



NOVEMBER 1993
Vol. 253



THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST



Mr & Mrs R McCosker
Box 24
SEVERNLEA Q 4352



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.

Camp-Out to Basket Swamp 23rd & 24th October 1993

The weather looked threatening on Friday afternoon as we set out for Basket Swamp. We drove through a shower, but it was fine when we arrived. Among the first things we noticed were several Sun Orchids and Doubletails (*Diuris*). the *Diuris* appeared to be different from the ones at home, which I think are *D. aurea*. The *Grevellia* was blooming along the creek. Nine camps sprang up on Friday night, and we lit two fires - one for cooking and the other for keeping warm - we needed them both.

About 22 people drove towards The Desert on Saturday morning, including a few day visitors. Our first stop was by the roadside to investigate the *Dampiera*, and there we discovered a Potato Orchid (*Gastrodia sesamoides*). There was also a very busy ants' nest.

On arrival at The Desert we botanised along the road for a short time before having morning tea. There was a lot of *Boronia microphyllum* in bloom, *Hibbertia dentata*, *Helichrysum diosmifolium* (Wild Rice) *Pimelea linifolia* and *Dilwynnia retorta*. The *Isopogon petiolaris* (Drumsticks) and *Mirbelia rubifolia* caused quite a lot of interest as did *Ziera* some white and some pink.

A few Painted Lady butterflies flitted about and landed on the gravel, as well as a Meadow Argus or two, and there was a case moth with an unusual case covered with charcoal instead of leaves, which Neil discovered.

As we set off around a swampy area not far from the road Wellington Rock could be seen through a break in the trees. Two of us returned to the vehicles to return to camp and meet the walkers in the afternoon, while the remainder walked about four kilometres to the creek where they had lunch, then walked another two kilometres to Basket Swamp Falls where the drivers of the vehicles were ferried back to their cars. A few *Galeana major* (Flying Duck Orchids) were blooming at the bases of the Blackbutt trees.

Everyone started to walk back to camp instead of waiting to be picked up. Some people were very anxious to have a swim. Back at camp we noticed a Magpies' nest and a Wattle Bird's nest in the trees above our tent. No wonder the Magpies woke us up in the morning!

Sunday dawned bright and clear, but before long cloud came in and the air felt quite heavy. We drove towards Basket Swamp Falls, stopping off along the creek for a ramble among the rocks. We admired the *Eriostemon* and *Hibbertia*, as well as the Spotted Sun Orchids. In one place a bar of rock stopped the flow of the creek, which reappeared on the other side.

Thirteen people proceeded up the gully off Basket Swamp Creek, where they found *Cryptostylus* and *Lyperanthus suaveolens* (Brown Beaks) growing. There were some complaints about the prickly undergrowth but they all arrived safely back. The first we saw was what appeared to be a disembodied hat, which turned out to have Kris under it. A few of us botanised and lazed around the top of the falls while we waited, then went back to break camp. All in all it was a most satisfactory weekend.

Margaret Carnell

Flowers seen on Basket Swamp Camp-Out

Dilwynnia retorta	Pimelia linifolia
Helichrysum diosmifolium	Bauera rubiodes (dog rose)
Comesperma (matchsticks)	Epacris (white swamp heath)
Hibbertia (two varieties)	Eriostemon
Kunzea (purple)	Leucopogon
Goodenia hederacea	Goodenia (?)
Micromyrtus	Thelymitra ixioides (Spotted Sun Orchid)
Leptospermum	Dianella revoluta
Stypantra caespitosa	Acitonitus helianti (Flannel flower)
Boronia microphyllum	Purple Daisy
Banksia spinulosa	Stackhousia
Caltryx (Fringe myrtle)	Hybanthus monopetalus
Sheoak	Violet
Bearded orchid	Stylidium graminifolium (trigger plant)
Caleana major (Flying Ducks)	Olearia
Staghorn	Early Nancy
Billardiera scandens	Hybanthus monopetalus
Marianthus procumbens	Craspedia Uniflora (Billy Buttons)
Grevellia	Isopogon petiolaris
Zieria	Club Moss
Gompholobium latifolium (golden glory pea)	
Pultenea	Diuris (yellow and purple)
Cryptostylus	Scortichini
Mirbelia rubifolia	Billardia

I expect there were more flowers than these. I'm fairly sure there were more eggs and bacon type of peas, but these are the ones written down.

OLSEN'S CAVES

These privately owned caves are situated 15kms North of Rockhampton. The caves are above ground and dry limestone, set in beautiful bushland.

With great care and thoughtfulness the present owners have provided wheelchair access to the magnificent Cathedral Cave. The acoustics in this cave are extraordinary. Nobody volunteered to sing, so a tape of music was played. (I would have preferred Pavarotti). The artificial lighting in the caves is well sited and subdued.

At one point we disturbed a colony of Bentwing Bats. These bats are tiny- (13-17 gms adult weight) and a colony of 3,000 can roost on one square metre of rock surface. Adventure and night tours are available, but I took the more sedate option!

NEXT INSTALLMENT: The Awoonga Lake

Mary Walz

□□□□□

A bloke walks into a pub and asks for a schooner of less.

"Less?" says the barman, "what's that? Never heard of it. Is it one of them fancy new beers?"

"I dunno," says the bloke, "but me doctor says I gotta start drinking it".

November Outing - Mole River and Tenterfield Creek

The proposed itinerary for this outing is to depart Weeroona Park Stanthorpe at 9.00am, meet at the Wallangarra Lions Park, then continue 7km south and take the Sunnyside turnoff. At the Bruxner Highway turn right and after about 20km turn left at the signpost "Silent Grove", Mole River Station.

After crossing the Mole river turn right and continue on this road to the Six Mile Crossing where we will stop for smoko in the shade just downstream of the crossing. This is a delightful spot for young children to play in the shallow water so come prepared.

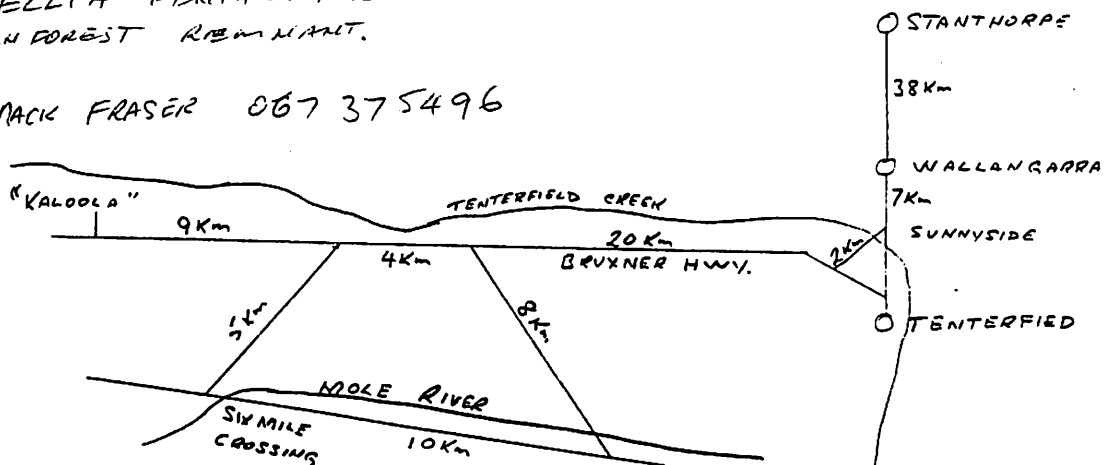
After morning tea we will drive up to Gibraltar Road to the Bruxner Highway, turn left then after a further 9km turn right into private property at the "Kaloola" mailbox on the left. We will drive into this property a short distance for a lunch stop with some remarkable views.

After lunch people with low clearance cars will have to transfer to other vehicles for the 4km drive across paddocks to the start of the walking track. This track, I rate at 6 follows a steep rocky gully to the Tenterfield Creek and Clifton Falls. We will spend some time exploring downstream and upstream (for the fitter members) as well as enjoying a swim in the large waterhole below the falls. This water hole is deep and clear and on the pre-outing we watched turtles, European carp and a platypus.

If anyone has any queries please ring me.
Rob McCosker 835371

CAPELLIA PENTASTYLIS
RAIN FOREST REMNANT.

MAC FRASER 067 375496



A country punter had been to every meeting in the district for years and had always bet with the same bookie. But never once in all that time had he won a single cent.

At the conclusion of yet another meeting and yet another string of losses by the punter, the bookie called him over. "Look, mate," said the bookie, "you're a good sport, and it's about time you had a win. I'll give you a real good chance".

Whereupon the bookie wrote varying amounts - \$5, \$100, \$2, \$10, \$50 - on a number of slips of paper, screwed them up and put them in his hat.

He shook the hat vigorously, then held it out to the punter.

"Go on mate," said the bookie "Take your pick....".

The punter rummaged in the hat, then pulled out a scrap of paper.

"Well?" said the bookie. "What's it say?"

And the punter said: "Akubra".

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC.
HELD AT 8pm ON WEDNESDAY October 27th 1993.

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

Present and Apologies Present 36 Apologies 10 as per attendance Book
Minutes: Neil Donges moved Mary Walters seconded that the minutes of the previous meeting as circulated be confirmed as a true record. Carried.

Correspondence; Inward: 1. Stanthorpe Shire Council Quart Pot Creek Scheme. 2. Subs John and Noelene Luck 3. Bank Statement. 4. Oasis Caloundra. 5. Toowoomba Bushwalkers. 6. Richmond Valley Nats Magazine October and November. 7. Darling Downs Naturalists. 8. Chinchilla Field Nats Magazines September and October. 9. Queensland Nats. November and December. 10. The Green Guide. 10. Senator John Coulter. Outward: 1 & 2 Broadcast notes to 4WK and 4QS October Outing. Ailsa Wilkinson moved Errol Walker seconded that the inward correspondence be received and the outward adopted. Carried. Jean Harslett spoke on the letter from the council. Kris Carnell moved Frank Wilkin seconded that the Shire Council be advised that the Club was in favour of the proposed scheme and that our representatives will be Mrs Jean Harslett and Mr Tom Archer. Carried.

Treasurer's Report;

Balance as at 22/9/93 \$637.98
Receipts - Subscriptions \$46.00 Rent Collection \$7.90
Expenditure Room Rent \$12.50 Magazine Postage \$90.00
Balance as at 27/10/93 \$589.38

Julia Brown moved the adoption of her statement and accounts of Room Rent \$10.00 and Photocopy Labels \$3.50 be passed for payment. Seconded Jean Harslett. Carried.

Welcome. A special welcome was issued to Joan Wilde of Allora.

General Business: Kris Carnell presented a short outing report from the camp-out. With people coming and going it was hard to get a total, two exchange students joined the gathering. Full report in the magazine.

Specimens: Mary Walters brought in an antler found by Audrey Ridge near their property at Glen Aplin. Kris Carnell spoke on the white butterflies seen, all flying to the north. Jean Harslett spoke further on this topic. Lincoln McPhee spoke on the New England Blackbutt seen on the outing to Basket Swamp. Brian McDonagh said that he had seen a White Breasted Sea Eagle on his Lyra property within the last week.

Next Outing: Leader Rob McCosker said that he had not been able to do a pre-outing but would aim to leave Weeroona Park at 9am, those wishing could join the group at Wallangarra Lions Park at 9.30am. The outing would be mostly driving and lunch will be at the cars, destination the Mole River near Tenterfield, date 21st. Desley McDonagh advised the meeting that she was going to Gibraltar National Park on November 11 at 7am returning Saturday 13th. She will be accompanied by Leila Hermanssen and others are welcome to join in.

Next Meeting: Desley McDonagh will present a programme on 'Australia's Flora' showing some of her late father's slides as well as her own. This meeting is Wednesday November 24.

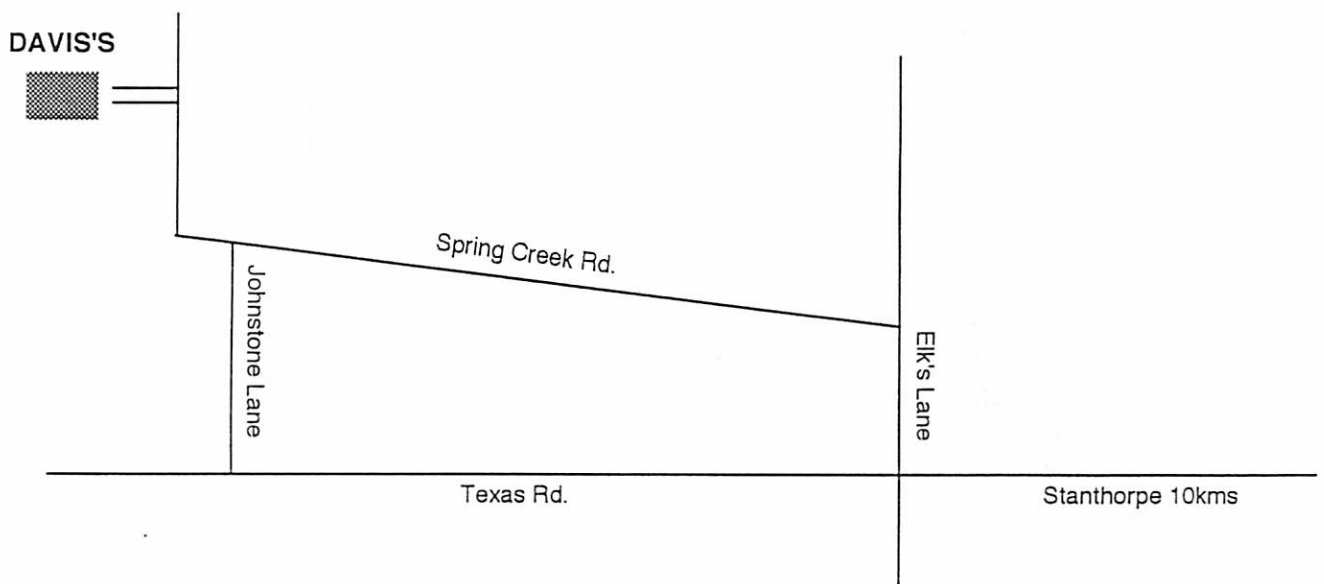
Programme. Rod Hutchin showed slides and gave an informative talk on his recent visit to the west coast of the United States. His photography was superb and all enjoyed the programme. A vote of thanks was moved by Lincoln McPhee and carried by acclamation. The meeting was then closed.

Season's Greetings

It's hard to believe it's almost that time of the year again, where does time go.

*And because it is that time of the year, we start thinking about Christmas Breakups,
S and this years Nats Club breakup is to be held at the home of Gordon and Noor Davis.*

For people unfamiliar as to where Gordon and Noor reside
this map might be of some assistance



The plan for the day is for people to start arriving at 3.00pm. At 3.30pm Gordon and Noor will then take us for about an hours walk on their property to different points of interest.

B.B.Q. will start at 5.00pm onwards

Please bring everything you will need - Barbeques, Tables/ Chairs, Food/ Drink.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL THERE!

DECEMBER 12TH, 1993



**STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB INC.
MEMBERSHIP LIST 1993/94**

Bingley Mr D.
Brown Ms Julia
Beddow Mr & Mrs N.
Carnell Mr & Mrs K.
Chapman Mr & Mrs T.
Compton Miss M.
Colley Mr & Mrs H.
Clarke Mr & Mrs B.
Crawford Ms N.
Dale Mr E.
Davis Mr & Mrs G.
Deutscher Mr & Mrs J.
Donges Mrs N.
Dodd Mr & Mrs B.
Fels Mrs P.
Fletcher Mr. R.
Franklin Mr & Mrs H.
Geeves Mr J. and Thomas M.
Gibson Mr & Mrs H. & A.
Hartman H.
Harslett Mr & Mrs A.
Hermanssen Mrs L.
Hockings Mr & Mrs C.
Hodgson Mrs N.
Holley Mrs D.
Hutchin Mr R.
Harle Ms A.
James Mr & Mrs F.
Kenna J. & S.
Kerr Mr P.
Kuenstner Ms J.
Kruger Mr & Mrs L.
Langdon Mr & Mrs P.
Luck Mr & Mrs J.
Marsden Mr & Mrs R.
Moulds Mr M.
Murray Mr T.

Murphy Mr & Mrs J.
Murchie Mr G.
Mallon Mr & Mrs B.
McCosker Mrs D.
McCosker Mr & Mrs R.
McCulloch Mrs E.
McDonagh Mr & Mrs B.
McDonagh Miss D.
McCall Miss A.
McPhee Mr L.
Neale Mrs H.
Newman Mrs Z.
Naylor C. & Vaisey J.
Paskin Mrs J.
Paulsen Mrs I.
Power Mr & Mrs P.
Prentice Mrs M.
Reilly P. & Richardson V.
Rigden Mr D.
Ridge Mr & Mrs J.
Seaby Mr & Mrs K.
Simpson Mr F.
Spence Mrs D.
Spiller Mr T.
Smith Mrs J.
Stevenson Mr & Mrs H.
Thompson Mr & Mrs L.
Thompson Ms S.
Taylor M.
Vievers Mrs C.
Walker Mr & Mrs E.
Walters Mrs M.
Werner Mr & Mrs R.
White Mrs V.
Wilkinson Mr & Mrs F.
Wilson Mr D.
Wallace J.

**IF ANYONE IS MISSING FROM THIS LIST OR YOU ARE WRITTEN DOWN INCORRECTLY
PLEASE LET US KNOW**

REMEMBER THIS DATE - REMEMBER THIS DATE - REMEMBER THIS DATE

JANUARY '94 OUTING

The outing for January is to be led by Ray Marsden to the Braeside area on McCorqudale's property.
We will be leaving from Weerona Park on January the 23rd at 9.00a.m.
Deep gorge and spectacular views are promised.