

AUGUST 1994
Vol. 262



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	Kris Carnell	83 5268
	Mary Walters	83 5306
Secretary	Margaret Carnell	83 5268
Treasurer	Roger Logan	81 2493
Newsletter Editor	Geoff Walker	81 2008
Newsletter Sub-Committee	Julie Beddow & Patience James	
Publicity Officer	Patience James	81 1853
Librarian	Trish McCosker	83 5371
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 24th July, 1994

Leader Kris Carnell

For our Environment Day outing about 24 members of the Stanthorpe Field Nats Club met at the Red Bridge area. The main activity of the day was the painting of the Little Red Bridge. This bridge was constructed by trainees under the L.E.A.P. scheme as part of the new walking tracks, running east from the new Granite Street bridge.

The members spent a considerable amount of time removing sawdust and shavings from between the planks in preparation for painting. As the most effective way of removing these from around the bolts, was by blowing, spectators were entertained by the sight of Nats huffing at each other across the bridge. Harry went home to procure several brooms to help with the cleaning, and Bob did a mighty job with one of these. A coat of paint was applied before lunch and another in the early afternoon.

While the painting was being done some members gathered a truckload of brush to lay over some of the old paths to be reclaimed, and another group started gathering rubbish. Several bags of glass and bottles were taken to the red shed for recycling and the industrial bin was partly filled with garbage. Some of the more interesting pieces of rubbish were a frypan and the top of a spirit stove which had been stowed between some rocks. It appeared that someone may have camped in the area a long time ago - perhaps the owner of some of the bottles?

Jean found a legless lizard while working in the burnt area, and Noor discovered a small frog under a clump of burnt grass, that blended so well with its habitat, it was almost impossible to see.

A couple of members of the L.E.A.P. planning committee joined us for a barbeque lunch which was held overlooking the weir created by the Granite Street bridge.

The final job of the day was to strain up the fence on the south-eastern side of the creek to keep pedestrian traffic off private land. During the day most Nats took the opportunity to explore the tracks created by the L.E.A.P. scheme, and to do a preliminary survey of the flora of the area. Some members have expressed a desire to take a continuing interest in the area's management if the Stanthorpe Shire Council is agreeable.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. held in the C.W.A. rooms Stanthorpe on Wednesday 27th July, 1994 at 8.00 p.m.

Opening: President Rob McCosker opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

Attendance: 29 present, 16 apologies as per attendance book.

Minutes: of the previous Annual General Meeting were confirmed on the motion of Desley McDonagh, seconded Kris Carnell. Carried.

Treasurers Report: Julia Brown moved, and Frank Wilkinson seconded that the treasurer's report be adopted. Carried. The balance was \$1143.77.

President's Report: Robin McCosker presented the President's Report. It was moved for adoption by Patience James, seconded Jean Harslett and carried by acclamation.

Election of Officers:

President: Robin McCosker was nominated by Gordon Davis, seconded Noor Davis. Elected.

Vice President: Kris Carnell was nominated by Margaret Carnell, seconded Robin McCosker. Elected.

Vice President: Mary Walters was nominated by Jean Harslett, seconded Roy Werner. Elected.

Secretary: Margaret Carnell was nominated by Noor Davis, seconded Narelle Crawford. Elected.

Treasurer: Roger Logan was nominated by Errol Walker, seconded Robin McCosker. Elected.

Newslette Editor: Geoff Walker was nominated by Kris Carnell, seconded Jean Harslett. Elected.

Librarian: Trish McCosker was nominated by Kris Carnell, seconded Margaret Carnell. Elected.

Publicity Officer: Patience James was nominated by Leila Hermanssen, seconded Jean Harslett. Elected.

Magazine Committee: Julie Beddow and Patience James volunteered to be the committee members. Elected.

Auditor: Power Tynan & Co were nominated by Desley McDonagh, seconded Rod Hutchin. Elected.

Vote of Thanks

Jean Harslett moved a vote of thanks to Julia for six year's service as treasurer, to Robin for stepping in when Alison was transferred, to Alison for her time as president, to Millie as secretary and to Geoffrey for his refreshing ideas as Magazine Editor. She wished success to the new committee.

Mary Walters moved a vote of thanks to the club from the Learning For Pleasure group.

As this concluded the business of the Annual General Meeting, the meeting was closed and the July meeting opened.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. held in the C.W.A. rooms, Victoria Street Stanthorpe at 8.00p.m. on 27th July, 1994.

Opening: The July meeting followed the Annual General Meeting.

Attendance: 29 present, 16 apologies as per attendance book.

Minutes: of the previous meeting were confirmed on the motion of Tom Archer seconded Gordon Davis. Carried

Correspondence:

Inward: 1. Biolinks June, 2..State Library missing issue, 3. Victorian Field Naturalist Club Assn. logo questionnaire, 4. Urimbirra June & July, 5. Footprint July, 6. N. & B. Dodd subs., 7. The Qld Natualist June, 8. Q.N.C. News July/August, 9. The Darling Downs Naturalist July, 10. Matrix Office Systems, 11. Canopy June, 12. Consumer Affairs - annual return,13. Q.U.T. Incorporated Assn Manual,14. Mahlab information, 15. Dept of Tourism Sport & Racing Newsletter July, 16. John & Susan Kenna subs, 17. A. & D. Harslett subs, 18. Directory of Australian Associations andvertisement, 19. Information Australia advertisement, 20. Ecotex 94 conference & exhibition, 21. Matrix increased cost per copy, 22. Invitation to handover of LEAP scheme, 23. National Parks & Wildlife Service Grafton. thanks & receipt.

Outward: 1. Round the Ridges July outing, 2. Community Billboard July outing, 3. Warwick Daily News thanks, 4. Stanthorpe Border Post thanks.

It was moved by Jean Harslett, seconded Rod Hutchin that the inwards correspondence be received and the outwards adopted. Carried.

Financial Statement. Julia Brown presented and moved for adoption the financial statement which showed a balance b/f of \$697.07, Receipts \$514.70, Expenditure \$68.75, leaving a balance c/f of \$1143.77. Seconded Tom Archer. Carried. Accounts for Rent \$12.50; Incorporation Fees \$19.00; Geoff Walke rcomputer labels \$3.60; Geoff Rayner projector stand & screen \$450.00; were passed for payment on the motion of Julia Brown, seconded Tom Archer. carried.

General Business

Pre Outing Report: The next outing on August 21st is being organised by Bob and Mary Clark to a property between Inglewood and Texas where there are 14 different wattles growing. We will meet at Greenlands at 9.00 a.m. Most of the day will be spent driving, with a few short walks.

Outing Reprt: Kris Carnell reported that about 25 members met at the Red Bridge area for our Environment Outing, where we painted the walking bridge, placed brush matting on some old roads, and picked up rubbish. This was followed by a barbeque lunch. It was suggested that some members may be interested in maintaining the Red Bridge area on an ongoing basis, doing such things as removing exotic plants, and replanting some areas with natives.

Specimens: Jean showed some photos of the Red Bridge at the time of construction.

Rob brought along some galls from a eucalypt. Dianne Holly showed a selection of birds nests from the Killarney area and asked for help in identifying some of them. Gordon Davis had an empty egg sac from a spider of some sort.

Next Meeting: will be held on Wednesday 24th August and will be a Quiz Evening arranged by Gordon Davis.

Programme: Club members presented "Remember Last Year" which was followed by supper.

Stanthorpe Field Naturalists Club Inc. Annual Report

As President of the Stanthorpe Field Nats Club Inc. it gives me great pleasure to present this Annual Report for 1993-94 .

The first half of the year was under the able leadership of Allison McCall until her transfer to St. George ,and subsequently Mary Walters was elected as Vice President .

Following an expression of interest in May 1993 to the then President , for the amalgamation of the Stanthorpe U3A Group with the Nats , we now have a very active group of members enjoying many aspects of " Learning for Pleasure " . I would like to thank Mary for her efforts as Liaison Officer with this group .

A big thanks also to Desley McDonagh, not only for her "steadying" hand at Management Committee Meetings in her role as the second Vice President , but also for her efforts in arranging , thanks to funds received from the Dept.of Heritage , for the purchase of the Projector Stand and Screen we will use for the first time tonight .

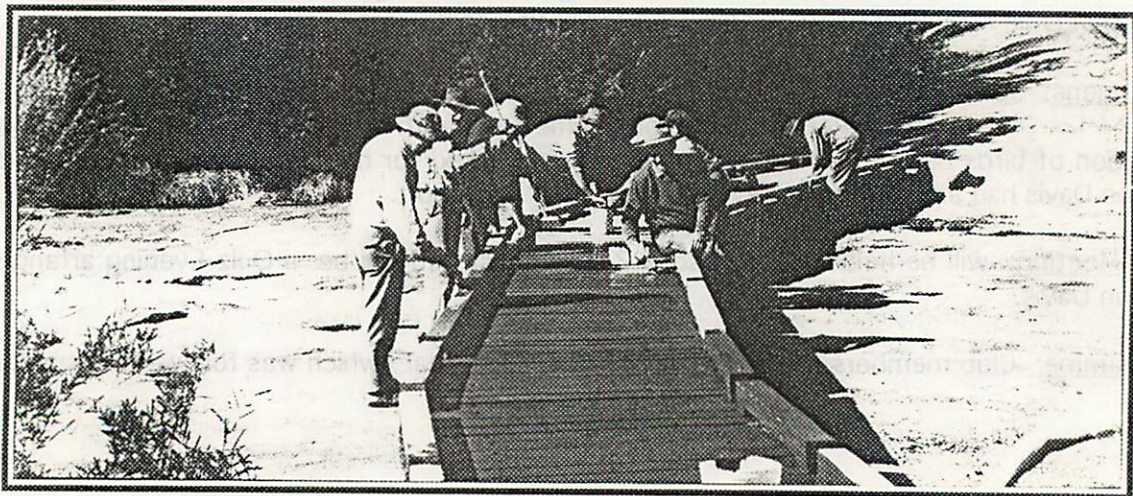
Thanks to the remaining office bearers for their contribution to the successful running of the Club throughout the year . I feel that the Committee is like a large wheel , the spokes of which are made up of Secretary , Treasurer , Magazine Editor , etc. and without the wonderful co-operation of all these we would have a very rough ride .

I would like to thank all the outing leaders for their help . Our outings for the year have again included a variety of interesting places to all points of the compass . The visit to the Glen Lyon caves made possible by the prolonged drought was a return trip for some members after some 20 years . It was after that trip that this Field Nats Club was born .

A special thanks also to all those who have assisted in any way in the presentation of our monthly meeting programmes which have taken us abroad to India, China and America as well as to many parts of Australia .

I feel that the club has had a very successful year and hope that I have made some contribution to this success .

Rob. McCosker
President



Field Nats painting the 'Little Red Bridge' on a recent club outing

Happenings at "Orana". Severnlea

There have been a few interesting happenings at "Orana" since last winter. For a start we had the best terrestrial orchid flowering I can remember in the spring.

The Waxlip Orchid (*Glossida major*) made a purple carpet under the teatrees, interspersed with Spider Orchids (*Caladenia dilatata*), and Brown Hoods (*Pterostylus rufa*). There were also Spotted Doubletails (*Diuris aurea*), I think, and *Pterostylus mutica*. One very exciting find was a very dainty purple spotted Doubletail (*Diuris*) with very long lateral sepals, which we had never seen before, and what we think was a Sun Orchid (*Thelymitra*). Unfortunately we didn't manage to see this one with the flower open, although we checked on it for weeks at different times of the day. Kris went to have a look at lunch time one day thinking it would be open, as it was closed early in the day and after 3.30 p.m. As it set seed we presume it must have opened at some stage. Having marked the spot we're waiting for next spring and hoping to have better luck. The Hyacinth Orchids (*Dipodium punctatum*) were quite disappointing, however, perhaps from the effects of extremely dry weather.

When walking near the creek in October I noticed a bright yellow flower on a rather sparse shrub right on the creek bank. I took a specimen home and identified it as a *Cassia* from a book, "Australian Plants Identified" by Gwen Elliot. Wondering which *Cassia* it was, I pressed it and sent it to the Herbarium, and received notification that it was *Senna odorata* (formerly *Cassia odorata*). There had been a fire in the area about three years previously which I thought may have caused the seeds to germinate. We found quite a number of plants by walking upstream for quite some distance. When the seed was ripe we gathered some and treated half by pouring boiling water over it, and the rest by lighting a small fire over it. The seeds treated with boiling water germinated well and we now have several growing in pots in the shade house. Those treated with fire did not come up at all.

For some time after this, the weather was so hot and dry that we didn't do much bushwalking at all. After the rain in January, we went exploring again and discovered that most of the Blackthorn trees near the creek were covered in small, shiny, brown beetles - rather metallic looking - which were eating the leaves. They have actually stripped the bushes and quite a number of them appear to be dead. I did notice recently that some are starting to shoot from the tips.

We also noticed a blue *Scaveola* amongst the rocks on a walk up the mountain. It was a very dainty thing and would make an attractive garden plant.

Our other exciting find was a family of Variegated Wrens at the creek in the vicinity of the Sun Orchid. We had never seen them at our place before, so we're hoping they stay in the area and raise another family next year.

One day in May I looked out the kitchen window to see a small speckled bird hopping across the yard in the company of Double Bars and Yellow Rumped Thornbills. After much poring over books and discussion we decided it was a Speckled Warbler. There have been the usual Honeyeaters, Parrots, and Finches about. A pair of yellow-faced Honeyeaters and a pair of Superb Blue Wrens nested in the *Camellia* outside our bedroom window. Now we're hoping for a wet spring so that there will be a recovery of wildflowers, which have been suffering the effects of drought since a fire 3½ years ago.

Margaret Carnell

COPYRIGHT LAW

Copyright law in Australia is comprehensive and complicated and there can be severe penalties for breaking it. Please take care with the articles that you submit for the magazine. As a general rule, it is against the law to publish anything already published without written permission. You cannot just hand in a poem or other article that you like however much it appeals to you and relates to the club activities.

If an article is in a magazine and has a copyright note such as "This article may be published without alteration provided its source is acknowledged", it may be used but must not be altered and it must have the copyright acknowledgement with it. Some publications allow use of their articles and have the annotation that must accompany the reprinting inside the cover. Some even say "Please acknowledge and send us a copy", while others have the exact words that must be used so these exact words must be used in our magazine.

I repeat - it is breaking the law to include anything that is not cleared for us to use. It is wrong to give anything to the editor that could cause problems for the club. As our magazine is sent to Libraries, Other Clubs and Organisations it is our responsibility to see that we do not break the law. It is also correct for our club to do the right thing.

Many of you have artistic talent, and some can write very interesting articles. Now that the magazine is done on a photocopier, you can present an illustration or article on A4 paper as you wish it copied and it can be reproduced exactly. If I can do it, so can most of you. [The articles that I write quite often just happen and very rarely end up as they were planned. (If I can help you in any way just ask.)) HAVE A GO! You will add pleasure and interest to the magazine - you might even surprise yourself and find you have hidden talents !

(I write this article out of concern for the club and my experience with Copyright as a Teacher/Librarian as well as with a magazine that I edit. Desley McDonagh.)

The Granite Belt Gecko

An enquiry has been received from a biologist in NSW about known local habitats of the Granite Belt Gecko, also known as the Northern Thick-tail Gecko (*Nephrurus Sphyrurus*). Members of the club might like to cooperate in the study of this relatively rare animal.

Anyone with information or an interest, please contact Gordon Davis, 83 6294

STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST OUTINGS & PROGRAMS 1994/95

Date		Leader		
August	21st	Outing	Texas/Inglewood	Bob Clarke
	24th	Meeting	Natural history quiz	Gordon Davis
September	25th	Outing	Sphinx to Mt Norman track	Brian Dodd
	28th	Meeting	Miscellaneous	Mary Walters
October	9th	Outing 1/2 day	Amiens	Sue Kenna
	22nd 23rd	Campout	Upper Clarence River	K. & M. Carnell
	26th	Meeting	at Girraween N.P. 7pm	Ranger
November	20th	Outing	Warwick	Warwick members
	23rd	Meeting	Fraser Is. safari	Fred Simpson
December	11th	Outing	Christmas breakup at	Mary Walters
January	22nd	Outing	Harrigans Lane	Tom Archer
February	19th	Outing	Slip Rock	Brian Dodd
	22nd	Meeting	European tour	Brian Dodd
March	18/19th	Campout	Mt May	Peter Kerr
	22nd	Meeting	Fiji	Jean Harslett
April	23rd	Outing	Forest Way	Helen Hartman
	26th	Meeting		Bill Goebel
May	21st	Outing	Red Rock Gorge	K. & M. Carnell
	24th	Meeting	Diamantina Gates N.P.	David Wilson
June	10/11/12	Campout	Broomes Head	F. Simpson & L. McPhee
	18th	Outing	Red Bridge revisited	K. & M. Carnell
	21st	Meeting		R. Marsden
July	23rd	Outing	Sundown N.P.	D. McDonagh
	26th	A.G.M.	Remember last year	
August	20th	Outing	Aztec Temple	Rob McCosker
	23rd	Meeting	Cairns to Cape York	B. & N. Dodd

STOP PRESS

Qld Natural History Award

Tom Archer has been busy preparing a submission to the Qld Naturalists Club Inc for a nomination for Jean Harslett for the annual Qld Natural History Award. The nomination which is current for 3 yrs will be presented to members at our next meeting.

AUGUST 21ST OUTING

For those who don't know where to find the Greenlands School.
Someone will be waiting at Weeroona Park at 8.30am to guide you there.