



APRIL
Vol 298



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.

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 1997 - 98

President	Kris Carnell	07 46 835268
Vice-Presidents	Roger Logan	07 46 812493
	Lincoln McPhee	07 46 811651
Secretary	Liz Bourne	07 46 836374
Treasurer	Julia Brown	07 46 814540
Newsletter Editor	Robin McCosker	07 46 835371
Magazine Committee	Wendy & Neil Donges, Julie Beddow	
Publicity Officer	Patience James	07 46 811853
Librarian	Trish McCosker	07 46 835371
Management Committee	President , Vice-Presidents , Secretary , Treasurer	

COMING UP

Next Outing April 19th Meet at Killarney at 9.00am for a trip to the Acacia Plateau led by Millie Marsden.

Next Meeting A trip down Memory Lane - Nats People and Places of days gone by - presented by Millie Marsden - Wednesday 22nd April at the QCWA Rooms, Victoria Street, Stanthorpe.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER

12th May 1998

Send contributions to The Newsletter Editor, P O Box 24, Severnlea Q4352 or leave with Mrs Dore McCosker, 58 Railway St., Stanthorpe.

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 FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC.
held in Q.C.W.A. Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on 25th March, 1998**

Opening: The meeting opened at 8.06pm with President, Kris Carnell, welcoming members and visitors, Daphne Nally and Roslyn and Geoff McDonagh.

Attendance: There were 29 present at the meeting and 11 apologies as per the attendance book.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 25th February, 1998 were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Patience James, seconded by Margaret Carnell. Carried.

Business arising from the Minutes:

1. Texas Road Refuse Transfer Station

Although a planting bed has been constructed in front of the transfer station and soil spread around it, it has been too dry to consider planting out any trees and shrubs. This may need to be delayed until spring as it will soon be too late to get plants established before it gets cold.

2. Working Bee at Heritage Park

About 7 people turned up at various times on Sunday, 15th March and removed grass and weeds from the garden beds.

Correspondence:

- Inwards:**
1. Senator Lyn Allison - survey on environmental issues
 2. Toowoomba Field Naturalists - *Darling Downs Naturalist* - March '98
 3. Toowoomba Bushwalkers - *Footprint* - March, '98
 4. Australia Post - post box rental (\$44)
 5. Queensland Naturalists Club - *QNC News* - March/April '98

Outwards:

1. Community service announcements for outing and meeting

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

Financial Statement for the period 25/2/98 to 25/3/98:

Balance as at 25/2/98 \$ 984.10

<u>Receipts:</u>	Subscriptions	23.00	
	Room rent collection	<u>13.60</u>	
		<u>36.60</u>	<u>36.60</u>
			<u>1020.70</u>

Expenditure:

Room rent	10.00	
Magazine postage	39.40	
Comm. Union Insurance	168.18	
Petty cash - Liz Bourne	10.00	
Govt. tax	<u>1.60</u>	
	<u>229.18</u>	<u>229.18</u>
		<u>\$791.52</u>

Balance as at 25/3/98 is \$791.52

Accounts for payment:

Room rent	10.00
Magazine postage	39.40
Post Office box rental	44.00

The financial statement was adopted on the motion of Julia Brown, seconded by Rod Hutchin. Carried.

Outing Report:

Kris read out a report from Fred Simson on the campout to Lost World and Errol Walker expanded on this.

Pre-outing Report:

Millie Marsden outlined her proposed trip to the Acacia Plateau on Sunday, 19th April. It is proposed to meet at the Senior Citizen's Hall in Killarney at 9am.

Next Meeting:

Millie will be giving a "nostalgia" presentation of past Field Nats. activities.

Specimens:

1. Jean Harslett had a ghost butterfly which is usually only seen in coastal areas but was probably blown inland by strong winds.
2. Desley McDonagh had a photo of a gnarled tree taken on the West Bald Rock trip.
3. Liz Bourne said she had had a letter from the Queensland Museum confirming that the animal caught by Roger Logan's cat last July was a yellow footed antechinus.
4. Jean Harslett reported that someone in the traprock had found a wombat - a very unusual sighting as they haven't been seen beyond the Girraween area.

General Business:

1. Kris Carnell spoke briefly about the campout over the Queens Birthday weekend in June to the Gibraltar Range National Park. Rob McCosker expressed interest in an extended walk on the Sunday/Monday, camping out overnight.

Presentation:

Errol Walker gave a wonderful presentation of highlights of his overseas trip last year covering New Zealand, the USA, Canada, Ireland and Europe.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm.

A new arrival for our Crested pigeons

Trish and I have been watching the Crested pigeons nesting in the garden and are pleased to announce the arrival of their latest addition. The flimsy nest is a simple platform of sticks about 3m above the ground in a tangled thornless rose growing on a trellis. There are at least four other abandoned nests in the same bush, it seems that the birds prefer to rebuild each time. This is one of the native bird species which have been advantaged by human settlement. With the clearing of thick scrub and woodland, they are now common over most of Australia. According to my Reader's Digest, Complete book of Australian Birds, the food of Crested pigeons in there present range is derived almost entirely from crops and exotic weeds. In fact the most important single plant is the introduced Patterson's curse, which provides a third of the birds' annual food. Although we don't have Patterson's curse, the amaranth, Love lies bleeding, has become the staple food for our Crested pigeons at the moment.

Rob McCosker.

Coming Attractions

MAY 24th Outing to Mt. Janet, leader Lincoln McPhee.
 27th Meeting - Plants of the Granite Belt with our
 resident expert, Jean Harslett.

JUNE Campout Queen's Birthday Weekend 6/7/8th
 Washpool National Park, leader Kris Carnell.
 24th Meeting - West Australia with Rod Hutchin.

April Outing - Acacia Plateau

Leader Millie Marsden has organised a varied program for our outing on the 19th April to the Acacia Plateau.

Meet at Killarney, at the Senior Citizens Park, at 9.00am for morning tea then drive to Acacia Plateau where we will see the old school and then on to the pine plantation.

Next we will visit ' Verdant Hills ', home of Ross Hamilton, before going on to the border fence for lunch where there are shade trees and a good view.

In the afternoon we will drive to New Koreelah via the other Acacia Plateau road to look at Hornemans Flower Shed, then on to Lyn Wallace's at 3.00pm to see a " motor buggy" near the Legume Tennis courts. Some people may be interested in the proteas and leucodendrons in the garden. We will have afternoon tea here and then people may return home either via Killarney or the Mt. Lindesay road.

SMILES

A nice thing about smiles is one size fits all.

One way to save face is to keep the lower half closed.

Those who laugh, last.

Smiles are so powerful you can even break ice with them.

Report on March Campout to Christmas Ck

14 members were welcomed by fine weather, green grass and a refreshing swimming hole in the briskly running water of Christmas Creek, at the campsite, Stinson Park. After a discussion re next days activities all had settled down to relax when the evening was filled with the sounds of about 40 children and their scout/guide leaders, all tenting for the weekend.

Saturday we all followed up the picturesque creek - numerous waterfalls and unspoiled wilderness was enjoyed by all in spite of the difficulty in finding the track to Westray's Grave. The whole drama of the Stinson crash and subsequent rescue of victims was unfolded before our group. This with interest by all of us, though most were exhausted by the 3 hour climb to the gravesite.

That evening the park manager entertained us with his extensive knowledge of the area, and Magic Millie waved her wand again. The result was the best damper we had ever tasted. Garnished with Lincoln's honey was an added treat.

The few uninitiated were rather stiff and sore on Sunday and we were treated to a further talk and perusal of historic photos of the past in that district, including newspaper articles covering the Stinson crash. We all agreed we had learned interesting aspects of the characters of the early pioneers.

Birds observed on Sunday morning were as follows - tawny frogmouth, magpies and nest, black ducks, crow, yellow rumped thornbill, brown pidgeon, yellow throated scrub wren, whipbird, bar shouldered dove, peaceful dove, sulphur crested cockatoo, wonga pidgeon, plovers, peewee, cattle egret, straw necked ibis and little black cormorant.

No need to mention good fellowship - never been any different.

Thanking all who attended,
Fred Simpson.

Creosote string stops rabbits

The smell of creosote soaked string deters rabbits and hares from nibbling or digging up seedlings. Advantages are that it's low cost, not unsightly, does not attract vandals and is eventually biodegradable. Use natural fibre string, such as Kinnears Sisa Lashing cut into suitable lengths, about 1.25m, to lay on the ground around seedlings. Wearing rubber gloves, dip a batch of cut lengths of string into a container of creosote. Hang the lengths of string up to dry in an airy place. Place a piece of string on the ground around each seedling after planting.

This innovative suggestion comes from the Australian Nature Conservation Agency newsletter, Bushlines, No. 6.