



FEBRUARY 1994  
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# THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST



Mr & Mrs H. Colley  
6 Pierpoint Street  
STANTHORPE Q 4380



POST EARLY  
AND speed  
YOUR MAIL



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.

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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	Rob McCosker	83 5371
Vice-Presidents	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.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 24/11/93 - following the November Meeting in the CWA rooms, Stanthorpe.

Present :- Alyson McCall, Julia Brown, Rob McCosker & Desley McDonagh.

Apology :- Millie Marsden.

Business:-

1. The Financial Report as adopted in the November general meeting minutes was confirmed.
2. Cost of Postage for magazine - This matter discussed during the general meeting was further discussed and the arrangements for picking magazines up from the Post Office were confirmed with the Magazine Committee.
3. Grant Application from Dept of Environment & Heritage - Desley McDonagh will enquire into the cost of a projector stand and a good quality screen for use by members.

The Management Committee meeting then closed.

### **NOTES FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT.**

I have just found out why Vice - Presidents are elected. Since Allison McCall has been promoted to the position of Post Master at St. George yours truly has taken up the opportunity to fill the position as President for the remaining Year. Wish me luck, and best wishes to you All.

My first task came in January when the scheduled outing had to be put off due to the leader's ill health and a replacement had to be found. This challenge was taken up by Brian Dodd, who organised the outing at very short notice to the Maryland River Gorge on Dick and Jan Bonner's property. My sincere thanks to you Brian and Noela for your efforts for a most successful outing.

#### **Notice of motion:-**

After a discussion with Gordon Davis the following motion is to be put at the next meeting, please feel free to come along and air your views.

"To create within the Stanthorpe Field Naturalists' Club Incorporated a group called "Learning For Pleasure" to be open to all members under the leadership of one person elected as a committee member for that purpose, that is co-ordinate activities of the University of the Third Age to promote learning together in small Adult Education groups".

### **CHRISTMAS PARTY AT DAVIS'S**

About fifty members joined on the 1993 Christmas get together held this year at the home of Noor & Gordon Davis on December 12th.

Exploring the hilly property for an hour or so we speculated on the cause of bleached patches on exposed rock faces and noted the many fig trees growing on the highest rock pile.

In the garden a newly landscaped barbecue fire pit was christened by John Davies, Gordons visitor from England whose forced labour had helped create it a few days earlier.

Singing around the fire was led by two more Johns, one on guitar and one on harmonica and covered a wide range of songs until the party broke up about 9pm.

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**LAKE AWOONGA** is situated 8 km West of the Bruce Highway near Gladstone. Mt. Castletower National Park is adjacent, and these "mountains" provide a spectacular backdrop to the lake. It is intended to link the lake with the National Park. Apart from the usual activities on the water, there are many lakeside walking trails and the birdlife is spectacular. There is an excellent caravan park. Lake Awoonga is a well Known venue for photographers.

*Mary Walters*

MINUTES OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC. HELD IN THE CWA ROOMS  
STANTHORPE ON WEDNESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 1993.

Opening :- Chairman Alyson McCall, in declaring the meeting open, welcomed all present.

Present and Apologies :- as per attendance book.

Minutes :- The minutes of the October meeting were confirmed on a motion moved by Rob McCosker, seconded by Julie Beddow and carried.

Correspondence :-

Inward :- 1. Environment & Heritage Review from Minister for Environment and Heritage. 2. Telecom Advertisement. 3. Urimbirra - Chinchilla Field Nats Journal November 1993. 4. Wild Country Safaris New & Program for 1994. 5. Footprint - T'wba Bushwalkers Club Magazine November 1993. 6. Sub - Bob & Sandy Amos. 7. The Darling Downs Naturalist - November 1993. 8. Invitation to put in Submission for funds from Dept of Environment & Heritage.

Outward :- 1. Round the Ridges & 2. Community Billboards - notes for broadcast 3. S.W. Courtney, Shire Office - Quart Pot Creek proposal.

It was moved by Desley McDonagh and seconded by Rod Hutchin that the inward correspondence be received and the outward adopted. Carried.

Treasurer's Report :-

Financial Report for 27/10/93 - 24/11/93

Balance as at 27/10/93 \$598.38c

Receipts

Subscriptions	\$31.00	
Room Rent Collection	15.30	
	<u>46.30</u>	<u>46.30</u>
		<u>\$635.68</u>

Expenditure

Room Rent	10.00	
Magazine Postage		
Photocopy labels	<u>3.50</u>	
	<u>13.50</u>	<u>13.50</u>
		<u>\$622.18</u>

Balance as at 24/11/93 \$622.18

Julia Brown moved and May Prentice seconded the adoption of the report and the following accounts be passed for payment - Room Rent \$10.00; Magazine Postage \$90.00. Carried.

Outing Report.

Rob McCosker presented a report on the outing to the Mole River Crossing and the falls on Tenterfield Creek. There were 55 people attending and the outing had been a good one.

Ray Marsden advised the he would not be able to lead the planned outing in January and that someone needs to be available to lead an outing in January. The Executive will make these arrangements.

General Business

Christmas Party - 12th December at Gordon & Noor Davis' home. Information was in the magazine.

Magazine Postage costs - because of increase in this cost, members were encouraged to advise the magazine committee if they could pick up their magazines at the Post Office.

There is also a need for the magazine to be posted earlier to those members on Mail Service Routes out of town. This matter will be looked into.

Specimens :- Desley McDonagh brought prints taken at the Mole River Outing including one of the boys jumping from the rock wall into the waterhole.

Programme :- Desley McDonagh showed slides of Australian Flora taken by her late father, and by herself in many places around Australia. These were arranged in botanical classes and showed some of the beauty of our magnificent native flora. Alyson McCall moved the vote of thanks carried by acclamation. The meeting was then closed.

## OUTING REPORT - MARYLAND RIVER CROSSING

Forty-two people attended the Stanthorpe Field Naturalists' outing on the 23rd January. Location was the Maryland River crossing on Dick Bonner's property, Burrenbar,, approximately 30 kilometres away in New South Wales via Amosfield gate and Mt. Lindsay Road. After the ritualistic morning tea, nearly everyone set off to follow the river upstream for approximately one mile where the river wends its way through a gorge. As the river bed was dry, progress was easy apart from odd entanglements with the ever present blackthorn (*Bursaria spinosa*). The McCosker boys scrambled up the dominant overhanging rock feature from which two dogs bailing up a wallaby had all plunged to their doom some years back. There were some small pools among the granite rock bars in which the children were able to do some limited swimming. After some exploring around the gorge entrance the party returned to the road crossing, a few by the creek, most by the overland route. Lunch was taken in a very pleasant grassy grove and we were joined by Dick and Jan Bonner. Afterwards, cars returned home either through Amosfield or through Maryland Station and The Summit.

At the crossing, we were inspected by seven yellow-tailed black cockatoos. A large wedge-tailed eagle's nest was seen fifteen metres high above the river. Odd eastern rosellas were noted during the day.

Some botanical points of interest sighted included:-

*Acacia implexa* (Lightwood) - summer flowering white wattle widely distributed.

*Isotoma anethifolia* - this is an off-white to pink irregular shaped solitary headed flower which occurs throughout the Stanthorpe district in damp crevices in rocky areas. The roots contain an alkaloid which can cause temporary eye problems through contact.

*Ludwigia peploides* (Water Primrose) - sprawling herb with yellow flowers where walkers first crossed stream.

*Dendrobium linguiforme* (Tongue Orchid) - on the creek boulders.

*Crotalaria* sp. (Rattle Pod) - yellow flowering shrub, common on the walk back through property.

*Tweedia coerulea* - small shrub with blue flowers. A native of Central and South America which has become naturalised in the area.

**Brian Dodd**

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## NEXT OUTING - Falls on Wylie Creek 20 - 2 - 94

Vehicles will leave Weeroona Park at 9.00. They will be led by Leila Hermansen to Ralph Fletcher's place at Liston on the Mount Lindsay Road where we will pick up those coming via Sugarloaf Road and those coming from Warwick wishing to come via the Cullendore Road at about 9.30am.

We will then proceed to the "Milford" property for morning tea on the banks of Wylie Creek. Unfortunately there is no running water in it at the present time.

Ralph will then lead the walkers down along the creek for about 2kms to the falls where we will have lunch. We will be back pack our food and water.

Those not wishing to walk may take their vehicles, led by Leila, to neat the top of the falls. The last 50m down to the falls is reasonably steep but can be negotiated with care. Hopefully some rain will get the falls on action for us, otherwise we will have to use our imagination.

**Leila & Ralph**



## 'BASKET CASE' AT BASKET SWAMP

or

The evening after the campout.

My bones ache, my legs don't want to go much further.  
My knees are reminding me that  
I really didn't need to slide down that slippery, sandy, slope.  
Climbing that steep hill seemed a good idea at the time,  
And, no doubt, was very good for my fitness and health.  
Some of my muscles are reminding me that they don't get used often enough.  
'Arthritis' has reared his ugly, painful head again,  
But I walked the whole way and the aches and pains will pass and be forgotten.

BUT

My senses and my spirit rejoice,  
And my heart sings because I still see  
Those flowers, that garden of beauty.  
I sense the magnificent display of  
Colour and shape, perfume and form -  
Boronia, bauera, eriostramon, calytrix, kunzea, grevillea, erica,  
And the list goes on -  
And this beauty is FREE -  
Free for me to enjoy, admire and absorb.  
Surrounded by peace and beauty and the magic of flowers.  
I am walking through a garden, a garden hectares in area  
That I didn't have to weed, water or mow.

When the aches and pains are forgotten,  
And when the muscles, bones, and knees  
Can no longer make the walk through such beauty  
Then -

EVEN THEN .

My heart will remember with pleasure;  
This magnificent display will still be remembered;  
This beauty that surrounded me today  
Will not be forgotten -  
And, when remembered,  
My heart will sing the same song again.

AND .

My senses and spirit will rejoice  
As they walk again through the peace, beauty and magic of  
This magnificent natural garden.

Desley McDonagh

October 1993.

What is this life if, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare

No time to stand beneath the boughs  
And stare as long as sheep and cows

No time to see, in broad daylight,  
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.

No time to turn at Beauty's glance  
And watch her feet, how they can dance

No time to wait till her mouth can  
Enrich that smile her eyes began.

A poor life this if, full of care  
We have no time to stand and stare

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*This sums up, to me, what it feels like to be retired  
and a member of the Field Nats.*

*Audrey Ridge*

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## **CAMP-OUT ROCKY RIVER MARCH 19 - 20**

Just a few details about the camp to be held in March. We will be heading South to Tenterfield, then along the Bruxner Highway and then turning into the Rocky River Road. A scenic trip by car to our camp-site on what hopefully will be a creek. Walks up and down the creek and lazing about until tea. Sunday morning will involve a short walk to an old shepherds hut with some very interesting articles from long ago still inside. Leaving camp after lunch another interesting drive back to Tenterfield and then home. Permission for the camp is still to be had from land owner depending on rainfall in the area.

Geoff Walker - leader  
Ph: (076) 81 2008

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I am receiving a good response to my request for stories to be used in the magazine.  
Thankyou to all who have contributed so far and keep them coming, it makes good reading.

*Thankyou to this months contributors to the magazine:-*

Mary Walters, Audrey Ridge, Errol Walker, Desley McDonagh

**Ed.**