

APRIL 1996

Vol 278



# 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.



## 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 !!

1. THE APRIL OUTING is to Slip Rock in the Girraween National Park on April 21st. Bill Goebel will be the leader. Please check details in article in this newsletter.

**N.B. meeting at the picnic area at Girraween - not Weroona park, at 9.00 am.**

2. NEXT MEETING will be on April 24th 8.00pm at the CWA Rooms, Victoria Street, when Jean Harslett will present the programme. You are welcome to come and bring your friends.

3. NEXT CAMPOUT - GLASSHOUSE MOUNTAINS - 8/9/10 JUNE. Leaders - Errol & Annette Walker. Make that entry in your diary NOW ! Early warning details in this newsletter.

4. HERITAGE PARK GARDENS - MAY 12TH. The club is aiming to finish these on May 12th. Read the details inside. B.B.Q tea for ALL NATS about 4.30 pm.

## 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.

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC.  
HELD IN THE Q.C.W.A. ROOMS STANTHORPE ON 27TH MARCH, 1996.**

**Welcome:** President Kris welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly visitors Mario Pennisi and Francesca Laura.

**Present & Apologies:** 33 people attended the meeting & there were 7 apologies as per attendance book.

**Minutes:** of the previous meeting were accepted as a corrected record on the motion of Desley McDonagh, seconded Dot Archer. Carried.

**Correspondence:** The following inwards correspondence was received and the outwards adopted on the motion of M. Carnell, seconded F. Wilkinson. Carried.

**Inwards:** 1. Envirolog - Account; 2. Qld Naturalist Club Inc. - QNC News March/April; 3. Australia Post - Mail Box Account; 4. G. & F. Stubbings - Information on "Lanikai" campsites; 5. C'wealth Government - Resource Information Guide; 6. Brisbane City Council - Ad for concert on Wetlands; 7. Matrix Office Systems - letter re charges & account; 8 Chinchilla Field Nats - Urimbirra" for March '96; 9. Toowoomba Bushwalkers - "Footprint" March '96; 10. Pots Galore - account.

**Outwards:** 1. Community Billboard - outing March; 2. Round the Ridges - w outing March; 3. Matrix Office Systems - Account; 4. Granite News - account.

**Business Arising from Correspondence:** Members were invited to take leaflets on "Lanakai"

**Financial Report:** K. Carnell moved & P. James seconded that the following Financial Report be adopted.

**Financial Statement for 25/2/96 to 27/3/96.**

Balance as at 24/2/96		\$1678.76
Receipts:		
Subscriptions	31.00	
Room Rent Collection	10.75	
Book Sale	18.00	59.75
		1738.50
Expenditure:		
Room Rent	10.00	
Magazine Postage	71.15	
Photocopier Toner Postage	3.30	
Envirolog - Mulch	175.00	
P.O. Box rent	40.00	
Magazine labels	24.00	
Flowers R. Marsden	30.00	
Govt Tax March	25	353.70
Balance as at 27/3/96		\$1384.81

**Outing Report:** Errol Walker reported on the camp out at Emu Creek on 23rd & 24th March.

There were two very enjoyable but hard walks - the one on Saturday up a steep ridge to an area of rainforest, and a lava cave, with bats in it. On Sunday the walk was up Rocky Creek which is a tributary of Emu Creek, to a waterfall which fell 400ft the first time and about 80ft the second. The area was declared a National Park in 1945, after being a reserve since last century. Hoop Pine was growing amongst the rainforest.



It was suggested that a grading be put on all outings with the organizer responsible for doing so.

Specimens: 1. Doorne Nedderkorne had a specimen of cooked mud from Rocky creek which looked like coral. 2. Rob McCosker had a Lobelia dentata.

Next Meeting: There will be a Management Committee Meeting before the April meeting on April 24th. The program will be given by Jean Harslett.

PreOuting Report: Kris Carnell reported that the next outing to Slip Rock in Girraween National Park will be led by Bill Goebel. We will meet at the picnic area at Girraween at 9. a.m., and walk to Slip Rock via Kitchen Caves, and a rock which was hit by lightning in 1935. We will carry morning tea and lunch. The walk is graded at 8.

General Business: 1. Heritage Park - the president thanked everyone who had helped at the working bee on 10th March, and at all previous ones. At the last working bee most of the rock edges were done, including some cementing, 20 cubic metres of pine chip mulch were spread over newspaper. On 10th & 11 th May there will be a final working bee followed by a barbeque and the handing over to the Stanthorpe Shire Council

2. Delsey McDonagh said she was concerned about privet which is taking over native vegetation. She suggested it should be named as a noxious weed. Kris advised that the Lands Department is in charge of noxious weeds, although the Shire Council can declare a noxious weed within the shire. The problem with that is that all privet in the shire would have to be eradicated, including hedges that are kept trimmed. He suggested we ask the council to include privet in its spray program of road verges and council land.

Desley Mcdonagh moved and Tom Archer seconded that the secretary write to the Council asking them to eradicate privet on road reserves and council controlled land.

3. The librarian needs an extra copy of each magazine for the club library.

4. Errol Walker reported that the last seat to Lord How Island has been filled. There are 20 people going.

Program: Rob McCosker showed slides of a walk he did with some friends along the scenic rim. We were impressed by the scenery and the stamina of the walkers. Kris moved a vote of thanks to Rob for a very interesting and entertaining program.

#### HERITAGE PARK GARDENS

Over the past few months the Nats have been constructing the gardens and interperative centre in Heritage Park. A number of working bees have been held and I would like to thank sincerely those members who have been able to help. The first stage is nearing completion and we would like to finish the gardens on May 12th. We are aiming to cement edge all the rock edges and mulch the remaining area on the southern garden bed. The working bee will commence at 10 a.m. We need newspapers for covering the garden and replenishing Robin's supply, so if any Nats members can help please bring them.

At about 4.30 p.m. we will be having a B.B.Q tea to which all members are invited whether you can come earlier or not. Also invited will be Council reps, Kalangadoo nursery and other non-members who helped in the construction. A barbeque, tea and coffee will be provided - bring your own eats.

Kris Carnell

ROB KERNOT  
1/9 FURNESS CRES.,  
WARWICK 4370

617167

BIRD REPORT FOR MARCH CAMPOUT

23-24/3/96

h - heard only  
Key :- (s) - several  
1-10  
(mc) - moderately  
common  
10-50  
+ - possibly more  
than no. shown.

A total of 78 species were recorded for the weekend. The campsite area proved most productive due to the variety of habitats located there. Open woodland, rainforest, vine thicket, agricultural land and riverine habitats all combined to give 68 species a place to live.

Fewer species were found along Rocky Creek due to the closed nature of the rainforested gully, and many birds were only heard rather than observed. Underlined species denote interesting records.

EMU CREEK CAMPSITE / LOCKHART PROPERTY / HIKE TO BAT CAVE.

{23-24/3/96}

Little Pied Cormorant 3  
White-faced Heron 3  
Straw-necked Ibis ~20  
Pacific Black Duck 15  
Grey Teal 4  
Maned Duck 8  
Black-shouldered Kite 2  
Brown Goshawk 1  
Wedge-tailed Eagle 1  
Australian Kestrel 2  
Dusky Moorhen 2  
Masked Lapwing 2  
Bar-shouldered Dove 1  
Crested Pigeon (s)  
Galah (s)  
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo 60+  
Rainbow Lorikeet 6-flock  
Musk Lorikeet 15+  
Cockatiel (s)

Eastern Rosella (s)  
Red-rumped Parrot (s)  
Shining Bronze-cuckoo 1 [Narellie  
Crawford]  
Southern Boobook 2  
Barn Owl 2  
Laughing Kookaburra 4  
Sacred Kingfisher 2  
Welcome Swallow 4+  
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike 5  
Eastern Yellow Robin 1  
Golden Whistler (s)  
Grey Shrike-thrush (s)  
Spectacled Monarch 1  
Rufous Fantail 1  
Grey Fantail (s)  
Willie Wagtail 2+  
Eastern Whipbird 2h  
Superb Fairy-wren (s)  
Variegated Fairy-wren 1♀

EMU CREEK CAMPSITE ETC. CONTINUED

White-browed Scrub-wren 5+  
Brown Thornbill (s)  
Buff-rumped Thornbill 4-flock  
Yellow-rumped Thornbill 6-flock  
White-throated Treecreeper (s)  
Red Wattlebird 4+  
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater 1  
Striped Honeyeater 1  
Noisy Miner (mc)  
Lewin's Honeyeater (s)  
Yellow-faced Honeyeater (mc)  
White-naped Honeyeater (s)  
Brown Honeyeater 1  
Eastern Spinebill 2h  
Mistletoebird 2+

Spotted Pardalote (mc)  
Striated Pardalote 6+  
Silvereye (s)  
Red-browed Firetail (s)  
Zebra Finch 10+  
Double-barred Finch 6+  
Common Starling (s)  
Spangled Drongo 1h  
White-winged Chough 4  
Australian Magpie-lark 4+  
Grey Butcherbird (s)  
Pied Butcherbird 2h  
Australian Magpie (s)  
Pied Currawong 3  
Torresian Crow (s)

“—————”

ROCKY CREEK & PART OF ROCKY CREEK NATIONAL PARK.

{24/3/96}

Wedge-tailed Eagle 2  
Peregrine Falcon 1  
Brown Cuckoo-dove 2  
Wonga Pigeon 1 [<sup>Nancy</sup>Goodling]  
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo 3  
Crimson Rosella (s)  
Eastern Rosella 2  
Powerful Owl 1  
Golden Whistler 3+  
Grey Shrike-thrush 1+h  
Grey Fantail (s)  
Eastern Whipbird 1h  
Superb Fairy-wren (s)  
Large-billed Scrub-wren 4+  
Brown Gerygone 2

White-throated Treecreeper (s) h  
Noisy Miner (mc)  
Lewin's Honeyeater (s)  
Yellow-faced Honeyeater (mc)  
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater 1+ [<sup>Narelle</sup>Crawford]  
White-throated Honeyeater 15+-flock  
White-naped Honeyeater (mc)  
Eastern Spinebill 2h  
Scarlet Honeyeater 2+ (♂,♀)  
Mistletoebird 2h  
Spotted Pardalote (mc)  
Silvereye 4  
Grey Butcherbird (s)  
Pied Currawong (s)

OUTING TO SLIP ROCK 21ST APRIL

The Nats outing on 21st April will be to Slip Rock in the Girraween National Park. Bill Goebel will be our leader for the day.

We will meet at the picnic area at Girraween at 9 a.m. and then drive further up the road to a parking spot. The walk takes us around the back of the Baldy Pyramid to Slip Rock. On the way we will look at a large boulder dislodged by lightning in 1935, and also we'll look at the Kitchen Caves. Morning tea and lunch will be carried with us.

This is a full day walk, but most Nats members should be able to cope if they take their time. Kris Carnell 835 268

4.

## EARLY WARNING - GLASSHOUSE MOUNTAINS CAMPOUT.

8/9/10 JUNE 1996 - Leaders Errol & Annette Walker 812 008

This advice may be a little premature, but some of us may wish to plan other activities in conjunction with the campout. The planned long weekend is a fair way from Stanthorpe (340 km), but if the suggested route is taken (refer May Newsletter) we will be on good scenic roads with light traffic.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Camping site booked at the Glasshouse Mts Primary School - Toilets, water, power, grass sites, shelter and plenty of room - \$2.00 p p per night.
- Walking distance to shops and a major mountain.
- Opportunities for easy or hard walks and short scenic drives on well maintained roads.
- Evening entertainment.
- Visit to David and Olive Hockings' Australian plant nursery.
- A waterfall walk.
- Craft shops, cheap fruit and more.

This outing is tailored to suit everyone and can be graded 1 to 10 to suit ability or desire.

Continuing on, Captain Cook noticed some unusual mountains -- Thursday 17th: These hills which lay but a little way inland, and not far from each other; they are very remarkable on account of their singular form of elevation, which very much resembles Glass Houses which occasioned my giving them that name. The northernmost of the three is the highest and largest. There are likewise several other peaked hills inland to the northward of these, but they are not near so remarkable.

\* Cook could have been referring to the glass furnaces of his native Yorkshire or to a town in Wales called Glasshouses which he had seen many times from across the Bristol Channel.



### A Field Guide to Australian Butterflies

Robert Fisher OAM Surrey Beatty & Sons, Norton, N.S.W. 1995.

Contents : Butterflies divided into families.

Preface

Introduction

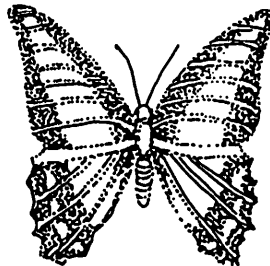
- Family
1. Skipper
  2. Swallowtails
  3. White, yellows
  4. Danaids, browns etc.
  5. Beaks
  6. Blues, coppers etc.

Glossary

Bibliography

Index of Common names

Index of Scientific names



Excellent book for the 'amateur' wanting to identify butterflies. Illustrations are photographs which give good guidance to identification. Book is a hard cover, very good quality paper which enhances the quality photographs. Good format, a good size for back packs and field work, (13cm w x 22cm h). More than 200 of the 385 or so species of butterflies that have been recorded in Australia are described and illustrated. The selected species are the most common.

Book lent by the Hockings family.



## EMU VALE CAMPOUT . SUNDAY WALK . . ROCKY CREEK NATIONAL PARK .

THE ORIGIN OF ROCKY CREEK NATIONAL PARK - from an old copy  
of N.P.A. News.

This small sample of mountainous rainforest and scenery was saved from 'development' or destruction in 1892 by \*Arthur Morgan, later Sir Arthur Morgan, Premier of Queensland September 1903 - January 1906, President of the Legislative Council 1909 and then Lieutenant-Governor of Queensland (pending arrival of Sir William McGregor as Governor).

On 16 May 1892, Arthur Morgan asked the Minister for Lands 'to reserve for public purposes, a portion of land situated on Dolley's Creek in Emu Vale, sufficient to embrace a very beautiful waterfall 365 feet in height and the gorge leading thereto.'

He submitted a map which clearly identifies the areas as on the present Rocky Creek not Dolley's Creek (a tributary to the north) and requested that the Lands Ranger at Warwick confirm that the scenery was on unalienated land, adding that the land 'was absolutely useless for either grazing or agriculture but might possibly be selected for the sake of its scenery which I do not think ought to be allowed to pass into the hands of private individuals'.

As a result of this enlightened outlook of 1892, the land was surveyed (Cat. No. M34.1228) and gazetted as Reserve for Recreation Purposes on 6 August 1892, with an area of 168 acres. The survey map still showed the creek as Dolley's, flowing from Portion 71V over the waterfall and emerging into Portion 23V. In a plan of Portion 113 (and adjoining lands) in 1918, the height of the waterfall is shown as 380 feet on Rock Gully in Recreation Reserve 115. On 6 September 1920 the Land Ranger reported that he had interviewed several old residents in the locality with reference to the falls being visited by pleasure seekers. They informed him that quite a number of visitors travel up the gorge every year shooting etc. A request for a part of the reserve to be opened for lease was refused. There was an official report in April 1941 that picnickers managed the journey, some by hiking, some on horses as the last 2 to 3 miles could not be negotiated by any type of vehicle.

In November 1944, the late Geo Gentry, then Chief National Park Ranger, inspected the area and recommended it be made a National Park - gazetted 26 May 1945.

\* Sir Arthur Morgan shared the initiative in seeking a National Park at Cunningham's and Spicer's Gaps in 1908 and was the Lieutenant - Governor when the original Cunningham's Gap National Park was gazetted in 1908.

(Outing report will be included in the next issue of the Newsletter).