



JULY 1995  
Vol. 271



# 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.

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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.

# MINNIE WATER CAMPOUT

10/11/12TH JUNE 1995

This outing was attended by 12 people, some arriving Friday evening, some Saturday, while one joined us on Sunday. Several of our regular campout people were unable to come, being overseas, or at the other end of Australia.

Saturday was cloudy without rain so we decided to have a short walk to the beach via a wild flower patch. On arrival at the beach we were surprised by the number of four wheel drive vehicles and empty boat trailers near the harbour - about 30, as well as five tractors. We realised why when we saw a large catch of fish on one of the boats returning from the reef.

Saturday afternoon we took a short drive to the National Park Campsite further up the coast to take pictures. (A number of Nats walked all the way from the National Park back to Minnie Water Caravan Park). Some went to see the stingrays being fed by hand. This happens each day, just on dusk.

Sunday was fine, but again cloudy. We left for Diggers Camp about 10.00am, stopping on the way to photograph Lake Hiawatha. The heath country further on was a mass of wild flowers and we spent much time finding and identifying them. We decided that the Christmas Bells were really Queen's Birthday Bells because it wasn't Christmas. The banksia ericifolia was particularly spectacular and integrifolia was good as well. We arrived at Diggers Camp for an early lunch.

A short walk along the beach, then up (up and nearly away) a set of stairs took us along the cliff top with magnificent views of the natural rugged coastline. To the south we could see Wooli. There were hundreds of small birds working the banksia, mostly silvereyes; and a large patch of greenhoods (pterostylis) was seen. During the walk along the beach a lot of time was spent at the interesting rock pools, but much more could have been spent observing the wildlife in them.

We returned via Wooli where some went fishing and others took in the beautiful sunset over the river.

The clouds disappeared overnight and Monday was clear and beautiful. Some members observed the fishermen pulling in a net full of bream, and were pleased to see that they returned the undersized fish to the ocean before loading the others. Some of us returned to the heath country to take the photographs we couldn't on Sunday.

The weekend was enjoyed by all. - (except that we didn't have the Mardsen Damper and the McPhee honey!!! - but we had Fred's fish.) Thanks Fred!

A very long bird list 30+ and a much longer flower list was compiled and will be available. It was an excellent natural history weekend as well as an enjoyable one. One highlight was seeing an echidna that had been digging under the annex of one of the caravans, another was seeing a jabiru so far south.



**Minutes of Meeting of Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.**  
**Held in Q.C.W.A. Rooms, Stanthorpe on 28.06.95 at 8 p.m.**

**Welcome:** President Rob McCosker welcomed all members to the meeting, especially Errol & Annette Walker and Nancy Hodgson.

Noela Dodd passed on good wishes from Jean Harslett in Scotland, and Noor and Gordon Davis in Italy, and heading for Portugal.

Rob McCosker reported that Tom Archer had been involved in an accident and he and Dot are still in Toowoomba. The secretary was asked to send a letter of commiseration.

**Minutes:** Kris Carnell moved, Rod Hutchin seconded that the minutes as printed in the magazine be accepted as a correct record of the previous meeting. Carried.

**Correspondence:** The following Inwards Correspondence was received, and the outwards adopted. on the motion of Patience James, seconded Diane Holley. Carried.

**Inwards:** 1. Subscriptions from H. Hartman, F. Simpson, J & S. Kenna, A & D Harslett, M. & B. Clarke, D. Spence, R. & N. Gooding, A. & D. Jones. 2. Qld Naturalist Club Inc - seeking nominations for Qld Natural History Award, 3. Chinchilla Field Naturalist Club - "Urimbirra" - May & June '95, Mahlab - application for listing in Pro Bono, 4. Matrix Office Systems - Account; 5. Shelley Thomson - change of address; 6. Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club Inc - "Footprint" June '95; 7. Toowoomba Field Naturalist Club - "The Darling Downs Naturalist" June '95; 8. Dept of Environment & Heritage - Meeting on Environmental Protection Act; 9. Dept of Environment Sport & Territories - "Australia's Biodiversity"; 10. Health Advancement Branch - Sun Safe Sport.

**Outwards:** 1. Round the Ridges - details of June outing.  
2. Community Billboard - details of June outing.  
3. Letter of thanks to B. Rhodes for permission to use his property.

**Financial Report:** The treasurer reported that he had made an error of \$10.00 in the balance of the account at the last meeting. The balance should have been \$3821.74 not \$3811.74. Roger Logan moved the following report be adopted, seconded Tim Murray. Carried.

Balance b/fwd 24.5.95	3821.74
<b>Receipts:</b> Subs	40.00
Room Rent Collections	18.10
Bank Interest	<u>65.78</u> 123.88
	3945.62

<b>Expenditure:</b>	
Room Rent	12.50
Magazine Postage	32.36
Petty Cash	10.00
State Govt. Tax	<u>.75</u> 55.61

<b>Balance as at 28.6.95</b>	<u>\$3890.01</u>
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**Outing Report:** Kris Carnell reported on a very enjoyable camp out to Minnie Water, where members saw many wildflowers, birds, and sea creatures in rock pools on the 10th, 11th & 12th June.

**Next Outing:** The outing on 23rd July will be led by Desley McDonagh to Sundown National Park, leaving Weeroona park at 9 a.m. It will be a fairly easy walk, with members carrying lunch to The Permanents waterhole.

**Next Meeting:** The meeting on 26th July will be the Annual General Meeting, and the program will be "Remember Last Year". Members are asked to bring slides and prints of outings for the past year, and to bring supper.

**General Business:**

The Diabetics Support Group would like to join us on an outing that is not too strenuous. They are very welcome to come.

"Flora of Girraween" will be available at the next meeting at a cost of \$18.00.

Report on Heritage Park: Roach Bros. are giving two loads of topsoil which the Stanthorpe Shire

Council will spread if we pay the cost. Trees have been orderd from Kalangadoo Nursery. The shelter and information structure should be finished by the end of September. A map of the walking tracks is in the process of being produced. The Mt Marlay track is not quite complete.

**Specimens:** Rob McCosker brought a specimen of an Eastern Spinebill, and the nest of a Yellow Faced Honeyeater.

**Programme:** Rob McCosker showed slides of a trip he made last year.

## **PREOUTING FOR OUTING TO SUNDOWN NATIONAL PARK 23RD JULY 1995**

Rod & I visited Sundown National Park on Thursday 8th June, spoke with Peter Hazelgrove and offer the following information regarding the July outing.

Plans for this outing are as follows - leave Weeroona Park 9.00am. It should take approximately 1 hour to get to Sundown National Park. Take the Stanthorpe Texas road, turn on to the Glen Lyon Dam road - 75 km bitumen road to the turnoff to Sundown, followed by 4 km of gravel road.

It is planned to have morning tea (smoko) at the camping ground. We will then carry lunch (and water) to the permanent water hole on the Severn River. This track is fairly easy walking - not a made track, but quite easy walking at a reasonable pace. We grade it about 3 - 4. This walk should take approximately half an hour and we will lunch at the water hole.

After lunch you will be free to: -

1. Explore around the water hole or cross over the river and explore the other bank.

OR -

2. Ramble up Ooline Creek to view that area and/or bird watch. Peter Hazelgrove tells us that there are numerous birds in that area.

**THERE IS NO ACTIVITY PLANNED FOR AFTER LUNCH - YOU ARE FREE TO STAY AS LONG AS YOU WISH AND MAKE YOUR WAY HOME WHEN YOU ARE READY. I'm sure that you can spend much time around that water hole - it is quite magnificent.**

Desley McDonagh

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of the Field Nats Club is on the 26th of July. After the meeting the slide presentation of "Remember Last Year" will be shown. Members are asked to bring any slides or prints taken on Field Nats outings over the last year. Supper will be held afterwards and members are asked to bring a plate of eats for supper.

## Birds Seen at Camp Out at Minnie Water 10/11/12 June

List Supplied by Desley McDonagh.

Black Cockatoo (yellow tailed)	Magpie
Cormorant (2)	Mistletoe Bird
Crested Pigeon	Osprey
Crow	Pardelote
Dotterell	Pee Wee
Flycatcher	Pelican
Friar Bird (Leatherhead)	Pheasant Coucal
Honeyeater bluefaced	Red Backed Wren
Honeyeater brown	Silver eye
Honeyeater white cheeked	Sooty Oyster Catcher
Jabiru	Spandgled Drongo
Kookaburra	Spurwing Plover
Little Friar Bird	Tern
Little Wattle Bird	Wedgetail Eagle
Lorikeet Rainbow	Welcome Swallow
Lorikeet Scaly Breasted	Whistling Kite
White faced Heron	Willy Wagtail

## Ferns & Flowers Seen at Camp Out to Minnie Water 10/11/12 June

List provided by Desley McDonagh, with assistance from Carol Adrianson & Margaret Carnell.

Acacia (3 or 4)	Dodder
Actinotus helianthi (Flannel Flower)	Epacris longiflora
Aotus (yellow pea)	Eucalypt (Bloodwood)
Banksia aemula	Eustrephus latifolius (Wombat bush)
Banksia asplenifolia	Gleichenia dicarpa (Pouched Coral Fern)
Banksia ericifolia	Glycine
Banksia integrifolia	Goodenia
Baurea rubiodes	Hallea
Blandfordia (Christmas Bell yellow)	Helichrysum bracteatum
Blechnum cartilagineum (gristle fern)	Helichrysum diosmafilium
Boronia	Hibbertia dentata
Bossia enasata	Hibbertia scandens (& 1 other)
Bossiaea ensata	Isopogen
Burchardia umbellata (Milkmaid)	Leptospermum (lemon scented)
Callistemon pacifilus (red & green)	Lilly Pilly (2)
Casuarina littoralis	Lobelia
Casuarina setifolia	Myoporum parvifolium
Caustis	Pandanus
Comosperma ericinum (Match heads)	Patersonia (Flag Iris)
Convolvulus	Persoonia (2)
Coral Flame Pea	Petrostylus (Greenhood)
Crowea exalta	Pimelia (2 species)
Cyathea cooperii (tree fern)	Plantonia
Dampiera	Ricinocarpus pachyphyllus (Wedding Bush)
Dianella	Tetradlea thymnifolia (Black eyed Susan)
Dillenia	Viola hederacea
Dillwynia retorta	Xanthorrhoea (Grass Tree)
Dillwynia (3)	Yam
	Zieria laevigata