



MARCH 1996

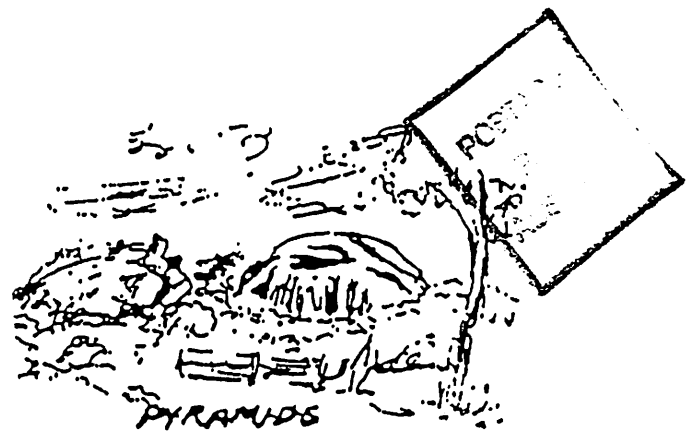
Vol 277



# THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST



Mr & Mrs R. McCosker  
PO Box 24  
Severnlea Q 4352



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.  
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. P.O. Box 154 Stanthorpe Q

## CLUB OFFICE BEARERS 1995/96

|                        |  |             |
|------------------------|--|-------------|
| President :            | Kris Carnell                                       | 076 835 268 |
| Vice-Presidents :      | Rob McCosker                                       | 076 835 371 |
|                        | Lincoln McPhee                                     | 076 811 651 |
| Secretary :            | Mary Walters                                       | 076 835 306 |
| Treasurer :            | Roger Logan  | 076 812 493 |
| Newsletter Editor :    | Desley McDonagh                                    | 076 813 074 |
| Magazine Committee :   | Julie Beddow & Wendy Donges                        |             |
| Publicity Officer :    | Patience James                                     | 076 811 853 |
| Librarian :            | Trish McCosker                                     | 076 835 371 |
| Management Committee : | President, Vice- Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer. |             |

## ADDRESS CORRECTION NOTICE

Please check your address. If it is not exactly as it should be, for your satisfaction, but more importantly, correct for Australia Post delivery - PLEASE ADVISE THE CLUB BY PHONE OR MAIL. IF YOU HAVE A MAIL SERVICE OR A POST OFFICE BOX NUMBER THAT WE DON'T KNOW WE NEED IT!

## FOR YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE !!

THE MARCH OUTING is a CAMPOUT to Emu Vale on 23rd & 24th March led by Alan & Diane Jones. Information is in an article inside the newsletter - check it for details.

NEXT MEETING will be on March 27th 8.00pm at the CWA Rooms, Victoria Street, when Robin McCosker will present a programme on the Scenic Rim. You are welcome to come and bring your friends to what should be a very good night.

## PROGRAMME FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS

| DATE         | ACTIVITY                                    | LEADER/SPEAKER           |
|--------------|---|--------------------------|
| 21.04.96     | Outing - Slip Rock                          | Brian Dodd & Bill Goebel |
| 24.04.96     | Meeting                                     | Jean Harslett            |
| 19.05.96     | Outing - Brian McDonagh's Bluff             | Brian McDonagh           |
| 22.05.96     | Meeting - Walking for Health                | Local Doctor             |
| 8/9/10.06.96 | Campout - Glasshouse Mountains              | Errol Walker             |
| 26.06.96     | Meeting                                     | Noela & Brian Dodd       |
| 21.07.96     | Outing - Sundown National Park              | Peter Haselgrove         |
| 24.07.96     | Annual General Meeting - Remember Last Year |                          |
| 25.08.96     | Outing - Warwick Area                       | David Wilson             |
| 28.08.96     | Meeting                                     | Gordon Davis             |

## . VALE, RAY MARSDEN .

It was with absolute disbelief that the news of the tragic death of our friend Ray Marsden was met as it filtered through the district. Many community associations are mourning a much loved and very active member.

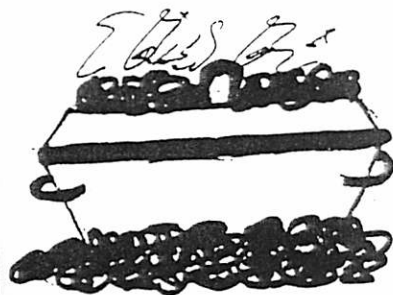
We, the members of the Stanthorpe Field Nats Club, are mourning a very special friend. Many years an active and involved member, he was always ready to be helpful in any area needed. Ray has been an office bearer - President being the most recent. Many very interesting programmes of their travels around this great country which they both loved have been presented by Ray and Millie. Ray's photography was excellent - he had an eye for a good picture and used his camera equipment with great skill. His illustrated travel programmes will be much missed. They generally had a touch of that Ray Marsden humour too! Ray and Millie also led the club on many very interesting outings, well researched and competently led.

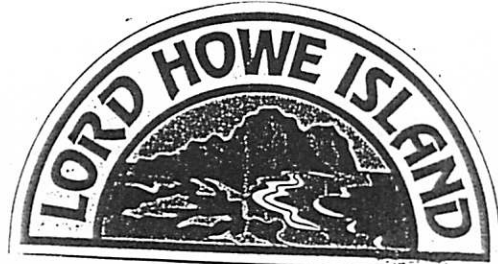
Nats campouts were always enriched by the presence of Ray and Millie. The traditional Marsden damper was much enjoyed by those present whenever the Marsdens were there. Much enjoyment was had by those who spent time round the campfire which was part of Nats campouts. When Ray & Millie were not present they were much missed for their caring company as much as the damper, but no one, NO ONE, could match the Ray Marsden damper cooking expertise. Field Nats will never be the same again - the Marsden damper, the boiling billy for billy tea and that hat almost completely 'smothered' with feathers.

We will miss Ray greatly. Those of us who have had the privilege of knowing him have had our lives enriched by his company and friendship.

We extend our loving sympathy to Millie and their children and other family members.

on behalf of all Stanthorpe Nats  
Desley McDonagh - Editor.





DECEMBER 1995

The third of December 1995 saw Field Naturalists and some guests fly to Lord Howe Island for a week's holiday. The flight from Brisbane was made in clear weather. Touchdown was after midday where our accommodation hosts met us to take us to our rooms. On the way shopping was done as the rooms were self catering. Some of us took the opportunity to do some walks that afternoon as there was plenty of daylight left. As the island is not very big most walks are fairly easy but some degree of fitness is necessary.

The next day we all took the around the island boat trip, well worth it as it gave us a good understanding of the island's size, topography and features including the cliffs of Mt Gower and the north coast with the coastal islets. A few of the party that afternoon went on a glass-bottom boat to view the coral reef that makes the large lagoon which provides a safe haven for the boats. Those who were able took the opportunity to snorkel having a closer look at the marine life.

Tuesday saw us going our own way on various walks and fishing excursions but Wednesday we got together for Jim's Heritage Tour where we learnt about the Kentia Palm industry. This palm is exported around the world and is popular in Europe. It survives well in artificial environments such as office buildings.

Other highlights were feeding the fish at Ned's beach where recently a child had to be evacuated to the mainland after being bitten by a shark. Ron's Ramble was an interesting guided walk. He taught us about some of the flora and fauna and showed us some aspects of the island.

There are many places to eat out with local fresh fish being offered for a good meal. Telephones and postal facilities are the same as the mainland with daily air services to Sydney.

Mt Gower is the highest mountain on Lord Howe. At 875 m it is equivalent to the Mt Marlay car park above sea level. Frank James was the only one of the group game enough to tackle the climb led only by a guide. It is fairly strenuous and one needs to be reasonable fit and agile. In some parts ropes are provided for reassurance and because of the steepness. The others opted for a boat trip for a picnic at a quiet beach at another part of the island.

The rest of the time various groups did their own thing till the day came we all had to leave. The flight takes about two hours and good weather was had, passengers enjoying the views over the clouds and sea.

Our thanks go to Gerard Torrisi who came with us and organised our evening meals to the various restaurants and also some of the outings. We all agreed we had a very enjoyable holiday, as Lord Howe is rather a unique experience.

*(Thanks to Frank James for this interesting report of the December trip to Lord Howe Island, and the following suggestions for those going there next month. Editor.)*

### SUGGESTIONS FOR LORD HOWE ISLAND APRIL TRIP

Suggestions for people with limited walking capabilities at Lord Howe Is next month, assuming accommodation at Ocean View Apartments.

1. Round the Island boat trip. This is an excellent way of getting a perspective of the island. Pick a calm day for this two hour cruise. Seasick may be of some use to certain people.
2. Coral viewing from a glass bottom boat. If using the 'Coral Princess' no extra charge for use of snorkelling gear or a wetsuit. Walk from Ocean View.
3. Round the island bus trip. A good way to have an informative tour to some sights. Bus will pick up at Ocean View.
4. Boat trip to North Beach, Old Gulch and for a picnic. Walk to jetty.
5. Stephen's Reserve Walk. Walk from Ocean View.
6. Walk to Post Office, telephones, Thompson's Store, Visitor's Centre Blue Lagoon Restaurant. Easier by shortcut through the paddock.
7. Walk to Old Settlement Beach.
8. Walk up to the stile behind Ocean View on the way to Malabar Hill. through fence behind clothes lines. Also, on the way to the stiles turn left and the distance is the Catalina crash site. Can return by Old Settlement Beach. G views can be had from the stiles.
9. Walk to Ned's Beach to feed the fish. Make it a round trip by go towards the stiles in No 8, but turn right and head towards the forest. Go thro the stile and forest to join Ned's Beach Road. Walk to shed. Also go left al the beach till the sand stoep to see the terns. Return via Ned's Beach Road Post Office shortcut.
10. Ron's Ramble. Very good but some slight hills and distance to negotiated. The most difficult walk suggested here. A guided tour.
11. Jim's Heritage Walk. Probably more tiring by standing around th straight walking. A guided tour.
12. Walk to Little Island. Take the bus to the end of Lagoon Rd pa Capella South. This flat track follows an old vehicle track about a kilometre lo and is part of the Mt Gower route. Not recommended to go any further than the e of the vehicle track.
13. Take bus past Capella South to the start of the track to Smoking Tr Ridge. Walk along that track skirting a farmhouse to enter the forest. S buttress rooted tree, old ship water collection points and bridge across the creek

#### NOTES

It is less than a kilometre between Nos 12 & 13 so you may be able combine them.  
Obtain bus time table; Bicycles are for hire; The cattle are ve quiet; Some tracks may be a bit boggy.

# OUTING REPORT

## POVERTY POINT MINE

Sunday the 25th of February, and the day greets us with very heavy overcast conditions with occasional drizzle. A call from a Nats member from Tenterfield wanting to know if the trip was still going ahead indicated that weather conditions at our eventual destination were decidedly worse.

With everyone gathered at Weeroona Park, we headed off for Tenterfield and morning tea. 15 cars carrying a total of 39 people left Tenterfield for Poverty Point. Leaving the bitumen revealed recent road works, which combined with now persistent drizzle, made the road rather greasy in places making me wonder if the pre-outing report should have read 4wd vehicles only. A planned stop to look down onto Demon Creek was cancelled due to the misty conditions.

After all vehicles successfully negotiated the not ideal road conditions we arrived at Poverty Point Mine. Leaving the cars we took a short walk to the mine itself. Starting at the bottom of the mine workings it wasn't long before people divided into groups finding their own way around the mine and giving the place a really good look over. People with torches ventured into the horizontal shaft and discovered that it eventually followed through to another opening which came out in a rather deep open dug out with only one side offering a way out. Moving further along, rather large rock fragments left from blasting revealed quite a lot of molybdenum embedded within the rock which had quite a shine to it when the sun made a rare showing through the clouds. Walking past capped test drillings led us to quite a long and deep open cutting that must of followed a worthwhile seam in the granite. Comments were made on the amount of work involved in such as cutting. A let down point was found to get us into the shaft and once down inside a totally different world was revealed with different plant life taking advantage of the protected conditions with increased moisture. The heavy cloud combined with the darker conditions inside the shaft made photography a tricky prospect with many people testing out how steady handed they were with some photos being taken on very slow shutter speeds. Trees and rock edges certainly help steady some people up. Walking back to the cars, many people admired a palm tree that was growing quite well up out of a hole cut into rock which had over the years filled with dirt making an ideal pot for it.

Back at the cars and having lunch, maps were soon appearing as people worked out exactly where they were. Lunch was quite a peaceful and relaxing affair when all of a sudden a cry rang out. "It's a Leech" screamed Carol Stica, a prospective new member. To say she had a phobia with leeches is an understatement. For the next ten minutes Carol couldn't sit down constantly scratching herself making sure there were no more and then just when things were starting to settle down she spotted another leech on someone else's sleeve which started the whole process over again.

Travelling back home we stopped at a couple of points of interest including the site of the Poverty Point township and to see a eucalyptus tree that is normally only found near the coast but for some reason is thriving in this one particular spot. Once back on the bitumen and familiar territory people made their own way home after another enjoyable well attended outing despite the adverse weather conditions.

*Geoff Walker*

### BIRD LIST

*Most of these birds were observed by the passengers in the leading/leader's vehicle - there seemed to be very few / if any birds obvious when we were at Poverty Point mine area. (Maybe because the weather was fairly dull? Or there was no running water? )*

*Magpie  
Red browed finch  
Australian Kestrel  
Scrub wren*

*Grey Butcher Bird  
Crested Pigeon  
Scarlet Robin  
Southern Yellow Robin*

*Crimson Rosella  
Noisy miner  
Thornbill (?)  
Striated thornbill*

*Eastern Rosella  
Kookaburra  
Wood duck (Maned geese)  
Currawong (heard)*

*Desley McDonagh*

**Minutes of Meeting of Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.  
held in Q.C.W.A. Rooms, Stanthorpe on 28th February, 1996.**

**Welcome:** President Kris Carnell welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially new member, Denise Parer, Carol Sticker and Errol Johnson who was visiting from Brisbane.

**Present:** as per Attendance Book.

**Apologies:** as per Attendance Book.

**Minutes:** of the last meeting were accepted as a correct record on the motion of Neil Donges, seconded Rod Hutchin. Carried

**Business Arising from Minutes:**

The book on remnant Vegetation will be available shortly.

**Correspondence:** The following Inwards Correspondence was received and the outwards adopted on the motion of Margaret Carnell, seconded Frank James.

- Inwards:**
1. E.M. Edgar - subscription;
  2. Rosemary Clark - response to complaint re facilities;
  3. "Canopy" - National Environment Quarterly;
  4. Directory of Australian Associations - current listings;
  5. Qld Naturalist Society - December issue.
  6. Armsign - Christmas greetings.
  7. Who's Who - Business directory.
  8. Toowoomba Bushwalkers - December issue.
  9. Queensland Naturalist Club - QNC News Jan - Feb 96 issue.
  10. Minister for Environment & Heritage - press release & Christmas Card.
  11. Toowoomba Bushwalkers - "Footprint" , January issue.
  12. Matrix Office Systems - account.
  13. Clean Up Australia Day - notifying date, March 3rd 1996.
  14. Chinchilla Field Nats - "Urimburra" January issue
  15. Stanthorpe Shire Council - Clean Up Australia Day
  16. Senator Rod Kemp - Coalition Environment Policy.
  17. Toowoomba Bushwalkers - "Footprint February 96.
  18. Matrix Office Systems - account.
  19. Australian Heritage Commission - Interim Charter.
  20. Chinchilla Field Nats - "Urimbirra" February 1996
  21. University of Southern Queensland - Missing newsletter Oct. 95.
  22. The Australian - World Environment Day, reports & advertising.
  23. Alan & Dianne Jones - Pre-Outing Report for March Camp Out.

**Outwards:**

1. Community Billboard - January Outing
2. Round the Ridges - January Outing
3. Matrix Office Systems - cheque for \$77.20
4. Info Australia Group - form returned
5. Community Billboard - February Outing & meeting
6. Round The Ridges - February Outing & meeting.

**Business Arising From Correspondence:** It was suggested we clean up Heritage Park and have a working bee there on the Clean-up Australia Day, 10th March.

**Financial Report:** In the absence of the treasurer, the president gave the following financial report:

**Financial Statement for 22/11/95 to 24/02/96.**

Balance as at 22/11/95 \$2134.86

|                  |       |           |
|------------------|-------|-----------|
| <b>Receipts:</b> |       |           |
| Subs             | 86.00 |           |
| Room Rent Coll.  | 9.45  |           |
| Donation         | 2.00  |           |
| Photocopying     | 2.40  | 99.85     |
|                  |       | \$2234.71 |

**Expenditure:**

|                               |        |                  |
|-------------------------------|--------|------------------|
| Room Rent                     | 10.00  |                  |
| Photocopy rights              | 77.20  |                  |
| R.. McCosker plants           | 16.00  |                  |
| R. Palmer edging              | 220.00 |                  |
| Public Liability              |        |                  |
| Insurance                     | 227.85 |                  |
| State Govt. Tax               | 4.90   | 555.95           |
| <b>Balance as at 24/02/96</b> |        | <b>\$1678.76</b> |

Cash in hand - unbanked \$16.00

Accounts for payment: J. Beddow for postage, Q.C.W.A. for room rent.

Kris Carnell moved and Ron Travis seconded that the financial report be adopted and accounts paid. Carried.

**Outing Report:** As the leader of the outing to Poverty Point on 25th February was absent Kris Carnell gave the report. 39 people in 15 cars assembled at the park in Tenterfield where interest was shown in a tree growing above the picnic table. Kris was able to report that Peter Overden had rung to identify it as a Chinese Photinia serrulata.

We set off in mist to Poverty Point where we were able to explore old tunnels and trenches as well as look at plants and insects in the area. On the way home Peter Overden showed a stand of Red Mahogany trees, which are usually coastal, and the site of the township of Poverty Point.

Rudy Nedderkorne reported that in 1893 grass was found in the grass roots at the mine at Poverty Point.

**Next Outing:** The next outing will be a Camp Out on 23rd & 24th march at Emu Vale led by Alan and Dianne Jones. On Saturday there will be a walk to a ridge and lava tube. On Sunday the walk will be to a waterfall.

**Next Meeting:** Rob McCosker will present the programme at the meeting on 27th March. The subject will be the Scenic Rim.

**Specimens:**

1. Desley Mcdonagh had photos of Basket Swamp and Poverty Point outings.
2. Patience James had a photo of the little red bridge in flood.
3. Frank James had a photo of Lord Howe Island and a map of the Poverty Point area.
4. Dore McCosker had a native vine with tubers on its roots.
5. Rod Hutchin had a specimen of a Cucumber Orchid in flower which he had growing on a piece of polystyrene foam. The roots had grown right through the foam.
6. Kris Carnell had the seed pods of the Red Mahogany *Eucalyptus poleta*.
7. Rudy Nederkoorn had a specimen of the type of gold found at Poverty Point.



#### General Business:

1. Kris Carnell mentioned an article in the "Queensland Naturalist" on a survey conducted at Girraween National Park and Bald Rock. Two plants listed as endangered are now dominating large rocky outcrops since the fire in 1994.
2. Kris also tabled a leaflet on the Demon Nature Reserve.
3. Brian McDonagh mentioned a plague of frogs on his property at Wyberba after recent good rain.. They were the size of a thumbnail and a mottled grey/brown colour. When standing still there would be about twenty around his feet.
4. Brian also mentioned sighting a snake which he was 90% sure was a copperhead.
5. Errol Walker mentioned that there was a single place left for a male for the trip to Lord Howe Island on 7th April, due to a cancellation.

**Program:** Lincoln McPhee presented a very interesting program on bees, with a hive, bees and other equipment for us to see.  
The president moved a vote of thanks to Lincoln.

## TRIBUTE TO BILL GOEBEL



More than 30 people attended the official opening of the Bill Goebel bridge at Wyberba on Tuesday, February 27.

The Mayor of Stanthorpe, Cr Neil Sullivan officially opened the bridge and paid tribute to Bill Goebel and the work he had done in Girraween National Park.

Mr. Goebel's longtime friend, Cr Kevin Hindmarsh, said Mr Goebel had developed most of the tracks in the park, as well as some in Carnarvon Gorge.

The bridge on Pyramids Road, constructed earlier in the year, replaces the old wooden bridge which had been in use for almost 50 years.

**PHOTO:** Cr Kevin Hindmarsh (left) and Cr Neil Sullivan (right) with Bill Goebel at the opening of the Bill Goebel bridge at Wyberba.

This tribute to Bill Goebel, long time friend of the Stanthorpe Nats is reprinted from the Stanthorpe Border Post 5/3/96 with permission.

CAMP OUT 23/24 MARCH 1996

The Campout on the weekend of 23/24 March will be led by Alan & Diane Jones to the Emu Vale area. Consult the RACQ map of the district as to how to get to Emu Vale. We will be camping on the property of Brian & Jenny Lockhart about 4 km from Emu Vale on the Emu Creek road. From the Emu Vale school to the end of the bitumen is 3.5 km. Another 300m further on is a mail box on the left (a 44 gallon drum with a sprocket on top). Cross the grid and causeway. The camp ground is the flat ground in the vicinity of the pump shed.

Saturday's outing will start at 10.00 am and will be the walk to the lava cave and bat cave. Some of this walk is quite steep - grade 7-8. Two people into each cave is best. One cave is very muddy. Bring overalls, light, plus helmets, knee and elbow pads if you have them. There are alternate areas to see and explore if you don't feel up to the climb.

Sunday's outing starts at 9.00 am and is a walk up Rocky Creek to a small National Park.

If the weather turns wet, please contact Kris Carnell (076 835 268) as there may have to be last minute change of plans.

