



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.

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.	

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.

STATE FOREST CAMPING CODE

Camping in State Forest Parks will be more enjoyable for you and other visitors if you observe this simple camping code.

- . All plants and animals are protected - please don't disturb or damage them
- . Keep your camp clean and tidy, and respect your surroundings. At the end of your stay, make sure the site is tidy for those who follow.

- . Tables and fireplaces are for all to use - please don't monopolise them.
- . Leave waterfront areas clear for everyone - pitch your tent well back from the creek bank.

- . Light your fire only in the fireplaces provided. Use firewood sparingly. Be sure your fire is out before leaving.

- . Avoid polluting creeks and lakes with soap, detergents or shampoo. Draw water in containers for washing purposes, and dispose of used water well away from the stream.

- . Be aware of plants and creatures that might make your stay uncomfortable for example, leeches, ticks and nettle.

- . Don't leave clothing or footwear out on the ground overnight - biting insects, spiders or centipedes may crawl in. Always knock out your shoes before putting them on.

- . Take care when swimming in creeks and waterholes - before entering the water check for depth, snags or other obstructions.

- . If you go bushwalking, always let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return.

- . Camping is limited to two weeks. If you wish to stay for a longer period, please contact the local Forestry Office.

This code applies to most places where Nats. go on outings.

OUTING REPORT - 3RD CROSSING CAMPOUT
20/21 MARCH 1993.

The dry weather has persisted now for many months. The Severn River has degenerated into a series of waterholes but it remained the focal point of our campout.

After the usual start from Weeroona Park we convoyed to Ballandean then headed west to the third crossing of the Severn River where nine campsites were erected on its grassy banks.

The day was warm and as no organised walks were scheduled until after lunch, a few of us braved the muddy looking waterhole adjacent to the camp. A toilet was erected and campfire set for the evening.

Graham and son Jacob on whose property we were camping joined us for, and led several walks on his and adjoining properties over the weekend.

The first walk was to the remains of the old Queen Mine which yielded relatively small quantities of silver, lead and copper around the turn of the century. Graham was able to 'read' the tailings which gave us an insight to identification of minerals we may come across in the future.

A scramble down a wash gully took us to the almost dry river bed. We rockhopped upstream until we found the Queen waterhole which was hardly recognisable under these drought conditions. A black snake disappeared to our footsteps.

Following smoko at camp, a small group of us found the 'Hippy' hole some 20 minutes upstream from the campsite. It was voted the largest and most picturesque hole on the Severn. A pair of azure kingfishers skimmed the water as they played near the opposite bank.

A brilliant campfire of dry ironbark was the catalyst for conversation. Graham was the star of the evening with a recollection of his days as a seismic surveyor in the Simpson Desert. He then produced a ute load of settlers tools from the eighteenth century. Many memories were rekindled as Graham gave us a capable demonstration of just how these implements were used to build our Australian bush architecture.

Sunday morning dawned clear with a hint of autumn dew. Jean and Tom arrived at camp at 6.15 a.m. ready for the early morning assault on a nearby hill which overlooks a large area of the Severn valley.

The Hippy hole and our comfortable camp were way below as we took the time to inspect kurrajongs wearing some very healthy mistletoe. A cool breeze and the magnificent view stalled our descent, but more cars arriving down below reminded us of our commitment to the major walk of the day.

Approximately 35 members and friends, along with Graham, Susan and their four children Jacob, Haley, Kendall and Guy walked the road to the fourth crossing. We were on our way to the Lord Nolan waterhole and mine site via the Willowhole with its willows exhibiting the first touch of autumn. The hole is 25ft deep and has been the source of many good fishing stories.

Lord Nolan waterhole is a spectacular site. A curved waterhole, it has a large granite shelf along its southern bank with a good showing of large hexagonal quartz crystals worn down to the level of the granite. Many quartz veins criss cross the shelf and no doubt this led to the frenzy of mining activity which ceased as recently as 1979 with a large tin sluicing operation.

The walk back to camp took us along a cleared ridge which afforded extensive views of the Severn Valley.

Camp Out Report contd.

On the ridge top which is almost encircled by the Severn River Graham pointed out the mineralised fault line which crosses the district. A black stump and log showing evidence of man's hand may be all that remains of 'Thompson's Folly', a hut built 'somewhere on a high ridge' in pioneering days.

Camp started breaking up between 1 and 3 p.m. Graham and Susan were thanked sincerely for volunteering their weekend to our club's activities.

Attendance on the walks varied from 18 to 35 persons with some prepared to just relax around the camp enjoying our Australian bush.

Errol and Annette

NUNDUBBERMERE - Thompsons Folly

as related by Donald Gunn in "Links With the Past"
Published 1937

Nundubbermere is an old grazing station situated near Stanthorpe, bounded on the south by Ballandean Run, on the north by Pikedale Run and east by Folkestone Run. It was taken up by William Thompson who was a brother of a well known merchant in Sydney of Thompson & Giles. Apparently he did not have much experience in station management. One of the first things he did was to build a head station on a high ridge with a beautiful view. It was a good season and the creeks were all running and springs plentiful. When the house was finished dry weather set in and the streams and springs near the house all dried up and to draw water up the steep incline from the river was impossible. It was therefore never lived in and the name of the ridge became Thompsons Folly. He had the house pulled down and moved to where the present head station is. (This is a perfect little cool valley and permanent water hole.)

What with low prices and inexperience he later had to dispose of his station. He had a fine wife and two or more daughters. Sophy afterwards married Mr Slade of Glengallon and Emily married Mr Henry of Clorcurry fame. There is a mountain on Nundubbermere called Mt Emily after Mrs Henry. When Thompson lost Nundubbermere he secured the position of manager of the bank of New South Wales at Warwick, and as far as I know opened it. It was while he was manager of the bank that his daughters met their prospective husbands.

The next owner of Nundubbermere was J. Clark. He lived there for a few years and married one of the Miss Rosses, whose brother was manager of the AJ & S Bank in Warwick. Mr Clark sold Nundubbermere to Haumer of "Talgai" and appointed Jack Maggs as his manager. Haumer then sold to Tulloch and now the old run is so subdivided that it ceases to be a run of any size or importance"

(I believe there were several other owners between Haumer and Tulloch, by my research, which included J.J. Dodd in very early nineties then Cook and Munroe, but that probably Jack Maggs remained in charge until Tulloch bought the property.

J. Harslett

There is one thing stronger than all the armies in the world, and that is an Idea whose time has come.

Victor Hugo

It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can sincerely try to heap another without helping himself.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

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

Opening:- Chairman Kris welcomed all present to a well attended meeting, with a particular welcome to Mary Walters' daughter Cathy, and Graham Murchie, who had been our host for the recent camp-out.

Present and Apologies:- as per attendance book.

Minutes:- The minutes of the February meeting were accepted as a correct record on the motion moved by Jean Harslett, seconded by Herb Colley and carried.

Correspondence :- Inward

1. Richmond Valley Field Nats Magazine March 1993; 2. Darling Downs Naturalist March 1993; 3. Dept of Environment, Canberra Poster - Australia's Diversity. 4. Australia Post Account for Post Office Box; 5. Toowoomba Field Nats Club - Outing to Girraween Outing Easter. 6. Toowoomba Field Naturalist Club Footprint March 1993. 7. International Public Relations - Green Guide 8. Q N C News March- April 1993; 8. Australian Democrats Environmental Report; 9. Richmond Valley Field Nats Magazine April 1993.

Outward

1. Broadcast notes to 4QS and 4WK for March 2. Mr & Mrs Cowie - thanks for allowing the club on their property. 3. Mr David Hockings - thanks for presenting the programme for the February meeting.

Moved Desley McDonagh seconded Margaret Carnell that the inward correspondence be received and the outward adopted. Carried.

Business arising from Correspondence - 1. Desley McDonagh reported that Radio 4WK had rung and arranged for an on air interview about the Stanthorpe Field Nats and our activities. 2. The meeting resolved that the Biodiversity poster could be given to Severnlea School to be made good use of.

Treasurer's report

Balance as at 24/2/93 \$190.13c

Receipts

Subscriptions	\$15.00	
Room Rent Collect	8.70	
	<u>\$23.70</u>	<u>23.70</u>
		<u>213.83</u>

Expenditure

Room Rent	10.00	
Postage	90.00	
Envelopes	<u>9.95</u>	
	<u>\$109.95</u>	109.95

Balance as at 24/ 3/93 103.88

Julia Brown moved and Robin McCosker seconded the adoption of the Treasurer's report and the following accounts for payment - Room Rent \$10.00; Post Office Box Rental \$37.00. Carried.

Outing reports:- 1. Errol Walker reported on the recent Campout to Graham Murchie's property at the Third Crossing of the Severn River. Saturday afternoon we walked to the Queen Mine, and to the Queen Mine waterhole; Saturday evening around a campfire Graham Murchie told of his experiences in the Simpson Desert; Sunday some took an early walk up the 'big hill' and after breakfast an enjoyable walk to the fourth crossing, willow water holes, and home via a high ridge; a very good walk. Errol was thanked for arranging the outing, and he expressed thanks to Graham Murchie for his help in making the outing such a success.

Next Outing This will be changed to Half Moon instead of Sundown. After discussion Robin McCosker moved and Errol Walker seconded the motion that the outing be changed to Monday 26th, the Anzac Day holiday, instead of Sunday 25th. Carried.

The July outing will be to Sundown to the top of Blue Gorge.

Specimens- 1. Tom Archer brought a hawk. & 2. Rock Specimens from the Lord Nolan Hole from Margaret Carnell 3. Jean Harslett displayed a tray of specimens from Lord Nolan hole 20 years ago. 5. Quartz crystal from Lord Nolan hole. 5. Small Spider brought by Rob McCosker 6. Rod Hutchin - butterfly - tailed white or tailed emperor - breeds on currajong or acacia - family based in Africa - this is the only one in Australia - link between Australia and Africa. 7. Frank Wilkinson - prints from Boonoo Boonoo outing. 8. Ralph Fletcher - print of tunnel.

Next Meeting :- Programme will be presented by Gordon Davis on the Lakes District.

Commercial Break:- Gordon Davis advised of U3A Armchair travel Little Theatre 29th March at 2.30pm.

Programme :- Errol Walker presented a programme based on his travels around some very scenic areas of SE Australia, including the Blue Mountains, Great Ocean Road, Grampians etc. This programme was very much appreciated and those present showed this appreciation with acclamation.

Outing to Half Moon Monday April 26th

The outing has been changed to Monday to avoid Anzac Day.

Ralph Fletcher will be leading the outing down to Half Moon. Cars will leave Weeroona Park at 9 a.m. We will travel to Leila Hermannson's place on the Rivertree Road, for morning tea, then transfer to high clearance 4WD vehicles for the trip down to Half Moon. A barbeque plate will be provided if anyone wants to cook lunch. There is a swimming hole for those who want to swim if the weather is warm enough.

If time permits we may be able to go across the river to Noel Bonner's property on Gilgurry Creek. If we are lucky enough to have had good rain by then, the outing will still be held, but we will be exploring the Lindesay View area.

Thanks from Graham Murchie

Graham has asked us to pass on his thanks to the Nats for being so tidy with the camp-out. He visited the site after we left and couldn't tell we had been there.

Next Meeting 28th April

At the next meeting on 28th April at 8 p.m. Gordon Davis will be presenting the programme titled "The Lake District."

Armchair Travel Slide Show

Little Theatre, Stanthorpe

Tuesday, 27th April, at 2.30 p.m.

Programme: Shelley Dark talking of her tour of Private Gardens in France.
Gordon Davis describing temples of Luxor and Aswan - Egypt.

All Welcome

Entrance: Free

LATE MESSAGE FROM LEILA: When travelling into "Lindesay View" please take the grids very slowly.