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THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST



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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.

WILDFLOWER OUTING TO JOLLY'S FALLS 5/9/93.

Some 20 odd or twenty 'odd' people (take your pick) enjoyed the outing to Jolly's Falls on Sunday 5th September.

Some left Weeroona Park at 1.30pm, others met us at the parking area. We carried afternoon tea, cameras and wildflower books as we slowly rambled along the track towards the duck hole. The scribe was armed with notebook and biro (thanks Rod!) and flowers were located and identified with much discussion and reference to books. Despite the dry state of the area and fires from previous years a number of flowers were found.

We went down the track to overlook the falls, then across to the track to the duck hole. Afternoon tea was enjoyed while overlooking the beautiful reflections of the granite rocks in the still water, then we examined a good patch of *boronia granitica* just 'bursting into song' on the other side of the waterhole. We observed a good number of flannel flower plants which will bloom in several months and should make the area beautiful.

After inspecting that area we walked some way back up the creek towards the falls, then came up the hillside back to the main track to the car-park. Meeting there again was an excuse for yet another 'cuppa', and some conversation (and lots of laughter) around the table as we enjoyed the company as well as the pleasant bush area. Yet another happy successful outing ended after this 'cuppa'.

We compiled this flower list which is as correct as we can make it.

<i>Oleria microphyllia</i>	<i>Leucopogon microphyllus</i>
<i>Notelaea linearis</i>	<i>Acacia fimbriata</i>
<i>Phebalium rotundifolium</i>	<i>Acacia latisepala</i>
<i>Bossiaea rhombifolia</i>	<i>Boronia granitica</i>
<i>Pultanaea hartmanii</i>	<i>Dodonaea hirsuta</i>
<i>Cryptandra amara</i>	<i>Hibbertia linearis</i>
<i>Hovea longifolia</i>	<i>Pimelea linifolia</i>
<i>Glycine clandestina</i>	<i>Brachycome</i> ..
<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>	

Desley McDonagh

WETLANDS TOUR

One of the highlights of my trip was a 3 hour conducted tour of the 22,000 acres of the Capricorn International Resort at Yeppoon.

More than 100 species of birds can be seen here. We saw a great variety in the wetlands and rain forest; black swan, egret, straw necked ibis, black duck, magpie geese, redtailed black cockatoo, swamp hen, whitebreasted sea eagle and jacoua to name a few.

The guide was excellent and knew where to find many interesting plants and trees, including the beautiful Byfield fern.

Due to the drought, the water table was 3 feet below its normal level and great fears are held for the flora and fauna in the coming season.

The resort is open to the public and is well worth a visit. Roads are well maintained and well sign-posted.

In the Rockhampton area one can sense resentment that such a magnificent tract of land was allowed to pass into foreign hands.

NEXT INSTALLMENT: OLSEN'S CAVES

By the way, one of the low points of the trip was reversing the caravan for the first and last time!!

Mary Walters

SEPTEMBER OUTING

- GOOMBURRA STATE FOREST -

The September outing of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalists to Goomburra State Forest was enjoyed by the 46 people who attended from the Granite Belt, Toowoomba, Warwick and Brisbane. Many apologies were received owing to the school holidays.

Following morning tea at the camping area most members elected to do the 6km - 3hour Cascades Trail returning along the Ridge Track. Others decided to stay and relax along the creek and enjoy the scenery and birdlife. There was just enough water in Dalrmpie Creek to make this interesting.

Birdlife was excellent along the Cascades Track and resulted in the group being split into two sections as everyone knows the the bird-watchers see and hear more if there are less people around. The bellbirds were a constant delight in the creek area and as the group moved into the rainforest and open forest areas, the birdlife changed.

Flowers seen included many native orchids either in bloom or at point of bloom, the dainty clematis was seen at many points and a wonga vine, near the camping grounds transformed a large dead tree into a fountain of creamy-yellow with its wonderful blooms.

In the rainforest section of the walk crow's nests, elkhorns, creepers, orchids and ferns festooned many of the trees and created much interest. The many different species of trees - pines (including Bunya and Hoop), palms, oaks and gums all had their share of interest and admiration.

Following a late lunch, the members made their own way to the high areas to visit the lookouts. The red lilies blooming on the adjacent escarpments and the orchid blooming nearby made Sylvesters' something special. The view across the Fassifern Valley was muted because of smoke haze but was till very grand. Mt. Castle Lookout was visited and the spectacle set out before the eyes was very rewarding, once again the haze prevented the group from seeing the Brisbane highrise buildings. Mt. Castle looked very inviting. Perhaps some of the more agile members will see this from another angle in the future.

Some members had encounters with ticks and one had and encounter with an aggressive snake but everyone voted it a good outing.

Millie Marsden

BIRD FEEDER AND ITS NEW FEATHERED FRIENDS

I was given a bird feeder for Christmas 1991, and it was duly installed close by a bird bath we had bought a short time earlier, beside a large Callistemon Viminalis which has always been a great favourite with the birds.

Both the feeder and the bird bath were completely ignored!

However, at the beginning of December 1992, we were delighted to find a pair of adult King Parrots at the feeder one afternoon. They returned the next day and a few days later there were more - one adult male and four green parrots so now it seems we have really been discovered. Almost every day we are visited by up to fifteen King Parrots - only one adult male still among them. Our resident flock of Bronze-wing pigeons who had previously been content to clean up the chicken run now descend on the bird feeder most afternoons and our resident flock of Double-barred grass finches has more than doubled in size (I actually managed to count 50) and spends most of it's time flying from the Callistemon to the feeder to the bird bath and back again

Strangely, the Currawongs have almost ignored it - they prefer the berries of the White Cedars, but do occasionally stop for a drink. The Magpies too, do not seem interested and the occasional crested pigeon calls in from time to time.

The Parrots are becoming quite tame and one young one in particular allows us to come quite close and completely ignores the dogs. Whether I shall be so pleased to see fifteen King Parrots when the Almond trees have a crop, I'm not so sure but at present they are a delight to watch.

Audrey Ridge

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC.
HELD AT 8pm ON WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 22nd, 1993.

Opening. Chairman Alyson McCall welcomed all present with a special welcome to Jim and Brenda Amos, visitors from Brisbane.

Present 26 Apologies 12 as per attendance

Minutes:-Frank Wilkinson moved Dore McCosker seconded the motion accepting the minutes as a true record of the August meeting. Carried.

Correspondence:-Inward - 1. Toowoomba Bushwalkers Footprint 2. Subs Crompton and Langdon. 3. Richmond Valley Magazine. 4. Mahlab Info. 5. Queensland Nats. Magazine. 6. Chinchilla Magazine 7. Business Review Weekly 8. Senator Coulter - Petrol Tax 9. T.A.F.E classes for term 4, 1993. 10. Striking a Balance. 11. Darling Downs Magazine (September). 12. Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation.

Outward. 1. Round the Ridges(outing info) 2. Community Billboard (outing info) 3. Dept. Consumer Affairs(return of forms).

Moved Ailsa Wilkinson seconded Jean Harslett that the inward correspondence be received and the outward adopted. Carried.

Treasurer's Report.

Balance as at 25/8/93 \$551.38

Receipts

Subscriptions \$ 93.00

Room Rent Collection 10.10

Photocopying 22.90

134.00

134.00

685.38

Expenditure

Room Rent 12.50

Petty Cash 15.00

Incorporation Fees 19.00

47.40

47.40

Balance as at 22nd September 1993 \$637.98.

Julia Brown moved that the report be received seconded Gordon Davis Accounts of \$12.50 Room Rent and \$90 Magazine Postage were passed for payment on the motion of A. McCall and seconded by G. Davis Carried.

General Business. Outing reports were given on the Wildflower outing to Jolly's Falls by Desley McDonagh and Goomburra Forest. by Ray Marsden. 46 people enjoyed the trip to Goomburra, some doing the Cascade Trail others enjoying the creek at the camping area. Bird life was very good, there were a few wildflowers seen. The views from the lookouts were enjoyed by all.

Specimens. Rod had brought along some orchids in bloom, A giant snail shell from the forest was also on view.

Landcare. Brian McDonagh and Rob Harslett both gave interesting information on the Landcare outing to Mulgowan. This led to more information on landcare as exercised by various landholders in the area.

Next Outing. October 23/24th Camp out to Basket Swamp. Some people will set up camp on Friday evening. More information in the magazine.

October Programme. Will be given by Rod Hutchins entitled "National Parks of North America".

Year of Indigenous People. It was suggested that, in keeping with this theme we should endeavour to get a speaker of some tie-in topic. Left in the hands of the secretary to make arrangements.

Program. Gordon Davis presented an excellent program on the Goa section of India.. Vote of thanks was moved by Alyson McCall.

CAMP OUT OCTOBER 23/24

The Camp out to Basket Swamp will be led by Kris and Margaret Carnell. Directions to the camp site are as shown on the map. We will be setting up camp at the Basket Swamp picnic area on Friday evening.

Activities on both Saturday and Sunday will commence at 9 a.m. which will allow members to arrive in the morning if they wish.

On Saturday we will drive about 8 km to an area called The Desert which is well known for its wildflowers. After exploring the area we will walk through to the Basket Swamp Falls, a walk of about 6 km along a forestry road for most of the way. Scale of difficulty is about 3½.

Sunday's activities will centre around Basket Swamp Falls. We will drive to the falls with a short detour to the creek along the way.

After smoko we will explore a small creek that runs in from the north just above the falls. The walk will be more difficult than Saturday's with a scale of difficulty of about 7½. The gully is very picturesque and is good ground orchid country. Lunch will be carried. Those who do not want a more difficult walk will be able to explore the area between the two falls.

On both days there is plenty to investigate upstream and downstream from the campsite who want something to do before the main activities start. Sometimes Glossy Black Cockatoos can be seen feeding on casuarina nuts. they can be distinguished from the Red Tailed Black Cockatoos by their smaller size and the yellow feathers around the female's neck. New Holland Honeyeaters and Quail Thrush are seen in the area.

The road to Basket Swamp is classed as a dry weather road, so if we are lucky enough to have soaking rain by then alternative plans will have to be made. For further information please ring Kris on 835268, at 6.30 a.m or p.m.

