



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.

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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.	

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 TO HALF MOON 27.04.93

The day commenced at Weeroona Park as usual and we proceeded to the old "Lindesay View" homestead through dark skies and drizzle which clouded the magnificent view of Mount Lindesay, for which the old home is noted. After morning tea we all transferred to four wheel drives and on a final head count, found we had 76 people seated in various grades of comfort in 13 vehicles.

We then proceeded through a number of private properties where we observed lush green pastures and wet sclerophyl forests, in full splendour from the previous night's showers, finally reaching the rim of the Bookookoorara River Gorge.

With our hearts in our mouths and butterflies tap dancing furiously in the pits of our stomachs, to the pounding of our ever increasing heartbeats, we plunged over the edge and entered the magic realm of serious four wheel driving.

After progressing about four kilometres downwards, ever downward along the back of the interconnecting ridges we eventually arrived at the Half Moon Flat swimming hole, in the Boonoo Boonoo River Gorge about 550 metres lower than our starting point on the rim. The clouds having broken and the sunlight now filtering through we all enjoyed a picnic lunch and barbeque, then, while two intrepid young ladies indulged in a swim, other members explored up and down the river, and some just sat and talked and soothed their shattered nerves.

After lunch we moved on down river where Noel Bonner led a party of 8 vehicles up into the mountains to observe the spectacular views from the Gilgurry Creek side of the gorge. Those still suffering from "jelly legs" walked down the river to the old Half Moon Hut, then on to a series of cascades, and though not as impressive as usual, we were thankful, that with the dry spell we are experiencing the river was still flowing.

After regrouping at the hut, we were given the history of the hut by Leila and Irma who recalled memories of the area from days gone by. The hut was built by Leila's father, Pa Bonner, about 1928, long before vehicle tracks were made to the site. It served as headquarters for ringbarking gangs, employed to open up grazing country in those days.

Everyone, now having gained their composure and steeled themselves for the homeward journey, we ascended the track out of the gorge to "The Tops", and with all making it safely we had a leisurely drive through the forests, back to "Lindesay View". We all changed back to our original vehicles and headed for home, with varied memories that will probably live with us for a while to come. Thanks to those who provided the 4 W.D. vehicles and for driving them so proficiently. They helped to provide a most enjoyable outing. Special thanks are extended to Noel and his family for all they did to help make a most pleasant day for all of us.

Ralph Fletcher & Leila Hermansson

The highest reward for a person's toil is not what they get for it, but what they become by it.

John Ruskin.

Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity

Elmer Letterman

MAY NATS OUTING - Campout on Emu Creek May 22nd and 23rd
- Visit the Lincoln Wreck

Weather permitting, we will camp on private property at the site of Bretts Sawmill on Emu Creek, a large flat grassy area. At this stage the programme for the weekend is: Depart Stanthorpe (Weeroona Park) at 9.00am and travel to Warwick. Turn off at the Killarney signpost and meet the Warwick members at the Cattle Sale yards then drive to Tannymorel, Mount Colliery then past Hoffman's Falls to Bald Mountain for the views and lunch. We will then drive to Emu Vale and follow the Emu Creek Road to the campsite.

Sunday morning early rise for those contemplating the GRADE 9 walk to the Lincoln wreck. An 8.00 am start should give sufficient time to reach the ridge above the wreck for lunch, then return to the camp by about 4 p.m. This walk follows an old overgrown timber track most of the way then a very steep rocky gully to the wreck. We will need to carry lunch and water. As we will be returning along the same track some people may wish to stop at the creek crossing for lunch and return from there, making it about a grade 7 walk. Sturdy shoes and long trousers or gaiters should be worn as the track is overgrown with wild raspberry and stinging nettle. Those not doing the climb may walk the track past the campsite which goes for several kilometres, and follows the middle branch of Emu Creek, (The campsite is on the south branch of Emu Creek).

For those not travelling in convoy from Stanthorpe or those wishing to arrive on Friday or late Saturday detailed directions follow:

Drive to Warwick, continue on Highway to Northern side.

00 km Turn right at "Yangan 18" signpost just north of the Condamine River bridge.

18km Turn right at Yangan.

24km Turn left then right at Emu Vale.

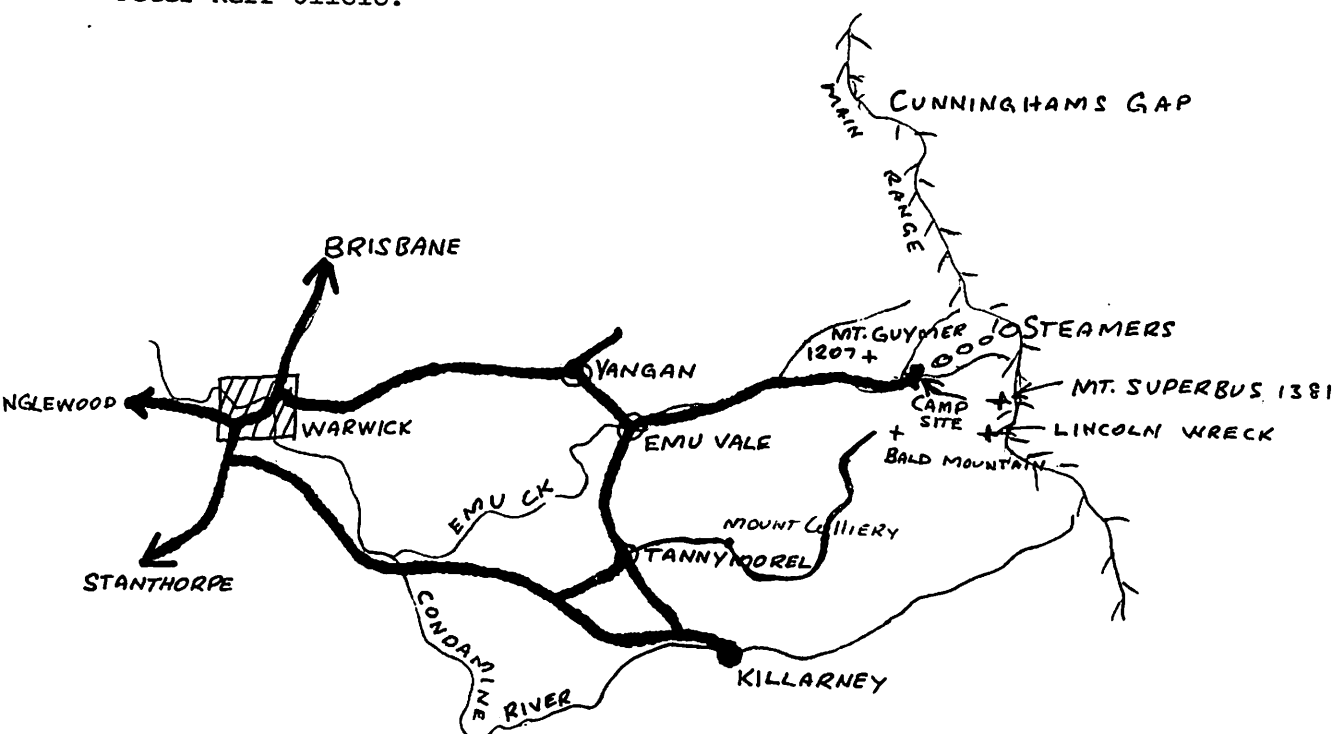
27.5km Bitumen ends.

29.5km Keep left.

42km Pass Stockyards on left, take next turn left, cross creek and continue to campsite on right.

Allow 2 hours to drive from Stanthorpe. The gravel road surface was quite good, being recently graded on the pre-outing trip, however creek crossings are rough and stoney - take care!

If you need any further information please contact Rob McCosker 835371 or Peter Kerr 611818.



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC. HELD AT 8.00PM ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 28 TH 1993.

Opening:- In opening the meeting Chairman Kris welcomed all present, particularly visitors Margaret and Winston Smart, Bill Ratcliffe and Joan Burne .

Present and Apologies:- as per attendance book.

Minutes:- The minutes of the March meeting were accepted as a correct record on the motion moved by Leila Hermansson seconded by Mary Walters and carried.

Correspondence :- Inward

1. Cheque from Camera Club for half Post Office Box 2. Bank Statement CBA
3. Footprint - April 1993- Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club 4. Information Australia - Directory of Australian Associations. 5. Chinchilla Field Naturalists - Urimbirra April 1993. 6. Volunteers in Step - Conference to be held in Townsville September. 7. Craig Watson - CV etc applying for any available work with the Organization.

Outward

1. Broadcast notes to 4QS and 4WK for April 2. Graham Murchie - thanks for his part in the campout on his property.
Moved Desley McDonagh seconded Margaret Carnell that the inward correspondence be received and the outward adopted. Carried.

Treasurer's report

Balance as at 24/3/93 \$103.88c

Receipts

Subscriptions		
Room Rent Collect	17.65	
Bring'n Buy	1.00	
Photocopying	10.00	
	<u>\$28.65</u>	<u>28.65</u>
		<u>132.53</u>

Expenditure

Room Rent	10.00	
Post O Box Rent	37.00	
Fed Govt Tax March	0.15	
	<u>\$ 47.15</u>	47.15

Balance as at 28/ 4/93 \$85.38

Julia Brown moved and Gordon Davis seconded the adoption of the Treasurer's report and the following account for payment - Room Rent \$10.00. Carried.

General Business:- Meeting of the management Committee at 7.45pm Wednesday, 26th May.

Outing reports:- 1. Ralph Fletcher presented a report on the outing to Half Moon and Lindsay View. This was an outing very much enjoyed by all who were able to go. Ralph's full report will be in the next magazine. He was thanked for his part in making the outing so successful. Letters of thanks will be sent to the people helping to make the outing a success. There was some discussion on the unusual mistletoe - 3 types on one tree noticed during that outing.

2. Pre- outing report. Robin McCosker gave a pre-outing report for the Campout on May 22/23 on the bank of Emu Creek to Main Range. Full report will be in the Magazine.

Commercial Break:- Millie Marsden advised the members of the special Give Five appeal for Lukaemia and a \$6.00 luncheon on 21st May.

Specimens:- Margaret Carnell had a 'rock' from Pechey forest; there were photos from Millie Marsden from previous outings; a photo of a hard working dung beetle at the third crossing campout was exhibited.

Programme:- Gordon Davis took us on a most enjoyable tour of the Lakes District with excellent slides and commentary. Thank you Gordon, for a very interesting presentation.

Next Meeting:- Colin Hockings will present a programme on Tasmania.

Three Species of Mistletoe on Casuarina cunninghamiana

1. The "Match Head Mistletoe" *Amyma cambagei*
The common name refers to the silvery/grey buds resembling wax vesta matches.
The foliage closely resembles its host parent.
2. *Notothixos subaureus*.
As the specific name suggests it is like "gold" (aureus) underneath the leaf (= sub-golden").
According to "Flora of S.E.Qld" it is usually found parasitic on other species of Mistletoe.
3. The third Mistletoe was most likely *Viscum articulatum* (no common name)
It is described as having leaves widening towards the apex (which those at Half Moon did have) and as being parasitic on *Notothixos* species of Mistletoe (which it also was doing).

Incidentally the mistletoe which interested us - seen on Kurrajongs at the top of the hill above the Third River Crossing Camp - was *Notothixos cornifolius* which is described as uncommon in the S.E. Queensland region, and is hosted by (or parasitic on) Kurrajongs *Brachychiton populneus*. (This was the species it was on.) The specific "cornifolius" name refers to the "square" almost horned shaped corners.

In fact there are only three species in Queensland of this genus, and these are two of them, seen on the last two outings, and none are particularly common.

Jean Harslett.

The Ant Explorers

While we were walking the dogs recently, Mary and I observed a strip of bare ground about three inches wide, crossing a recently mown paddock. Closer inspection revealed an ant track with steady two-way traffic and a large nest a few yards into the scrub on one edge of the paddock.

Since the majority of the ants returning to the nest seemed to be carrying something, we decided to follow the trail to try to find the food source, and discovered a smaller nest about eighty yards from the main one, and a further, slightly less well-defined trail leading to a clump of old apple trees whose apples were falling, the whole distance covered being something in the region of one hundred and fifty yards. It seemed a very long way for such tiny creatures to go for a meal.

We had made a similar observation some years ago when a steady trail of black ants invaded the garden. The main nest on that occasion proved to be almost two hundred yards away, and once again there was a smaller nest about half way along the trail. We wondered then if it was an overnight 'stop-over' for those who could not get back to the main nest before nightfall.

Audrey Ridge

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 26th May at 8.00 p.m. Management Committee Meeting at 7.45 p.m.
Colin Hockings will present a programme on Tasmania.
