



# 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.

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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.

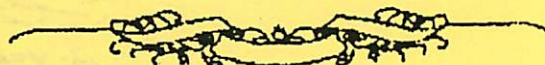


OFFICERS OF CLUB FOR 1992-93

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 BIG PLAN

(THE CREATION OF THE NEW VISION)


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IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE PLAN  
AND THEN CAME THE ASSUMPTIONS  
AND THE ASSUMPTIONS WERE WITHOUT FORM  
AND THE PLAN WAS COMPLETELY WITHOUT SUBSTANCE

AND THEY SPAKE UNTO THEIR SUPERVISORS SAYING  
"IT IS A LOAD OF S--- AND IT STINKETH"

AND THE SUPERVISORS WENT UNTO THEIR MANAGERS AND SAYETH  
"IT IS A PAIL OF DUNG AND NONE MAY ABIDE THE ODOUR THEREOF"

AND THE MANAGERS WENT UNTO THEIR REGIONAL MANAGERS AND SAYETH UNTO THEM  
"IT IS A CONTAINER OF EXCREMENT, AND IT IS VERY STRONG,  
SUCH THAT NONE HERE MAY ABIDE IT."

AND THE REGIONAL MANAGERS WENT UNTO THEIR DEPARTMENT HEAD  
AND SAYETH UNTO HIM "IT IS A VESSEL OF FERTILIZER, AND NONE  
CAN ABIDE ITS STRENGTH"

AND THE DEPARTMENT HEAD WENT TO THE STATE MANAGER AND SAYETH UNTO HIM  
"IT CONTAINS THAT WHICH AIDS PLANT GROWTH, AND IT IS VERY STRONG"

AND THE STATE MANAGER WENT TO THE CHIEF MANAGER AND SAYETH UNTO HIM  
"IT PROMOTETH GROWTH, AND IT IS VERY POWERFUL"

AND THE CHIEF MANAGER WENT TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR AND SAYETH TO HIM  
"THIS POWERFUL NEW PLAN WILL ACTIVELY PROMOTE GROWTH AND EFFICIENCY"

AND THE MANAGING DIRECTOR LOOKED ON THE PLAN  
AND SAW IT WAS GOOD

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AND IN TIME THE PLAN BECAME THE POLICY

Outing Report "South of the Border" 21.2.93

Members began arriving at "Pinaster" at about 9.20 a.m. After a leisurely morning tea, 36 walkers set out, leaving 2 ladies to guard the fort. Nine others stayed only for morning tea, making forty-seven in all.

Thankfully the hot, cloudless conditions soon eased as cloud developed and a breeze sprang up, making walking more comfortable.

From "Pinaster" we proceeded into Cowie's property, passing a deep trench and part of a steam engine; reminders of tin mining days. We then continued, following Tea Tree Gully to its source. Pauses were made on the way for a drink break and to help ourselves to blackberries, which were showing signs of stress due to the hot, dry spell.

At our drink break various members commented on the Ink Weed growing nearby. This plant, *Phytolacca octandra*, has spikes of small fruit which are popular with Bower Birds, but, according to the D.P.I. book, "Weeds of Queensland", has been suspected of poisoning cattle.

We continued on to the Bower Bird's bower and the possum cage. The Bower Bird's play things include items from "Pinaster", over 2.5km away as the fly crows.

From the bower we proceeded uphill in a northerly direction to the patch of Spotted Gum (*Eucalyptus maculata*), where we all perched on rocks in the shade, like a family of baboons, to eat our lunch.

The straight, limbless trunks would make excellent posts, rails and poles but such use would soon decimate this small patch.

After lunch we walked a short distance to the border fence which, in this area runs east - west, with N.S.W. to the north. Many people do not realise that the border in the sugarloaf area, swings around in a large, rough semi-circle and is quite close to the highway north of Stanthorpe. This puts most of the land east of town "South of the Border" but still in Queensland. We followed the fence to the west for over a kilometre as it zig-zagged along the indistinct ridge top.

On the way Janet found a snake, which appeared to be asleep, in the bottom of a large stump. It was brown with indistinct, irregular bands and was dull, not glossy in appearance, as with other common snakes. One member suggested that it may be a Rough-Scaled Snake (*Tropidechis carinatus*). The description in Cogger's "Reptiles and Amphibians" certainly fits! At that time of day and in that heat I would expect an Eastern Brown to be quite active, especially with 36 people walking, talking and standing around in close proximity.

Shortly after the sleeping stump snake, we left the border fence and headed south again to some old Wolframite scratchings. Several people picked up nice samples.

Wolframite is the chief ore of Tungsten which is used as a hardening metal in the manufacture of high speed tool steel, springs, chisels, files, etc. Pure tungsten is used for electric light bulb filaments.

The heat of the day was taking its toll as we straggled homeward, pausing at Cowie's gate to admire a large spreading tree, *Robinia pseudoacacia*. We arrived back at "Pinaster" around 2.30 p.m.

Most people lingered on the cool, shady lawn, having afternoon tea before heading home.

Col & Janet Hockings.

Field Outing - Campout 20/21 March 1993

Private Property - 3rd/4th Crossing Severn River - Ballandean.

Leaders: Errol & Annette

The country between Ballandean and Sundown National Park has a rich diversity of natural scenery, mining history and big river country with vineyards in the east giving way to picturesque grazing country to the west.

The country we shall be walking and camping in has been partially cleared for grazing and retains much of the appeal of Sundown National Park just a few kilometres to the west.

Graham and Susan, who work the property at the third crossing on which we shall be camping have agreed to join us for Saturday night's campfire. They will also lead some easy walks to waterholes and old mining sites on their property.

The campsite is on grassy river flats beside waterholes of the Severn River. Swimming, li-loing and canoeing will be in order if the weather is warm enough.

A community camp-fire only will be permitted if the weather stays dry, so please have gas available for individual cooking away from this fire.

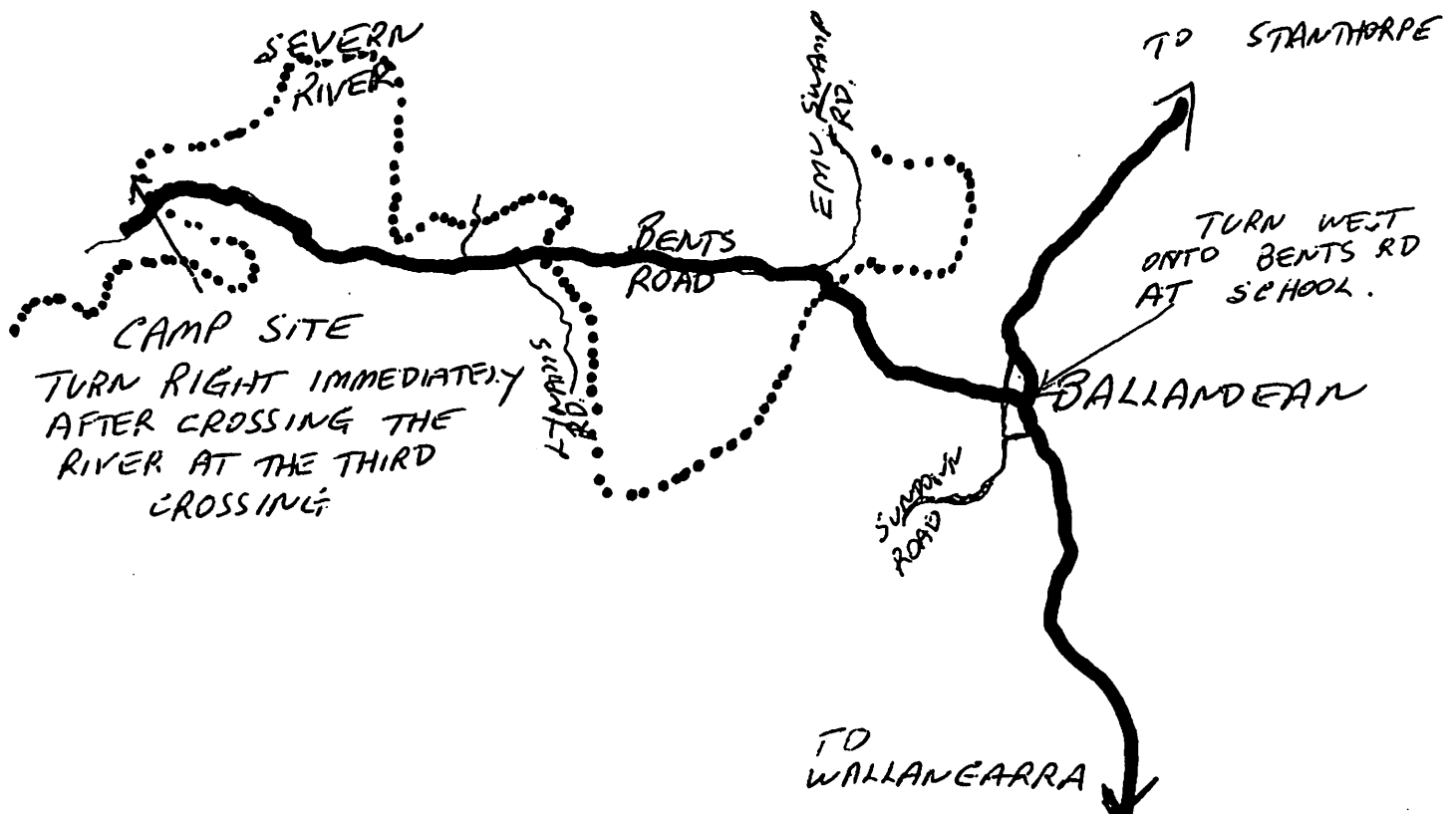
Bring your own drinking water. A toilet will be provided.

A menagerie of appealing farm animals should keep younger members of our group amused when not in the water.

Challenging and easy walks are planned so the difficulty rating varies from 2 to 7. Something for everyone.

Meet at Weeroona Park, Saturday 20th March for an 8.30 a.m. departure. The Sunday walks will not start till 8.30 a.m., so if you want to come just for the day, you can arrive around that time. People are welcome to come and go as they please during the weekend.

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MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC. HELD AT 8.00PM ON WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 24 TH 1993.

Opening:- Chairman Kris opened the meeting with a welcome for all present, and a special welcome to Mary Montgomery, who had attended the outing to Basket Swamp, and David and Olive Hockings, David being the speaker for the programme following the meeting.

Present and Apologies:- as per attendance book.

Minutes:- Margaret Carnell moved and Jean Harslett seconded the acceptance of the November meeting as a correct record of that meeting. Carried.

Correspondence :- Inward

1. Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club Footprint December, January and February; 2. Richmond Valley Nats Club Newsletter December, January and February; 3. Chinchilla Field Nats - Urimbirra January and February Newsletters; 4. Queensland Nats - Eulo Issue, and Newsletter January & February; 5. Darling Downs Naturalist December and February; 6. Greetings for Christmas from Matrix Office Systems and The Minister for Environment and Heritage; 7. Information on the Canberra Two Day Walk November - walk on 17/18 April 1993; 8. Australian National History Information on the Australian History Magazine; 9. Change of address Wendy & Neil Donges; 10. Information on the Oasis Resort and Conference Centre Caloundra; 11. Bullecourt Boulder Bounders Orienteering Club Newsletter; 12. Volunteers in Step Conference for Volunteers in Tourism, Heritage, the Arts and Environment Sept 8,9,10 in Townsville; 13. Cadbury Fund Raising Club - selling chocolates; 14. State Library of Queensland - receipt of magazines; 15. Queensland Camping Association Inc - Leadership Training Workshop March 5-7 1993; 16. Information Australia - Info on publications; 17. Field Naturalists Club of Victoria - Australian Natural History Medallion; 18. Biolinks Issue 4 January 1993.

Outward

1. Broadcast notes to 4QS and 4WK for January and February and 2. CUI Incorporation. Moved Desley McDonagh seconded Frank Wilkinson that the inward correspondence be received and the outward adopted. Carried.

Treasurer's report

Balance as at 25/11/92 \$258.44c

Receipts

Subscriptions	\$16.00	
Room Rent Collect	7.00	
Photocopy	3.00	
	<u>\$26.00</u>	<u>26.00</u>
		<u>284.44</u>

Expenditure

Room Rent	10.00	
Postage		
Val White	6.83	
Commercial Union Ins	76.88	
FGT Oct/Nov	<u>0.60</u>	
	<u>\$ 94.31</u>	94.31

Balance as at 24/ 2/93 190.13

Julia Brown moved and Dot Archer seconded the adoption of the Treasurer's report and the following accounts for payment - Room Rent \$10.00; Magazine Postage \$90.00 (200 stamps) Val White \$9.95 (envelopes) Carried.

Outing reports:- January's outing report was in the magazine. Colin Hockings gave a report on the February outing which he led. 47 people came, 36 did the walk. Lunch as the Spotted Gum patch, a snake which was probably the rough scaled snake was seen. President Kris thanked the Hockings family on the members behalf for leading the outing.

March Outing Errol Walker gave details of the Campout to 3rd Crossing 20/21 March. Details will be in the next magazine.

Specimens- Wyberba wattle (acacia pubifolia) potted from Desley McDonagh's garden; Colourful moth from Carnells; Prints from Kris taken on Basket Swamp pre-outing; Leila Hermansson - prints from Basket Swamp and Gibraltar range; Colin Hockings brought books illustrating 1. the snake seen at the outing and 2. Minerals for

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mineral samples; Dot Archer told of marsupial mice in her house.

Next Meeting :- Errol Walker will give the programme.

Commercial Break:- Millie Marsden spoke of the QCWA's 70th birthday and invited any involved to be part of the celebrations. There will be a Thanksgiving Service on April at 11.00am at St Joseph's Church.

Programme :- David Hockings gave a very interesting and informative illustrated talk on propagation of native plants from seed and cutting; also grafting and budding. Thank you very much David for an enthralling evening. VERY MUCH!!!!

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### Programme for 24/3/93

#### "Our Scenic South"

The best of N.S.W.'s and Victoria's scenic coastal belt through the eye of Errol Walker's camera.

See the Grampians, Blue Mountains, Woolemi and Dorriggo National Parks and other out of the way scenic gems.

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#### Easter Camp-Out

The Toowoomba Field Naturalists are camping at Easter on private property near Girraween, and invite members of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club to join them.

The property where they are camping belongs to Mr Rod Taylor and adjoins Girraween National Park. The charge for the four day camp - 9th to 12th April - is \$2.00 per head. Water is available from Accommodation Creek, and toilet facilities will be provided. Bush walks into Girraween will be organized.

Camping arrangements are fairly casual, people turning up how and when they can, so it isn't necessary to provide definite numbers. Some may prefer to attend for a day trip or two.

If you wish to attend all or part of the camp-out you could let Kris know at the next meeting, so he can phone with numbers and find out details that may be needed, or you can phone Diane Ball on 384322 (work) or 353920 (home).

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#### "Pinaster"

Towards the end of the last outing, we came across some large pine trees. Colin said that they were probably the pinaster pine after which their property was named.

The Pinaster Pine or Maritime Pine is described as being a seaside pine, native to the West Mediterranean. It grows to between 90 and 120 ft., but only fairly slowly, growing about 50ft. in the first 20 years. The interesting thing about the Pinaster Pine is that it was used for what is claimed to be the largest man-made forest on earth. About the year 1800, work started on planting Pinaster and broom seed on the sand dunes of Landes in the Bay of Biscay. Eventually 3 million acres were planted and the area which had been described as useless was turned into a pine forest for the production of timber and turpentine.

The roots and needles have made the land so fertile that some is used for agriculture and the pines are in their third and fourth generation. The forests were partially destroyed by fires in 1937 and 1950, but much of the area was replanted and paper mills were established. Several seaside resorts have also been established.

Kris Carnell

Information from Hugh Johnson's "Encyclopaedia of Trees" & "Encyclopaedia Britannica"