



APRIL 1994
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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	Rob McCosker	83 5371
Vice-Presidents	Desley McDonagh	81 3074
	Mary Walters	83 5306
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.

TRIP REPORT ROCKY RIVER CAMPOUT

A perfect day greeted us for our campout at Rocky River east of Tenterfield. To be more correct, we actually travelled along the Rocky River Rd and camped on the Timbarra River.

Nine cars meet at Weeroona Park for our nine o'clock departure for Tenterfield, where we met with three other cars and had smoko at Rotary park. Total attendance for the trip was 20 people. We then made our way along the Bruxner highway to Drake where we turned off to the right into Long Gully Rd. Following this road we were treated to spectacular rainforest with huge palms to deep mountainous river country with everything lush and green following recent rain.

We had lunch ~~under~~ along the road sitting under huge trees overlooking the river. We then progressed along crossing many small floodways and having to push the occasional bull out of the way who thought he owned the road. We made it to camp at 3.30pm where Errol and Annette Walker were waiting. Unfortunately we had to say good-bye to Fred at the turn-off to camp as he was feeling a bit off colour, with Lincoln taking him home. Before long we had converted the bank of the river into tent city with three couples boasting campervans with everything but a microwave, hang on, one camper even had one of those.

That night we all sat around the campfire with Ray and Millie Marsden doing the usual fine job and producing a top class damper.

Next morning we headed off for our walk to the Shepard's hut. Leaving at nine o'clock everyone took shoes off to cross the river before we could leave for our walk. No-one provided any entertainment by going for an unexpected swim. Following cow tracks we arrived at the hut after walking for about an hour. Hanging outside was an old saddle, rabbit traps, rolls of wire and a pair of boots. Inside, cleverly made stools, canvas chair, meat hanger, calendar of 1927 in surprisingly good condition and items of clothing. Also of interest were old food containers including an unopened tin of spaghetti with a use by date of 1930.

After lunch and packing up camp we headed for home. I considered this to be a great weekend away with the weather being on our side making for a top weekend.

Geoff Walker

NEXT OUTING SUNDAY APRIL 24

The Club's next outing will be to Hell Hole Gorge, east of Warwick where there are two options.

1. An easy walk on a track through the gorge and return. This outing is graded as a number 3 and will take approximately 2 hours.
2. A steep climb on to and a walk along the cliff tops, from where there are great views and return via the track. This walk is graded as a number 8 and will take approximately 3 hours.

For the agile, there could be another scramble after a late lunch back near the vehicles. As this is a long weekend arrangements could be made to camp if required. Please contact me if you want this option.

We leave Weeroona Park at 8.00 am on April 24, picking up any Warwick people at Jacky Howe Park at 8.50 am. Smoko on the banks of Swan Creek at the start of the walks. Hopefully there will be a good flow of water. I regret I'm unable to offer an alternative in the event of wet weather.

People wanting any further information can contact me on 61 1818

Peter Kerr

MINUTES OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB INC. HELD IN THE
QCWA ROOMS AT 8pm on MARCH 23, 1994.

Opening: President Rob McCosker opened the meeting and welcomed all present including a visitor from Warwick, Diane Jones.

Attendance and Apologies: as per attendance book.

Minutes: Mary Walters moved, Gordon Davis seconded that the minutes of the February meeting be accepted as a true record. Carried.

Correspondence: Inward 1. Canberra Two Day Walk Committee.

2. Nancy Fairy - copy of programme.

3. Darling Downs Naturalist

4. Richmond Valley Naturalists

5. Anglesea Field Studies

6. Victorian Field Naturalists Club Questionnaire.

7. Queensland Naturalist Club News

8. Footprints - Toowoomba Bush Walkers

9. Urimbirra Chipchilla Field Naturalists

10. Gordon Davis 5 pro rata subs @ \$4

11. Peter Kerr Outing report for April

Outward: 1. Information to radio stations. 2. Thanks to Bonners.

It was moved by Frank Wilkinson that the inward correspondence be received and the outward adopted. Seconded Geoff Walker. Carried.

Business Arising. An outing list to be forwarded to Mrs Fairy of Glen Innes as requested with a view to having joint outings.

FINANCIAL REPORT. Treasurer Julia Brown presented the following financial statements. Statement as at 23/2/1994.

Balance as at 24/11/93 \$622.18

Receipts.

Subscriptions	\$23.00	
Room Rent Collection	11.65	
	34.65	34.65
		\$ 656.73

Expenditure

Room Rent	\$10.00	
Magazine Postage	90.00	
Matrix	28.00	
Commercial Union	108.34	
	\$236.34	\$ 236.34
		420.39.

Balance as at 23/2/94 \$420.39

<u>Receipts</u>	Rent Collection \$11.00	11.00
		\$ 431.39

Expenditure---

Room Rent	10.00	
Petty Cash	15.00	
	\$ 25.00	\$25.00

Balance as at 23/3/1994 \$406.39.

Accounts to be passed for payment Magazine postage \$90.00

Julia Brown moved the adoption of the statements and this was seconded by Kris Carnell. Carried.

M. Marsden moved A. Wilkinson seconded that the action of J. Brown in paying the accounts which became due during recess \$108.34 to Commercial Union Ins. and Matrix Office Systems \$28.00 be ratified.

Carried.

Outing Report. Leader Geoff Walker reported on the outing to Petries. Nine cars left Weeroona Park and were joined by another three in Tenterfie.

Twenty people were in camp by 3.30pm after travelling through some wonderful countryside. Sunday walk to the shepherd's hut was completed and enjoyed by all present. Geoff asked for a letter of thanks to be forwarded to the Petrie family for their kindness in allowing the camp to be held on their property.

Next Outing . Peter Kerr forwarded the details of the outing to Hell Hole Gorge east of Warwick on April 24. Two options, one a grade 3 walk of two hours and the other a grade 8 three hour walk. Peter says arrangements can be made to camp if people would require this, as it is a long weekend. Commencing time from Weeroona park 8am on April 24, meet in Warwick's Jacky Howe Park at 8.50am.

Next Programme. Is in the capable hands of Narelle Crawford and is titled "The Simpson Desert".

Specimens. Mary Walters brought along an interesting piece of amber, with insects imbedded, made into a striking pendant.

General Business. The president brought to the notice of the meeting that a second vice president was needed now that he had assumed presidency of the Club. Nominations were therefore called for the position. Noor Davis nominated Mary Walters. There were no further nominations and Mary accepted the position.

Management Committee Meeting. This is to be held in the home of Desley McDonagh, Pierpoint Street at 6.30pm on Wednesday March 30. The meeting closed at 8.30pm after which a slide show on a recent visit to Tasmania was shown by Ray Marsden. This was enjoyed by all present and a vote of thanks was moved by Rob McCosker and carried in the usual manner.

LEARNING FOR PLEASURE

"It's never too late to learn"

How often have you said it?
How often have you heard it?
Do you believe it?

"If you don't use it, lose it"

There's another old favourite, graphically updated by recent claims that aging humans are less likely to deteriorate mentally if they exercise their brains.

Most of us get our brain exercise through hobbies, reading and playing "thinking games" like chess, bridge & scrabble.

Now we also have "Learning for Pleasure". If you have the urge to break new ground mentally, learn a new game, classify eucalypts, speak another language, study astronomy (or anything else!) and don't want to do it alone, all you have to do is put a note about it in the Field Nats Newsletter seeking companions to study with you.

All you need is two or three like-minded people and some motivation.

Currently there are the following study groups.

1. **French Conversation** - helps its members improve the French they learnt at school.
2. **Ancient History** - looking at the origins of civilisation.
3. **Current Affairs** - a chance to chat over news items and exchange viewpoints.
4. **Italian Conversation** - learn to speak Italian.

Attendance is free and open to all Field Nats members.

**For more information call
Gordon Davis 83 6294**

LEARNING FOR PLEASURE

Current Affairs - next meeting 10am on 20th April at Jean Chauvel's home.
Please contact Mary Walters on 83 5306

THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT

Is the earth getting warmer? We in Stanthorpe in July may not believe it, but many scientists believe it is because on insulating blanket of methane, carbon dioxide and water vapour has built up around the planet, allowing the sun's heat in and trapping it, like a greenhouse. Try answering these questions.

1. Methane is a better insulator than carbon dioxide. How many times better?
3 times / 30 times / 300 times.
2. The main sources of methane on earth are?
domestic animals / rice paddies / rubbish dumps / all of these.
3. Recent research shows that one cow emits in one day how many litres of methane?
5 / 50 / 500
4. Feeding cows on high quality diet can reduce methane emission by
5 times / 10 times / 20 times.
5. How many domestic grazing animals are there on planet Earth?
25 million / 250 million / 2500 million.

ANSWERS

1. 30 times
2. all of these
3. 500 litres
4. 5 times
5. 2500 million

CAMP COOKING IDEAS

JAFFLE FILLING SUGGESTIONS

Egg, bacon and cheese
Ham, cheese and sweetcorn
Baked beans, spaghetti, cheese, etc
Savoury mince
Ham, cheese, tomato and onion
Ham and Pineapple

BREAKFAST GRIDDLE CAKES

Makes 18 - 20 pancakes

2 cups pancake and pikelet mix

1 1/2 cups water

1 cup finely chopped ham, or 1 cup drained canned blueberries or 310g can whole kernel corn, drained.

Butter or margarine

Honey or maple flavoured syrup, optional

In a bowl combine, pancake and pikelet mix, water and ham, berries or corn. Using two tablespoons of batter for each, cook pancakes over moderate heat on oiled griddle or frying pan.

Serve hot with butter or margarine, and honey or syrup, if desired.