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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 2117
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, Mt May, 18-19 March

"Bigriggen Park" is a delightful place for a stay - vast area, plenty of shady trees and mown grass and a good swimming hole in the long river frontage.

After lunch on Saturday, twelve people braved the gates and steep drive up a somewhat eroded road to the Mt May saddle, where the Subarus were left. An hours hard climbing through open eucalypt forest (spotted gums looking particularly attractive), with views getting better and better, saw us at the top of the 833 metre peak where a cool breeze was most welcome. A smoky haze dimmed the mountains to the north and west, but Mt Barneys' rocky cliffs and peaks reared seemingly close to the east, while a drought-diminished Lake Maroon lay almost at our feet. It was a pleasure to see the country carpeted in green again.

Back at Bigriggen around the campfire, everyone partook of Desleys birthday cake, and the most local of many possums endorsed their praise of the cook. The "bagging" of Mt May made it a memorable birthday, too, for Richard.

On Sunday we were joined by three day trippers, and repeated the gates and steep drive plus a bit extra, to the top of a ridge which gives panoramic views from Mt Barney, past Mts Maroon and May to the Main Range. A 1½ hour walk down a track and then along (and across) Yamahra Creek, passing through several groves of lovely hoop pines brought us to Mt Barëy Creek and thence to the Upper Portals gorge, where water-worn cliffs forma spectacular narrow shute. Even at a low level the water rushes through: after heavy rain it must be an awesome torrent. A couple of deep pools below the portal promise good swimming but the temperature in the shallows was cool enough even for hardy Stanthorpians.

The return trip to the cars was hastened by several cooling, fortunately brief thunderstorms, and we were able to descend an almost dry track to the Mt May campsite for a cuppa and quick look at pretty little waterfall, before heading home by various routes.



MT BARNEY

**Minutes of Meeting of Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
held in Q.C.W.A. Rooms, Stanthorpe on 22nd March 1995**

Opening: President Rob welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Monica who had not attended a meeting before.

Minutes: of the previous meeting were accepted as a correct record on the motion of Mary Walters, seconded Roger Logan. Carried.

Business Arising from minutes: Millie Marsden advised that the C.W.A. has approved the building of the cupboard under the bench for our screen.

Correspondence: The following inwards correspondence was received and the outwards adopted on the motion of Geoffrey Walker, seconded Jean Harslett. Carried.
Inwards: 1. Qld Dept. of Environment & Heritage - Information on Grants program 1994-95. 2. Australia Post - Account for P.O. box. 3. Qld Naturalist Club - Newsletter March-April, 4. S. & B. Amos - Subscription; 5. Peter Kerr - Outing Report; 6. Chinchilla Field Nats - "Urimburra" March.
Outwards: 1. Round the Ridges - March Outing. 2. Community Billboard - March Outing.

Finance: Roger Logan moved and Tom Archer seconded that the financial report be adopted. Carried.

Balance at 22/2/95 \$3868.59.

Receipts	45.70
	<u>3914.29</u>

Expenditure	<u>42.10</u>
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Balance at 22/3/95 \$3872.19 which includes \$2800 grant from N.P.W.S.

Outing Report; Geoff Walker read the Outing Report from Peter Kerr for the Camp Out at Bigriggen Park. On Saturday about 12 people took part in a 1 hour climb with great views. There were tame possums at camp.
On Sunday about 15 people climbed the ridge to the Upper Portals Gorge, taking about 1½ hours. There were Hoop Pines growing in the area. On the way back a waterfall was seen.
Desley reported that she saw white trigger plants.

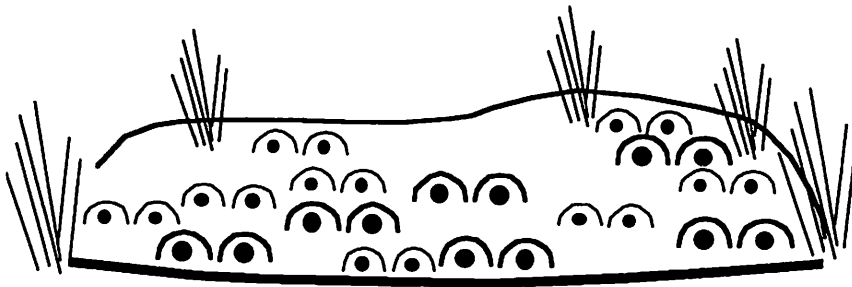
Kris Carnell gave a report on the clean up at Red Bridge on 5th March.

Pre Outing Report: Margaret Carnell read a report from Helen Hartman on the outing to take place on 23rd April - A taster course - an introduction to the delights of the forest areas to the S.E. of Tenterfield. We will leave Weeroona Park, Stanthorpe at 8 a.m and reassemble at the park in Tenterfield near the Boonoo Boonoo/ Mt Lindesay turnoff, leaving there by 9 a.m. There are 5 scheduled stops and 2 walks along the Forest Way from Tenterfield to Deepwater.

General Business: 1, The date of the June meeting is the 28th, not 21st as printed in the schedule.
2. Mary Walters gave a report on the Learning Group which is offering Ecology, French, Current Affairs and Ancient History. Frank Wilkinson is replacing Gordon Davis whilst Gordon is overseas, as teacher of Ecology and History.
3. The secretary reported that a representative of Binna Burra Lodge was calling on her to discuss Nats members staying at the lodge.
4. Millie Marsden had three books on "Lake Broadwater" for sale to members
5. Irma Rickard had advised Millie that the gates on the way to Undercliffe Falls were to be locked as fences have been vandalised.
6. Mary reported that there is no rubbish at Nundubbenere Falls at present.
7. June Long Weekend Camp-out: Lincoln suggested Minnie Waters instead of Broomshead as the venue, staying at the Caravan Park. It is a 5 hour trip.
8. Esme suggested we send a get well card to Patience James who is in hospital in Toowoomba after a fall.

Specimens: The Carnells had a large cast of a tree root which had been found on Geoff Fearnside's property at Injune about 30 years previously. Tom Archer brought a rat which had been partly swallowed by a snake which had apparently been disturbed during its meal. Lincoln McPhee reported that while he was at Minnie Waters recently, a possum fell out of a tree above him and was found to be crushed. On looking up he discovered a carpet snake swallowing a baby possum. Brian McDonagh reported that he had seen what he thought was a powerful owl.

Programme; Jean Harslett showed slides of a trip to Fiji with a group of people from the Rotary Club, who worked on a building project there. Robin moved a vote of thanks to Jean for a very interesting and informative program.



FROGS GALORE

After a prolonged period of dry weather rain fell over four days yielding 117mm. It produced celebration in the hearts of everybody at Amiens and amongst the frogs too.

A couple of days later a small dam in the forestry, which though low had never dried up, became literally alive with frogs. They too were celebrating and the area was full of the activity of calling, jumping and mating by hundreds and hundreds of frogs. They were quite large so made a spectacular sight. Already more than a third of the surface area of the dam was covered with their floating egg masses. They were gently floating on the surface conspicuously white like fleets of small boats. Or perhaps more correctly described (on closer inspection) as though there had been a spill of detergent, the froth bubbling over everywhere.

With a "bonk" here a "bonk" there and a "bonk" everywhere the air was filled with activity and a sense of urgency. The dark eyes and noses of couples were peeping through the surface of the water whilst single pairs of eyes were looking anxiously and forlornly about.

As more and more is written of frogs disappearing, emphasis was given to the spectacle. The dam is well placed to be away from crop pollution of sprays and fertilisers, though it is totally surrounded by exotic pine trees in a forestry situation.

The species of frog is "The Eastern Banjo Frog" (*Limnodystes dummerilii*)

Jean Harslett 6/3/1995

FREE NIGHT OUT WITH BINNA BURRA LODGE

ANGIE GZELL



At 7 pm on Tuesday the 2nd of May at the CWA Hall in Stanthorpe, Binna Burra Lodge will host the first of a series of public seminars aimed at regional, environmental groups.

You, the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club, have been chosen as the first group to enjoy a great night out with Binna Burra Lodge staff.

The evening kicks off at 7 pm and will begin with a viewing of "Rainforest" a fabulous documentary by National Geographic which gives insight into the amazing world within the Rainforest of Costa Rica. If you haven't seen this presentation, believe me it is a must. The photography is nothing short of exceptional.

Following the video we will have a short presentation by Barry Davies, Guest Activities Co-ordinator and Resident Naturalist, who will immerse you in the world of our very own Heritage-Listed Rainforest, Lamington National Park.

Jon Perrin, Manager of Binna Burra Lodge will follow this presentation with a discussion on Binna Burra itself. He will share with you all of the great reasons for staying at the Lodge and will be only too happy to answer any questions you may have concerning the property.

We will be capping off the evening with a light supper during which we will announce the winner of our **fabulous door prize**: A FREE night for two people at Binna Burra Lodge. The lucky prize-winner will be staying in an Acacia cabin equipped with its own ensuite bathroom, fridge, mini-bar, tea & coffee-making facilities and private verandah overlooking the Numinbah valley. This GREAT GIVE-AWAY will include-

- FREE Accommodation
- FREE Breakfast
- FREE Lunch
- FREE Dinner
- FREE Morning and Afternoon Teas and Supper
- FREE Guest Activities
- EXPERT Naturalist Guides
- UNLIMITED bush-walking in World Heritage-Listed Rainforest

(The prize is not valid on Saturday nights and must be taken before 31 December '95).

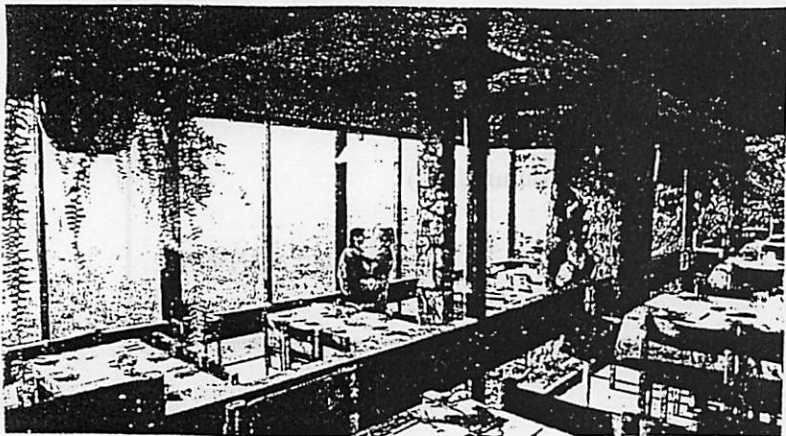
During and after supper, you will also have the opportunity to book a holiday with Binna Burra Mountain Lodge. If you make a booking directly with me on the night of the seminar, we will give you 10% OFF any booking for 1995.

So you see, it would be a mistake to miss out on this great evening which Binna Burra is bringing directly to you in Stanthorpe.

We are offering this special evening event to members of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club but we would be thrilled if you would like to invite friends and family who may be interested along as well. I feel sure that the evening will be very informative and entertaining and you never know, you may be off to Binna Burra Lodge for FREE !!!



**binna
burra**
MOUNTAIN LODGE



FOREST AREAS OF SOUTH-EAST TENTERFIELD

Details Ph: (067) 36 1423

This excursion has been planned as a "taster" course - an introduction to the delights of the forest areas to the south-east of Tenterfield. Therefore, we will not be plunging into the deepest ravines and through the thickest scrub, tempting the leeches to break their diets. We will, however, be observing the rule of watching the vehicle behind so that anyone can bring the parade to a standstill to invite everyone to admire some particular beauty.

There are five scheduled stops. There are two walks neither of them demanding. The first starts from the Scrub picnic area and the second starts from an old logging dump below the Stockdale Spur area where one of the attractions is a walk through an area of very handsome old grasstrees. Both starting points are very pleasant places for those who prefer to sit and admire the sights and sounds and smells. I have allowed about an hour for each of these stops. There are two stops at different vantage points. The first is the Billyrimba Lookout with striking views of the gold-bearing Demon Fault, the escarpment and Billyrimba. It is possible to drive right out on to the lookout if necessary. The second is at the bottom of the Four Bull Track from which we can look back up for an unusual view of the eucalypt forest merging into the higher scrub (also known as warm temperate rainforest). The different colours of the canopies can be clearly seen.

The fifth stop is lunch which will be at the site of a once-flourishing mill. Archaeologists can investigate while some rusting remains may attract photographers. The recent rain has meant quite long grass and bracken so you may wish to bring rugs, chairs etc. By this time it may be rather late, so you may wish to bring supplies to maintain your strength, perhaps at the walk stops.

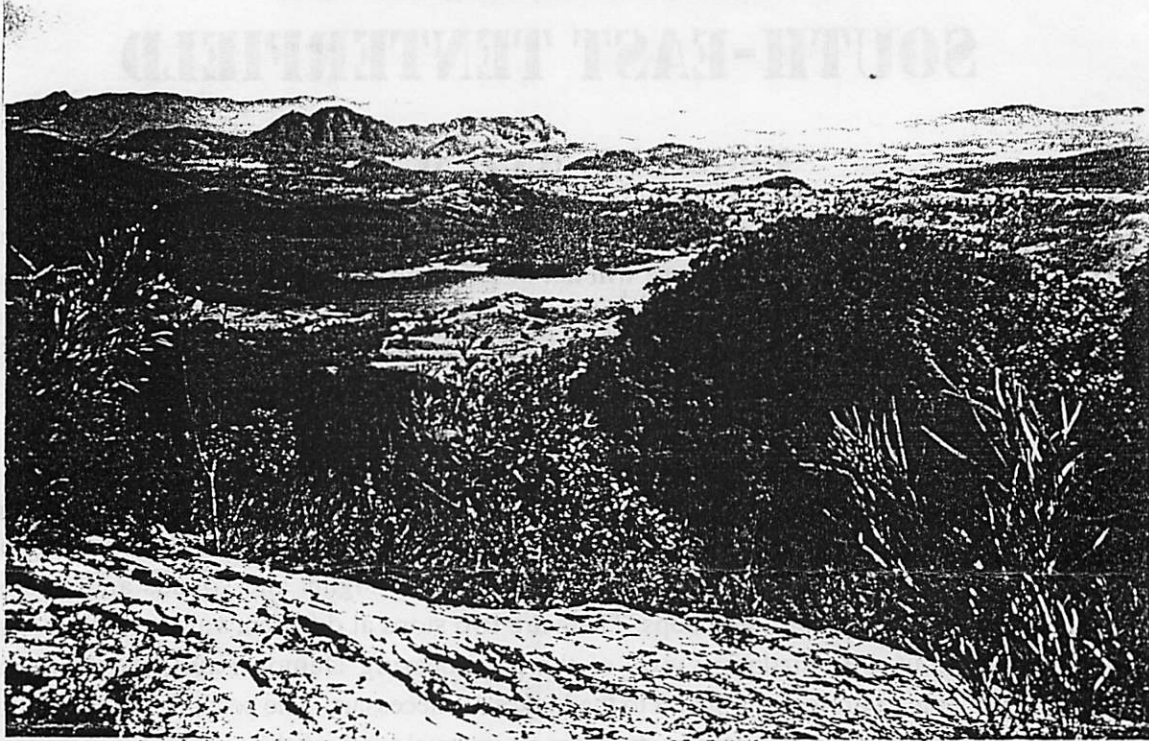
The side roads and tracks are generally quite narrow, sometimes fairly steep and have numerous run-off diversion humps, but I have driven them all in the last week (as of 22/3) without needing to engage 4WD. However those who care for their cars might wish to pile in with more cavalier drivers for the short distances involved.

Short notes will be available during the day giving botanical, historical etc details and trivia. There will also be suggestions for more intensive and adventurous exploration for those who want to return and do it rougher. I will have 1:25,000 topographic maps of Tenterfield, Sandy Flat and Spirabo as well as the Tenterfield district map published by the NSW Forestry Commission. People who like to know where they are and have their own maps may like to bring them.

At present, the intention is to end the outing at Deepwater, about 50kms south of Tenterfield via the New England Highway. It is possible to rejoin the highway before that if people want to spent extra time looking around. Either way, you're on your own once you get onto the highway - apart from the trucks, kangaroos and all the other Sunday travellers.

The outing will leave Weroona Park at 8am and reassemble at the small park near the Boonoo Boonoo / Mt Lindesay Highway. I would like to leave by 9.00am at the latest.

Helen Hartman



MAIN RANGE & LAKE MAROON from MT MAY

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Field Nats Club on the 26/4/95 will have Bill Goebel as our guest speaker with a slide program on Girraween National Park.

Definitely a presentation not to be missed.

A BABYSITTER - A teenager who comes to your house to act like an adult, so you can go out and act like a teenager.

MOTHER IN LAW - someone who arranges a match for her daughter, then spends most of her time referring it.

THE SAUSAGE PRINCIPLE - people who love sausages and respects the law should never watch either one being made.

And this one for the Easter long week-end.....

The long week-end was created because it is impossible to cram all the bad weather into two days.