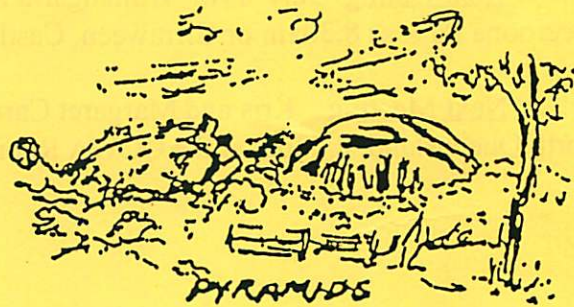




JULY 1998  
Vol 301



# 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 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 July 19th Wallangarra Ridge with leader Brian Dodd - meet at Weeroona Park at **8.30am** or Girraween, Castle Rock Camping Area at **9.00am**

Next Meeting Kris and Margaret Carnell present slides of their recent trip to North Queensland. 8.00pm at the QCWA Rooms, Victoria Street, Stanthorpe.

### DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER

11th August 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 QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on 24th June 1998**

**Opening:** The meeting opened at 8.10pm with President, Kris Carnell, welcoming members.

**Attendance:** There were 14 present at the meeting and 6 apologies as per the attendance book with numbers low due to the school holidays and cold weather.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 27th May, 1998 were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Patience James, seconded by Rod Hutchin. Carried.

**Correspondence:**

- Inwards:**
1. Qld Naturalist Club - invitations for nominations for natural history award
  2. Toowoomba Bushwalker's Club - *Footprint* - June '98
  3. Matrix Office Systems - final meter reading of photocopier.
  4. Qld. Law Society - offer to provide guest speaker for meeting.
  5. G. and J. Crossman - membership
  6. Chinchilla Field Naturalists - invitation to participate on 11 day bus trip to South West Queensland.
  7. Mahlab - offer for listing in Pro Bono '99
  8. Gold Coast International Hotel - information on conference package

**Outwards:** 1. Community service announcements for outing and meeting  
This correspondence was received on the motion of Jean Harslett, seconded by Rob McCosker. Carried.

**Financial Statement for the period 27/5/98 to 24/6/98:**

Balance as at 27/5/98		\$ 655.67
<b>Receipts:</b>		
Subscriptions	15.00	
Room rent collections	9.50	
Bank interest	<u>.95</u>	
	<u>\$25.45</u>	<u>25.45</u>
		<u>\$681.12</u>
<b>Expenditure:</b>		
Room rent	12.50	
Magazine postage	39.40	
Govt. tax (June)	<u>.90</u>	
	<u>\$52.80</u>	<u>\$ 52.80</u>
		<u>\$628.32</u>
Balance as at 24/6/98 is \$ 628.32		

**Accounts for payment:**

Room rent	\$12.50
Magazine postage	\$39.40

### **Outing Report:**

Kris Carnell reported on the campout he led to the Gibraltar Range National Park over the Queen's Birthday long weekend. Although only 7 members attended, they managed a number of enjoyable short walks in the park. The weather remained fine but cold. Kris suggested that as many members seemed to have other commitments on this weekend, it might be better to shift the campout to the May long weekend when it would be warmer.

### **Pre-outing Report:**

Brian Dodd outlined details of his proposed outing to Wallangarra Ridgway in Girraween National Park on Sunday 19th July. As it is likely to be a fairly strenuous 12 - 14 km round trip, Brian suggested leaving from the Castle Rock camping area at 9.00pm

### **Specimens:**

1. Kris Carnell brought in a root he had dug up in his garden which contained a large, white grub. Jean Harslett identified it as the larval stage of the Hepalid moth which live underground feeding on roots. Their pupae case is a reddish - brown and is often found after they have emerged above ground following rain.
2. Desley McDonagh had a letter from Fred Simpson enclosing a photo taken from the plane on the trip to Vanuatu.

### **General Business:**

Kris reminded members about contributing their ideas and suggestions for outings and meeting topics for next year's program.

### **Presentation:**

Rod Hutchin gave a very interesting slide presentation on a bus trip taken to various parts of Western Australia.

**Closure:** Meeting closed at 9.20pm.

### **Coming Attractions**

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| AUGUST    | 23rd Outing to Toowoomba led by Rob McCosker<br>26th Annual General Meeting with slides and photos to "Remember Last Year"                                       |
| SEPTEMBER | 6th Extra half day Outing to The Desert, Basket Swamp area, with Kris Carnell.<br>20th Outing to Cherrabah led by Liz Bourne<br>23rd Meeting program by Bob Amos |



## **Vanuatu - Your Last Chance**

The Easter '98 trip was most successful as you may have gleaned from Helen Hartman's detailed reports in the Granite Belt Naturalist. Thankyou Helen for telling the rest of the club about our adventures and giving those who did go that warm glow of satisfaction with fond memories of a trip never to be forgotten.

The next trip in the September holidays is being put together now.

There may be vacancies as Gerard Torrasi of Harvey World Travel Stanthorpe receives confirmation and deposits from nominees.

I suggest if you would like to join the party you contact Harvey World Travel personally or ring 46812144 as soon as possible for details.

Errol Walker  
Ph 46812008

### **CAMP-OUT REPORT GIBRALTAR RANGE NATIONAL PARK 6 - 8 / 6 / 1998**

We set out for our cold weather camp out on Friday 5th June after work. Which meant we set up camp in the dark, which was not difficult as it was a lovely clear night with plenty of moonlight. The cold was quite stimulating, but we were prepared for it, and lit a fire for atmosphere as well as warmth.

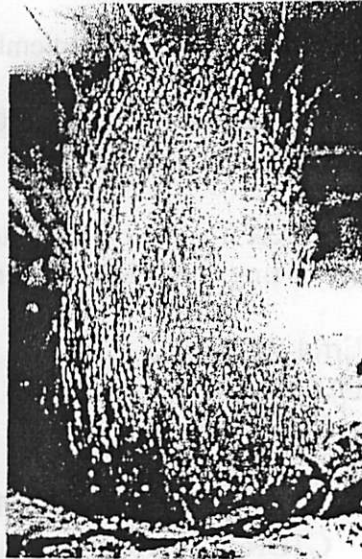
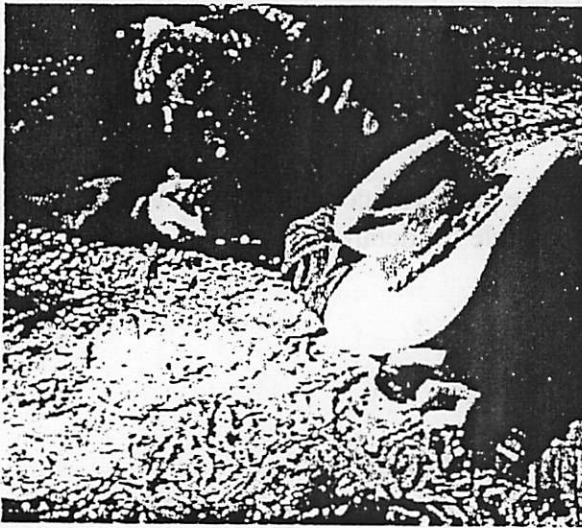
The currawongs were in evidence as usual, next morning and we watched a kookaburra sitting fluffed up on a branch in the sun for quite some time thawing out, while the spinebills flitted about in the banksias. Two or three wallabies came to visit, which Mario later identified as red necked wallabies, not pretty faced as we had thought.

At about 11 am we went for an hour's walk along the Atricornis Trail, thinking no one else was coming for the afternoon walk. There were two banksia species in bloom, one being spinulosa we think, as well as zieria and grey grevillea. We watched crimson rosellas, a pair of yellow robins, striated thornbills, Lewins honeyeaters and New Holland honeyeaters along the way.

While we were walking Karol and Mario arrived, so we set off after lunch for the Tree Fern Forest, where there are four different species of tree fern, with many other ferns along the way. Before we had gone very far, we heard a lyre bird calling, and were within hearing distance of them all the way. At one stage one crossed our path, surely a sign of good luck.

There were numerous fungi along the path, ranging from honey coloured toadstools to orange coral fungus. There were tiny red toadstools and bigger yellow/green ones and some white with red blotches. A white furry fungus was growing on some of the toadstools, and some of the brown ones looked varnished.

*Karol and Kris getting down to the "white furry fungus", probably a *Phycomycetes*.*



Helen arrived in the evening, so we gathered round the fire to cook a damper which Karol had made. We had trouble with the coals going black, so it took longer than usual to cook. However, it was worth the wait and disappeared in no time when spread with cockey's joy.

Sunday dawned cold and windy, so we rugged up and set out for Boundary Creek Falls to meet Trish and Rob. After the mandatory cuppa and a look at the falls, we ventured along the track to Duffer Creek Falls, pausing often to admire and photograph more fungi.

On arriving at the falls we worked our way downstream past the first two falls to the big drop into the Demon Fault, which is many metres high. We sat at the side of the falls to eat lunch, while the wind roared up the gorge beside us, and we sat warm and sheltered by the rocks. It was interesting to watch the wind blowing on some of the ridges in the gorge, while others were quite calm.

On arriving back at boundary Creek we decided to head back to camp to light fires before it was too dark. The bush shower was much appreciated. Our fire on Sunday night was more obliging and the damper cooked in half the time. This time we had apricot jam instead of syrup.

The wind blew very strongly during the night, so on Monday morning we needed to start walking to keep warm. We drove to the Washpool to walk to the Twin Cedars. Again there were lots of fungi and lyre birds calling. Helen and I were fortunate to

get a good look at a lyrebird which ran down the road, did a couple of turns, put its wings out and started calling when it got around the corner.

Progress was quite slow because we stopped so often to admire ferns and fungi. There were huge Sydney blue gums along the track in the dry sclerophyll forest, as well as other species which we didn't know. We watched bell miners chasing crows on the way in and on the return journey, and heard bower birds calling. As we approached the twin cedars we saw a beautiful strangler fig which had fallen at an angle, so that its aerial roots are starting to grow down like the curtain fig on the Atherton Tableland - It still has a way to go!

The Twin Cedars are magnificent. It's rather like standing in a cathedral when you stand looking up into the branches and touch their rough bark. We admired elk horns and bird nest ferns in the tops of the trees, and after a while soaking up antiquity we headed back for lunch, then home.

Although there were so few campers, a total of 7 for the outing, we had a very enjoyable weekend, and survived the cold remarkably well. Whatever time of year we go to Gibraltar Range there is something different to see. This time the colour was provided mainly by fungi rather than wild flowers, and the park wove its usual magic.

Plants seen in flower included Zieria, three Acacias, Scaevola, Goodenia, Helichrysum, Epacris longifolia and microphylla, three Leucopogons, Choretrum candollei (Broom Bush), Banksia spinulosa and B. integrifolia, Drosera, and Utricularia dichotoma (Purple bladderwort).

*Margaret Camell*

### **July Outing - Wallangarra Ridge**

This has been set down for Sunday the 19th. Meet at Weeroona Park at 8.30am or Castle Rock Camping Area (right hand side of the road) at Girraween at 9.00am.

The walk is on a graded track to Turtle Rock and then cross country to Wallangarra Ridge. This will involve some rock scrambling and a little bush bashing, not very arduous, certainly no more than the steep climb from the camping area to Castle Rock turn-off.

Distance involved is 12 to 14 kilometres, so there will be very little time on the way out for stop-offs such as Sphinx or Turtle Rock or flower pauses, not that there will be very much out at this time of year. These can be examined in more depth on the way home if time permits.

Lunch will be at Wallangarra Ridge, so bring a back-pack.

Leader - Brian Dodd.

## Remember Last Year

This list of outings for the year might help you find your slides and photos for the AGM presentation.

Boonoo Boonoo CBD	Amiens Forestry
Goomburra	West Bald Rock
Nundubbermere Falls	Teviot Falls
Stinson Park-Lamington Plateau	Acacia Plateau
Mt Janet	Gibraltar Range N.P.

## Stanthorpe Field Nats Past Outings

The list below is the start of a compilation of all past Nats outings since the club began, and includes the date, venue and whether it was a day (D), half day(1/2D) or campout (C). There are some gaps which I hope to fill in later but for now I hope the list will give members some inspiration when considering suggestions for future outings.

Jul 23 1978 The Caves Stanthorpe	1/2D	Feb 21 1982 Passchendaele State Forest	D
Aug 27 1978 Brookvale Park	D	Mar 21 1982 Girraween South to North	D
Sep 10 1978 Salata's hill - Wildflowers extra	1/2D	Apr 18 1982 Girraween Northern area	D
Sep 24 1978 Texas area	D	May 23 1982 Belford property - Eukey	D
Oct 14 1978 Canungra with Qld Nats	C	Jun 10 1982 Wiangarie State Forest	C
Oct 22 1978 Finneys Falls	D	Jul 25 1982 Mt Donnybrook Summit	D
Nov 19 1978 South Bald Rock	D	Aug 22 1982 Sanatorium Mt to Finneys Falls	D
Dec 10 1978 Hockings property Christmas BBQ	1/2D	Sep 19 1982 Tree plant workbee Storm King Dam	D
Feb 25 1979 Dillons Hill & Goat Hill Glen Aplin	1/2D	Oct 17 1982 Hutchin's hill - wildflower extra	1/2D
Mar 25 1979 Mt Mitchell	D	Oct 23 1982 Demon Creek	C
Apr 22 1979 Jollys Falls to Canon Ck Weir	D	Nov 24 1982 Boonoo Boonoo	D
May 19 1979 Wellington Rock	D	Dec 5 1982 O'Donnells property Christmas BBQ	1/2D
Jun 24 1979 McCoskers & aboriginal well	D	Feb 20 1983 Boston Cliffs	D
Jul 22 1979 Blue Gorge	D	Mar 19 1983 Sundown N P West	C
Aug 26 1979 Maryland area	D	Apr 24 1983 Bernie Hicklings property	D
Sep 23 1979 McCoskers - Wattle Ridge	D	May 22 1983 Kelvin Falls - Elbow Valley	D
Oct 14 1979 McDonagh property wildflower extra	1/2D	Jun 19 1983 Kelvin Falls - Elbow Valley	D
Oct 21 1979 Rivertree area	D	Jul 24 1983 Jack McBeths property "Mt Hutton"	D
Nov 25 1979 Eight Mile Ck. Donnybrook Range	D	Aug 14 1983 Cunningham's route - Girraween	D
Dec 9 1979 Hockings property Christmas BBQ	1/2D	Sep 24 1983 Mole River - Silent Grove	D
Feb 24 1980 Dalveen area	D	Oct 23 1983 John Darks property	D
Mar 23 1980 Nundubbermere & Ballandean Stns.	D	Nov 19 1983 Severn River Falls - Texas area	C
Apr 20 1980 Wilsons Peak	D	Dec 5 1983 O'Donnells property Christmas BBQ	1/2D
May 3 1980 Bunya Mtns	C	Jan 22 1984 Acacia Plateau	D
May 25 1980 Texas area	D	Feb 18 1984 Crows Nest	C
Jun 22 1980 Wylie Creek, Maryland R. gorge	D	Mar 25 1984 Eukey - Girraween Through Walk	D
Jul 20 1980 Bald Rock	D	Apr 22 1984 Brooklands" Cherry Gully	D
Aug 24 1980 Pikedale Mine	D	May 20 1984 Nine Mile Rocks - Nundubbermere	D
Sep 7 1980 The Caves	1/2D	Jun 24 1984 Mt Ferguson - Amiens	D
Sep 21 1980 Mt Norman	D	Aug 19 1984 Funkers Gap Creek	D
Oct 19 1980 Mt Colliery	D	Aug 26 1984 Jolly's Falls - wildflower extra	1/2D
Nov 23 1980 Cunninghams Gap	D	Sep 23 1984 Redrock Falls	D
Dec 13 1980 McCoskers property Christmas BBQ	1/2D	Oct 21 1984 Mountain Park" Dalveen	D
Feb 22 1981 Dr Dark property	D	Nov 25 1984 Kyoomba area	D
Mar 22 1981 Texas - Limevale area	D	Dec 9 1984 Harsletts property Christmas BBQ	1/2D
Apr 12 1981 Horans Gorge	D	Feb 24 1985 Jack Deutschers property	D
May 24 1981 Eukey - Girraween through walk	D	Mar 24 1985 Bluff River - Tenterfield area	D
Jun 22 1981 Rokeby Station	D	Apr 21 1985 Lookout Mt - Girraween	D
Jul 19 1981 Sundown Nat Park	D	May 18 1985 Rivertree	C
Aug 23 1981 Coolmunda Dam area	D	Jun 23 1985 Girraween - Mt Norman track	D
Sep 6 1981 Blue Mountain	1/2D	Jul 21 1985 Devils Elbow area near Wallangarra	D
Sep 20 1981 Mt Norman	D	Aug 25 1985 Pikedale	D
Oct 25 1981 Lee's Hill	1/2D	Sep 8 1985 Girraween - Junction wildflowers	1/2D
Nov 21 1981 Town hills from High School	C	Sep 22 1985 Rivertree Graphite Mines	D