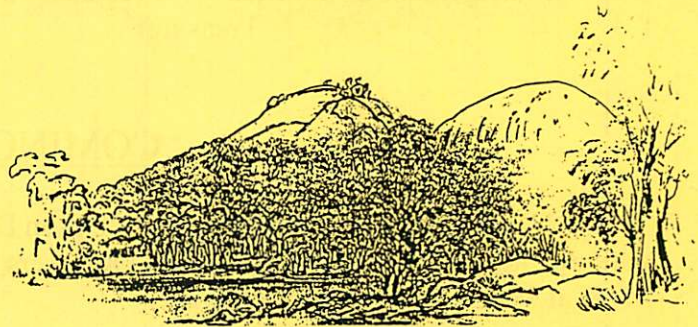




SEPTEMBER 1999

Vol 313

# 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 1998 - 99

President	Desley McDonagh	46 813074
Vice-Presidents	Roger Logan	46 812493
	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 September 19<sup>th</sup> "Upson Downs" Nundubbermere Rd. In conjunction with members of the Toowoomba Bird Observers Club - Leader Desley McDonagh.  
**Meet at Weeroona Park at 8.00am**

Next Meeting September 22<sup>nd</sup> Slide Program by Jean Harslett.  
8.00pm at the QCWA Rooms, Victoria Street, Stanthorpe.

## DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER

10<sup>th</sup> October 1999

Mail contributions to The Newsletter Editor, P O Box 24, Severnlea Q4352  
Fax to 4683 5371, e-mail [robinmcc@halenet.com.au](mailto:robinmcc@halenet.com.au)  
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.
1. Track, some steep sections.
1. Cross country, easy open forest, gentle slopes.
1. Track, steep sections common, with steps.
1. Cross country, some hills, some thick undergrowth.
- 8 Cross country, steep sections with scrambles over rocks etc., and some thick undergrowth.
1. Cross country, steep, hilly, rough, thick undergrowth.
1. 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 25<sup>th</sup> August, 1999**

**Opening:** The meeting opened at 8.08pm with President, Roger Logan, welcoming members and visitor, Ian Hoag, from the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalist Club..

**Attendance:** There were 23 present at the meeting and 9 apologies as per the attendance book. Millie notified the meeting that Mary Walters had been ill and asked that a card be sent to her.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> July, 1999 were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Kris Carnell, seconded by Rob McCosker. Carried.

**Correspondence:**

**Inwards:**

1. Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club - *Footprint* - August '99
2. Qld. Naturalists' Club - *QNC News* - Sept/Oct '99
3. Directory of Aust Associations - listing of club
4. Mahlab Group - listing in Pro Bono
5. Samson Total Technology - invoice for \$5 for postage of toner
6. Senator Woodley - GST and non-profit groups
7. Border Rivers Catchment Management Centre - July/August newsletter
8. Stanthorpe Shire Council - invitation to comment on draft of Pest Management Strategy
9. Nature Search - information leaflet
- 10 Samson Total Technology - advice on increase in photocopier charges
- 11 Vince Allen - letter re the Club's equipment compliance with the year 2000 and the impact of the GST on club activities.
- 12 Membership renewals - Mr and Mrs Clarke; Mr and Mrs Gooding; A Ridge; Mr and Mrs Tricker; Max Moulds
- 13 Margaret Mellon - cancellation of membership

**Outwards Correspondence:**

1. Community service announcements for outings and meetings

**Financial Statement for the period 28/7/99 - 25/8/99:**

Balance as at 28/7/99 \$ 363.23

Receipts:

Subscriptions	237.00	
Room rent collection	22.50	
	<u>259.50</u>	<u>259.50</u>
		<u>\$ 622.73</u>

Expenditure:

Room rent	12.50	
Magazine postage	37.50	
Samson Total Technology	10.97	
Govt. tax (Aug)	<u>.90</u>	
	<u>\$ 61.87</u>	<u>61.87</u>
		<u>\$560.86</u>

Balance as at 25/8/99 is \$560.86

Accounts for payment:

Room rent	12.50
Magazine postage	37.50
Vince Allen - audit of accounts	145.00
Rob McCosker - photocopy paper	10.95

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

**Outing Report:**

Liz Bourne reported on the walk she led up Mt Jibbinbar on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August. Twenty people attended although not all climbed all the way to the top. Fine weather provided some good views from the summit.

**Next Outing:**

Rob McCosker will be leading a half day outing to John Salata's property at Fletcher on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> September although he reported there were not a lot of flowers out when he was there recently.

Desley McDonagh will be leading a walk to her brother, Geoff's property off Nundubbermere Road on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> September with an earlier start than normal of 8am as members of the Toowoomba Bird Observers will be joining us.

**Next Meeting:**

At the next meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September, Jean Harslett will show slides taken on past trips.

**Specimens:**

1. Kris and Margaret Carnell had specimens of 11 different types of wattle that they collected on the trip to Mt Jibbinbar and on their way back to Severnlea. Also, a pink flower, identified by Jean Harslett as *Conospermum tenuifolium*.
2. Millie Marsden had a selection of scats collected on the Mt Jibbinbar trip – wallaby; goat and possibly deer.

**General Business:**

1. Jeanette Andrewartha queried the cost of the fees charged by Vince Allen for auditing the Club's accounts and said she could do it for significantly less. However, Kris Carnell said that under the rules of incorporation, a member of the club was unable to do this. She also asked whether it was really necessary for the auditor to be a Certified Practicing Accountant. Liz offered to check out this aspect with the Office of Fair Trading.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm.

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## Annual General Meeting Report

As you will notice from the inside cover, the Annual General Meeting resulted in a slight shuffling of committee positions. Following the meeting Tom Archer entertained us with a selection of slides spanning many years of Nats Club activities. Some of the small children seen on outings then are now raising families of their own, and perhaps it is a reflection of our changing society that we have few young members in the club today. The evening ended with supper as usual. Below is the Report from Out-going President, Roger Logan.

**Report Annual General Meeting 1999**

Ladies and Gentlemen

This meeting draws to an end another year for the Nats Club and a year full of interesting outings and informative evenings.

This year I counted 14 interesting outings, 10 informative evenings one Christmas party and 3 working bees at the Heritage Park and at Broadwater.

I would like to thank for all their help, Vice Presidents Desley and Millie who gave me advice and filled in when I wasn't here for meetings. I'd also like to thank Liz and Julia who did the paperwork so we knew what our situation was and Rob and Trish McCosker and team who put the magazine together.

I'd like to thank Patience for her assistance as publicity officer and I'd like to thank all those people who passed on their knowledge of flora and fauna and geology and other items of interest so that the rest of us could learn a little more about the world around us.

In conclusion, I wish the club well in its future endeavors and again thank all those people who helped the club by volunteering their services on the committee, producing the newsletter and by organising outings and presenting evenings for our entertainment and education.

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## **Coming Attractions**

SEPTEMBER 19<sup>th</sup> Outing - Geoff and Rose McDonagh's property "Upson Downs" Nundubbermere Rd with Toowoomba Bird Observers Club - Leader Desley McDonagh

22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting - Slide Program by Jean Harslett

OCTOBER 24<sup>th</sup> Outing - Girraween - Castle Rock to Wallangarra Ridge - Leader Brian Dodd. Meet at Weeroona Park at 8.30am or Girraween at 9.00am  
27<sup>th</sup> Meeting - Slides of Salvator Rosa N.P. by Millie Marsden.

## **INTEGRATED WATER SUPPLY ON THE GRANITE BELT**

Over the last few years, the Department of Natural Resources and the Stanthorpe Shire Council have been undertaking studies on the Granite Belt to help identify an additional water supply for the Shire, for future domestic, industrial and agricultural use. After an assessment of various sites, they have concluded that one at Upper Emu Swamp, on the Severn River south west of Glen Aplin, appears to have the greatest potential.

The Council has indicated a requirement to earmark 1000ML of water for future urban and industrial growth while a supply target of 8000ML per annum was required to meet identified rural growth needs as well. Preliminary work has indicated that a 17,200 ML storage would be required to supply this demand with the cost of a dam at the Emu Swamp site estimated to be between \$9 and \$13 million depending on size. The other significant cost would be for the pipeline distribution network which would be necessary to deliver water to farms as well as through to Stanthorpe. This could cost between \$14 and \$16 million depending on pipeline layout. A total estimate, which includes these works and other required activities, puts the total cost of the project at \$30.6 million.

Planning work is now focusing on getting a more detailed understanding of the likely impacts of this proposal. This will include studies on the hydrology of the catchment, the environment generally and cultural heritage values.

To assist the Department of Natural Resources in this work, a Project Reference Group of stakeholder and community interest groups has been formed. I am represented on this Group and attended their first meeting in Stanthorpe on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. So any members with opinions or information on this proposal, please contact me so that I can better informed about community views. See me at a meeting or call me on 4683 6374, preferably in the evenings after 7.30pm.

Liz Bourne

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## **AMBITION ACHIEVED**

I did not want to compete with Ben Dark or Troy Dann but their trips to the far North West of Western Australia have always given me a thirst to actually see just what they found interesting.

The opportunity came when we were at Derby recently and found there was an airline doing trips up the coast over the Bay of 1000 Islands and up to the Mitchell River Falls. From the start and heading north we were over water with King Sound and its numerous rivers flowing into it. The great Fitzroy was to our south, then north to Stokes Bay with the Meda, which flows through Windjana Gorge. The north shore of the King Sound has the Kimbolton Range and Station, which are owned by the Government and used as a defence training area. To the west we flew over the start of the Buccaneer Archipelago, a series of islands which are the tops of a sunken mountain range. True to its name there are islands of all shapes and sizes dotted in the beautiful blue waters. The coastline has many bays with steep cliffs all around and the odd shallower parts have thick mangroves. Cone Bay, Strickland Bay, Yampi Sound with Koolan Island being the former operation of BHP, leaving a huge hole filled with water, Collier Bay with Secure Bay and Walcott Inlett, Doubtful Bay,



Camden Sound, and Brunswick Bay being the larger ones. Strickland Bay has the graves of 89 early pearl divers but is also an active pearl farm. Talbot Bay is the home of 70,000 dugong, as well as the well known Horizontal waterfall being most effective when the 11.5 metre tides race through the gap between islands.

Doubtful Bay has the Montgomery Reef which is extremely deep in the middle and Steep Island has very old aboriginal paintings. Curie Bay has the largest of all pearl farms. Over the St. George Basin mudflats and Prince Regent River we crossed the rugged escarpment to see Mt Trafalgar with Mt Waterloo beside it. The rocky land with its dwarf trees and spinifex was typical of all this section and we could understand why such vast areas are required to provide any sort of a living or how illegal immigrants find surrender a welcome option. Prince Frederick Harbour into which the Morgan and Roe rivers flow was in sight but our destination was to the east to view the Mitchell River falls. The power of water in flood time could be seen by the gouged out gorges and numerous cliffs as the river twisted through them. The falls are of considerable height, some 100m, consisting of four drops and look quite impressive in a red earth, dominated scene. Admiralty Gulf receives this water.

Our homeward route took us across land which was reasonably flat but the rocky outcrops and sparse vegetation did not improve. In more fertile areas cane or spear grass grows to 14 feet in a good season - such as this - and the area was having its annual burnoff so the smoke haze gave a blue tinge everywhere. Though the larger Charnley and Isdell Rivers crossed a large area, there did not seem to be any habitation till we landed at Mt Hart station for a welcome cuppa. This station of 1,000,000 acres had little success in operating as a cattle producer with two different owners walking off with nothing. Now it has been declared a wilderness area with a homestead block of 10 acres being used as a tourist centre and proving quite popular.

Our final stretch was over the Napier Range and Napier Station, further on to the Meda River and station, then back to Derby, thus bringing a very unforgettable and rare trip, for us, to an end.

Joan Stevenson

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## Outing Report – Mt Jibbinbar – 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1999

Weeroona Park), including Ian Hoag, a member of the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists, who was visiting. A total of 20 people came on the trip (my apologies for those late arrivals who nearly got left behind at Stanthorpe and a newcomer, Dave from Stanthorpe.

After driving west along the Texas Road and then south down Springdale Road through "Peak Vale", we met up with Peter and Lyn Haselgrove, the rangers from Sundown National Park, at the entrance to the access road into the old Jibbinbar mine and then proceeded a few kilometres to the former State Arsenic Mine. This site has been undergoing extensive rehabilitation works by the Department of Mines and Energy and little now remains of the buildings and township. From here we proceed in 4WD's along a rough track alongside the dog fence towards the base of the mountain. After smoko, we left the cars and walked a short distance to a ridge leading up the mountain. Various people elected not to come all the way up the mountain but even a short distance up they were rewarded with some good views to the west and south from the rock slabs. There were quite a few wildflowers out, so the trip to the top was interspersed with lots of diversions to look at flowers and fig trees, take photos, collect scats and admire the views.

We reached the summit after about an hour's walk and, fortunately, the weather was fine enough to give us some excellent views in all directions. As the site of a trig point, the summit was cleared some years ago and the boulders and slabs provided some good viewing platforms. Peter Haselgrove was able to point out various features in Sundown National Park to the south while some of us thought we could make out familiar landmarks to the east.

After a leisurely lunch, we decided to try out a different route home and headed north across a saddle to explore the next hill and ridge. This proved to be very scenic with exposed granite slabs providing us with excellent views and a great variety of wildflowers. Of particular note was a spectacular *Hovea longifolia* bush and a whole saddle of wattle in

flower. Our descent back to the dog fence was down a creek and small waterfall (no water) and we were back at the cars by 2.30pm for more cups of tea and chat before heading home.

This northern part of Sundown National Park and adjacent areas obviously have lots to offer for future outings, especially in springtime, and we were fortunate to have Peter and Lyn's knowledge of the flora to help make it a very enjoyable day. Our thanks go to them and to Jim and Margaret Dickenson, the owners of "Peak Vale" for allowing us access through their property.

Liz Bourne

### Wildflower List - Outing to Mt Jibbinbar - 22nd August 1999

One of the features of the outing was the number of acacias (wattles) in bloom. We have samples of twelve, which we think are all different. There was a low growing one which might be verniciflua (varnished wattle), as it looks like the larger version, only smaller. We came home to Severnlea via Marino Road at Broadwater, and saw four different ones in that area, which are included.

Acacia cultriformis	Leptospermum sp (tea tree, white)
Acacia sp (red stems, ferny leaf, lge golden balls)	Leucopogon sp (snowbush, white)
Acacia baileyana (Cootamundra wattle)	Lobelia sp (blue)
Acacia verniciflua (varnished wattle)	Lomandra leucocephala (woolly mat rush, cream)
Acacia sp (8 others)	Melichrus urceolatus (ten corners, cream)
Brachyscombe sp?(small mauve daisy)	Olearia microphylla (starbush, white)
Bulbine bulbosa (bulbine lily, yellow)	Olearia sp (blue mountain daisy)
Caladenia carnea (pink finger orchid)	Ozathamnus obcordatum (yellow rice flower)
Caltryx tetragona (fringe myrtle, white)	Ozathamnus diosmifolius( white rice fower)
Clematis sp (creeper, cream)	Patersonia sp (native iris, purple)
Indigofera australis (pinkish purple pea)	Persoonia cornifolia? (geebung, berries)
Eucalyptus dealbata (Tumbledown gum in bud, pointed buds)	
Eucalyptus prava (Mountain orange gum in bud, rounded buds)	
Eucalyptus (mugga iron bark, cream)	Pimelea linifolia (queen of the bush (white)
Glycine clandestina (twining glycine, mauve)	Pomaderris sp (in bud, not common)
Goodenia rotundifolium (creeping yellow)	Prosanthera sp (mint bush, white)
Hardenbergia violacea (sarsparilla, purple pea)	Senecio sp (yellow)
Hibbertia sp (yellow flower, fine leaves)	Solanum sp (purple)
Hovea sp (purple pea)	Whalenbergia sp (Australian bluebell)
Eggs & bacon (yellow & orange pea)	Zieria sp (pink)
Yellow Daisy (small)	

Compiled by Margaret Carnell

## Outing Report - Extra Half Day Wildflower Trip - 5<sup>th</sup> September 1999

The best laid plans of mice and men ... or however the saying goes, certainly came true for me when I phoned the property owner the night before the planned outing to Salata's Hill at Fletcher. John very apologetically informed me that his neighbour had been burning off and with the need to back-burn, the whole hill was set alight and was now completely burnt. After some hard thinking and very helpful suggestions from some locals our venue was changed to Mt. Sterling, just to the west of Glen Aplin.

We arrived at Cannavo's property at about 1.30pm and were met by Ross who had undertaken to be our guide for the walk. We parked the cars in the property then followed a farm track which was built to access the saddle between the two peaks of the mountain where a clearing has been planted with fruit trees. Along the way we found several flowering plants including two wattles, *Acacia floribunda* and *A. latiseppala*, *Melichrus urceolatus*, *Senecio laetus*, an eye catching Everlasting daisy possibly *Helichrysum bractatum* and an Egg and Bacon flower which no one was prepared to put a name to. *Glycine clandestina* was showy, as it climbed over anything within reach and made one take a second look, especially when seen on a flowering Sarsaparilla, *Hardenbergia violacea*. There were Billy Buttons *Craspedia uniflora*, *Pimelea linifolia*, *Cryptandra amara*, *Clematis microphylla* and some very showy *Leucopogon melaleucoides*. When we reached the fence at the orchard there was a large stand of *Indigofera australis* var. *australis* just coming into flower, and we also saw plants of the variety *signata*, though not in bloom. We continued past the fence at the saddle and as we climbed towards the northern peak of the mountain, Ross showed us an interesting rock outcrop with a fig twining over it, and a little further along orchid enthusiast, Narelle, found a Greenhood orchid *Pterostylis mutica*. Not to be outdone Rod happily pointed out a Wax-Lip orchid *Glossodia major*, a little nearer the top. Peeping through the grass there was one lonely Blue bell *Whalenbergia trichogyna* and the sweet scented White mat rush *Lomandra leucocephala*. Upon reaching the top we were treated to a wonderful rock garden display of vivid blue Rock lily *Stypandra glauca* contrasting with the golden wattle *Acacia latiseppala*, and views across the Severn River valley. Other flowers seen around the rocks at the top were a *Solanum*, *Bulbine bulbosa*, *Zieria* and a *Helichrysum* sp.

While we rested at the top we were taken back in time as Millie told us of her childhood trips from the Glen Aplin school to the top of Mt Sterling on Arbor Day, and of having to bring in the cattle for milking. Dore also had tales of playing here as a child hunting for lizards with her cousins, the Ferris's.

Our return was via the eastern side of the saddle and then over the top of the southern peak to see another rock feature with another large fig tree growing over it. We reached the cars at about 4.00pm and gave a sincere thanks to Ross Cannavo for his able leadership at such short notice.

Rob McCosker.

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## Outing to "Upson Downs" Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September 1999

As this outing is in conjunction with members of the Toowoomba Bird Observers Club we are endeavoring to get to the venue as early as possible so an **8.00am start from Weeroona Park is requested.**

We will travel along Texas Rd to the Nundubbermere Rd turnoff, where members from the western side may prefer to meet us, then proceed to "Upson Downs" which is on the right 2km past the end of the bitumen on Nundubbermere Rd.

We will leave the cars at the house, and carrying lunch, water, etc. we will walk down a road and stop at a small dam for 'smoko'. From the dam we will continue down the road for some distance then leave it and head for the escarpment. The walking is through open wooded country, quite easy with just a small section of incline, about grade 5 for about 10 minutes then a short distance further we come out on the escarpment where we can see "forever". We will stop here for lunch and enjoy the wildflowers and the views.

We have marked the track from the road to the escarpment with yellow tape so that people can make their own way back to the cars at their own pace. There is plenty to explore in the area where we have lunch.

On the pre-outing my sister-in-law and I were accused of behaving like "a couple of kids in a candy store" as we discovered the wealth of wildflowers in the area. The *Eriostemon* was particularly impressive and there was a large variety of other species. I'm sure that some of the botanists in the group will have an enjoyable day and there should be plenty of scope for bird watchers.

Desley McDonagh Phone 4681 3074.