanied by birdsong, but did not see many of the birds.

When we passed into the rainforest, we saw white everlastings (*Helichrysum elatum*), and a *Solanum* covered in masses of flowers and prickles. The views at the end of the walk were spectacular, although the Mann River valley was quite brown. There were *Dendrobium kingianum* flowering on the rocks, and native fuchsia (*Epairis longiflora*) amongst them. Narelle also noticed orange blossom orchids (*Sarocochilus falcatus* and pencil orchids (*Dendrobium beckleri*) on some trees by the track.

In the afternoon a few people travelled to The Washpool National Park to stroll along the self guided walk. I believe it was most enjoyable and they saw a lyrebird. The rest of us went to the Waratah Trig, seeing dotted sun orchids (*Thelymitra ixiodes*) along the track. The climb at the end was not terribly steep and worth it for the view. There was *Eristomen myoporoides* in bloom showing very attractive buds as well as flowers, and *Bauera rubioides*. There was one flying duck orchid (*Caleana major*) out, and several in bud. Around the top of the trig were gardens of purple mint bush and *Leptospermum*, and a specimen of a rare *Phebalium*. We had lengthy discussions about which rocks we could see. In actual fact we identified them later as Anvil Rock and Old Man's Hat.

After tea on Saturday Millie and Ray invited us to share billy tea and damper around their camp fire, which was a very pleasant end to the day's activities.

A few people saw a platypus at 5.30 on Sunday and blue wrens visited the campsite. We were accompanied on our walk by the ranger, going around Surveyors Creek Trail. There were a large number of beautiful dotted sun orchids blooming along the track and we saw the biggest patch of *Cymbidium kingianum* any of us had ever seen, at Cardinal's Cap.

Peter and Stephen Power climbed the Dandara Crags while we less energetic folk continued around the track. We stopped to admire smoke bush in bloom along with Hakeas, Grey Grevellia and Waratahs. We saw over thirty different wildflowers in bloom over the weekend. At the end of the circuit we headed back to camp for lunch and then packed up to go home. I think all of us would have liked to stay longer.

Margaret Carnell

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 25th November in the C.W.A. rooms at 8 p.m. David Wilson will present the programme on The Kimberlies.

There will be a management committee meeting at 7.45 p.m.

OUTING FOR 22ND NOVEMBER

The outing for this month was to have been to Murphy's Gully, but because of difficulty in gaining permission to enter private property, the outing will now be to Boonoo Boonoo Falls.

We will meet at 9 a.m. at Weeroona Park, and travel via Sugarloaf Road and Mt Lindesay Road to the turnoff. Morning tea will be at Morgan's Gully a short distance along the Boonoo Boonoo Falls road. At the pre-outing on 8th November there were at least fifteen different wildflowers in bloom, including masses of caltrix and boronia. The caltrix will probably be bare of flowers, but showing its russet calyxes at the outing. Morgans Gully is an interesting place to explore with lots of granite and wildflower gardens.

There are good swimming holes at the Cypress Rest Area and at the top of the falls. The one at the falls would be better for children, and there is plenty to see around this area, including flannel flowers and callistemons. The walk to the falls viewing platform is quite easy, and the more energetic can go to the bottom of the falls after lunch if they wish. It should be a relaxed day, and the group can decide when they want to move from one area to the next.

Esme and Herb Colley are the leaders for the outing.

CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP

This year, as the weather has been kind, Janet and Col Hockings are our hosts for the break-up on 13th December, commencing at 5 p.m. We will be having a barbeque in the floodlit garden - please bring your own food and drink.

To get to the Hockings' residence, travel about 9 km along Sugarloaf Road and turn left into Gillbards Road (a mailbox with "Pinaster" on it stands at the corner.) Travel about 1 km along the road to "Pinaster".

PRE-OUTING REPORT 24th JANUARY 1993

Our outing on 24th January will be to Basket Swamp Creek and Falls, led by Kris and Margaret Carnell.

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00 a.m. and travel via Sugarloaf Road and Mt Lindesay Road to the Basket Swamp Picnic area where we will have morning tea. There is a short walk along the bank of the creek which is just a gentle stroll. We will then divide into two groups, one of which will walk down the creek to Basket Swamp Falls. This should take about two hours. The other group will travel by car to the falls, stopping to view the falls along the way. The river drops in three places and it is quite easy to view them by walking a short distance from the road. Lunch will be at the falls.

After lunch we will explore the area below the falls. There is no swimming hole as such but we should be able to cool off in the creek. If the day is too hot, we will forgo the walk down the creek and all travel the easy way.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC. HELD IN THE CWA ROOMS, STANTHORPE ON 28TH OCTOBER 1992 AT 8.00 PM.

Chairman Kris Carnell opened the meeting and welcomed all present, particularly Gordon Davis and Errol and Annette Walker, back from their travels.

Attendance and apologies as per attendance book.

The minutes of the September meeting were accepted as a correct record on the motion moved by Tom Archer, seconded by Herb Colley and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE :- Inward

1. ACF Catalogue
2. Twba Field Nats Club Inc. - D D Naturalist
3. & 4. Richmond Valley Nats Club Inc - Newsletters
5. D. Holley - Sub for 1992/3.
6. Senator John Coulter - Environmental Info.
7. Twba Bushwalkers - Footprint
8. Chinchilla Field Nats - Urimbirra
9. CBA - Bank Statement
10. Queensland Nats - QNC News
11. Australia Post - Print Post Info.
12. Sub - Gordon & Noor Davis

Outward:-

1. Bill Goebel - Condolence letter
2. Ian & Denise Halliday - thanks for outing hospitality
3. & 4. Community Billboards & Round the Ridges - Notes for broadcast.

Business arising from Correspondence

1. Chinchilla Field Nats are offering to give us back bound copies of our magazine and take any back copies of Urimbirra we want to give them, the exchange to be made at an outing to save postage costs. It was moved by Tom Archer, seconded by Jean Harslett and carried that we take advantage of this offer.

2. The change in Print Post conditions does not change anything for us.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as at 23/9/92 \$282.63c

Receipts

Subs	\$53.00	
Room Rent Coll	\$ 6.50	
	\$59.50	59.50
		\$342.13

Expenditure

Room Rent	\$13.00	
Fed Gvt Tax Sept.	.30	
	\$13.30	13.30
		\$328.83

Balance as at 28/10/92 \$328.83

Accounts to be passed for payment - Room Rent \$10.00; Stamps - \$45.00; Kris Carnell (12 reams of A4 80 gsm paper) \$78.04

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

OUTING REPORTS - Margaret Carnell gave a verbal report of the Campout to Gibraltar Range National Park. 27 people went on the outing; they took part in several walks; a good time was had by all. The wildflowers were spectacular. Several people saw platypus. Kris and Margaret Carnell are to be thanked for arranging the outing.

Orienteering Outing. Rob McCosker advised that this would be on Sunday 1st November, meeting at Harslett's Road at 1.30 pm.

Next Outing will be a family day to Murphy's Gully - swimming/ fishing/ walking. Meet at Weroona Park at 9.00am on Sunday 22nd November.

Specimens - Rod Hutchin brought several Orchids; Margaret Carnell 4 ground orchids; Jean Harslett - book to help identify flowers from outing; Desley McDonagh prints from the Gibraltar range Campout.

Next Meeting - 25th November David Wilson will present a programme on The Kimberleys.

Programme :- Brian and Noela Dodd presented a programme on Alaska. They gave us most interesting information on Alaska, and illustrated this with excellent slides. Thank you both for a most informative and interesting programme.