

SEPTEMBER 1993

Vol. 251



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 THE CLUB FOR 1993-94

President	Alyson McCall	81 3348
Vice-Presidents	Rob McCosker	83 5371
	Desley McDonagh	81 3074
Secretary	Millie Marsden	81 1593
Treasurer	Julia Brown	
Newsletter Editor	Geoff Walker	81 2008
Newsletter Sub-Committee	Julie Beddow & Patience James	
Publicity Officer	Patience James	81 1853
Librarian	Esme Colley	81 2927
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 - SUNDAY 22ND AUGUST - OUTING TO THE SPHINX AND TURTLE ROCK.

Fifty six people, including 10 visitors, enjoyed the outing to Girraween Sunday 22nd August. Those leaving town did so at 9.00 am as usual, and we met others at the main picnic area in time for Morning Tea. We carried lunch and water to the Sphinx where we enjoyed the lunch and the company amongst those amazingly sculptured rocks. Some people stayed at the Sphinx while the others went on to Turtle Rock and the caves. Eleven brave people climbed up on to the top of Turtle Rock, a number of them using the assistance of a rope taken up there by our fearless leader Rob. I think there were three degrees of difficulty - those who went to the top, those who went as far as where the rope started and those who stayed a bit further down Turtle Rock. After this group were all together again, the caves had to be found. Some bush bashing following educated guesses as to where the caves were (it was a long time ago that I was here) and they were found! Here again, some looked and then went in, some just looked in, and some just looked. The caves reminded me of a children's book called 'The Glerp'. In this book the Glerp swallows everybody and everything it meets. To those watching it looked like this - as each person approached the cave the head went in, then the tail, then the body disappeared into the darkness leaving no trace.

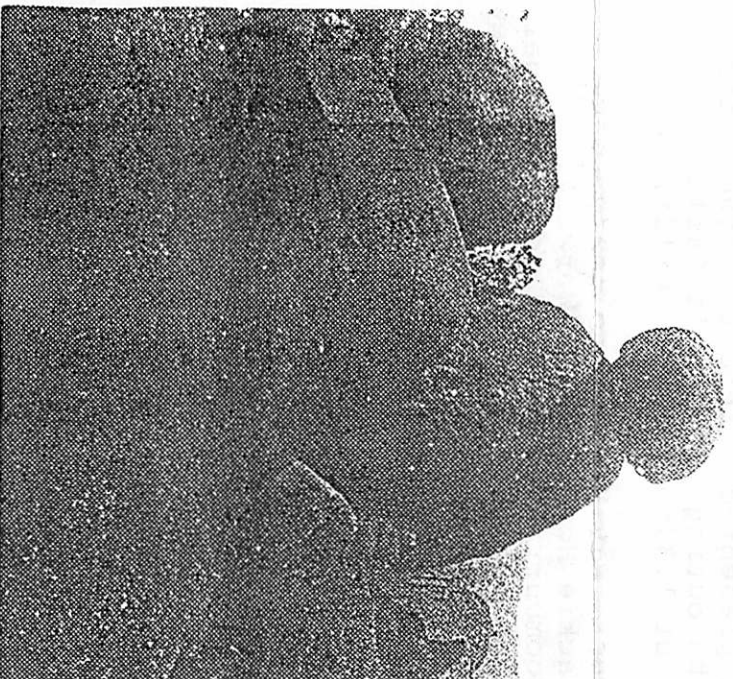
After the caves had been explored, we set off back to the main picnic area. On the way through the Castle Rock camping area we met up with a bus load of travellers who had been visiting other National Parks. They had been to Carnarvon Gorge, Fraser Island and had just come from the Bunya Mountains. Some of us enjoyed a good chat with them then, and some had met up with them on the track earlier. They described Jean as the Green Flower Lady - Jean was dressed in green. In the morning some of that group asked (when they were confronted with our group walking along the track) "Where are the rest of the people in Queensland this morning?" These travellers queried who we were - we told them that we were the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Incorporated - the reception to this was "We can sue you!" We also assured them that we 'kept our clothes on!'

After afternoon tea at the main picnic area we 'came along home'.

Thanks to Rob McCosker for leading us on the walk, and to all those who came and made the outing an enjoyable one for us all. It is really good to see members bring friends and family with them. Desley McDonagh.

LIST OF FLOWERS SEEN ON
OUTING TO THE SPHINX

Acacia Ruppii
Acacia Spectabilis
Acacia Adunca
Mirbelia Speciosa
Phebalium
Leucopogon
Grevillea
Olearia
Boronia amabilis
Hovea (2)
Hardenbergia
Wahlenbergia
Dendrobium Speciosum
Hakea
Phebalium Rotundifolium
Cryptandra
Pultenaea
Pimelea
Choretrum candolli



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC.
HELD AT 8pm ON WEDNESDAY AUGUST 25th, 1993.

Opening:- Chairman Alyson McCall welcomed all present and declared the meeting open.

Present and Apologies:- as per attendance book.

Minutes:- Dot Archer moved Jean Harslett seconded that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed as a true record. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:- Inward 1. Info Australia 2. Subs - Beddow, Veivers, Fletcher, Kruger 3. Mahlab 4. Richmond Valley Nats 5. Darling Downs Nats (2) 6. Footprint 7. Patience James - thanks 8. Maggi Fund Raising 9. John Oxley Library - missing issues 10. Queensland Twitch 11. Bio Links.

Outward. 1. & 2. Broadcast notes to 4QS and 4Wk for August 3. Info Australia - change of secretary 4. Peter Haselgrove - thanks for outing 5. Department of Consumer Affairs - end of year forms.

A. Wilkinson moved that the inward correspondence be received and the outward adopted seconded Joyce Smith. Carried

Treasurer's Report:-

Balance as at 28/7/93 \$369.53

Receipts.

Subscriptions	\$299.00	
Room Rent Collections	18.10	
Photocopying	15.60	3332.70
		<u>\$702.23</u>

Expenditure:

Room Rent	12.50	
Magazine Postage	99.00	
Kris Carnell	45.00	
Julia Brown	3.05	
GFT	.30	
	<u>\$150.85</u>	<u>150.85</u>

Balance as at 25/8/93 \$ 551.38

Julia Brown moved the adoption of the Treasurer's Report seconded Val White Carried. The following accounts were passed for payment - Room Rent \$12.50, Petty Cash for secretary \$15.

General Business:- Desley McDonagh presented a report on the visit to the Sphinx and information on the outing to Jolly's Falls on September 5. Meet at Weeroona Park at 1.30pm for this wildflower outing.

Next Outing. Goomburra State Forest. Ray Marsden to lead. Leave Weeroona Park at 8am re-group at Jackie Howe Park in Warwick. Several trails to be explored at Goomburra- to be left to individual choice. Grading walking tracks, excellent picnic grounds, superb views.

Specimens. Rod Hutchins brought along a orchid which caused great interest. Kris Carnell supplied a wattle which had enormous galls. Jean spoke on the galls which only attacks the acacia.

Half Day Outings. M. Marsden suggested that as some members are unable to attend the Sunday outings and a number of the members are retired folk, it may be a thing to consider having a few mid week half day outings in the future.

Next Meeting. will be presented by Gordon Davis on September 22nd.

Program. Jean Harslett presented a program on the flora of the Granite Belt which was enjoyed immensely by all present. A vote of thanks was given by Alyson McCalland carried with acclamation..

The Meeting was then closed.

Outing to Goomburra State Forest - September 19, 1993.

Desley, Millie and I did a pre-outing trip to Goomburra State Forest recently and have come up with the following suggestions for the outing on September 19.

Leave Weeroona Park at 8am as there is a fair distance of travelling to be done before we start to walk. We would re-group at Jackie Howe Park in Warwick at approximately 8.45 where we will be joined by the Warwick members of the club.

The turnoff to Goomburra is on the right just before Allora and it is 35 kms from there to the picnic ground. It is planned to have morning tea at the picnic area. On the pre-outing the bird life was magnificent. We had lunch to the music of the bell birds and the antics of the satin bower birds and currawongs.

Members should feel free to choose their own walks from this point and there are several options. The Ridge Trail is 5kms and takes 3 hours; Cascades trail also takes 3 hours for the 6km walk; North Branch Trail is 7km and takes 3 hours; Araucaria Trail is 3km long and takes 2 hours. A suggested walk would be to begin the Cascades Trail and return along the lower Ridge Trail.

I would consider it a must to travel the further 7km from the Picnic Ground to the high country from where excellent panoramas of the valley can be viewed to the north and east. Sylvesters Lookout requires a 750 metre walk to view the Moogerah Dam and surrounding area while a 600 metre walk will take you to the Mt Castle Lookout from where the high rise buildings in Brisbane may be seen as well as Mt. Castle and also excellent views of the valleys.

On the return, a left turn at the Goomburra Hall will bring you back to the highway at Clintonvale and this makes a good round trip.

The day can be as easy or as hard as you wish, there are several lovely walks along the banks of the Dalrymple Creek as well as those listed above.

Ray Marsden

Hi, Geoff Walker here the club's magazine editor for the next twelve months claiming responsibility for my first magazine. You might notice a few changes to the magazine which I hope will meet agreement with everyone, but if anyone totally dislikes something I have done please let me now and I will make sure you don't receive another magazine. No seriously, I will listen and make sure it is what everyone wants.

I also make a request of all club members to please send in any story of interest to be published in the magazine. It doesn't matter if it is as trivial as finding a dinosaur egg in your back yard, you can't see Jurassic Park and not say something, or of world importance like the day you accidentally stood on a meat ant let everyone know and let's turn this magazine into something we look forward to receiving each month.

Any stories can be posted to 36 Hale Haven Dr. Stanthorpe or dropped in at International Colour Prod. Maryland St.

Last General meeting our new President must have thought all her Birthdays had come at once. Not only was it her first go at chairing a meeting as President, a job accomplished very well indeed, it was also her Birthday. So from everyone in the club Happy Birthday Alison.

Following the Club's recent outing to the Lincoln Bomber wreck a few months back here is an extract taken from the Warwick Daily News, Monday 11th April 1955.

Six people were killed in a plane crash in the mountains behind Emu Vale, shortly after 4am on Saturday morning.

The bodies of six victims of the R.A.A.F. mercy plane which ploughed into 4525 ft. Mt. Superbus on Saturday morning, were carried through rugged, treacherous terrain to Emu Vale yesterday by Warwick police and Amberley R.A.A.F. men.

A Warwick Daily News reporter, saw the twisted, blackened wreckage of the four engined Lincoln, scattered over a wide area.

The victims, most of whom were incinerated in the fire which followed the explosion, must have died the instant the air-craft hit the mountain, the highest peak in South East Queensland, which is about 30 miles due east of Warwick.

The aircraft was rushing from Townsville to Brisbane a one-day old baby girl who was to be given a blood transfusion to save her life.

Sister Mafalda Gray of Townsville General Hospital who volunteered to accompany the baby, Robyn Huxley, and the bombers four crew members were killed.

Cloud and heavy mist shrouded the mountain when the bomber hurtled onto it before dawn on Saturday morning.

How the bomber came to be so far off course is still a mystery.

An inquiry will be held into the disaster. Top R.A.A.F. officers said the air-craft crew may have mistaken Warwick for Ipswich through low cloud.

The crash had occurred at the darkest hour, just before dawn they said. It ripped into trees on the steep, rocky, South-Western side of the mountain, for a distance of about 200 yds and crumpled wreckage was strewn over a strip about 25 yds wide and 50 yds long.

Wings were torn from the big bombers fuselage and a heavy Rolls-Royce Merlin motor was catapulted about 100 ft from the main wreckage and a scattered mess of other parts seemed to have crumpled like tinfoil on impact.

The explosion which followed the crash burnt the plane and probably scattered parts which had not been torn off when the Lincoln nosed into the treetops.

Only two bodies seemed to have been thrown from the fuselage in the crash, but all were mutilated practically beyond identification.

A Canberra bomber from Amberley identified the wreckage at 9.20 a.m. Lincoln bombers then maintained a constant vigil over the until nightfall. The Lincolns guided search parties by making runs from the ground rescue parties to the area and dipping their wings at the scene of the crash.

First reports of the crash came from Myers Timber Mill, near the head of Emu Creek and from members of the Brisbane bushwalkers who immediately organised a search party. They said they had heard a crash at 4.15 a.m. which was followed about a quarter hour later by several explosions.

The natural hazards of the terrain were multiplied by the fact that this search party made their way up the mountain to the smouldering bomber in pitch darkness early Sunday morning.

One of the searchers on the difficult climb up grabbed at what he thought was a limb for support. It was a SNAKE!. In throwing it away from himself he also tossed away his 20 guinea watch.

THE VICTIMS

Wing Commander J. P. Costello

Squadron Leader C. S. Mason

Squadron LeaderJ. W. Finlay

Flight LieutenantW. G. Cater

SisterMafalda Grey

BabyRobyn Huxley