



JUNE 1995
Vol. 270



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 - Girard State Forest

In spite of uncertain weather, 27 people in 10 vehicles headed towards Girard State Forest on 21st May, travelling along the Casino Road from Tenterfield. It was possible to see Wellington Rock in spite of cloud hugging the hills, and to catch sight of a waterfall on Waterfall Creek.

We arrived at the rest area at Girard State Forest for morning tea, where a Yellow Robin, Fairy Wrens and Currawongs were seen and a Whip Bird heard. As we drove from the highway to the rest area, you may have noticed a plot of New England Blackbutt on the left hand side of the track. According to Peter Overnden, a retired forester, they were planted in the late 1930's, and the reason they haven't grown well is principally the poor traprock soil, as well as their being too close together. On the other side of the track, the trees were allowed to regenerate of their own accord after clear felling, and have not grown any better. Trees in both plots are measured regularly by the Forestry Department.

A light shower started as we left the rest area to travel 6 km to McLeod Creek Crossing via Bellbird Road. I noticed mistletoe growing on Casuarina trees and long, shaggy strings of lichen on several dead trees. Also of interest were patches of rainforest and areas where logging was in progress.

The first thing we noticed on reaching McLeod Creek Crossing was the calling of the Bell Birds. The second was the slippery road up the hill, where we had a bit of bother with cars sliding. We overcame the problem, however and ate our lunch at the hut beside an old gold mine. There are numerous mullock heaps in the area. Across the road was a stand of thorny trees - the Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) - planted by the Chinese goldminers to use for pick handles. One made a handy walking stick for a Nats member.

All the time the Bell Birds kept calling and Swallows, Noisy Miners and a tame Grey Shrike Thrush were seen, as well as Eastern Spinebills in the *Banksia integrifolia*. Apparently in some areas the Bell Birds are causing the destruction of the forest. They are very territorial birds which feed on lerpes (sap sucking insects), and chase all other birds away from their food source. As each Bell Bird eats only 40% of the lerpes on his/her tree, the lerpes increase in numbers to such an extent that they kill the trees.

After lunch we set off upstream to Rhodes Falls. Everything was somewhat damp to say the least, and there were at least a dozen different fungi, ranging from tiny yellow jelly fungi growing from a crack in a log to quite large white umbrella toadstools, and clumps of enchanting brown and orange "mushrooms" growing at the base of a stump. As we progressed upstream there were more ferns growing including one *Platycerium veitchii* (Elkhorn) on a grasstree, on the edge of the wet area of the creek and the drier hillside, and *Asplenium nidus* (Birds Nest Fern) growing on the exposed roots of a tree on the creek bank. There were also *Adiantum aethiopicum* (Maiden Hair), *Blechnum* (Water Fern), *Doodia* (Rasp Fern), *Athyrium* (Lady Fern), *Pyrossia confluens* or *rupestris*, *Pteridium* (Bracken), *Cyathea* (Tree Fern) and *Polypody* (Water Edge Fern) which is similar to Fishbone Fern. Many thanks to Helen Hartman who identified the ferns for me.

There were a number of orchids growing at the falls, none in flower at this time of year. As the rocks were quite slippery and rain threaten, we did not explore far and headed back to the cars.

On the advice of Peter Overnden, we all returned via McLeod Creek Road which was less slippery than Bower Bird Road. The only mishap was of short duration when Rob's car stalled after going through the creek crossing. A couple of carloads stopped to look at a gravestone on the road verge, of one Herbert Henry Barker 1871 - 1898.

In spite of some anxious moments and the disappointment of having to all return via the highway instead of Tablelands Road, the outing was an enjoyable one.

Margaret Carnell

Minutes of Meeting of Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
held in the Q.C.W.A. rooms, Stanthorpe on 24th May 1995 at 8.00 p.m.

Opening: President Rob McCosker welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Richard Clewes from Land Care.

Attendance: 25 as per attendance book present; 8 apologies.

Minutes: of the previous meeting as published in the magazine were accepted as a correct record on the motion of Frank Wilkinson, seconded Tom Archer. Carried.

Correspondence: The following inwards correspondence was accepted, and the outwards endorsed on the motion of Frank James, seconded Desley McDonagh. Carried.

Inwards: 1. Snr J. Coulter - "Canopy" April '95; 2. University of New England - Eastlink Fauna Survey; 3. Qld Naturalists' Club Inc. - "Q.N.C. News" May, June '95; 4. Toowoomba Field Naturalist Club Inc. - "The Darling Downs Naturalist" - May; 5. Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club Inc. - "Footprint" May '95; 6. Qld Conservation Council - "Community Contacts"; 7. Richard Clewes - Land Care Information Files.

Outwards: 1. Round the Ridges - May Outing; 2. Community Billboard - May Outing; Bill Edwards - thank you; Mr & Mrs I Thompson - thank you; 5 P. Ovenden - thank you.

Financial Report: The following financial report was adopted on the motion of Roger Logan, seconded Dore McCosker. Carried.

Balance b/fwd 26.04.95	3791.04
Receipts: Photocopying	73.00
	<u>3864.04</u>

Expenditure:

Room rent	10.00
Magazine Postage	32.05
State Govt. Tax	0.25
	<u>42.30</u>
Balance as at 24.05.95	\$3811.74

Which includes \$2800.00 from NPWS.

Outing Report: Kris Carnell reported that 27 people in 10 vehicles travelled to the rest area at Girard State Forest and on to Rhodes Falls on Sunday. There was a light fall of rain which made the road and rocks quite slippery. At Rhodes Falls there were numerous ferns, fungi and orchids (not in bloom). Lunch was beside an old gold mine and other points of interest were the Tree of Heaven, introduced by Chinese gold miners, Bell Birds and other birds, and patches of Rainforest.

Pre-Outing Report: Lincoln McPhee gave a report on the outing to be held on 10th, 11th and 12th June at Minnie Waters. The trip will take 4½ to 5 hours and will be at the Caravan Park. On Saturday we will explore around the beach and harbour and feed the stingrays. Sunday's outing will be to Diggers Head and wildflower park, returning via Wooli and lakes. Monday we will leave for home or explore headlands.

General Business: There was no General Business.

Specimens: Frank James brought rocks and fossils.

Jean Harslett had found a female Golden Whistler beside the road, and A book on the flora of Girraween and Boonoo Boonoo from the Herbarium. Margaret Carnell had the dropping of an animal seen on the outing.

Program: David Wilson presented an excellent program of slides of the Diamantina Gates area.

Vote of Thanks: Rob McCosker thanked David for a very interesting program.

Birds Seen on Outing on 21st May, after leaving Tenterfield.

Yellow Robin	Fairy Wren	Currawong
Whip Bird (call)	Welcome Swallow	Bell Bird
Grey Shrike Thrush	Noisy Miner	Eastern Rosella
Pee Wee	White-winged Chough	Crow
Magpie	Maned Wood Duck	Starling
Black Cockatoo (probably yellow tailed)	Jacky Winter	Fire-tailed Finch
Eastern Spinebill		Galah
Crested Pigeon		

JUNE CAMPOUT - MINNIE WATER NSW 10/11/12 JUNE

Led by Lincoln McPhee and Fred Simpson.

Minnie Water is 30 km east of Grafton, situated on a rugged coastline with a harbour and reef.

It is about 4¹/₂ - 5 hours from Stanthorpe via the Gwydir Highway thence to Grafton south to Minnie Water turnoff. We will be camping in the Minnie Water Caravan Park with all mod cons laid on. Our campsite is under trees with a central Bar-b-q area quite well protected. Approximate cost per person will be \$5 - \$10.

Tentative Programme

Saturday - arrive, explore around beach and harbour, feed stingrays at evening.

Sunday - outing to Diggers' Head and wildflower park returning via Wooli and lakes - leave about 10.00 am, return about 3.00pm; take lunch, approximate round trip 60km.

Monday - leave for home or more exploring around various headlands.

Directions

Travel south on New England Highway to Dundee (15 km south of Deepwater), turn left there to cut across to the Gwydir Highway (Do not go into Glen Innes - if you do you will drive an extra 19 km) to Grafton. From Grafton follow the Pacific Highway 12 km to the turnoff to Minnie Water. Minnie Water is 29 km from the turnoff. (Kilometres from a recent NRMA map).

NEXT MEETING

Next month's programme will be a presentation of slides by Rob McCosker on a recent trip to Sydney and beyond.

LOCAL BOOK OFFER

At the last meeting Jean Harslett showed us a copy of the new book "The Flora of Girraween and Bald Rock National Parks" by Bill McDonald, Colleen Gravatt, Paul Grimshaw and John Williams. This book is available from the Queensland Herbarium at \$20.00 each.

We are arranging a bulk purchase which we hope will be available at the next meeting so if anyone is interested please contact myself before Monday 19th so we can organise delivery. Price to Nats members will be slightly less than the quoted price and there will be no postage charge if collected at the meeting.

Rob McCosker

SOME ASPECTS OF THE HISTORY OF FORESTLAND AND SPIRABO STATE FORESTS

(This is the record of several interviews with Mr. Peter Ovenden)

Before the building of the railway, logs were transported to Grafton and shipped from there. The most probable route is through Washpool, Upper Morven Trail and Glen Elgin.

Timber from this area was used extensively for bridge work in the construction of the railway.

Areas near the Scrub Picnic area were extensively logged during the first twenty years of this century. Early in the century, the need for replanting was realised and red cedar was planted near the picnic area. This planting failed, however, because inspection by a forester in 1920 failed to find any surviving trees. Tallow wood was selectively logged around Burra Fire Trail.

In about 1918, a mill owner called Mangelson shifted a mill from Butterloaf (behind Glen Elgin, north of Gwydir Highway) to a site just off Farnell Road. This mill was bought by Mr. Edwards (father of Bill) in the inter-war period.

Goolamangera was logged extensively during World War II, but forest work here was largely bullock causing less damage to the area than might be expected. War production was mainly in softwoods: Mountain Walnut, Sassafras and Coachwood.

The end of the financial year is almost upon us again and you will find attached to this months magazine a subscription renewal form. Subscriptions prices have remained the same as last year.

Also, at the bottom of the page you will find room to jot down ideas you might have for next years trips and after meeting guest speakers. Please take the time to think of any trips you might like to do next year. Just because you suggest a trip does not mean you are required to lead it. Just hearing your thoughts can only help the club organise a interesting year of activities.

**STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB
MEMBERSHIP FORM**

I hereby make application for membership/renewal of membership of the
STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB

NAME:.....
(Please print in block letters)

ADDRESS:
.....

STATE:..... AREA CODE:

TELEPHONE:

SUBSCRIPTION:

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP: ☐ FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: ☐ DATE: / /
(Tick where applicable)

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP - \$8 FAMILY MEMBERSHIP - \$15

**WOULD YOU TELL THE CLUB WHERE TO GO?
NOW IS YOUR BIG CHANCE**

**YOUR CLUB'S EXECUTIVE WOULD LIKE ALL MEMBERS TO TELL IT
WHERE TO GO OR WHAT TO DO. IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS PLEASE WRITE
THEM DOWN ON THIS FORM AND RETURN IT AT THE NEXT CLUB
MEETING OR ONE OF THE CLUB'S EXECUTIVE.**

SUGGESTIONS FOR CLUB OUTINGS

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POSSIBLE ORGANISER

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SUGGESTIONS FOR AFTER MEETING SPEAKERS

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POSSIBLE ORGANISER

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