



OCTOBER 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	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: *Sphinx to Mt. Norman* 25th of September

With a large number of regulars away on holidays, only a small crowd of 17 turned up at the Castle Rock Camping area at Girraween for the September 25th outing. Of these, only 9 did the organised walk the rest confining themselves to activities close to Park headquarters.

The walk set off along established tracks to Turtle Rock, but from then on it was cross-country bush bashing to the ridge that lies in between Sphinx-Turtle Rock and Mt. Norman. From this, there are excellent western views of the Sphinx and to the east vast rocky areas around Mt. Norman which notably feature iron stainings from run off over the years. The ridge was followed northwards to its end from which a very large moderately flat rock gave about 360° views. Scrambling down, the party passed some outstanding rock formations which some-one referred to as Easter Island images. Eventually, the Mt. Norman track was reached and walkers followed this back to the camping area.

I have never seen this country looking so dry, and not a skerrick of water was seen either in rock pools or in the creeks which looked as though they had been dry for a long time. This time of the year is when wild flowers are most profuse and although definitely not at their best under the prevailing conditions, over 30 flowering species were observed. These included:-

7 Acacias - *adunca*, *venulosa*, *granitica*, *ruppii*, *floribunda*, *pruinosa*, *ulicifolia*

Various peas - *Hovea longifolia*, *Hardenbergia violacea*,
Mirbelia speciosa, *Bossiaea rhombifolia*,
Pultenea hartmannii, *Dillwynia* sp.

Boronia and related plants - *Boronia amabilis*, *Phebalium rotundifolium*,
Zieria smithii, *Eriostemon* sp.

Orchids - *Dendrobium speciosum*, *Galeola cassythoides*

Several Leucopogons including *biflorus*

Miscellaneous - *Prostanthera saxicola* (bright purple)
Choretrum candollei (root parasite)
Homoranthus flavescens (compact shrub, yellowish flowers)
Kunzea obovata (mauve *Melaleuca* type)
Stenanthemum scortechinii (now used as filler in bouquets)
Pomaderris sp. (yellow shrub occurring in thickets)
Grevillea linearifolia (small white flowers)
Pimelea linifolia (white rice flowers)
Patersonia sericea (purple iris)
Stylidium laricifolium (trigger plant)
Micromyrtus sessilis
Cryptandra amara

Wild life was conspicuous by its absence with the only positive bird sightings being two wedge-tailed eagles, a tree creeper, a rainbow bee eater and the ever present opportunistic crimson rosellas and kurrawongs at the camping area plus a few very elusive lizards.

Brian Dodd

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. held in the CWA Rooms Stanthorpe on Wednesday 28th September at 8.00 pm.

Opening :- In the absence of President Rob McCosker who tendered an apology, Vice President Mary Walters opened the meeting, welcoming all present, with a special welcome for new member Jim Evans, and visitor Peter Hutchin.

Attendance & Apologies :- As per attendance book.

Minutes :- the minutes of the August meeting were accepted as a correct record of that meeting on a motion moved by Joan Stevenson, seconded by Frank Wilkinson and carried.

Business arising from the Minutes :- Jean Harslett thanked the club members for nominating her for the Natural History Award.

Correspondence :- Inward :- 1. Qld Nats Club Inc - Acknowledgment of Nomination of Jean Harslett for Qld Natural History Award. 2. Kevin Sealy - Resignation. 3. Environment & Heritage Review August. 4. AJ & IJ Wright Campsites at "Pretty Gully", Tabulam. 5. Dept of Tourism, Sport & Racing - Data Collection Form. 6. Ann Nitschke - Holidays for over 50's 7. YARC Form re EXPO. 8. Footprints - September. 9. Directory of Aust Associations - Brochure. 10. Urimbirra - September. 11. Subs from - Edgars; Langdons; Ralph Fletcher & Brian & Jill McDonagh. Outward :- 1. Round the Ridges & Community Billboards - notes for activities; 2. Qld Nat Club Inc - Nomination of Jean Harslett for Award. 3. Matrix Office Systems - account.

It was moved by Gordon Davis, seconded by Jean Harslett and carried that the inward correspondence be received and the outward adopted.

Financial Report :- for 25/8/94 to 28/9/94

Balance as at 25/8/94 \$1100.92c

Receipts

Subs	\$192.00	
Room Rent Collection	10.30	
Use of Photocopier	52.00	
TOTAL	254.30	254.30
		1355.22

Expenditure

Room Rent	12.50	
Magazine Postage	90.00	
Receipt Books	3.00	
Matrix Office Systems	145.60	
Petty Cash - Secretary	10.00	
Federal Govt Tax	1.50	
TOTAL	262.60	262.60
		1092.62
Balance as at	28/9/94	1092.62

Account to be passed for payment - Room Rent \$12.50. Roger Logan moved and Patience James seconded the adoption of the Financial Report. Carried.

Outing Reports :-

1. Brian Dodd reported that there were only 17 present at the outing to Girraween many members being away on holidays, 9 of whom went on the long walk to Turtle Rock and beyond. Even though it is so dry there were still 32 flowers identified. A list will be prepared for the magazine.

2. Half Day to Sue Kenna's place on October 9th. No details were available so Mary Walters will contact Sue and let Patience James (Publicity Officer) know so that the details can be put in the local press.

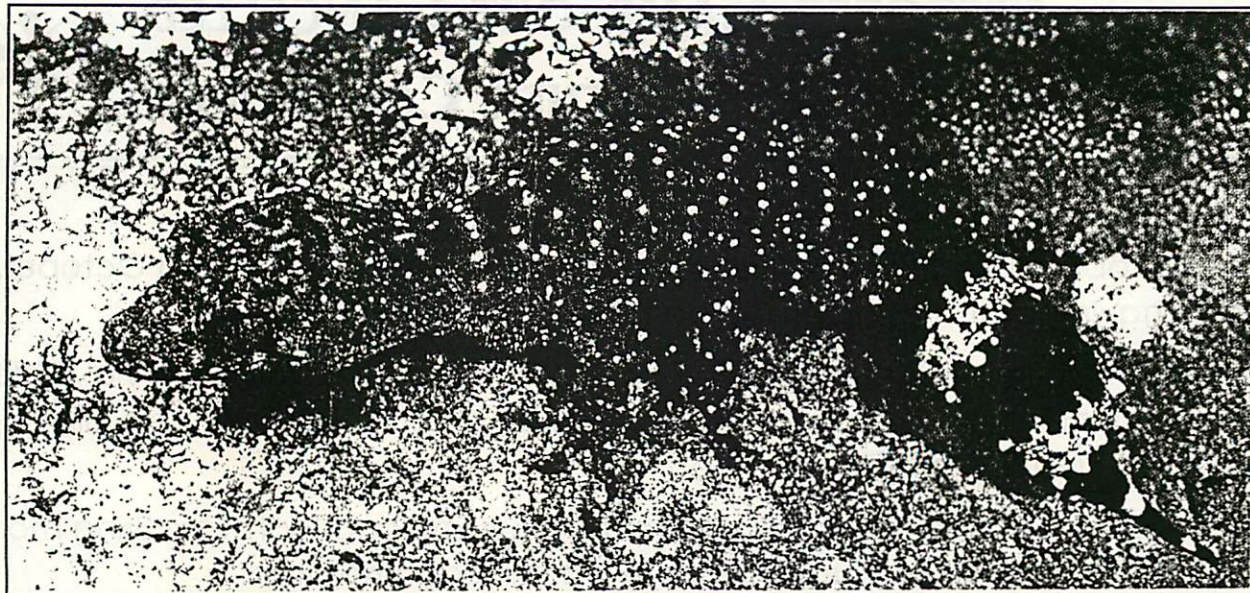
3. Camp-out to Bald Rock combined with Camera Club October 22/23. Leaders Kris & Margaret Carnell, details in the next magazine.

Next Meeting :- 7pm October 26th at Girraween at 7.00pm with the Ranger.

Specimens :- Mary Walters brought a deceased sugar glider with young in pouch that Audrey Ridge had found.

Programme :- Jean Harslett introduced the speaker for the evening, Mary Walters who gave us a very interesting talk on South Africa illustrated by Overhead Projector Transparencies which she had prepared. The members found Mary's presentation very interesting and freely asked questions about South Africa. Desley McDonagh moved a vote of thanks to Mary for her programme which was carried enthusiastically by acclamation. The meeting then closed.

BORDER THICK-TAILED GECKO (or Granite Belt Gecko)



This sparsely distributed gecko has a slightly depressed head, body and tail. Four rings of pale spots adorn the tail, which is quite bulbous in outline in the basal two-thirds.

It shelters by day under shaded exfoliations, in rock piles or under large shaded rocks and logs, waiting, with little body movement, for spiders and crawling insects to venture close enough to be overpowered. It rarely ventures forth at night. It is usually undisturbed by close observation but if a short gentle puff of warm air is blown onto it (as may happen with the approach of a mammal predator such as an Antechinus), it leaps forward, "squerking", snaps quickly and then runs off.

HABITAT: high, drier areas of the Great Dividing Range in areas of granite and psammite outcropping with nearby lightly timbered or shrubby soil areas.

HEAD AND BODY LENGTH: to 7.0cm **TOTAL LENGTH:** to 10.5cm

DISTRIBUTION: 30,00 - 100,000km **ABUNDANCE:** very sparse to sparse **STATUS:** probably secure

Dear Gordon,

Many thanks for your note. I am delighted that the local F. N. Club. has taken an interest. Enclosed please find photocopies of an extract from H. Ehmann's book which is almost as good as a photo because they are usually greyish coloured anyway with the various spots and bands somewhere between black and white as shown. It has scattered conical tubercles all over its back and has been recorded from just SSE of Stanthorpe and also from the Amiens area. One point to note is that this species may lose its tail and regrow another which is completely different to the original in shape and colour, it has no black and white bands and is almost egg shaped! It is often found in rocky areas and may probably be seen out and about from about one hour after sunset to about midnight on warm nights (I am only guessing). We know next to nothing about this species so any observations would be useful re habitat, behaviour, temperature etc.

Don't forget my phone number is 049 772463 a.h. (reverse charges) if anyone comes across any specimens. You can probably help me by letting me know where the rocky areas are around Amiens and Stanthorpe.

Looking forwards to meeting you sometime between 7-13/10/'94.

Best wishes,

Terry Annable, Lecturer.

From: Ehmann, H. 1992
Encyclopedia of Australia Animals: Reptiles
Angus & Robertson, Sydney



OCTOBER CAMP-OUT CANCELLED OWING TO WEATHER CONDITIONS



The October outing will now be a one day outing on Sunday 23rd October. We will be having a driving day to Pindari Dam in Northern N.S.W.

The plan is to leave Weeroona Park at 8am and travel to the dam via Ashford. The dam which is in a most attractive area, is flanked by granite slab hills and tors. There should be lots of bird life.

The return trip will be via Emmaville to the New England Highway. Bring morning and afternoon teas and lunch as there is no kiosk at the dam.

The photographic competition planned for this month has been cancelled.

There has been insufficient time to do a pre-outing, but if you have any queries ring Kris & Margaret Carnell on 835 268.

- October Meeting -

The October meeting on Wednesday evening October 26 will be held at the National Park Headquarters at Girraween National Park at 7.00pm. Anyone requiring transportation out to Girraween please contact the club president.



Have we all paid our yearly subscription yet

Subscriptions may be paid at our monthly meetings or
posted to

Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club

PO Box 154

Stanthorpe Qld 4380