



MAY 1999

Vol 309

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 1998 - 99

President	Roger Logan	46 812493
Vice-Presidents	Desley McDonagh	46 813074
	Millie Marsden	46 811593
Secretary	Liz Bourne	46 836374
Treasurer	Julia Brown	46 814540
Newsletter Editor	Robin McCosker	46 835371
Magazine Committee	Wendy & Neil Donges, Julie Beddow	
Publicity Officer	Patience James	46 811853
Librarian	Trish McCosker	46 835371
Management Committee	President , Vice-Presidents , Secretary , Treasurer	

COMING UP

Next Outing May 23rd Mt Banca - Leader M. Passmore. Meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am

Next Meeting May 26th Quiz Program provided by Desley McDonagh 8.00pm at the QCWA Rooms, Victoria Street, Stanthorpe.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER

6th June 1999

Mail contributions to The Newsletter Editor, P O Box 24, Severnlea Q4352
Fax to 4683 5371, e-mail robinmcc@halenet.com
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 28th April, 1999

Opening: The meeting opened at 8.05pm with President, Roger Logan, welcoming members and visitors, Doug and Ellie Wilson.

Attendance: There were 21 present at the meeting and 9 apologies as per the attendance book.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 24th March, 1999 were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Kris Carnell, seconded by Mario Pennisi. Carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes:

1. Purchase of GPS equipment

Col Hockings reported that he had borrowed a GPS for the last outing to try it out but considered its use would be limited to cross country club trips and most outings are to well defined areas with tracks or roads. It was agreed to defer purchasing one until we could better evaluate its capabilities and usefulness.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club - *Footprint* - April '99
2. Toowomba Field Nats. - *Darling Downs Naturalist* - May '99
3. Chinchilla Field Naturalist Club - *Urimbirra* - April '99
4. Association Software Co. - invitation to view products
5. Directory of Aust. Associations - offer of directory for \$175
6. Who's Who in Australia - offer of 1999 edition
7. Gold Coast International Hotel - conference facilities
8. Senator Lyn Allison - tax system and the environment
9. Stanthorpe Camera Club - cheque for \$22.50 for half share of P.O. box rental
10. Letter of invitation from QCWA re next Friendship Day

Outwards:

1. Community service announcements for outing and meeting
2. Letter of thanks to Marsdens for use of their property for campout
3. Letter of thanks to Editor, "Border Post" for publicising club activities

Business Arising from the Correspondence:

1. QCWA Friendship Day

The next Friendship Day is to be held on Thursday, 6th May at 10am in the Rest Room with a speaker from the Stanthorpe Fire Services. Patience James offered to attend on behalf of the Club.

Financial Statement for the period 24 March '99 to 28/4/99:

Balance as at 24/3/99 \$ 635.24

Receipts:

Subscriptions	30.00	
Change from magazine postage	.85	
Room rent collection	<u>11.55</u>	
	42.40	<u>42.40</u>
		677.64

Expenditure:

Room rent	10.00	
Magazine postage	37.00	
Samson Total Technology	21.20	
Granite Belt Books and Stationary	22.95	
Australia Post	45.00	
Govt. tax (April)	1.80	
	<u>\$137.95</u>	<u>137.95</u>
		<u>\$ 539.69</u>

Balance as at 28/4/99 is \$ 539.69

Accounts for payment:

Room rent	10.00
Magazine postage	37.00
Rob McCosker - p/copy paper	40.70

This report was received and adopted on the motion of Julia Brown, seconded by Kris Carnell. Carried.

Outing Report:

Roger Logan read out a report from Helen Hartmann on the outing she led to "Wywurrie" at Tooloom on 25th April and Col Hockings reported on the climb up The Beehive which took two hours to ascend and one hour return. The group saw a number of different ground orchids during this section of the trip.

Pre-outing Report:

Kris Carnell said the details of the weekend campout to the Torrington State Recreation Area on 1st – 3rd May were as per the newsletter but he was uncertain about whether the miner would be available to guide people.

There is a scheduled outing to Mt Banca, just to the west of Stanthorpe, on 23rd May and Roger will contact Maurie Passmore to confirm that he is able to lead it.

Specimens:

1. Col Hockings had a book on orchids with illustrations of some of the species seen on the Tooloom trip.
2. Margaret Carnell had a pressed specimen of *Chiloglottis formicifera* found in a gully on the Tooloom outing.
3. Desley McDonagh had colour prints taken on the last two outings, including one of a shed made of flattened tar drums.
4. Roger Logan had a top shaped woody specimen that was probably from the inside of a *Xanthorrea* plant.

General Business:

1. Heritage Park

Kris Carnell reported that the working bee held on Sunday 11th April did a good job of weeding but that the Shire Council had failed to produce the mulch as promised. They do intend to mulch all of the beds in the park but it was agreed that it would be preferable if Club members spread it over the beds containing natives to ensure that the less obvious species were not smothered. Kris will liaise with the Council to find out when they are likely to deliver the mulch and then contact members to arrange to spread it.

2. Greening Australia Field Day

Liz Bourne said she had received details of a Field Day being organised by Greening Australia on Friday, 7th May on the Fitzgerald's property "Glenelg" near Gore, west of Warwick on the Cunningham Highway to demonstrate whole farm planning in action.

3. Draft management plan for Coolmunda Conservation Park

Liz drew members attention to the fact that a draft management plan for this park in Inglewood Shire is available for public comment until 7th June if anyone had knowledge or a particular interest in this area.

3. Norfolk Island trip at Easter

Patience James spoke about the trip by club members to Norfolk Island over Easter which thirteen people went on. They had an enjoyable time sightseeing and walking around the island.

4. New Letterhead and Magazine Cover

Rob McCosker has come up with a suggested change to the magazine cover which could be adapted for the letterhead as well.

5. Learning for Pleasure

Mary Walters has indicated to Roger Logan that she no longer wishes to be associated with this group which was established by a number of members of the Field Naturalist Club. Given that a number of these key members have moved away or do not wish to be directly involved in organising activities, it is likely that the group will fold.

Meeting closed at 9.06pm.

Slide Presentation:

Errol Walker gave a very interesting slide presentation based on various trips he and his family had made through south western Queensland and South Australia, visiting various natural and historic sites. This included several visits to Lake Eyre (with and without water).

Conservation \$'s for the Border Rivers

Did you know?

Grants have just been given to farmers who applied for financial assistance to undertake on-ground works on their properties under the "Advancing Nature Conservation Grant Scheme"

Under the scheme, Greening Australia can provide financial and technical assistance to farmers in the Border Rivers Region of Queensland and NSW to undertake projects on the farm that will benefit nature conservation.

The three year project will contribute around \$400,000 of incentives for farmers to implement onground works. The project, funded by the Federal Government's Natural Heritage Trust, requires farmers to contribute at least 50% of the grant given, in either cash or kind (labour).

The Border Rivers project is an extension of a larger one, which has been operating out of Dalby and Roma over the past year. Over eighty projects have received funding for activities which included fencing off natural vegetation remnants to manage stock access; shifting watering points to protect stream vegetation; controlling weeds in scrub of high conservation value; or planting seedlings to establish linking corridors between retained patches of vegetation.

The Border Rivers region includes the Granite Belt, traprock country and the Moonie, Weir and Macintyre River Catchments. An assessment panel, made up of farmers and representatives from Greening Australia, the Department of Environment & Heritage and the Department of Natural Resources will be viewing the next round of applications in August.

Application forms are available on request from the Greening Australia office at the Border Rivers Catchment Management and Landcare Centre, Waggamba Square in Lagoon Street Goondiwindi. Inquiries about the scheme can be directed to Steven Bellert on 4671 2955.

Greening Australia Queensland is a non-government organisation which works with the community to achieve sustainable land and water use.

Its vision is to create a healthy, diverse and productive environment.

Coming Attractions

MAY	23 rd	Outing to Mt. Banca Leader M. Passmore
	26 th	Meeting - Trivia Quiz organized by Desley McDonagh
JUNE	20 th	Outing to Emu Vale Leaders Alan and Dianne Jones
	23 rd	Meeting Program - Zimbabwe by Noela and Brian Dodd

Report on April Outing to "Wywurrie" Tooloom

On a beautifully fine, warm Anzac Day, a well-attended party proceeded through Liston and Legume to Tooloom, where we were joined by the Warwick contingent and we had an introductory talk about the day's activities. The property of our destination, "Wywurrie", was bought by Brian Mulcahy's father in 1935.

On the way up to the Tooloom Lookout, a large flock of wrens (perhaps 30 or 40) was disturbed on the roadway and seemed intent on suicide - but I missed the lot. We stopped for a short time at the Lookout where the Koreelah Range was looking particularly beautiful.

The rout continued to Tooloom, just a few kilometres short of Urbanville. We arrived at 10.30am, had the obligatory cuppa and then went to inspect Brian's native foods plot. Here we smelt cinnamon and lemon myrtle leaves, admired the velvety purple new leaves on the tree tomatoes (planted mainly as shade) and were introduced to a variety of tropical rainforest trees - mainly Australian species.

Many of these latter have been planted "to see how they go". A particular attraction of this plot, which now has drip irrigation, was the small group of bush cherries which survived from earlier plantings before the current good season and when irrigation came as a man with a bucket. These plants, about one and a half metres high, were displaying brilliant red new growth. Another attraction, of quite a different type, were gate latches and, later in the day, a shed wall made of flattened 44 gallon tar drums.

We returned to a very leisurely lunch, during which we wandered through the choko tunnel, looked at seedlings and at tubes designed to make roots go downwards and generally enjoyed the wonderful weather.

The afternoon's outing was to the small frost free area in an upper paddock where a natural grove of tallow woods has become established. Many of the party descended a low cliff and looked at the ferns and orchids naturalised on the cliff face. En route back down to the house we stopped for a view of the Mt. Lindesay basin, and tried to remember the various names of the subsidiary vents.

A feature of this outing was that it was a "double-header" ; a small group climbed The Beehive (also known as South Obelisk and Mt Callawajune). Col Hocking has kindly agreed to write a report of this half of the double.
His report follows.

Helen Hartmann.

The Ascent of the South Obelisk

After a round-a-bout drive through cattle yards, across paddocks and over a 6-log bridge which required precise wheel placement, the six of us left the vehicles at the foot of the climb at 11:15 a.m. We were doubtful that we would have time to reach the top and be back at a reasonable time as both Brian Mulcahy and his neighbour informed us that it is a 5 hour climb.

Initially we climbed a steep ridge through patches of *Zieria*, until we reached an upward-sloping rock outcrop. The *Zieria*, maybe *aspalathoides*, was quite showy and worth considering as a garden shrub. Initially the rock appeared to a type of sandstone but closer examination suggested possibly volcanic ash. 3 more-adventurous members of the party chose to climb up the crest of the rock ridge while the remainder ascended under the overhanging face of the rock wall. Erosion under the overhang has left a variety of patterns, colours and holes in the rock. Where the rock wall petered out we all stopped for a well earned breather.

The next section was just as steep but was covered with dense shrubbery interspersed with small areas of bare rock. Plants of the ground orchid, *Acianthus* (possibly *exertus*) were seen flowering in this area. When we reached the top of this area the vegetation changed abruptly. Suddenly we were climbing a grassy slope under open forest. Lunch was taken at the top of this more-open area.

Large rocks and a thick understory of *Banksia spinulosa* and other shrubs, slowed progress after lunch. Many of the rocks supported clumps of *Dendrobium kingianum* and patches of tongue orchid, *Dendrobium linguiforme*. Thankfully the gradient soon became easier, giving a less strenuous walk to the old trig. point on the summit which we reached at about 1:15 p.m. A short distance from the top, I found a plant of *Pterostylus longifolia* (a grass-like green-hood orchid) in full flower. Several plants of a pale flowered *Dipodium* were also seen on the summit.

Vegetation around the trig point has been cleared some years ago but regrowth now cuts out the view on all but the eastern side. A nest of large, very aggressive, dark green jumper ants had us watching our feet almost as much as the view.

The descent was made much more quickly and easily than the ascent, pausing not far from the top to join Roger Logan on an open ledge which gave an uninterrupted view on the western side. While we admired the view, a curious Wedge-tailed eagle hung on the air currents just above us.

On our way down through the grassy area, a small patch of a dozen or so flowers of helmet orchid, *Corybas aconitiflorus*, was found hiding amongst the grass.

We reached the vehicles at about 2:15 p.m. and our legs and feet were very pleased to be on level ground again after 3 strenuous hours.

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