



MAY 1994
Vol. 259



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.

OUTING REPORT HELLHOLE GORGE 24/4/94

Another beautiful day for an outing. Those from Stanthorpe got away to an early start to join the Warwick at Jackie Howe Park, then travelling east via Swan Creek, Yangan and Swanfels to the junction of Hellhole and Swan Creeks for morning tea. After crossing the creek, the group of 40 split up. 15 to walk through the gorge while 25 laboured up a steep ridge to the clifftops, which offered a view of cars below, the valley floor and around the horizon, Sentinel Peak, Mts Asplenium, Huntley and Doubletop.

Moving eastwards on flatter ground, other vantage points look back down the valley to Yangan and beyond, into parts of the gorge and after a testing rock scramble, the best pinnacle overlooks the grassy flats of Hellhole Creek, with Doubletop rising sharply above and Spicers Peak to the left. A precipitous scramble down a rock strewn gully had its moment of drama as a large rock was dislodged and bounded downhill, fortunately well clear of anyone and the level ground was a relief to most. An old plough attracted considerable interest and comment on the tenacity of people to get it into a place so difficult of access.

The promise of a late lunch by now being well and truly fulfilled, people stepped out pretty willingly along the track into the north wall of the gorge, gaining some elevation to give a view of the opposite flat, slanting wall and the unfortunately small trickle of water along the base of the cliffs. Several people clambered down the rocky chute of a gully for a closer look at some pools and waterfall while the hungrier pressed on for the cars and lunch. This was enjoyed with the exchange of experiences of those who walked the gorge track and scrambled along the creek. Afterwards, with a fair drive in front for most people, we packed up and headed homewards.

Peter Curr

NEXT OUTING - SUNDAY MAY 22

Leaders: Errol Walker and Col Hockings.

The next outing is to Glen Lyon Dam, with a walk to Texas Caves and hopefully a look underground.

With the water capacity of the dam at less than 8%, we thought it an excellent opportunity to renew acquaintances with the caves, with which many members were familiar, before they were inundated about 20 years ago.

Departure time from Weeroona Park is **8:00am**. We will then reassemble at about 9:00 at the picnic area adjacent to the high and dry boat ramp at Glen Lyon. After morning tea the walk will commence.

The **GRADE 7** walk takes about **1.5 hours** each way. We will carry lunch and drinking water.

Those members who have boats or canoes are most welcome to take them.

Some members may wish to camp on Saturday night in the Glen Lyon Dam Tourist Park. Phone: (067) 375266.

If you feel adventurous, bring a **torch**.

I am sure none of us would be too disappointed should this outing have to be postponed for another 20 years due to heavy rains.

MINUTES OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC. MEETING
HELD IN THE Q.C.W.A. ROOMS AT 8pm ON APRIL 27th, 1994.

Opening. President Rob McCosker opened the meeting and welcomed all present including a visitor Roger Logan.

Attendance 33 Apologies 8 as per attendance book.

Minutes. It was moved by Frank Wilkinson seconded Esme Colley that the minutes of the March meeting be accepted as a true record. Carried.

Correspondence. Inward:- 1. Richmond Valley Nats 2. Toowoomba Bush Walker 3. Darling Downs Nats - April/May 4. Chinchilli Nats 5. Jean Harslett thanks 6. Australia Post receipt 7. Commonwealth Bank Statement 8. Matrix Office Systems A/c 9. Peter Kerr outing report 10. Senator Coulter 11. Minister for Environment and Heritage 12. Information Australia. Outward. 1. Round the Ridges April Outing 2. Community Billboard April Outing 3. Petrie - thanks for March camp out 4. Mrs Fairy Glen Innes Information sheet 5. Directory of Australia info.

It was moved by Herb Colley seconded Patience James that the inward correspondence be received and the outward adopted. Carried.

Financial Statement. Treasurer Julia Brown presented the following financial statement: Balance as at March 23, 1994 \$406.49. Receipts Subscriptions \$32 Room Rent Collection \$10 total \$42.00 Expenditure Room Rent \$10, Magazine Postage \$90, Post Box Rental \$39 FGT\$2.35 Total \$141.35. Balance as at April 27, 1994 \$307.14. Accounts listed for payment Room Rent \$10, Matrix Office Systems account \$28 Geoff Walker Petty Cash \$15.90. Julia Brown moved the adoption of the statement and that the accounts be passed for payment. Seconded Ailsa Wilkinson. Carried.

Outing Report. The outing report for the April visit to Hellhole Gorge was sent in by leader Peter Kerr and read by Rob McCosker. 40 people attended the outing and split into two groups, one to walk through the gorge the other climbed up a steep gorge to the cliff tops. Views of Sentinel Peak, Mt. Asphenium, Mt. Hunley and Doubletop and Spicers Peak were seen. Grand views of the valley. Several people clambered down the rocky chute of a gully for a closer look at the pools and waterfall in the narrow rock gorge.

Specimens. Some rocks gleaned on the outing were shown and David spoke on the geology content. He has been persuaded to write an article for the magazine on this aspect. Brian McDonagh brought along a pine case head which had been pulverised by a grub of some sort. This was the only board in a large pile to be so affected.

Next Outing. Scheduled to be Kitchen Caves in Girraween with leader Bill Goebel It was suggested that as Glenlyon Dam is now 8% capacity and the Glenlyon Caves are now exposed, after being submerged for about 20 years, this could be an ideal time to re-visit these caves. Should rain fall in the meantime this opportunity will be lost, perhaps for all time. Bill Goebel is happy to lead to Kitchen Caves on another date. May outing will therefore be to Glenlyon Caves on May 22 with leaders Colin Hocking and Errol Walker.

Next Programme. This will also be changed as Mary Walters will not be here to present the programme on May 25 on South Africa. Herb and Esme Colley will present a programme on their recent trip to West Australia, across the Nullabor.

General Business. The June outing to Woody Head on June 11/13 was discussed. A pre outing has been done by Fred Simpson and Lincoln McPhee, driving time approx. 4 hours, 230kms Group Bookings available, Ranger will accompany on a walk if required. Deposit of \$100 required to book the group camping area. It was moved by Kris Carnell seconded Desley McDonagh that a cheque for the booking be forwarded. Carried

minutes cont.

Gordon Davis spoke on the Camera club exhibition at the Art Gallery and urged members not to miss the opportunity of seeing the nature photographs from the London Exhibition as well as the Stanthorpe historical content of the exhibition.

A liaison officer was needed from the Learning for Pleasure section of the club to be on the Management Committee. It was moved by Kris Carnell seconded by Gordon Davis that Mary Walters be that officer. Mary accepted the nomination and was elected to the position. Programme. The programme for the evening was presented by Narelle Crawford on The Simpson Trip. Narelle was introduced by Rob and presented a wonderful programme which was enjoyed by all present and appreciation was shown in the usual manner. The meeting was closed and members took the opportunity to discuss with Narelle further aspects of her trip.

WOODY HEAD PRE-OUTING

JUNE LONG WEEK-END 11th, 12th and 13th

1. Woody Head is approximately 230km via Casino, Coraki, Woodburn, then south on Pacific Highway to Woody Head turnoff - approximately 4 hours easy drive.
2. Good stop for morning tea, 2 hours out. Bonalbo, turnoffwood carving at rest area.
3. Woody Head is protected from S E wind and well appointed with very modern facilities.
4. Group bookings available, large sheltered BBQ area. Cost - \$100 for the first 20 people, \$2.00 each over 20.

Hut accommodates 4 - \$40 a night

Cottage accommodates 8 - \$60 a night

5 Suggested Outings

- (a) Rock pools with guide, ranger from National Parks
- (b) 4 Wheel Drive trip up to Black Rock and back via Jerusalem Creek
- (c) 5km walk to rainforest and Iluka ...p.u. by motor car at Iluka. 1/10 walk
- (d) Rock fishing in front

Deposit of \$100 is required as soon as possible

SUNDAY 12TH

Ranger will be available on Sunday for a 1/2 day tour of foreshore but at a cost of about \$5 a head for a group of about 15 - 20 to be paid after the tour (group discount for family)

Ranger - Ph:(066) 42 0613

Bundjalung National Park

Woody Head Camping Area - Ph:(066) 46 6134

For any further information please contact either Lincoln McPhee or Fred Simpson

Long-Winded Proverbs

Here are some well-known proverbs and phrases we all know but with the simple words replaced with long-winded alternatives we might not all know. The answers to these proverbs will appear in next month's magazine.

1. Scintillate, scintillate, asteroid minifis.

2. Members of an avian species of identical plumage tend to congregate.

3. Surveillance should precede salientation.

4. It is fruitless to become lachrymose over precipitately departed lacteal fluid.

5. It is fruitless to attempt to indoctrinate a superannuated canine with innovative manoeuvres.

6. Where there are visible vapours in ignited carbonaceous materials, there is conflagration.

7. A plethora of individuals with expertise in culinary techniques vitiate the potable concoction produced by steeping certain comestibles.

8. A revolving lithic conglomerate accumulates no congeries of a small green bryophytic.

* * *

My apologies for the quality of the magazine, especially the cover, this month. After a hard workout over three days for the photographic salon the photocopier is not feeling quite right with the automatic setting printing way to dark. A well deserved service might be in order.