



July 1993



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.

FIELD NATS OUTING/ CLEAN UP TO NUNDUBBERMERE FALLS

Each June outing for several years, we have marked World Environment Day by having a "Clean up" outing. Sunday June 20th we chose the Nundubbermere falls area for that purpose.

We met as usual at Weeroona Park at 9.00 am, picked up several other members at the Nundubbermere Road - Texas Road intersection, and, supplied with supermarket bags and gloves, headed in convoy to the Nundubbermere Falls Road. We left some low clearance vehicles at the turnoff to the falls and started the serious job of cleaning up. Kris and Margaret Carnell brought their trailer and many fertilizer bags to pack the litter in when collected. I'd been forewarned by a local, familiar with the falls area, that there were many bottles littering the place, and that there were bottles all along the roadside.

By the time the last vehicles arrived at the parking/ camping/ "littered" area above the falls, gloved people from the first were energetically gathering litter into their supermarket bags. (The latecomers had been picking up bottles from the roadside). They were so involved in the clean up that even a loud yell of "Smoko" from Kris Carnell and "Food" from me didn't stop some of the very keen "Cleaneruppers"!

Cleaning up continued till lunchtime with many bottles, cans and bits of rubbish being gathered into supermarket bags, sorted into fertilizer bags and loaded on to Kris and Margaret's trailer.

The more adventurous went down to the falls (not falling) after lunch, still equipped with supermarket bags and still picking up litter. Those not so adventurous viewed the falls area from the cliffs continuing to clean up bottles, cans and rubbish.

We noticed one area, a little away from the main camping area, where not one bit of litter was left. Obviously there are some people who camp there who do care about the environment!

On the way back, after afternoon tea (Field Nats always have to eat!!!) the vehicles in the convoy were continually stopping or heading off the track and then stopping, doors opening, people jumping out and picking up empty bottles, people jumping back in, doors closing, vehicles then moving just far enough for more bottles to be seen and the process repeated. There seemed to be a competition of some kind going on. From our vehicle we noticed a strange phenomenon - most of the bottles on the Western side of the road (mine) were large ones, while those on the Eastern side were mostly stubbies. Why is it so?????

As a result of the outing, the area now looks much cleaner. We hope that people going out there in future will bring their litter home with them. We brought home nineteen fertilizer bags of bottles, one of aluminium cans, five bags and one third of a trailer load of general rubbish, as well as one full bottle of home brew! Not to mention the gumboot, the jogger and some articles of clothing. Some people who went out there quietly must have come home rather loudly, for part of the rubbish collected had been the muffler of their vehicle.

Particular thanks go to Kris and Margaret Carnell for bringing their trailer, sorting the litter into fertilizer bags and delivering the bottles etc. to the recycling depot and the rubbish to the tip; but I thank all those who took part in this outing and helped to "Keep Australia Beautiful." What's more, we all had a great time doing it !

Desley McDonagh

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC. HELD AT 8.00PM ON WEDNESDAY JUNE 23RD 1993.

Opening:- In opening the meeting, Chairman Kris Carnell welcomed all present, especially Dot Archer, Frank and Patience James (it was good to see Patience up and about again), Graham Greenup and the Mallon family.

Present and Apologies:- as per attendance book.

Minutes:- Frank Wilkinson moved that the minutes of the May meeting be accepted as a correct record of that meeting. Gordon Davis seconded this motion which was carried.

Correspondence :- Inward

1. Richmond Valley Field Nats Newsletter 2. Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club - Footprint for June. 3. Chinchilla Field Nats - Urimbirra - June. 4. Subscriptions from - 1. The Mallon family; 2. Clarke Family; 3. Diana Holley/ Eric Dale/ Nancie Hodgson 4. Kenna Family 5. Charles Naylor & Jennifer Vaisey 6. Fred Simpson.

Outward

1. & 2. Broadcast notes to 4QS and 4WK for June.

Moved Desley McDonagh seconded Patience James that the inward correspondence be received and the outward adopted. Carried.

Treasurer's report

Balance as at 26/5/93 \$ 42.88c

Receipts

Subscriptions

Room Rent Collect	14.90	
	<u>\$14.90</u>	<u>14.90</u>
		<u>57.78</u>

Expenditure

Room Rent	12.50	
Petty Cash	15.00	
	<u>\$ 27.50</u>	<u>27.50</u>
		30.28

Balance as at 23/ 6/93 \$30.28

Julia Brown moved and Dot Archer seconded the adoption of the Treasurer's report and the following accounts for payment - Room Rent \$12.50; Carried.

Outing reports:- Desley McDonagh reported on the "Clean up" outing to the Nundubbermere Falls area on June 20th. This outing had been a very great success, both environmentally and socially. Nineteen fertiliser bags of bottles and one of aluminium cans were brought back to the recycling depot, and five bags and one third of a trailer load of general rubbish to the tip. Everyone present enjoyed the day, and thanks were expressed to those who cleaned up and Kris and Margaret Carnell for the use of their trailer and the work put into sorting and packing the rubbish.

Next outing:- Blue Gorge at Sundown National Park. Leaving Weroona Park at 9.00am, carrying lunch. There will be an alternate outing should it rain. Details in Magazine.

Next Meeting:- Remember Last Year - slides and prints of outings back to June last year - the outing to Brian McDonagh's property.

Bring 'n' Buy:- There were cauliflower for purchase at the Bring 'n' buy table.

Specimens:- There were prints from the "Clean up" outing for viewing on the table - taken by Millie Marsden and Desley McDonagh - as Ralph Fletcher said - "What a lot of old bags in that photo!"

Programme:- Jean Harslett presented a programme of some early history of the Stanthorpe district - both colour and black and white slides. This was of great interest to those present. Evidence of interest in Jean's programmes was the very good attendance on a night that was in the school holidays - often the attendance at meetings during the holidays was lower than usual. Thank you very much Jean for sharing this district history with us.

Following the programme the meeting closed.

NEXT OUTING

The outing on July 25th will be a "Wilderness Experience" with Peter Haselgrove to the Blue Gorge in the Sundown National Park.

Cars will leave Weeroona Park at 8.30 a.m. Please note earlier departure time. After smoko we will have to transfer to Subarus and 4 W.D.'s. The track goes up to the park boundary and then follows the fence in a northerly direction. About 2 km from the end of the track the terrain becomes very rough and only high clearance 4 WDs will be able to complete the journey. The fitter members may have to walk. From the end of the track there is a very pleasant walk down the gully to the head of Blue Gorge. The view at the end of the walk is quite spectacular with views of the Blue Gorge, Rats Castle and the Severn River valley. The track is impassable in wet weather, so if need be an alternative programme will be arranged to the Sundown area leaving Weeroona Park at the same time. For further particulars ring Kris Carnell on 835268.

For Nats club members - this outing is probably the only way to get to the top of Blue Gorge without a two or three day walk and overnight campout. All members will be able to complete the outing without much trouble.

JULY MEETING

The July meeting will be the Annual Meeting of the club. The programme will be "Remember Last year", co-ordinated by Robin McCosker. Please bring slides and prints of outings back to June 1992.

Please bring a plate for supper.

There is still time to make suggestions for outings and programmes for 1993-94.

U3A

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL

Monday 26th July 1993
at 2.30 p.m.

at Little Theatre

1. China - Gordon Davis
2. - To be decided

Free Admission - All Welcome

I do the best I know how, the very best I can, and I mean to keep on doing it to the end.

If the end brings me out all right, what is said against me will not amount to anything.

If the end brings me out all wrong, ten angels swearing I was right would make no difference.

Abraham Lincoln.

MICE DON'T HAVE KINKY LEGS

Some years ago when our daughter, Bronwyn was still at school, she appeared at our bedroom door early one morning and said, "There's a frog in my room." (At this stage she was not on very friendly terms with frogs.) Investigation revealed nothing in the wildlife line at all. Kris suggested it might have been a mouse to which Bronwyn replied "Mice don't have kinky legs."

Back in those days the weather was quite often wet, and some weeks later I went to open the toilet door and put my hand on a frog. I'm not sure which of us had the biggest fright, but the frog was ushered outside - kinky legs and all. The next encounter was in our bedroom when I glanced up from the book I was reading to see a frog - a small cream one, probably brother or son to the previous fellow - sitting on the pelmet. When Kris put up his hand to remove him a second fellow popped up beside the first and goggled at us.

Since then we have had several of these frogs take up residence. I don't know what sort they are. They vary from cream to brown with yellow inside their thighs, and have a somewhat mottled appearance.

I was most upset on one occasion to have the leg of one appear in the rinse water as I spun the clothes dry. The rest of the poor creature was spread through the clothes - not a pleasant experience. Kris objects quite strongly to having to remove the bodies from the washing machine when they crawl into the pipes and block the outlet from the spinner. After removing three of them on two different occasions I now make sure the cover is firmly in place at all times.

One of my friends took up residence in the overflow pipe of the laundry tub where he thrived for quite some time. I took to purging clean water down the pipe after I'd pumped the water out, hoping to counter the effect of the detergent. I was very worried about what the dog's flea wash would do, but the frog stayed on. He obviously thought it was a pretty good home as he invited several friends and relatives to move in. At one stage there was one in the other overflow pipe and three on the top shelf of a cupboard with an ill fitting door.

Kris doesn't know about the one that lives on top of the rag bag behind the laundry door - or the little fellow in the self-watering pot. He does tend to make it difficult to water the plant because he sits in the pipe and blocks it.

On one occasion the water wouldn't run out of the tubs, so I undid the junction near the orange tree and gave several good pushes with the plunger and suddenly the water gushed out. When I went out to see what had been blocking the pipe there was one very groggy frog sitting near the pipe looking bewildered and unhappy. By evening he was back inside the laundry. On the next occasion, however he was not so fortunate as he became stuck in the pipe and was very dead when removed.

Thomas who took up residence in the African Violet pot betrayed his presence by leaving little parcels on the window sill and footprints around the clock. On one occasion Kris went to get a drink during the night and put Thomas out the window. I called out "That's Thomas. He lives there", but it was too late the window was firmly shut. I felt very sad for Thomas and planned to leave the window open for him, until I lifted the top section of the pot out and saw Thomas happily swimming in the water. Was the evicted frog visiting or courting?

Most of my frogs seem to have hibernated for the winter, if that's what they do. Even Thomas is not in his pot, but Bronwyn saw him sitting on the kitchen shelf pretending to be an ornament about two weeks ago. Perhaps one morning soon I will open my eyes to see a kinky leg disappearing under the wardrobe.