

MARCH 1995

Vol. 267



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.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC. HELD IN Q.C.W.A.
ROOMS, STANTHORPE ON WEDNESDAY 22ND FEBRUARY, 1995.

Opening: President Rob McCosker welcomed everyone to the first meeting for 1995.

Attendance: Present 30, Apologies 3, as per attendance book.

Minutes: of the previous meeting were confirmed on the motion of Millie Marsden seconded, Frank Wilkinson.

Correspondence: The following inwards correspondence was received, and the outwards adopted on the motion of Kris Carnell, seconded A. Wilkinson.

Inwards: 1. Qld Naturalist Club - Newsletters January & February '95.
2. Toowoomba Bushwalkers - Footprint Dec. 94; 3. Directory of Association - survey; 4. Snr. J. Coutler - Environment Today; 5. Chinchilla Field Nats. Urimbirra Nov. 94; 6. Prime Learning Australia - Seminar Dates; 7. Marsden & Gaske - Account for insurance; 8. Molly Robson - Christmas Card; 9. Qld. Naturalist Club Inc. - The Queensland Naturalist - Dec 94; 10. Clare Petre - Review of Aust. Honours & Awards; 11. Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club Inc. - Footprint Jan 95; 12. Senator John Coulter - Canopy Dec & Greenhouse 95; 13. State Library of Qld - Receipt for publications; 14. Wild Country Safaris - Details of safaris for 1995; 15. Westpac Banking Corp. - Details of Clean-up Australia Day; 16. Toowoomba Field Nats. - Darling Downs Naturalist Nov, Dec & Feb.; Chinchilla Field Nats - Urimbirra Jan 95; Qld Dept of Heritage - Information on National Estate Grants Program & Annual Report 1993-94; 18. Chinchilla Field Nats. - Urimbirra Feb 95; 19. Shelley Thompson - Sub.; 20. Bushline No. 4 & No 5.

Outwards: 1. Directory of Associations - Survey Form; 2. Round the Ridges-February outing; 3. Community Billboard - February Outing.

Finance: The financial report showed a balance b/f of \$4019.07, Receipts of \$62.25, Expenditure of \$212.73, leaving a balance c/f at 22.2.95 of \$3868.59 Roger Logan moved the report for adoption, seconded Gordon Davis. Carried. There was discussion on the cost of insurance which has increased 100% since the club became incorporated. It was not possible to get it cheaper elsewhere.

Outing Report: The outing was cancelled due to rain.

Next Outing: The next outing is a Camp Out on March 18th & 19th to the Mt May area. We will camp at the Bigriggen Park camping area. Leader is Peter Kerr.

General Business: Heritage Park: Tom Archer reported that volunteers were needed to inscribe the sign at 10 a.m. the next day, using angle grinders. Kris Carnell reported that the garden would be planted soon. We are waiting for soil to be delivered by the shire council.

Management Committee: at 7.45 p.m. before the next meeting

Clean-up Australia Day: 5th March. It was decided that the Nats would clean up the red bridge area, meeting at Heritage Park at 9.30 a.m.

New L.E.A.P. scheme: Jean Harslett & Tom Archer volunteered to be on the advisory committee.

Cupboard for screen & projector: Millie reported that the cupboards at the Q.C.W.A. Rooms were not big enough. She suggested we could build in the space under the bench at the front of the room. Kris agreed to ask Russell Carnell to do the job.

The Queensland natural history award: Jean Harslett was congratulated on winning the award for 1995. Jean thanked the Field Naturalist Club for nominating her for the award which was presented on Monday 20th February at the Qld. Museum. Jean felt her interest in natural history was developed by her family when she was a child. She felt privileged to have met a number of scientist who were very enthusiastic. She reported that two members of the judging panel remarked on how well-presented the submission was and thanked Tom Archer who had prepared it.

I am sure the members of the Stanthorpe Field Nats. appreciate the enthusiasm Jean shows for natural science and sincerely congratulate her on receiving the award.

Specimens: Joan Bourne had some good specimens of Lattice Fungus.

Jean Harslett had a frog from a dam in the forestry. There were hundreds of frogs in the dam which was free of pollution. A 6ft area around the edge had groups of froth full of eggs.

Photos were tabled of Mt Cordeaux outing, Morgan's Gully outing, the slugs at Mt Cordeaux, Quart Pot Creek and Girraween.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on 22nd March, when the program will be presented by Jean Harslett.

June Meeting: As Ray & Millie Marsden will be away in June Desley McDonagh will present the program at the June meeting.

Program: Noela Dodd presented a very interesting program on Britain and Switzerland.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

Clean-up Australia Day, 5th March

About a dozen people met at Heritage Park and admired the sign before starting to clean up the area. The cubs were also working in the area, but we had decided that a good deal of our cleaning up was to be cleaning out exotic weeds from the park.

Several people set out with markers to show any blackberries and Robin and Kris followed with spray provided by the shire council. We took plastic bags to hold any rubbish and pulled out weeds such as cobblers pegs and ragweed as we came across them. Millie and Ray did a sterling job of sweeping up shards of glass from the rocks around the little red bridge.

As Fred had his boat, he ferried Kris across to the island to spray a large patch of blackberries there. Tom and Richard Clewes and his children planted about fifty Callistemons and Hakeas which are native to the district on the southern bank of the creek, and in the afternoon Tom & Fred planted the island with about twenty-five Callistemons.

After lunch those who remained painted weed killer on the Honeysuckle growing amongst the natives along the creek bank, or in the case of Rod, dug out large quantities of prickly pear. He found the spines go right through leather gloves.

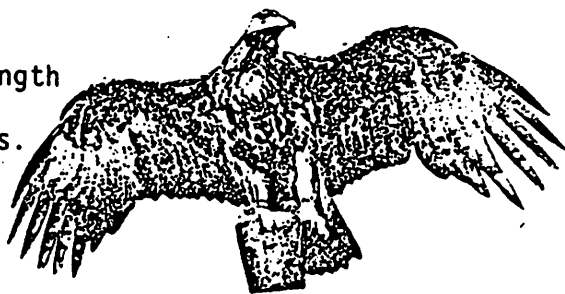
As well as all this activity Alec Harslett spent the morning spreading a load of soil to form the basis of the garden, after a meeting of the Landcare/Nats group in consultation with Michael McPuliffe, the council gardener.

Although not a great deal of the usual sort of rubbish was collected the outing was a very successful one.

Margaret Carnell

BETRAYAL

Like a kite the eagle floats upon the breeze,
She's touching the clouds, a great and graceful form
Controlled by Old Feng-Po. A storm
Of anger rips her from the sky with ease,
While tiny breaths of updraughts have the strength
To hold her mighty form, to spiral high
And look down, moving upwards as the wind sighs.
A tranquil beauty follows her. At length
She flies. Betrayer! Do you not feel guilt?
To float with grace and ease on air, and still
Swoop down without a thought to steal and kill
A young and helpless one. Why have you built
Through beauty great, a picture of a beast
Benevolent? On tricks of mind you feast.



(Feng-Po, or Old Feng-Po is the god of the wind in Chinese mythology).

Jenny Carnell.

MT MAY CAMPOUT 18-19MAR95

The campsite is "Bigriggen Park" (ph.074-636190), 3km off the Boonah-Rathdowney Road. There are toilets, hot showers, kiosk, swimming, fishing or lazing around in pleasant surroundings. Firewood is provided and treated drinking water is available; the site is well drained, and access road all-weather.

Fees \$4.00 per adult per night
\$2.00 per child 3-15 years.

LATE BREAKING NEWS

Camp-out 18-19th of March

Walk on Saturday will depart 2.30pm not 2.00pm

Walk is 1.25 kms long

Grade 8-6

About 2.00pm Saturday, I'll be leading a walk one km, 1 hour, grade six climb, with a tri track and the summit offer excellent views, and also of Mt Barney. (Keen photographers light).

On Sunday we need an 8.30am start for the Upper Portals on Barney Creek. We drive 3km beyond Saturday's walk to a ridgetop parking area, which is also a good viewpoint. Some may wish to spend the day there, or potter around the ridgetop, or travel partway with the rest of us as we walk along a track for 4km (grade 6, but about 9 creek crossings, which may be ankle deep) to the spectacular Upper Portals for some exploration and lunch. Return by the same route.

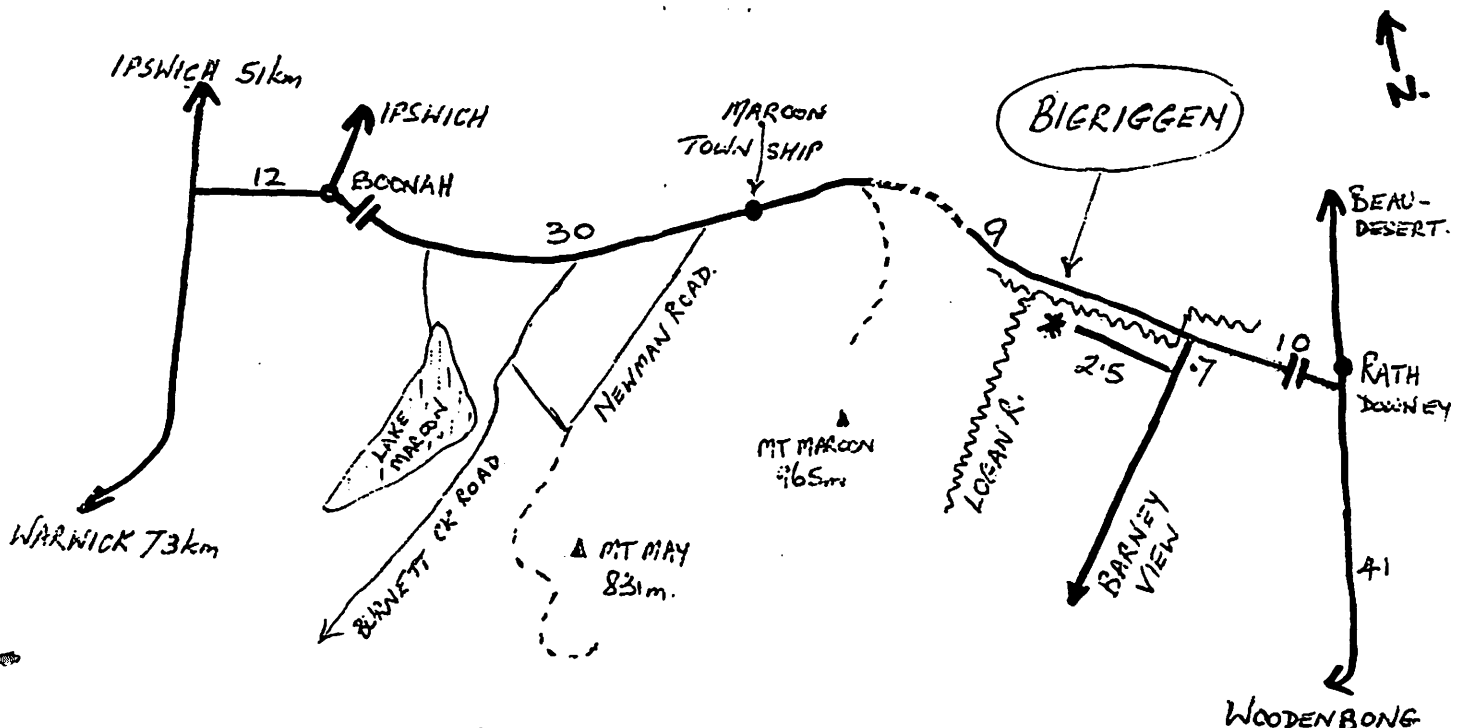
NOTE: The road from Mt May carpark is dry-weather only, and parking space further up is limited. Car-pooling Saturday afternoon and Sunday would be helpful, preferably in 4WDs as the road is quite steep. Cars may be left at the carpark at the base of Mt May on Sunday, rather than return to Bigriggen.

Some people may wish to travel via Legume, Queen Mary's Falls, Boonah Border Gate and Burnett Creek Road. Again, great views, but strictly dry weather!!!

WARNING: A sharp right-angled bend on the gravel road east of Mt Maroon turnoff needs care it's claimed a lot of victims.

I'll confirm the booking about the 14 March 95 -- Payment is by individuals on arrival. Please advise Rob McCosker (835371) or me (611818) if coming.

Peter Kerr



"NATURAL HISTORY AWARD" PRESENTED TO JEAN HARSLETT



Granite Belt naturalist/historian, Jean Harslett, recently was presented with the Natural History Award for 1995 at the annual meeting of the Queensland Naturalist Club Inc held in the theatre of the Queensland Museum Brisbane for her significant contribution to natural history in Queensland.

Jean was nominated for the award by the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc of which she was elected inaugural vice-president in 1969. Jean has served the Stanthorpe club in many capacities, is still a vital member and is, undoubtedly one of the most knowledgeable members. She shares her knowledge with sensitivity and humour.

Club member Tom Archer was responsible for researching Jean's long association with natural history which began in childhood and her contributions, both by written word and in photography, are well documented. The subsequent submission was well presented and is a tribute to Jean's achievements and Tom's meticulousity.

On October 22, 1994 Jean received an honour from the Royal Historical Society of Queensland when presented with a Fellowship Certificate at the Killarney Seminar for her contribution of written history and photographic records. Jean, since 1959, has copied more than 10,000 historical photographs and given desired negatives to the Oxley Library.

Such has been Jean Harslett's commitment to her community that she has written and co-written several books of historical content including "They Came to a Plateau" and several school histories.

Jean was awarded the British Empire Medal in 1983, the Stanthorpe Shire Australia Day Award in 1984, Rotary's Paul Harris Fellowship in 1985, Fellow of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland in 1994 and the Queensland Natural History Award for 1995.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Members of the Management Committee are requested to attend a meeting commencing at 7.30pm the 22nd of March, that is half an hour before the General Meeting commences.