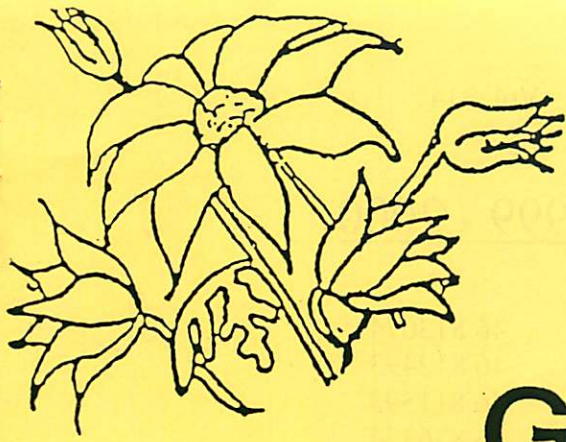
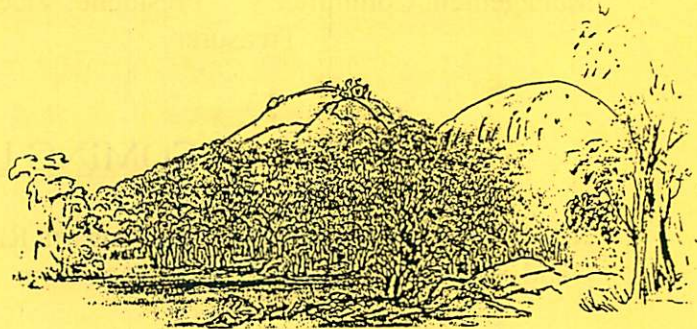


OCTOBER 1999

Vol 314



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 1999 - 2000

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 October 24th Wallangarra Ridge, Girraween NP - Leader Brian Dodd. **Meet at Weeroona Park at 8.30am**

Next Meeting October 27nd Slide Program by Millie Marsden on Salvator Rosa National Park. 8.00pm at the QCWA Rooms, Victoria Street, Stanthorpe.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER 7th November 1999

Mail contributions to The Newsletter Editor, P O Box 24, Severnlea Q4352
Fax to 4683 5371, e-mail 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.
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 22nd September, 1999

Opening: The meeting opened at 8.14pm with Roger Logan, standing in for President, Desley McDonagh, welcoming members and visitor, Bonney Moore, a friend of Patience James.

Attendance: There were 14 present at the meeting and 5 apologies as per the attendance book.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 25th August, 1999 were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Patience James, seconded by Rod Hutchin. Carried.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Binna Burra Mountain Lodge - "Bush Telegraph" Spring '99
2. Peter Kerr; D. Holley; Mrs Hodgson; Mr & Mrs Stevenson; Mr & Mrs Jones; Francesca Laura; Mrs Spence; Mario Pennisi - membership renewals
3. Samson Total Technology - invoice for \$29.24 for photocopier
4. Binna Burra Mountain Lodge - Ecology Weekend on 8 - 10 October
5. Toowoomba Bushwalkers' Club - *Footprint* - Sept. '99
6. Chinchilla Field Naturalists - *Urimbirra* - August '99; Sept. '99
7. Toowoomba Field Naturalists - *Darling Downs Naturalist* - Sept. '99
8. Vince Allen - change of office address; GST; Year 2000 compliance of computers and other electronic equipment
9. Asia/Pacific Incentives and Meetings Expo - information
10. Toowoomba Bird Observer's Club - thanks for joint outing
11. Ron and Peg Travis - return of their newsletter, address unknown

Outwards Correspondence:

1. Community service announcements for outings and meetings
2. Card to Mary Walters

Financial Statement for the period 25/8/99 - 22/9/99:

Balance as at 25/8/99 \$ 560.86

Receipts:

Subscriptions	168.00	
Room rent collection	<u>19.00</u>	
	<u>187.00</u>	<u>187.00</u>
		\$747.86

Expenditure:

Room rent	12.50	
Magazine postage	37.50	
Vince Allen - auditing	145.00	
Rob Mc Cosker - p/copy paper	10.95	
Govt. tax (Sept)	<u>1.60</u>	
	<u>\$207.55</u>	<u>\$207.55</u>
		\$540.31

Balance as at 22/9/99 is \$540.31

Accounts for payment:

Room rent	12.50
Magazine postage	37.50
Samson Total Technology	34.24
Liz Bourne - petty cash	10.00

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

Outing Report:

Over 30 people attended the outing on 19th September led by Desley McDonagh to "Upson Downs" on Nundubbermere Road, including a good roll-up from the Toowoomba Bird Observer's Club.

Next Outing:

Brian Dodd will conduct his trip to Wallangara Ridge in Girraween National Park on 24th October which had to be cancelled last year because of rain. He estimates that it will be approximately a 12km round trip taking at least 6 hours.

Next Meeting:

Millie Marsden will be giving a slide presentation on Salvator Rosa National Park at the meeting on 27th October.

Specimens:

1. Frank James had some hardened resin from a *Xanthorrhoea* after it had been burnt
2. Rod Hutchin had two specimens of tongue orchids - *Dendrobium sarcochilus* and *Dendrobium linguiforme*
3. Jean Harslett had clumps of *Ziera aspalathoides* which are related to the Boronias.

Meeting closed at 8.28pm.

Jean Harslett then provided members with a wonderful slide presentation of trips she and Bob had taken in Europe, primarily Denmark and Norway.

Wildflowers and things at our back door

Trish takes our dogs for a walk around the neighbouring roads and properties every day and after she commented to me about the number of wildflowers coming out along the stock route I decided to join her one morning. The start of the stock route is ideal for orchids, on a south-east slope, very rocky with an understory of tea tree and cypress, and we soon came upon some delicate Wax-lip orchids, *Glossodia major*. These were scattered extensively through the grass and varied in colour from pale pink to a deep cerise. In one place a pair of Spider orchids, *Caladenia reticulata*, stood defiantly next to the throng of Wax-lips, and everywhere there were little Everlasting daisies contrasting with the last of the deep blue *Stypantra glauca*.

We noticed a tell-tale scratch on the base of a smooth barked gum tree and at the same time the dogs began very excitedly sniffing around another tree. This was a cypress, and high up near the top was a koala with a half grown cub. The disturbance from below made them try to climb higher, one above the other, and as I could see the top begin to sway we called the dogs away and continued our walk.

Trish pointed out an Elkhorn fern and a rock covered with a Strap fern, and I found a clump of Tongue orchids, *Dendrobium linguiforme*, in full bloom. On our return we came across some clumps of Finger orchids, with both pink and white varieties represented, *Caladenia carnia* and *C. alba* respectively. We wondered at the ability of these plants to put on such a good display in spite of the dry conditions and decided that they must store energy from previous good seasons. This seems to be the case with our home garden as the Iris lilies are blooming better than in other years.

Later in the day we were able to return to the 'koala tree' without the dogs and spend more time watching them. This time mother and baby were feeding on different branches of a gum tree and seemed quite content for us to stay and watch.

Rob McCosker.

Observations in the Chapman Garden

Over the years we have derived very great pleasure from the birds that frequent our bird feeding table. Regular daily visitors are Red-browed finches, Double-barred finches, Crimson rosellas, Peaceful doves and Bar shouldered doves.

Not as regular but common are Crested pigeons and Ring parrots while we always enjoy the occasional clients including Red-winged parrots, Eastern rosellas, Common bronze wing pigeons, Apostlebirds and Galahs. However when seven fully coloured male Red-rumped parrots appeared and sampled with obvious relish our offering of millet seed we were of course very interested.

Why only mature males?

On referring to the Readers' Digest "Complete Book of Birds" we learnt that during breeding the female incubates the eggs while the male feeds her at almost hourly intervals throughout the day, moving about in small parties with other males for the rest of the time.

We were quite intrigued to think that while we were watching these seven beautiful little parrots enjoying easy seed gathering, somewhere in the vicinity seven of their mates were patiently hatching out the next generation.

Tom and Irene Chapman.

Reminder - Please make sure you have paid your Annual Subscription -

Coming Attractions

- OCTOBER 24th Outing - Girraween - Castle Rock to Wallangarra Ridge
Leader Brian Dodd. Meet at Weeroona Park at 8.30am or Girraween at 9.00am
27th Meeting - Slides of Salvator Rosa N.P. by Millie Marsden.
- NOVEMBER 21st Outing - Walker's Property on the Severn River at Ballandean -
Leader Liz Bourne
24th Meeting - Slide Program by Peter Andrewartha

Outing Report for September

Over thirty members and friends of the Stanthorpe Field Nats and the Toowoomba Bird Observers Clubs enjoyed a very pleasant outing to "Upson Downs", the home of Geoff and Rose McDonagh on September 19th. We got away from Weeroona Park at about 8.15am instead of 8.00am sharp, which was just as well because some members either slept in, were held up, or just couldn't understand that 8.00am wasn't 8.30am. Fortunately, we all got together eventually at our destination after collecting those who were waiting at the Nundubbermere turnoff.

After a short break at the house for members to meet hostess Rose and admire the setting of the home, we set off down the road to a small dam for smoko. We enjoyed the time watching birds and trying to identify some of the plants including a ground cover with small white flowers. (One plant identified as *Anguillaria dioica* or Early Nancy is now named *Wurmbea biglandulosa* - just to make life more interesting. Editor.) Also seen here was "Punch" the Grey fantail.

After this pleasant interlude we moved on down the road and then followed the marked trail to the escarpment. The trees marked with yellow ribbon proved to be a successful idea as people could find their own way back when they wished. As we crossed a small creek we admired a very good stand of Pomaderris which followed the creek line. It was in full bloom, much more advanced than it had been on the pre-outing.

All except two people (birds who stayed at the dam) made it to the escarpment. It took the botanists quite some time to get there as they were held up identifying and listing the flora. The list is attached below, many thanks to my brother Brian who took on that task, and to others who assisted in identification. Quite some time was spent on the escarpment which allows a magnificent view over the surrounding country. Several of the more active members went further on to the next hill, attracted, I believe, by the beautiful granite boulders on it. The children who came with the Toowoomba Club enjoyed their time there also. (The bird list which follows was compiled by those same children. Editor.)

After lunch most of the birds and some of the Nats returned to the house where they enjoyed cold drinks and tea courtesy of Rose, while a number of others walked farther down the road where we continued to find wildflowers and birds to study. A pardalote was observed entering its nest in a bank by one group while the rest of us just enjoyed the peace and quiet of this unspoiled area.

I had a phone call from one of the Toowoomba folk on the morning following the outing, expressing thanks to the Nats for including them in the outing; to me for leading it; to Rose McDonagh for her hospitality; advising that the bird list would number more than 30 and telling me that the children had a wonderful day.

I want to thank my family - Rose and Geoff (who was sorry that he was unable to be part of the day) for allowing us to tramp over their property, Brian for his hard work with the plant list, as well as Rob McCosker for his liaison with the Toowoomba Bird Observers Club and other helpful support, and all those who came and made the outing an excellent one. THANKS EVERYONE!

Desley McDonagh.

Wildflower List for September Outing

Leptospermum 3 sp.
Anguillaria dioica now *Wurmbea biglandulosa*
Ozothamnus diosmifolius (Sago flower)
Comesperma
Daviesia
Acacia pruinosa
A. ulicifolia

Drosera sp.
Choretrum candollei
Pimelea 2 sp.
Pultenaea
Dillwynia 4sp.
Dampiera purpurea
Stypantra glauca

A. venulosa
A. brownii and 3 other species
Olearia ramulosa
Brachyscome 2 sp.
Solanum 2 sp.
Hybanthus
Cryptandra
Eriostemon myoporoides
Hovea
Indigophera australis and I. signata

Stylidium laricifolium
Lobelia
Hardenbergia violacea
Zieria smithii and Z. compacta
Calytrix tetragona
Stackhousia viminea
Bertya
Boronia granitica and B. amabilis
Pterostylis sp.
Pomaderris sp.

Outing Report from Toowoomba Bird Observers

The beautiful dry spring weather attracted a large crowd of Birdo's and Stanthorpe Field Nats in a joint outing to "Upson Downs", a property near Stanthorpe owned by Geoff and Rose McDonagh. For a start **Crimson Rosella** and **Bar-Shouldered Dove** were seen as people arrived at the entrance of the property.

We gathered alongside a small dam for morning tea where **Striped Honeyeaters** called persistently. Next, we walked to a point where we divided into two groups. The larger group ventured through the bush guided by yellow ribbons to a rocky escarpment with superb views. The small party kept to the main track heading to the dingo fence at the edge of the property. **Eastern Spinebill**, **Grey Shrike-Thrush**, **Eastern Yellow Robin**, **White-Throated Treecreeper** and a female **Rufous Whistler** were seen, while a possible **Speckled Warbler** was too far back to identify.

The small party had arranged to meet the rest at the escarpment for lunch and when they arrived, **Inland Thornbill**, **White-eared Honeyeater** and **Leaden Flycatcher** were reported. Afterwards we ambled back to the house and enjoyed a pleasant chat while Field Guides were checked and checklists were updated.

Using our eyes and ears, 31 species were recorded and a great time was enjoyed by everyone.

Species list:

Bar-shouldered Dove, Crimson Rosella, Eastern Rosella, White-throated Treecreeper, Superb Fairy-Wren, Variegated Fairy-Wren, Spotted Pardalote, Striated Pardalote, White-browed Scrubwren, Weebill, Brown Thornbill, Inland Thornbill, Red Wattlebird, Striped Honeyeater, Noisy Friarbird, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, White-eared Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Eastern Yellow Robin, Golden Whistler, Rufous Whistler, Grey Shrike-Thrush, Leaden Flycatcher, Grey Fantail, Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike, Olive-Backed Oriole, Grey Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Pied Currawong, Welcome Swallow, Fairy Martin.

Regan Scheuber

October Outing - Wallangarra Ridge

This has been set down for Sunday the 24th October. 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 the 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 the Sphinx or Turtle Rock or flower pauses, not that there will be very much still 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. Phone 4681 3585