

# 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 1996/97

President :	Kris Carnell	076 835 268
Vice-Presidents :	Rob McCosker	076 835 371
	Lincoln McPhee	076 811 651
Secretary :	Liz Bourne	076 836 374
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 and advise of any change needed.

## COMING UP

1. NEXT MEETING will be held on Wednesday, February 26th at the CWA Rooms, Victoria Street, Stanthorpe at 8.00 pm. Errol Walker will be presenting the programme.

2. FEBRUARY OUTING - Sunday 23rd February - Waterfall Creek - Leaders Errol & Annette Walker - N.B. Meet at Weeroona Park at 8.30 am. Further details inside.

## PLEASE NOTE

1. DEADLINE DATE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER - March 10th. Earlier contributions will be very welcome.

2. CHANGE IN PROGRAMME - Millie Marsden will be presenting her programme on the Northern Territory on March 26th. The Quiz will be held on June 25th.

## 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.

## WATERFALL CREEK FALLS 23RD FEBRUARY 1997

PRE-OUTING REPORT : Leaders - Errol & Annette Walker

If you have ever travelled the Bruxner Highway east of Tenterfield, it's quite likely you would have seen Wellington Rock (Woolloomoolloomi) on your left about 20 km from Tenterfield. Travelling a few km further on and especially after heavy rain you may have seen a ribbon of silver water cascading over granite down the mountain side on your left. It can be a spectacular sight when the mountain mists of early morning are still present. Most travellers (especially the drivers) miss this sight because of the concentration needed to negotiate the road.

This huge waterfall has been a fascination to us for many years travelling as we did when the kids were young and the coast near Ballina was a priority destination for summer holidays.

After liaison with the Tenterfield forestry we have been able to get some first hand information on the whereabouts and condition of forestry roads in this area.

Our first trip to the falls entailed a rather rough 4WD trail but we soon found an easy way back which is quite suitable for all but the very smallest or lowest of vehicles.

For this outing we plan to travel the 'easy' way so those with the category of vehicle described above should seek a lift in a Falcon or a Commodore.

Walking, except for those who can't resist getting to the top and bottom of everything they see, will be minimal. (800m each way).

Grade 3 walking just to view the falls.

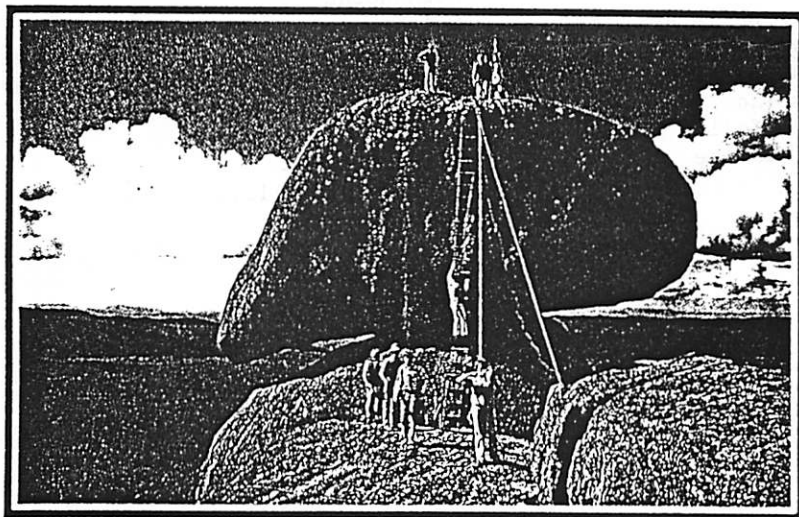
Grade 8 optional walking for the enthusiast.

A 4WD will be available for the 800m uphill bit if required.

From a lunch spot there are really good views of Wellington Rock giving an aspect few of us have seen.

We will be in an isolated area on a high plateau which looks down on the Bruxner Highway. Water is not available at the lunch site so be prepared and bring your own. Morning tea and lunch will be at the cars.

MEET AT WEEROONA PARK FOR AN 8.30am DEPARTURE.



Woolloomoolloomi. 25 km north-east of Tenterfield, this isolated Wellington Hat shaped granite tor is an Aboriginal Special Place.



OUTING REPORT FOR OCTOBER HALF-DAY (WILD FLOWER) OUTING TO GIRRAWEE ADJOINING  
BRIAN MCDONAGH'S LYRA PROPERTY.

On a typical Nats outing day only 10 people braved the threatening weather. Instead of the usual botanist rate of progress, about half a mile an hour, we moved fairly smartly to try to reach the boronia before the weather broke, so the list is not as comprehensive as it could be.

The technical staff consisted of 1 retired Ag Scientist, plus one formerly enthusiastic amateur, whose enthusiasm has waned as the powers to be continually change names, even of whole families. The check list in "Flora of Girraween and Bald Rock National Parks" was used.

The wattles listed all had a few remaining flowers. The unnamed one was rather like *adunca*, but new to all of us.

(Thanks to the two Brians - McDonagh and Dodd - for the accompanying list. Those of us who braved this outing enjoyed it very much and we just beat the rain. Editor)

APIACEA	LOGANIACEAE
Actinotus helianthi	Logania albiflora
ASTERACEAE	MIMOSACEAE
Brachyscome stuartii	Acacia graniticia
Cassinia sp (Not dead finish)	Acacia pruinosa
Olearia gravis	Acacia ulicifolia
Olearia microphylla	Acacia venulosa
Craspedia uniflora	Acacia sp
Senecio latus	ORCHIDACEAE
Helichrysum 2sp	Caladenia carnea
CAMPANULACEAE	Diuris sulphurea
Whalenbergia sp	Galeola sp
CASUARINACEAE	Glossodia major
Casuarina rigida	Pterostylis nutans
(2 - m & f flowers on different plants)	RUTACEAE
DILLENAECAE	Boronia amabilis
Hibbertia 2sp	Boronia sp
EPACRIDACEAE	Phebalium ambiens
Leucopogon 3 sp	Phebalium squamulosum ?
Styphelia sp (new to the 'experts')	Zieria aspalathoides
EUPHORBIACEAE	Zieria compacta
Bertya sp	SANTALACEAE
FABACEAE	1 sp - the Brains/Brians trust couldn't agree on the genus.
Daviesia latifolia	SAPINDACEAE
Dillwynia sp	Dodoneae triquetra
Mirbelia sp	SOLANACEAE
Pulteneae sp etc. - 6 species.	Solanum sp
Mirbelia speciosa	STACKHOUSIACEAE
Glycine clandestina	Stackhousia monogyna
Indigofera adesmifolia	STERCULIACEAE
Hardenbergia violacea	Keraudrenia hillii
GERANIACEAE	Rulingia sp
Geranium sp	THYMELAEACEAE
GOODENIACEAE	Pimelea 2sp
Dampiera purpurea	VIOLACEAE
LAMIACEAE	Hybanthus monopetalus
Prostanthera nivea	Viola betonifolia
Westringia amabilis	XANTHORRHOACEAE
Westringia sp	Lomandra 2sp
LILIACEAE	Xanthorrhoea johnsonii
Dianella sp	
Stypantra sp	

## OUTING REPORT NOVEMBER 24TH 1996

Our outing on the 24th November was 'Exploring Our Back Yard'. We met at Weeroona Park and travelled to Donnelly's Castle. On the way, however, we detoured past the Thulimbah School to see some *Grevillea scortechinii*. There were some very good specimens growing beside the road and the cameras were busy taking photos of the flowers.

We then drove to Donnelly's Castle noticing on the way the amount of new apple orchards being planted and the amount of hail netting being erected. After the regulation morning tea we explored the rocks and climbed to the lookout. Considerable time was spent looking for landmarks, houses, properties etc. There were lots of *Clematis aristata* showing their 'Old Man's Beard'. Also growing on the rocks was some *Bulbophyllum minutissemum*.

After rounding up the troops we set off at a leisurely pace to the property of Tom Dunn(Snr). Along the way we stopped to look at some *Cherianthera* (finger flowers). When we arrived at Dunn's property the weather was looking threatening and lunch was eaten with one eye on the weather. Even though our guide Tom Jnr had not arrived we left at about 12.30 on our walk, hoping not to get wet.

A short walk up Hardy's Gully brought us to some very interesting rock formations. Also in the creek bed are a number of small water holes joined under the rock. These small holes are home to purple spotted gudgeons (native fish) and both red and blue crayfish. There were a number of different wildflowers growing around the edges of the creek. Tom Jnr had arrived by this time with a specimen of the red crayfish. The party then split up. Some walked out on to the road and then back to the cars. the others, led by Tom walked to a ridge behind Dunn's house. The country here was quite different, being a dry cypress ridge that had not been burnt for many years.

Unfortunately we had just arrived at First Rock when it began to rain lightly so the decision was made to head back to the cars.

After thanking both the Tom Dunns for their assistance, we made our way home lucky not to have been soaked. Kris Carnell.

### Flower List - November Outing

<i>Hypoxis</i> (Golden Weather Glass)	<i>Stypandra major</i> - Vivid blue flowers
<i>Stenanthemum scortechinii</i>	<i>Grevellia scortechinii</i> (black grevellia)
<i>Dipodium punctatum</i> (Hyacinth orchid)	<i>Dianella</i> sp. - panicles of blue flowers
<i>Prostanthera nivea</i> (mint bush)	<i>Bulbine bulbosa</i> - yellow (Bulbine Lily)
<i>Thysanotus tuberosus</i> (Fringed Lily)	<i>Calotis cuneifolia</i> (Blue Daisy Burr)
<i>Melaleuca alternatifolia</i>	<i>Hakea</i> sp.
<i>Lobelia</i> sp. - vivid blue flowers	<i>Ranunculus lappaceut</i> - common buttercup
<i>Gleichenia</i> (Coral fern)	<i>Leucopogon</i> sp
<i>Pimelia linifolia</i> (rice flower)	<i>Caltryx</i> (Fringe Myrtle) - bracts only
<i>Bracteantha bracteata</i> (Golden Everlasting)	
<i>Jacksonia scoparia</i> (Dogwood)	<i>Glycine</i> sp. - purple pea, twining
<i>Pterostylus rufa</i> (Brownbeak)	<i>Solanum</i> sp. - purple flower, thorny bush
<i>Platyserium bifurcatum</i> (Elkhorn Fern)	<i>Davallia pyxidata</i> (Hare's-Foot Fern)
<i>Adiantum aethiopicum</i> (common maidenhair fern)	
<i>Arthropodium milleflorum</i> (chocolate flower)	

Compiled by Margaret Carnell

## PEST OR RESOURCE ?

We all know that Australia has more than its fair share of ecological pests.

Leaving aside the probability that in fifty years time the greatest ecological pest in this country, and the planet, will be Homo sapiens (male and female), we do recognise that today it is rabbits, whisky grass, foxes, camels etc. that dominate our thinking. But they say 'one man's meat'; 'swings and roundabouts'; 'ill winds' etc. so let's look for the silver linings.

There are now many examples of pests being turned into resources and by resources we mean something that some Homo sap can make a quid out of, or just enjoy. In parts of Queensland there is considerable difference of opinion about wild pigs and goats. To some they are land and crop destroyers but to others they are lucrative sources of so-called game meat fetching high prices in Germany. It must have been a similar story with rabbits before myxo was released. They made hats too.

Australian wild camels are currently prized as good genetic stock to pep up the flagging herds of the Middle east. Are wild horses also still a resource to somebody or do the men from Snowy River only perform for TV?

Cane toads have had a lot of attention by resourceful resource seekers. Lamp shades and door stops spring to mind. Patterson's Curse is hotly protected by Victorian bee-keepers and prickly pear and feral asparagus are of value to some not a hundred miles from Stanthorpe Post Office. Who has not enjoyed a blackberry?

If the story that whisky grass arrived here as packing around liquor bottles is not just a bit of Yankee phobia maybe we could re-export it around wine bottles or turn it into paper?

Nothing that grows is totally worthless. Water hyacinth that clogs dams etc. has been turned into Biogas and compost. Chickweed, dandelions, stinging nettles, sorrel and lots more are commonly eaten, even in Australia. In Thailand, deep fried grasshoppers are a snack food. Local fishermen may not sympathise, but carp are a major edible fish in some countries and were actively farmed for food by monks in mediaeval Europe.

In the microbial world many examples of two-faced organisms occur. The E.coli that causes epidemics of fatal infection in children is only a slight genetic variant of the same E.coli that pharmaceutical companies now use to produce insulin and other life saving products by fermentation processes.

And so to the kangaroo - is this animal a pest or a blessing?

In western U.S.A., Ted Turner, the billionaire owner of CNN Television, is engaged in a huge conservation project to buy up millions of acres of cattle ranches, get rid of the cattle and establish bison herds, the natural prairie animal. The bison are managed, culled for their excellent meat, but not farmed. No improved pasture, no special feeds, no vets.

So far our kangaroo resources have only been properly appreciated by the original human inhabitants, the pet food makers and bush walkers.

Anyone know Ted Turner's phone number?

Contributed by Gordon Davis.

(My apologies for not being able to fit this article in the November Newsletter. I invite responses to this contribution for later editions of the Newsletter. Editor.)

## DO WE HAVE TO GO VERY FAR TO SEE NATIVE PLANTS IN FLOWER?

As a frequent user of the Council tracks on Mt Marlay, I was of the opinion that, apart from the large flat rock on the S E corner, it was not a very good place for native plants. However, by keeping my eyes more open in a better than normal season, I was able to detect the following in flower.

Acacia adunca - Wallangarra wattle	Haemodorum planifolium - Blood root lily
Acacia fimbriata - Brisbane wattle	Helipterum albicans - Golden everlasting
Acacia granitica	Hibbertia spp (2) - Guinea flowers
Banksia integrifolia - White banksia	Hovea purpurea - Narrow leaf hovea
Billardiera scandens - Apple berry	Hybanthus monopetalus - Lady's slipper
Brachycome sp	Indigofera australis - Australian indigo
Bulbine bulbosa	Isotoma anethifolia
Callistemon siebiera - Alpine bottlebrush	Jacksonia scoparia - Dogwood
Calytrix tetragona - Heath myrtle	Leptospermum spp(3) - Tea tree
Cassinia quinquetaria - Dead finish	Leucopogon spp (3) - Beard heath
Chieranthera linearis - Finger flower	Lobelia sp
Clematis glycinoides - Headache vine	Lomandra spp (2) - Mat rush
Craspedia uniflora - Billy buttons	Melichrus urceolatus
Cryptandra amara	Pelargonium australe
Daviesia sp - Egg and bacon	Prasophyllum flavum - Yellow leek orchid
Dianella laevis - Flax lily	Solanum sp
Dillwynia sp - Parrot pea	Stylidium graminifolium - Grass trigger plant
Diuris chrysantha - Yellow donkey tail	Stypantra glauca - Nodding blue lily
Dipodium variegatum - Hyacinth orchid	Styphelia viridis - Five corners
Dodonaea sp - Hop bush	Thysanotus tuberosus - Fringed lily
Drosera sp - Sundew	Trachymene incisa - Wild yam
Eustrephus latifolius - Wombat berry	Whalenbergia sp - Bluebell
Exocarpos cupressiformis - Native cherry	Xanthorrhoea johnsonii - Grass tree
Glossodia major - Wax-lip orchid	
Goodenia sp	
Glycine clandestina - Twining glycine	

This list does not claim to be complete, especially for the daisy family.  
Brian Dodd.

FROM THE EDITOR :- Many many thanks to the members who contribute to the newsletter. I don't mind the problem of deciding which ones I can keep till the next issue. It makes editing the newsletter a very pleasant task. Please keep it up!

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB INC.**  
**held in Q.C.W.A. Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on 27th November, 1996**

**Opening:** The meeting opened at 8.05pm with President, Kris Carnell, welcoming members and visitors, including a new member, Barbara Rankin.

**Attendance:** There were 29 present and 4 apologies as per the attendance book.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the previous meeting held on 23rd October were amended to indicate that it was the Field Naturalists Club, not the Stanthorpe Shire Council, who were hoping to expand the interpretive centre at Heritage Park. The amended minutes were then received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Desley McDonagh, seconded by Patience James. Carried.

**Correspondence:**

**Outwards:** Notice of outing and meeting to *Round the Ridges* and *Community Billboard*.

**Inwards:**

1. Chinchilla Field Naturalists - re their publication on wattles
2. Ann Jennison, Francesa Laura, Mary Clarke - membership renewals
3. Queensland Naturalists Club - newsletter
4. Department of Environment - re application for a grant
5. Environmental Defender's Office - launch of *Brisbane River Laws* book
6. Office of Sport & Recreation - Toowoomba - re recreation and leisure grants
7. Stanthorpe Shire Council - invitation to attend Christmas function and request for nominations for Australia Day awards
8. Information Australia Group - advertisement for *Who's Who in Australia* for \$120
9. Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers - re meeting on fire blight on 18/11/96
10. Chinchilla Field Naturalists - *Urimbirra*, Nov. 96
11. Dept. of Env, Sport and Territories - *Biolinks*, Oct. 96
12. Toowoomba Bushwalkers - *Footprint*, Nov. 96

This was received on the motion of Liz Bourne, seconded by Rob McCosker. Carried.

**Business Arising from Correspondence:**

1. Department of Environment - application for a grant

As so little time was available to prepare and submit an application before the closing date on 29th November, 1996, it was agreed not to pursue it this year.

2. Stanthorpe Shire Council - Christmas function

It was agreed that the Secretary, Liz Bourne, would represent the Club at this function.

3. Stanthorpe Shire Council - nominations for Australia Day awards

Kris asked the meeting for suggestions for suitable people who could be nominated for one of these awards.



**Financial Statement for 23/10/96 to 27/11/96**

Balance as at 27/11/96 \$1164.22

**Receipts:**

Subscriptions:	\$101.00
Room rent collection:	<u>\$ 16.00</u>
	<u>\$117.00</u>

\$1281.22

**Expenditure:**

Room rental	\$ 10.00
Magazine postage	\$ 36.60
Russell Carnell -cupboard	\$ 63.15
Matrix Office systems	\$ 40.00
State Govt. tax (Nov.)	<u>\$ 1.50</u>
	<u>\$ 151.25</u>

151.25

Balance as at 27/11/96

\$1129.97

**Accounts for payment:**

Magazine postage for November	\$30.65
QCWA - room rent	\$10.00

The financial statement for the month was adopted on the motion of Roger Logan, seconded by Rod Hutchin. Carried.

**Outing Report:**

Kris Carnell reported on the outing to Donnelly's Castle and Tom Dunn's property held on 24th November. 16 carloads of people attended and had a most enjoyable day before being interrupted by a mid-afternoon storm.

**Next Outing:**

The final outing for the year will be the Christmas breakup/social to be held at Sue and John Kenna's place off Sonogo Lane on 8th December. It will be a bring-your-own barbeque and there will be a short walk available for the energetic.

**Specimens:**

1. A fungus found growing in Roger Logan's yard under pine trees. It started off looking like a puff ball with a bad odour.
2. An unidentified green weed.

**General business:**

Liz Bourne mentioned that a new addition of *Tracks, Scats and Other Traces* by Barbara Triggs had been released by Oxford University Press and that a 10% discount had been offered to the Field Naturalists for bulk purchases. She asked any members wishing to obtain a copy to contact her.

**Guest speaker:**

Gordon Davis then gave a very interesting presentation on the origins of life on earth.

STOP PRESS ! Errol Walker will be taking us Motorhoming around Tasmania at the February meeting.

# OUTING REPORT - QUARTPOT CREEK

19TH JANUARY 1997

A roll-up of 25 walkers gathered at Heritage Park and proceeded to Roger Logan's property. After a brief morning tea we set off. We viewed a couple of nests of grey crowned babblers and a starling's nest in a hollow tree. Crossing Kettle Swamp Creek was easy because of the lack of rain. We all got over the highest fence on a ladder and proceeded down the creek past some old tin mine tailings. Many of the group were surprised at the extent of a large dam on the creek and how far it backed up. Quite a lot of birds were observed but I don't think anyone was making lists of birds or flowering plants. Further down the stream we came back to civilization after a bit of rock-hopping. There is a track from Diamondvale Road through to Heritage Park through some cattle proof/ human fallible gates. We had a look at Finney's Falls, which were not running enough to be falling. The junction of Kettle Swamp and Quart Pot creeks is difficult to distinguish as it is in between a tangle of boulders and shrubby plants. The Quart Pot Creek was running a little on the day. It was a pleasant, non-strenuous outing with a look at some close at hand country-side from some unfamiliar points of view. Thanks to Patience James for ferrying people about and to Brian Dodd for help on the pre-outing. Roger Logan

Bird list from Roger Logan's property.

Note : No sparrows have yet been sighted, but some very close.

A rufus night heron has been spotted again recently.

Magpie	Common koel
Masked lapwing plover	Galah
Sparrowhawk	Little black cormorant
Superb fairy wren	Black swan
Starling	Aust pelican
Aust Magpie lark	Quail
Pied Currawong	Red tailed black cookatoo
Willie wagtail	Aust king parrot
Blackfaced cuckoo shrike	Frogmouth
Eastern rosella	Sacred kingfisher
Crested pigeon	Red capped robin
Peaceful dove	Crow
Naned wood duck	Crimson rosella
Pacific black duck	Red rumped parrot
Yellow billed spoonbill	Double barred finch
Aust white ibis	Scarlet robin
Straw necked ibis	White throated needle tail swift
White faced heron	Dollar bird
Noisy miner	Eurasian coot
White eared honeyeater	Cuckoo (pallid)
Red wattle bird	Blue faced honey eater
Grey crowned babbler	Rufous night heron
Laughing kookabura	Dusky wood swallow
Welcome swallow	Dusky moorhen
Little wood swallow	Purple swamp hen
Pied butcher bird	

Q. How do you tell the difference between a weasel and a stoat?

A. A weasel is weasily wecognized and a stoat is stotally different.