JUNE 1999 Vol 310

# 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<br/>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, J	Julie Beddow
Publicity Officer	Patience James	46 811853
Librarian	Trish McCosker	46 835371
Manager 10 in	D'I TT D'I	

Management Committee President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer

### COMING UP

Next Outing June 20<sup>th</sup> Con's Plains and Farm Creek Falls - Leaders Alan and Diane Jones. Meet at Tannymorel Hall at 9.30am

Next Meeting June 23<sup>rd</sup> Visit to the Sundown Observatory at Ballandean Meet at the Observatory at 8.00pm Admission charge of \$6.00

# DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER 11<sup>th</sup> July 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 26th May, 1999

**Opening:** The meeting opened at 8.05pm with President, Roger Logan, welcoming members. **Attendance:** There were 17 present at the meeting and 8 apologies as per the attendance book. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 28th April, 1999 were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Rod Hutchins, seconded by Patience James. Carried.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- 1. Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club Footprint May '99
- 2. Who's Who in Australia offer of 1999 edition of "Who's Who in Business"
- 3. Qld. Naturalists' Club QNC News May/June '99

4. Senator Andrew Bartlett – Democrat comments on *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Bill*; threats to the Great Barrier Reef; Marine Legal Fighting Fund

5. River Reach – information on 14 succesful projects in Queensland section of Murray-Darling Basin

- 6. Qld. Naturalists' Club request for nominations for Qld. Natural History Award for 2000
- 7. Stanthorpe Shire Council invitation to comment on the review of local laws
- 8. Samson Total Technology invoice for \$47.40 for photocopier expenses
- 9. Letter of invitation from QCWA re next Friendship Day

10. Michael Atzeni, Toowoomba Bird Observer's Club - re joint outing with our club

**Outwards:** 

1. Community service announcements for outing and meeting

**Business Arising from the Correspondence:** 

1. River Reach

The Stanthorpe Shire Council has been given in-principle approval for a \$15,000 grant under this program to undertake a riparian zone enhancement project for the Severn River, downstream of the sewage treatment plant.

2. Toowoomba Bird Observer's Club

Michael Atzeni from this club has been in contact with Rob McCosker regarding arranging a joint outing with our club. It has been suggested to them that they might like to come on our September outing to the McDonagh's property, "Upson Downs", on Nundubbermere Road.

3. Stanthorpe Shire Council Local Laws

Kris Carnell said there was little of direct interest to the Club in the local laws undergoing review however anyone interested could view them in the Council offices until 9<sup>th</sup> June.

Financial Statement for the perio	d 28/4/99 – 26/5/99:	
Balance as at 28/4/99		\$ 539.69
<u>Receipts:</u>		•••••••
Stanthorpe Camera Club - PO Box	rental 22.50	
Room rent collection	6.40	
	28.90	<u>28.90</u>
		568.59
Expenditure: ·		
Room rent	10.00	
Magazine postage	37.00	
Samson Total Technology	47.40	
Rob McCosker – p/copy paper	40.70	
Govt. tax (May)	.90	
	<u>\$136.00</u>	136.00
		\$ 432.59
Balance as at 26/5/99 is \$ 432.59		
Accounts for payment:		
Room rent	12.50	
Magazine postage	37.00	

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

### **Outing Reports:**

Kris Carnell reported on the very successful campout to the Torrington State Recreation Area on  $1^{st} - 3^{rd}$  May which was attended by 19 people. Participants had a very informative weekend visiting old mine workings, enjoying the area's natural history and mingling with the locals at their regular barbeque.

Thirty seven people went on the walk to Mt Banca on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, led by Maurice Passmore who provided a wealth of information on the natural history of the area.

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

Roger Logan provided details from Alan and Diane Jones on their proposed outing to the Conn's Plains area beyond Tannymorel in the upper Condamine Valley on 20<sup>th</sup> June.

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### Next Meeting:

As the Dodds will be unavailable to speak at the next meeting, we will be going to the Sundown Observatory instead, meeting there at 8pm.

### Specimens:

- 1. Margaret Carnell had a range of rock specimens collected from the trip to Torrington.
- 2. Desley McDonagh had photos taken on the Torrington trip.
- 3. Rob McCosker had a piece of pine tree presumably eaten by some sort of parrot.

### **General Business:**

1. Heritage Park

Thanks to an enthusiastic bunch of volunteers, the working bee held on Sunday 23rd April after the walk up Mt Banca managed to spread all of the mulch over the beds in just over an hour. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this excellent effort in maintaining the gardens here. Most of the plants are now well established but there are a few gaps in some of the beds that will need replanting in spring.

### 2. Texas Road Transfer Station

The bed established here by the club last year is also in need of weeding and mulching and the Council has offered to supply bark chips here as well. A working bee was organised for 3pm on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May for those able to assist with this task.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm.

### **Trivia Quiz**

Desley McDonagh then challenged club members' knowledge with an entertaining quiz on questions of natural history. Although no \$1 million prizes were offered, teams enjoyed testing their wits against other club members and may have even learnt something in the process! Thank you, Desley, for organising this quiz once again.

Coming Attr	actions
JUNE	20 <sup>th</sup> Outing to Con's Plains Leaders Alan and Diane Jones 23 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting Program - Sundown Observatory
JULY	25 <sup>th</sup> Outing - Mt Jibbinbar Leader Liz Bourne 28 <sup>th</sup> Meeting Program Zimbabwe by Noela and Brian Dodd

## Mount Banca Outing 23/5/99 - Leader Maurice Passmore

Thirty seven people turned out for the outing to Mount Banca, ably led by Maurice Passmore. He had us all captivated with information on the geology, fauna and flora of the area. Maurice explained how there is a dividing line between the granite types of Stanthorpe Ademellite and Ruby Creek granite. The line is clear cut between Mount Marlay and the golf course. South of the line are rocky outcrops and grapes and north of the line are flatter areas and apples.

From the house we proceeded through a pine plantation. Some of the trees are suffering from the effects of drought and drought induced diseases. Some people were not aware that pine trees cannot grow without those brownish-yellow fungi underneath them. They have a symbiotic arrangement to provide mycorrhizae for the root system for the trees. Seedlings can germinate but the trees won't flourish without the fungi. Maurice said that practically all the fungi in Australia are edible but some are too rubbery, too tasteless or produce curious effects. (Even death ! - Editor)

Morning tea on a large rocky outcrop provided great views over the town and to the south and east. We had a grandstand view of about a dozen footy matches all at the same time. The rock outcrop is used by various groups for absieling practice. Near the top of the mountain is a very large native cherry tree (*Exocarpos cupressiformis*). This tree is parasitic on the roots of other plants and has a pleasant tasting red berry which is a swollen section of the stalk with the seed or nut attached externally, hence the name *Exocarpos*. The *cupressiformis* bit is obvious with its gracefully pendulous foliage resembling that of cypress trees.

Maurice was a participant in the original birds Australia survey. He observed one hundred and seventy five species in areas around Stanthorpe.

We moved around to the opposite side of the mountain to see views over the Racecourse and Happy Valley. Visitors Lesley and Richard came with some of us to their adjoining mountain, the one with graffiti, via a steep scramble down the western slope of Mount Banca across the saddle and up again for a different view. We returned to the house along a fire trail that briefly approached the high voltage power feeder line for Stanthorpe.

After a brief lunch some people made it to the working bee at Heritage Park where Desley, Kris, Liz, Dave, Lorna, Col and Vern were hard at work spreading bark chips. Many thanks to all those who showed up. It doesn't take long to get things done when lots of willing people "chip in".

Roger Logan.

### Outing Report - Camp Out to Torrington 1st - 3rd May 1999

Leaders Kris & Margaret Carnell

The camp out to Torrington on the long weekend in May was a great success, with eight

people camping on Friday night, seventeen on Saturday night and eighteen on Sunday, as well as a couple of day visitors.

We travelled down to Torrington on Friday afternoon, admiring the autumn colours in Tenterfield and on properties beside the road from Deepwater. We arrived to be greeted by Patience, Desley, Annette and Errol. Manuel, who owns the caravan park was lighting a fire for us, which was lovely to sit around after tea.

We heard plovers calling during the night and were greeted by braying from the town donkeys in the morning. When Mario and Karol arrived, Mario was a little upset because he forgot his skinning knife and had seen a dead fox on the road.

After morning tea, we drove to meet Mr Fred Sherratt at the stamper. We had a fascinating morning looking around the stamper. There was a primary crusher and a secondary crusher, from which the ore went to the stamper to be crushed further. Where the mineral came off the table there were baffles to direct the different minerals. The tin came first, then wolfram, then the industrial topaz which was the lightest of the three. The water from the table passed over hessian, where the sand was washed away, leaving the tin or wolfram on the hessian. There was a large pile of industrial topaz, looking like white sand, which could be used instead of tungsten as it is cheaper. We also saw some rocks which were too big for the crusher, which had wolfram and other minerals in them.

Our next stop was to look at the remains of a battery frame which was made of cast iron, instead of wood, each piece being cast in one piece. Kris was particularly interested in the old piston pump which was used to recirculate the water used in the battery. The rest of us looked over the rock piles for quartz crystals and other stones. Kath found a piece with traces of beryl in it.

On the way back from the stamper we stopped to photograph some ruins, which may have been of the wine bar, Fred Sherratt was not quite sure. There was a huge log lying on the ground which had the remains of a fence through it, and a couple of old pear trees glowing with autumn colours. After a stroll around the cemetery we returned to camp for lunch.

Saturday afternoon saw us heading for The Nomads Picnic Area, where we met Alex Wyatt, the park ranger. She spoke to us about the management plan for the Recreation Area and the Torrington area which is under the control of National Parks. It was most interesting, and a difficult job to manage the conservation of rare and endangered species, together with mining, grazing, aboriginal heritage and the local residents, most of whose families had lived in Torrington for generations.

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A storm rumbled around while Alex was speaking, but we decided to walk to Thunderbolt's Lookout, as the storm seemed to be going around us, and it seemed quite appropriate to be visiting the lookout with a storm about. Along the way there were colonies of nodding greenhoods and acianthus. The view from the lookout is beautiful, even without the sunshine. There was a storm in one direction, which we later heard, dumped inches of hail about four kilometres from Torrington.

As there was a barbeque at the hall, we all went there for dinner and had a feast. Errol was the champion at indoor bowls, in spite of the lack of support from some onlookers. On the way back to camp most people saw a moonbow - like a rainbow but white.

Sunday. First stop Sherratt's Buddle where Mr Bill Sherratt told us how the buddle worked and showed us how fine the wolfram is after it's been through the buddle. He used a shovel as if he was panning for wolfram and in no time the mineral had separated from the sand. The buddle was build by Mr Sherratt's father who had seen them in Cornwall.

On leaving the buddle, we proceeded to Old Mystery Face, through forest with thick undergrowth. There were some beautiful Banksia spinulosa in bloom, as well as Banksia integrifolia, and a few specimens of boronia microphylla and other shrubs. On the way around the circuit walk there was quite a lot of epacris in bloom - two different species - and two styphelia, one of which is common in our district. We were intrigued by the foliage on some of the plants along the track. The leaves were very small, and we had no idea if it was a kunzea, a pea or something completely different. We decided we should go back in the spring to find out.

The weather was very good for walking, so we moved along at a good pace, apart from our botanising, until we reached Westminster rocks, where we spent some time exploring. There were some magnificent boulders which had split in two, and exfoliation of the rocks. David was quite excited by it all. Quite a few small rocks had split down the middle, as well as the huge ones.

We were all impressed by the mushroom, the lions head and Old Mystery Face a bit further on. Kris found a patch of beautiful blue lobelia growing on top of a rock.

The track back to the car park led us over a section of rocks where we found a yellow beetle, and a bush with highly scented leaves. There was some discussion as to whether the scent was like pine or lavender - no conclusion was reached! A hake a growing beside the track had large, interesting seed pods, some of which had opened and looked like bird's heads. It looked similar to the hake a which grows at Dr Roberts Waterhole.

After lunch at the picnic area, we headed off to the abandoned mine at Bismuth, which Pacific Copper had been working. There were tons and tons of white sand there, which was 90% topaz. We explored the abandoned equipment and old homestead and shed, and looked for crystals and topaz. I don't think anyone found anything of any value, although some core samples were interesting. The old house had been lined with bags and then had newspaper pasted over the top. The date on one paper was 1938. Desley found the dam and the Trickers tried to find a place on a map they had where zircons could be picked up, but were unsuccessful. Unfortunately, there was not enough time to spend fossicking before we had to leave for Blatherarm.

Blatherarm creek is a popular fossicking area, and the vegetation is interesting too. The National Parks have made camping areas at Blatherarm with pit toilets and picnic tables. After making huge smoke clouds, we boiled the eco billy for a cup of tea. It took about twice as long as Errol and Annette's gas stove. Some happy campers stayed to fossick in the creek and found some nice crystals, while five of us set out to find the Blatherarm Falls. We turned to the creek at an orange marker, which turned out to be the wrong one. However, we found a small waterfall and an unusual acacia growing amongst the rocks. On the way back I stumbled upon some leaves in a crevice in the rocks, which looked as if they belonged to Pterostylus and Thelmitrya or bearded orchid according to Narelle - another thing to check in spring. Peter, meanwhile, had walked downstream and discovered the main fall which was

about 50ft high. Here we found boronia granitica. It was a beautifully peaceful spot and we were sorry to leave, but Narelle and Peter returned the next morning to take photos.

Unfortunately, the caravan park ran out of hot water on Sunday night, so some people had to miss showers. We did have a lovely fire and damper for supper (with jam as someone forgot the syrup).

Monday morning dawned bright and clear, although a little windy. After packing up and having the obligatory cuppa, we headed for the Ottery Mine where tin and arsenic were mined. The area has been made safe for visitors with the old kilns fenced off and shafts covered over. Attempts to grow trees on the slope to the creek have so far been unsuccessful, which may be due to the drought when they were planted. Kris saw a frog in the grass at the edge of the barren area, so it can't be too toxic. We saw a pair of scarlet robins, a yellow faced honeyeater and a white eared honeyeater near the car park. There were some nice specimens of copper pyrites and arsenic pyrites in the rubble, and the colours on the bricks of the kiln were beautiful.

Our last stop was Emmaville which has some historic old buildings. Karol noticed a sign at the pub which said "Steak & Kidney \$5.00", so it seemed a good idea to finish our camp out with lunch at the pub. On closer inspection it transpired that it was on Friday night only, and neither pub did lunch on Monday. Some of us made do with our sandwiches in the park, while others indulged in pies from the corner store.

All in all our camp-out was most successful and enjoyable, and everyone is planning to return - probably in spring.

Margaret Carnell

### Bird List - Torrington Camp Out - 1st - 3rd May 1999

chough currawong honeyeater white eared king parrot kookaburra red browed firetail finch	grey shrike thrush yellow robin starling plover wood swallow yellow tailed black cockatoo	white browed scrub wren bronzewing pigeon yellow rumped thornbill magpie pee wee
scarlet robin	welcome swallow	honeyeater yellow faced
superb blue wren	eastern spinebill	eastern rosella
wedgetail eagle	wattle bird	rainbow lorikeet
willy wagtail	crimson rosella	grey butcher bird

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### **Other Interesting Critters**

Grey kangaroo	fox	orange shield beetle
yellow beetle (shaped lik	e a Christmas beetle)	elephant beetle (weevil)
burrowing cockroach	rabbit	

Acacia (4)	Isotoma	Brachyscome
Banksia integrifolia	Banksia spinulosa	Goodenia (2)
Dillwynia retorta	Micromyrtus	Cassinia (dead finish)
Everlasting (button)	Correa reflexa	Billardiera scandens
Hakea seeds	Hibbertia	Styphelia (2)
Epacris (2)	Leucopogon (2)	Acianthus (gnat orchid)
Pterostylus (greenhood orch	id)Mirbelia ruboides	Yellow & brown pea
Olearia (Blue Mountain dais	y)Olearia - white	Yellow everlasting
Bladderwort	Solanum	Isopogon or Petrophile
Persoonia (1 with fruit, 1 flo	wer)	Wahlenbergia (bluebell)
Boronia microphylla	Boronia granitica	White daisy (burr)
rice flower	Lobelia	Wild parsnip
Gahnia grass (large)	Costus (grassy plant used in	

### Plant List - Torrington Camp-Out 1st - 3rd May 1999

### **Strange Incident!**

On Sunday morning (6<sup>th</sup> June) I noticed a great hubbub going on down by the road. A gang of choughs and apostle birds were sounding very agitated and angry, and in the midst of their racket there was a distressed wailing sound.

I didn't recognise the voice that was wailing, and went to investigate. A koala was bobbing down the road! After a minute or two he turned and went through the fence into the neighbour's place, and straight away the birds started up again. They swooped on him and hovered and generally harassed the life out of him. He didn't wail any more, but just growled, sounding like a lion, as he trundled through the scrub. I watched him for about 100 yards or so, being mobbed every inch of the way, until he disappeared into some thick pine trees. The birds appeared to be mollified at this point, and went about their business.

Now why on earth would choughs and apostle birds object to the presence of a koala? Presumably they don't rob nests or anything? Can anyone explain??

Mary Clarke

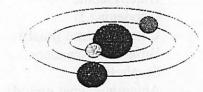


The President and Members Of Stanthorpe Branch QCWA



Cordially invite you to be present At a Free Information & Friendship Day in QCWA Rest Rooms On Wednesday July 7<sup>th</sup> at 1.30pm Guest Speaker from the Queensland Police Service Afternoon Tea will be served Part of QCWA's Activities for International Year of Older Persons

# Please Note JUNE 23rd MEETING VENUE 8.00pm



SUNDOWN

OBSERVATORY

a designated observatory

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astronomy for pleasure, education and research

Directions from Stanthorpe - South along the New England Highway to Ballandean, about 20 minutes, turn right into Curr Road then left at "T" into Sundown Road. Follow signs to Winewood and Ballandean Estate Wineries. The Observatory is 400m on left after Ballandean Estate, about 4km from the highway.

PLEASE dip your headlights when approaching the observatory.

Suggestions \* a RED torch - red light is better for night vision \* something warm - we will be outside in mid winter \* a pair of binoculars \* insect repellant - just in case ADMISSION \$6.00 per person

### Outing to Con's Plains and Farm Creek Falls 20<sup>th</sup> June

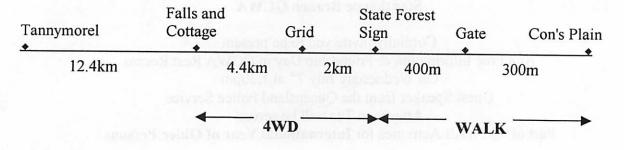
Meet at the Tannymorel Hall at 9.30am

The properties we will visit are on private land and permission has been given for us to visit. The Falls are 12.4km from Tannymorel, where we can have morning tea and enjoy the water. It is advisable that we use 4WD vehicles from the cabin at the falls. 4.4km from the cabin we come to a grid, turn right and travel a further 2km to a small "State Forest" sign. There is room to turn vehicles around at this point, so we will walk from here following an old track, sloping uphill, for 400m to a locked gate. From the gate the plain is about a further 300m. We will stop here for lunch to enjoy the spectacular panorama. The entire Steamer Range can be viewed, so bring the camera and binoculars.

If time permits we can drive to Kelly's Lookout on the northern side of the plateau - a further 9.3km.

The Joneses haven't picked a hard walk this time!!! We will ring Roger early on the morning of the outing if the weather is not suitable. For further information please give us a call.

Alan and Diane Jones Phone 4664 8347



### May Meeting Ouiz

Desley once again provided an interesting selection of questions to test member's knowledge. Answers are on the next page - try your knowledge before peeping.

#### Plants

Native bush nut now a world wide commercial success? Which state did it come from? What is another local name for it? What type of plant is the West Australian Christmas Tree? What flower's common name is that of part of a hand? An orchid that is part of your face. What lilies were flowering on the escarpment in the Main Range NP? Name the ground orchid that looks like it's taking off. Australia Post in a hurry. Sleepy ground orchid. Regal orchid. Rings out in the festive season. Good plant for members of the pistol club. Named after a member of Cook's crew.

#### Birds

Name three types of Black cockatoo Which Australian bird was introduced to the SW corner of West Australia and Tasmania? Which owl is most common in Australia? Name two types of Kingfisher - excluding Kookaburra Which bird is a colourful insect eater? (Lincoln McPhee would not like this bird!) Which Robin did we see a pair of on the Torrington outing? Which birds build their nests in banks and cuttings? Which birds incubate their eggs in mounds? What is the colour of the female Satin bowerbird? Birds whose young are cared for by their father Three species of birds which cannot fly, not necessarily Australian. Three different wrens. Name the largest Australian flying bird. The bird that was eaten by Cook and his men. What part of Queensland was named after this bird? Which Lyrebird is found only in a small area, including near here? What is another name for Quarian?

#### General Knowledge

Where was the last Nats campout held? Who were the leaders? What mountain did the intrepid members climb on the Anzac Day outing? Who is the Club Auditor? Name : The longest mountain range in the world. The highest mountain in the world. The highest mountain in Australia. The highest mountain in Queensland. What is the *Bar* at Marble Bar made of? Why is Marble Bar well known? What is number 10 on the scale of difficulty for walks on Nats outings?

What is that on the Rob McCosker scale????

Now turn the page and check your answers.

#### **Answers to Quiz Questions**

### Plants

Macadamia	
Queensland	
Bauple Nut	
Parasitic	
Finger Flower	Cheiranthera linearis
Wax lip orchid	Glossodia major
Gymea or Spear	lily Doryanthes palmeri
Flying duck orch	
<b>Running Postmar</b>	n Kennedia rubicunda
Nodding greenho	od Pterostylis mutans
King orchid	Dendrobium speciosum
Christmas Bells	Blandfordia nobilis
Trigger plant	Stylidium sp.
Banksia	-

#### Birds

Glossy, Red-tailed, Yellow-tailed and Short billed Laughing Kookaburra Barn owl, Boobook Azure, Forest, Sacred, Collared or Mangrove, Little, Red-backed, Yellow-billed. Rainbow bee-eater Scarlet Pardalote Scrub turkey or Mallee fowl Mottled green Emu Emu, Ostrich, Kiwi, Penguin Redbacked, Splendid, Variegated, Blue-breasted, Lovely, Purple-crowned, Red-winged, Superb, White-winged Wedge-tailed Eagle Bustard **Bustard Bay** Albert's Cockatiel

#### General Knowledge

Torrington Kris and Margaret Carnell The Beehive or South Obelisk or Mt Callawajune Vince Allen Andes Mt Everest Mt Kosciusko Mt Bartle Frere Jasper The hottest place in Australia Mountain climbing, hard going, higher level of fitness or plenty of time required. ( About 15 these days Des, you know middle age comes to all of us eventually! Rob)



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When people are too tired to give you a smile, give them one of yours. And always remember, it takes less muscles to smile than to frown And doesn't cause wrinkles.



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