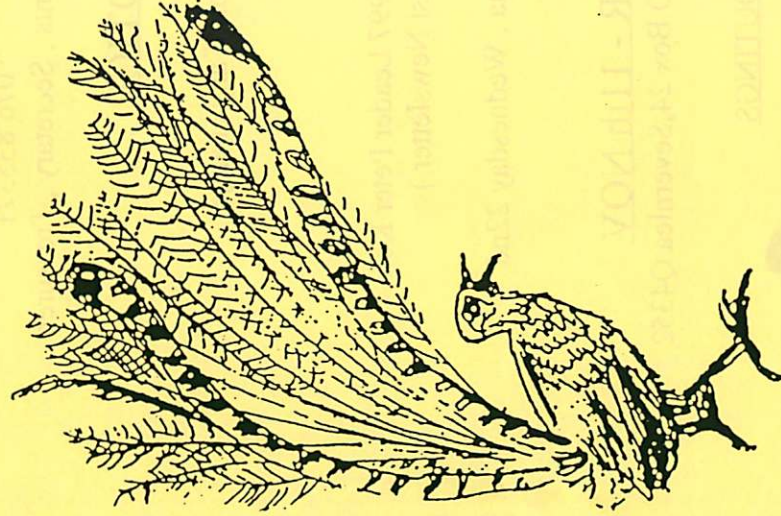


OCTOBER 1997  
Vol 294



# 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:

Outings:

4th Wednesday of each Month at QCWA Rooms at 8.00pm.  
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 1997 - 98

President	Kris Carnell	076 835268
Vice-Presidents	Roger Logan	076 812493
	Lincoln McPhee	076 811651
Secretary	Liz Bourne	076 836374
Treasurer	Julia Brown	076 814540
Newsletter Editor	Robin McCosker	076 835371
Magazine Committee	Wendy & Neil Donges, Julie Beddow	
Publicity Officer	Patience James	076 811853
Librarian	Trish McCosker	076 835371
Management Committee	President , Vice-Presidents , Secretary , Treasurer	

## ADDRESS CORRECTION NOTICE

Please check your address and advise Newsletter Editor of any change.

## COMING UP

Next Outing Goomburra Campout 18-19th October 1997 Leader Peter Kerr  
( Not The Steamers as published in the last Newsletter )

Next Meeting Central Australia with Peter Andrewatha , Wednesday 22nd October

## DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER - 11th NOV

Please send contributions to The Newsletter Editor,P O Box 24,Severnlea Q4352

## 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 sections common, with steps.
- 7 Cross country, some hills, some thick undergrowth.
- 8 Cross country, steep sections with scrambles over rocks etc., and 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 STANTHORPE NATURALISTS CLUB INC.** **held in Q.C.W.A. Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on 24th September 1997**

**Opening:** The Meeting opened at 8.10pm with Vice-President , Roger Logan , welcoming members.

**Attendance:** As per the Attendance Book.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 27th August 1997 were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Frank Wilkinson , seconded by Rod Hutchin , Carried.

## **Correspondence:**

### **Inwards:**

1. Kris Carnell - article for newsletter.
2. Aust. Conservation Foundation - raffle tickets for sale.
3. Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club - " Footprint " Sept. 97.
4. Matrix Office Systems - Invoice for photocopier for \$250.
5. Border Rivers Catchment Management Association - request for nomination of members of association .
6. Southern Heritage Expeditions - advertisement of Macquarie Island Cruise.
7. Qld. Naturalist Club - " Q.N.C. News "
8. " Looking at your Catchment " - newsletter.
9. Dept. of Environment - re continuing to get their annual report.
10. Australian Naturalist Expedition Society - article for newsletter.
11. Who's Who in Australia - sale of their publication.
12. Chinchilla Field Nats. Club Journal - " Urimbirra " Sept. 97.
13. Subscriptions - Alex and Denise Harslett , Mr & Mrs Tricker, R.J. & P.M. Travis.

### **Outwards:**

1. Community Service Announcements re outing and meeting.
2. Dept. of Environment - re annual reports.
3. Stanthorpe Shire Council - re rehabilitation of the Texas Road Refuse Transfer Station.
4. Geoff and Claire Robertson - thanks for hospitality at Boonoo Boonoo outing.

This correspondence was received on the motion of Liz Bourne , seconded by Patience James , Carried.

**Business arising from the correspondence:** Letter from the Border Rivers - Liz Bourne was appointed to this committee last year as a conservation representative and has just been re-appointed to the newly incorporated Management Association.

It was moved that Liz Bourne be nominated to the Association as a representative of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club . Moved : Ailsa Wilkinson , seconded by Mavis Bott . Carried.

## **Financial Statement for period 27/8/97 to 24/9/97.**

Balance as at 27/8/97		\$998.70
<b>Receipts:</b>		
Subscriptions	179.00	
Room rent collections	9.50	
Room rent donations	<u>10.00</u>	
	<u>198.50</u>	<u>1112.10</u>
<b>Expenditure :</b>		
Room rent	12.50	
Auditors Fees	145.00	
Matrix Office Systems	25.00	
Incorporation Fees	30.00	
State Govt. tax	<u>0.60</u>	
	<u>213.40</u>	<u>(213.10)</u>
Balance as at 24/9/97		<u>\$984.10</u>

## **Accounts for Payment :**

Room rent - Sept.	12.50
Magazine postage - Sept.	33.10

Roger will check the photocopier account from Matrix Office Systems as it seems a bit high.

Minutes continued.

The Financial Statement was adopted on the motion of Millie Marsden , seconded by Patience James , Carried.

**Outing Report :** Liz Bourne reported on the trip to Amiens State Forest, outside Stanthorpe , on 21st September . Thirty people attended and there was quite a good display of wildflowers including lots of *Boronia granitica* in flower.

**Next Outing :** Peter Kerr will be leading the campout to the Goomburra Valley , north east of Warwick , on the 18th and 19th October .

**Specimens :** Mavis Bott had a rock from Coolgardie W.A. and a piece of rock from the Great Australian Bight with what looked like flecks of limestone in it.

**General Business :** 1. Mary Walters presented the Annual Report from the Learning For Pleasure Group .  
2. Patience James reported on the Annual General Meeting of the Q.C.W.A. that she and Desley McDonagh had attended on behalf of the Club.

3. Liz Bourne drew members attention to some Incidental Fauna Report forms she had received recently from the Department of Environment . They cover mammals , birds , reptiles and frogs at this stage and the information will be entered into a computer database which will be able to be accessed by anyone wanting information on fauna in the region .

**Programme :** Peter Andrewatha then gave a slide presentation of various sites around the Northern Territory and Northern West Australia .

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## LEARNING FOR PLEASURE ANNUAL REPORT 1996 - 1997

This group has continued to give great pleasure to all participants throughout the year .

Special thanks and appreciation are extended to our hosts - Frank and Ailsa Wilkinson who conduct the History sessions and provide the venue for the French conversation classes , and Jean Chauvel for providing the venue for Current Affairs.

Frank , Ailsa and Jean always extend warm hospitality to our members.

I am sorry to say that there has been no response to the Make-up and Russian classes . Thank you Daniella and Katerina for your willingness to conduct these sessions . Daniella would still like to hear from members , but Katerina will take a break now .

We greatly appreciate the efforts made by the leaders of the various groups.

Thank you ( in absentia ) Noor and Gordon Davis for the time and effort you have put into the promotion of Learning for Pleasure .

We welcome new ideas and would invite anyone who is interested in starting a new group to do so .

### Contacts

History	Ailsa and Frank Wilkinson	811225
Current Affairs	Mary Walters	835306
French	Pat Whelan	832266
Make - up	Daniella Herremaus	812472
Inquiries about LFP - Mary Walters - Ph. 835306		

## Traveller's Tales - Final Episode -- Smalley's Beach to Home

We spent four pleasant days at Smalley's Beach although the sky was overcast most of the time and the sea was very grey. We then travelled via Mackay and the Pioneer Valley to Eungella. The sugarcane harvest was in full swing and the fields were so attractive like huge patchwork quilts. The walks at Eungella N.P. are excellent and range from half hour jaunts to full day treks. Every evening we walked about 30 metres from our camp to watch platypuses. There were also a couple of Noisy pittas close to the edge of the creek. Not far to the west of the N.P. is Eungella Dam which provides water for the Collinsville Power Station. This time the dam was badly contaminated with blue-green algae and the rock wall is now off limits so it was a case of looking only. Finch Hatton Gorge is not far away so we went there for a day trip. Again we found part of the walking track closed for repairs but had a very pleasant walk to Araluen Falls.

Margaret's grandparents lived for a time at Yeppoon so we decided to go there next. We explored quite a large area from the Byfield State Forest to Rockhampton to Mt Morgan. The day trip to Mt Morgan was excellent with a guided tour of the mine and the man-made caves and a ride on a fettler's trolley. The caves were mined for brick-making clay and there are dinosaur footprints on the roof of the caves. The next camp was Blackdown Tablelands and their blessed Currawongs - a real pest. It was even drier than our last visit in 1992 with only a trickle running over Rainbow Falls. The *Grevillea longistyla* was in full bloom and we were also lucky enough to find a *Callistemon pearsonii* which is endemic to the Tableland. The climbing orchid was quite common, especially on the 4WD circuit. There were fires on the plains so the atmosphere was very hazy and not good for photography.

We then backtracked for a while before turning south to The Town of 1770. Even though it was just before the school holidays we found the area very quiet and beautiful. It's one of the few places where you can see the sun rise and set over the water. The sunset cruise on the amphibious L.A.R.C. was very different and whets your appetite for a full day trip up to the lighthouse - next time perhaps. Our last "must do" stop was whale watching from Bundaberg. A day we thoroughly enjoyed and would recommend to anyone. Woodgate N.P. was terribly dry but we were pleased to see that the campsites have been upgraded although the sand road in, hasn't been. Finally we camped at Kenilworth in the Sunshine Coast hinterland. The Forestry Department has done an excellent job, with four camp grounds available. We stayed for four nights and didn't see all there was to see.

Our trip was all we had hoped for and more. The weather was kind and all our equipment worked well. All-together we camped at 23 different places and travelled about 9000km. You realise after a trip like this how big Queensland is and how much there is to see, so it looks as though we'll have to start saving in a big way.

Kris and Margaret Carnell

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### PROGRAMME FOR 1997-98

Oct 18/19 22	Campout Meeting	Goomburra Central Australia	Peter Kerr Peter Andrewatha
Nov 23 26	Outing Meeting	West Bald Rock First Aid	Geoff Walker Stanthorpe Ambulance
Dec 7	Christmas Breakup at the Heritage Park , Granite Street or Patience James' home if wet		
Jan 24	Outing	Nundubbermere Falls	Kris Carnell
Feb 22 25	Outing Meeting	Teviot Falls North Queensland	Alan Jones Kris Carnell

The complete programme for the year will be printed in the next Newsletter.



## NEXT OUTING - Goomburra Campout 18-19 October 1997.

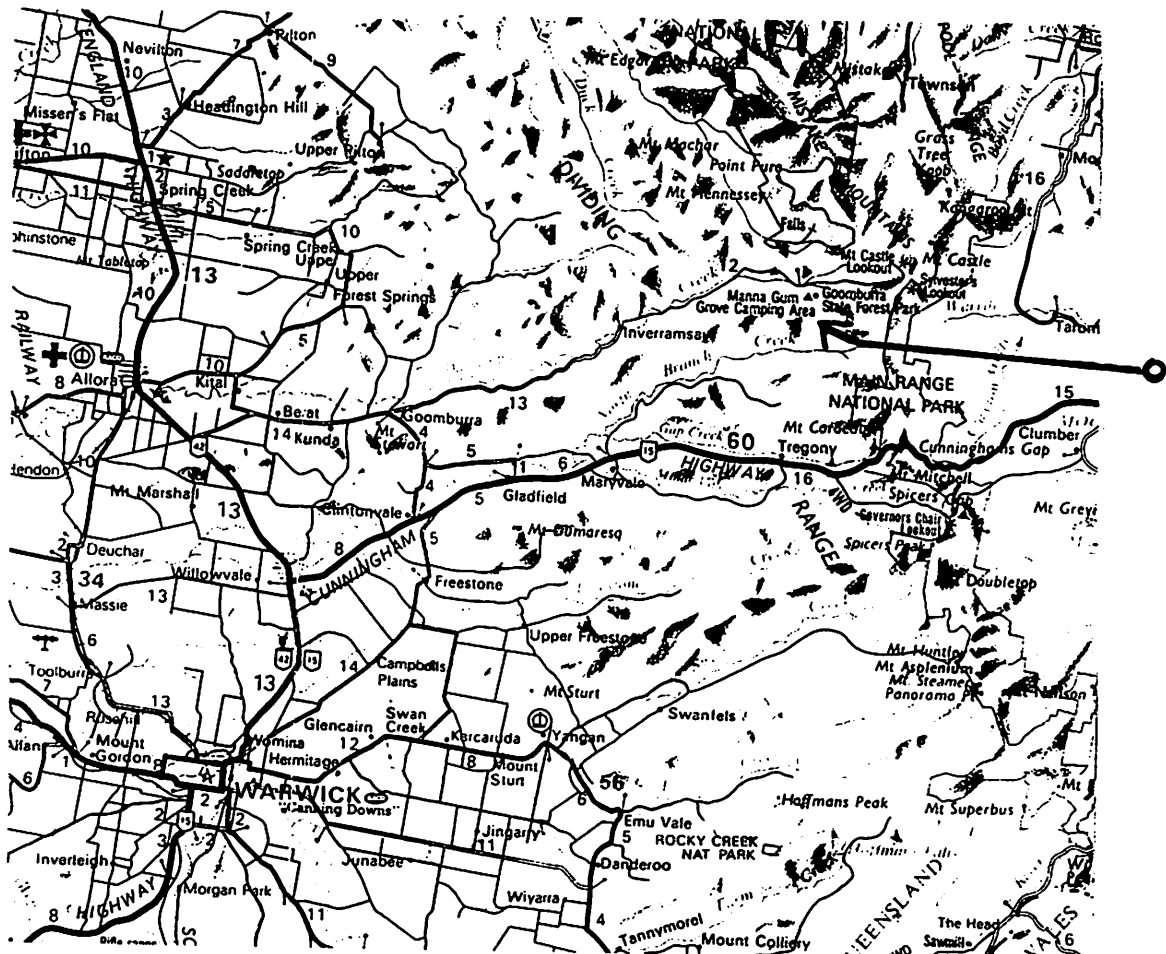
The next outing has been changed from The Steamers, to Goomburra State Forest Park. An easy hour from Warwick ( a bit longer with a caravan), via Clintonvale, Goomburra, and Inveramsay. Self-registration at the campground, \$2.00 per person per night. Toilets, and tap water available, firewood provided, but kindling is scarce. Bring your own drinking water.

I'll be there about noon, on Saturday, at the "Poplar Grove" camping area (handy to the toilets, and usually less crowded than "Manna Gum Grove"), although you are free to choose any site. Anyone wishing to arrive on Friday (or earlier) is welcome.

About 2.00pm on Saturday, I'll lead a leisurely walk 2km up Cascades Creek, and back (grade 3). The creek is a bit low, but clear, and running, and the bird life prolific. 9.00am on Sunday could be a repeat walk up the creek, with a steepish climb past the second waterfall, and return to camp for lunch via the "Ridge Track" (grade 6). Tracks are well marked, and people can do their own thing, or nothing but relax. Other walks are "North Branch Trail" (7km, 3 hours return), "Araucaria Trail" (3km, 2 hours return), or Mt Castle Lookout (6km drive, 600 metres walk (easy) each way. The Sylvesters Lookout platform is closed.

Please let me know by Thursday night, if you intend coming.

Peter Kerr 616376 (W) 611818 (H).



## OUTING REPORT - 21/9/97 - AMIENS FORESTRY

A group of 30 people assembled at the eastern side of Amiens State Forest on the border between the pine plantation and the undeveloped, eucalypt section of the forest. Our initial walk took us south through the eucalypt section where there was a reasonable display of wildflowers including a lot of *Boronia granitica* in flower. Smoko stop was at the top of an exposed hill where we were rewarded by good views south east to Girraween and south to Sundown. The granite slabs here also provided a good array of flowers.

We then continued on in a generally northwards direction, eventually leaving the eucalypt forest and getting into the pine plantation section. Lunch was had at the top of an exposed granite slab with views west over the Harslett Farm and some more interesting wildflowers.

After lunch, we meandered along various forestry tracks and up and over some more granite slabs until reaching our cars mid-afternoon.

Although the dry winter conditions no doubt contributed to less wildflowers than expected, the outing hopefully showed people some new aspects of the Stanthorpe area. Anyone wanting a copy of the map of the Amiens State Forest so that they can explore more of the area themselves, should contact me.

Liz Bourne.

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### Australian Naturalist Expedition Society Inc.

For the last 12 months a new association has been in existence called the Australian Naturalist Expedition Society Inc.

The Society came about in an unusual way. A Queensland based safari firm (specialising in naturalist expeditions) which had been operating since the early seventies announced its decision to cease operation. Longtime clients who had enjoyed the special style of these expeditions and their amazing flexibility in the most remote and inaccessible areas, decided they didn't want their means of access to the remote areas and the way it was done to stop, decided they would become members in a purpose created Society to continue what they had enjoyed for many years.

The society is now an incorporated Association of several hundred members which each year conducts Expeditions for its naturalist members to areas that are of particular interest at the time. Members comprise people from many naturalist clubs around Australia as well as other individuals. Some are professional naturalists, other amateurs, experienced and inexperienced. This year the Society conducted two Expeditions to the Lake Eyre Basin, Western Queensland and two short expeditions in Tasmania are planned at the end of the year.

Next year an expedition across South Australia above the Nullarbor is proposed, along with another expedition visiting Lake Eyre and parts of the Simpson Desert. For the more active there will be an expedition on foot on Cape York Peninsular.

Only members may participate in expeditions but membership is open to anyone interested in natural history for the small amount of \$5.00 annually. Several newsletters are posted out during the year. It could be a way to see the places you'd like to visit with people with natural history interests!

The Society's address is

The Secretary, Australian Naturalist Expedition Society Inc., Carmilla Q 4739.

## SPRING IS IN THE AIR

Since August we have been watching the bird activity in our garden. The earth bank left from the new shed has become the site for a pair of Spotted pardalotes to burrow. This has curtailed my garden activities, not wishing to disturb the burrow entrance until the young have hatched, although by now there could have been three hatchlings but we haven't seen any juveniles yet.

Next to visit the shed was a pair of Starlings which took interest in a temporary chimney pipe which exited almost horizontally from the shed wall. The arrival coincided with the burning off of a neighbouring paddock and the subsequent destruction of a large dead gum tree which supported quite a few nest sites. When I removed the pipe to discourage the Starlings, I was interested to find inside it a small amount of grass and a yellow flower, *Cassinia*, perhaps there for decoration.

A pair of Welcome Swallows decided they too would make use of the new shed and started building in the very centre on a steel truss. They seem to have taken the hint that they are not "Welcome there after I knocked down their nests twice. They have been happy in the machinery shed for the last 15 years, but must have liked the look of new surroundings.

From where I sit at the kitchen table I can watch the progress of the Crested Pigeons, nesting high in a gum tree just outside the garden fence. They have nested regularly in the garden but usually in a much lower bushy shrub. Next on my list of nesting observations is the "fidgety" Eastern Spinebill, which feeds on the grevilleas along with the Noisy Minors, Red wattlebirds, Lewin's and Yellow-faced honeyeaters. This year it has decided to nest under the protective cover of a dense jasmine creeper, only a couple of metres from the popular grevillea bush. The latest nest find to date has been that of the Superb blue wren, discovered when we were trimming dead foliage from a lavender bush growing beside the house. Fortunately the wrens were not deterred and have been seen still using the nest.

Rob McCosker.

