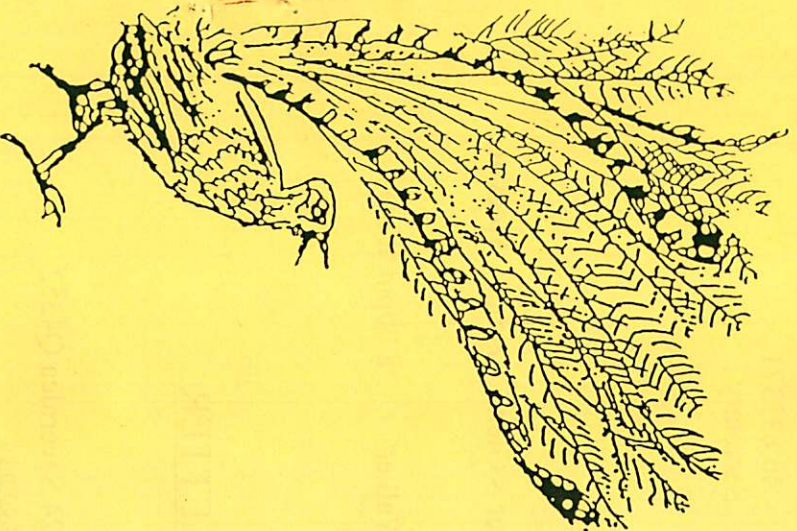




FEBRUARY 2000  
Vol 316

# 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:  
Outings:  
Subscriptions:  
Rent :  
Address:

4th Wednesday of each Month at QCWA Rooms at 8.00pm.  
The Sunday preceding the 4th Wednesday of each Month.  
Single \$8.00 Family \$15.00 per annum July to June.  
Donation per family per meeting.  
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 February 20<sup>th</sup> Undercliff Falls Leader - Glen Crossman **Meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am or Liston Hall at 9.30am.**

Next Meeting February 23<sup>rd</sup> Slide Program by Errol Walker 8.00pm at the QCWA Rooms, Victoria Street, Stanthorpe.

## DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER

6<sup>th</sup> March 2000

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.
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 24th November, 1999**

**Opening:** The meeting opened at 8.09pm with President, Desley McDonagh, welcoming members.

**Attendance:** There were 19 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 27<sup>th</sup> October, 1999 were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Patience James, seconded by Millie Marsden. Carried.

**Correspondence:**

**Inwards:**

1. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club - *Darling Downs Naturalist* - Nov '99
2. Qld. Naturalists' Club - *QNC News* - Nov/Dec '99
3. UNEP International Photographic Competition on the Environment
4. Stanthorpe Shire Council - invitation to Christmas function
5. Senator John Woodley - update on tax reform and community groups
6. interNational Park Tours - information on future trips
7. Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club - *Footprint* - Nov '99
8. Children's Promise - request for donations
9. Asia - Pacific Incentives and Meetings Expo
10. Bookman Press - *Australian Organisations and Leaders* - invitation to purchase
11. Stanthorpe Shire Council - Australia Day awards
12. Samson Total Technology - invoice for \$5
13. Chinchilla Field Nats. - *Urimbirra* - Nov '99
14. MacMillan - information on books for sale
15. Multiple Sclerosis Society - request for donation
16. Narelle Crawford - membership renewal
17. Naturesearch - information

**Outwards Correspondence:**

1. Community service announcements for outings and meetings

**Business Arising from Correspondence:**

It was agreed that Roger Logan and his wife should attend the Stanthorpe Shire Council's Christmas function on behalf of the Club.

**Financial Statement for the period 22/9/99 - 24/11/99:**

Balance as at 22/9/99 \$ 540.31

Receipts:

Subscriptions	154.00	
Room rent collection	<u>17.10</u>	
	<u>171.10</u>	<u>171.10</u>
		\$711.41

Expenditure:

Room rent	12.50	
Magazine postage	37.50	
Samson Total Technology	34.24	
Petty cash (Liz Bourne)	10.00	
Govt. tax (Oct)	1.20	
Govt. tax (Nov)	.30	
	<u>\$ 95.74</u>	<u>95.74</u>
		<u>\$615.67</u>

Balance as at 24/11/99 is \$ 615.67

Accounts for payment:

Room rent	20.00
Magazine postage	75.00
Samson Total Technology	29.16
Desley McDonagh (petty cash)	15.00
Office of Fair Trading	62.50

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

**Outing Report:**

Liz Bourne reported on the outing to the Severn River at Ballandean on 21<sup>st</sup> November. Due to the inclement weather, only nine people attended. However, despite no one being inclined to go for a swim, the group explored the river before having lunch at the Walker's place.

**Pre-outing Report:**

Desley McDonagh said that the January outing on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> would be to the Stanthorpe Museum.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will not be until 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2000.

**General Business:**

1. Nature Search

Desley has received a letter from Peter Sparshott from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service regarding the expansion of the Nature Search program to the local region. It was agreed that he should be invited to speak at a future meeting.

2. Alteration to proposed program for 2000

The campout in May is now proposed to be held at Crows Nest instead of Moogerah Dam. The trip to Amiens on the 24<sup>th</sup> September is being led by the Kennas, not Liz Bourne as stated in the program.

**Specimens:**

Errol Walker had three rock specimens collected on their trip to Western Australia - blue asbestos in ironstone from Wittenoom; jasper from Marble Bar and weathered lava from Kennedy Ranges

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Peter and Jeanette Andrewartha then provided members with a very enjoyable presentation of movies taken on various trips to Central Australia.

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## Outing Report - Severn River, Ballandean - 21<sup>st</sup> Nov., 1999

Despite an overcast and threatening sky, nine people came on the outing to the Walker's property near the third crossing of the Severn River at Ballandean. After a short walk beside the river, we stopped for smoko on a rock slab beside an excellent swimming hole in the river and were joined by Megan and Tony Walker. Only Shadow the dog was brave enough to try out the water and the rest of us just thought about what it would have been like if it had been a typically hot, summer day.

Tony Walker then led a short expedition upstream to a small island in the river covered in large casuarinas before we all retired to the Walker's to admire their gardens and eat our lunch under cover on their verandah. Their kind hospitality was much appreciated and made what could have been a very damp day quite an enjoyable experience.

*Liz Bourne*

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## Christmas Breakup

Mary Walters' spacious garden was the venue for the 1999 Christmas break-up and barbecue on the 12<sup>th</sup> December. Although Mary had done a wonderful job of preparing maps for the marked trails through her property only three people took advantage of them by coming a little earlier. The trails allow access to some interesting rock formations and a lookout with views across the Severnlea valley. The bush contained several wildflowers, with the most noticeable being Flannel flowers, Dampiera, Hyacinth orchids and wattles. Quite a large roll-up enjoyed the atmosphere of the garden setting, with White-faced honeyeaters and Eastern spinebills flitting to and fro amongst the grevilleas while we had dinner.

Thanks to Mary for once again providing the venue.

## Report on First Outing for the Year 2000

A very small gathering met at the Museum at 2.00pm on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. We enjoyed being inside, out of the heat, while we examined and discussed the various exhibits on show. Stanthorpe Museum has a unique collection of "make do" exhibits showing the ingenuity of many of the early settlers in this district. There are also excellent collections of memorabilia from the mining, horticultural and pastoral history of the district.

We enjoyed a leisurely tour around the complex with the assistance of Jean and Bob Harslett, members of both the Field Nats and Historical Society, and Leila Heath. I thank them for their assistance with this outing, which those of us who attended, enjoyed greatly.

I encourage those members of the Field Nats who haven't been to the museum to do so and get in touch with the early history of this great district in which we live.

Desley McDonagh

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## NatureSearch Volunteers News

Desley has passed on a letter, which outlines two activities organised by Peter Sparshott, the NatureSearch Coordinator.

The first is 1.30pm, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February when Dr. Don Sands and Prof. John Kerr will present a half day information session on the Bulloak Jewel Butterfly (Australia's rarest butterfly), and invertebrate conservation on the Darling Downs. It is planned to have 1 to 1.5 hours presentations, break for afternoon tea and then drive to Leyburn to do some butterfly spotting. The presentation will be held at 158 Hume Street, Toowoomba (QPWS building).

The second is 10.30am till 12.00pm Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March when Graham Harrington (President of Birds Australia) officially launches the Woodland Birds of Queensland Project. This project is focused on arresting the decline of woodland birds in the Brigalow belt region. The launch will be held at Hartmann Reserve, Alderley Street, Toowoomba, and there will be refreshments served after the official proceedings.

Because catering is being organised for both events it would be appreciated if you could notify Peter Sparshott, phone 4639 8318 or Desley McDonagh 4681 3074, if you intend to attend either of the events.

**NatureSearch Information and Sample Flora record sheet are attached to the back of this Newsletter.**

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### Coming Attractions

February	20 <sup>th</sup> 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Outing to Undercliff Falls - leader Glenn Crossman Meeting - Slide Program by Errol Walker
March	18-19 <sup>th</sup> 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Campout at Sundown National Park - leader Kennas Meeting - Slide Program by Kris Carnell

## Changes to 1999-2000 Proposed Program

Please note the two changes detailed in the minutes of the November meeting.

The Labour Day Weekend Campout - April 29/30-May 1 is now proposed to be at Crowsnest.

The Amiens Forestry Outing set down for September 24<sup>th</sup> is to be led by Sue and John Kenna.

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## Outing to Undercliff Falls 20 February 2000

Meet as usual at Weeroona Park at 9am then proceed to Amosfield Road and east to Liston. There we will regroup at Liston Hall at 9:30am. Anyone from the eastern side of town or Warwick area may prefer to go direct to the Liston Hall. Then east along Rivertree Road to the carpark at Undercliff falls.

The track to the bottom of the falls takes about 15 minutes on grade 8 path. There is a lookout about half way that has the best view of the falls. You will require protection against leeches and sharp bushes and nettles. At the base of the falls is a waterhole and anyone wishing to may scramble further along the creek for about 100 metres or more into the beginnings of the Bookookoorara Gorge.

An easier short walk (grade 2) is around the top of the falls to the creek where there are large flat rock areas and small swimming holes. You can scramble over rocks to the top of the falls or wander further up along the creek.

The Bookookoorara Creek divides at the top of the falls creating islands that are covered in a variety of trees and shrubs.

We will be based at the carpark, so there is no need to carry lunch and you can come and go as you please. There are no amenities at all.

For further information about the outing please contact  
Desley McDonagh 4681 3074, or Glenn Crossman 4686 1138

Leader - Glenn Crossman

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## Quotable Quotes -

*It is God that cures, and the doctor gets the money.*

- Spanish Proverb.

*Cunning and deception are the necessary resort of the weak and the oppressed. The strong can afford to be frank.*

- Havelock Ellis.

*Not only is it every man's privilege to be happy; it is his duty, his manifest obligation. Happiness is the condition of his higher achievements and his higher usefulness.*

- Lilian Whiting.

*No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of it for anyone else.*

- Dickens



# NatureSearch and you...

*NatureSearch is a Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service program which is engaging the community to collect high quality information on the flora and fauna of the state.*

## Aims

- To establish a state wide network of volunteers
- To foster and encourage a greater appreciation of nature and raise the awareness of wildlife conservation issues within the broader community
- To collect information on rare and threatened plants and animals, those species which are significant indicators of environmental health and those that characterise remnant habitats or important areas for conservation
- To assist in the conservation and protection of Queensland's biodiversity by gathering scientifically reliable data that can provide a valuable contribution to management decisions

## How NatureSearch works

Seven managers have been appointed to regional centres to coordinate the support, training and accreditation of volunteers engaged in NatureSearch activities.

The training and testing program will ensure that all data collected is of the highest standard.

Through consultation with local government, community interest groups and private land holders, NatureSearch will provide a cost free flora and fauna survey for all who wish to participate.

Following checking and verification, data will then be approved for loading into the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service WildNet computer program where it can be utilised by managers, planners, biologists and naturalist for a range of legitimate conservation purposes.

## Why volunteer?

Volunteer naturalists with NatureSearch have the potential to vastly increase their own field skills through training programs and contact with other highly experienced workers as well as provide a valuable service to the conservation of the state's flora and fauna. Some volunteers will find the practical experience of great benefit in the pursuit of full time employment in a biological field. Much is still to be discovered about the plants and animals of Queensland even in some of the more populated areas of the state and there is no doubt that some keen NatureSearchers will be at the forefront of new and exciting discoveries.

## NatureSearch near you

NatureSearch officers can be contacted at the following centres.

Brisbane .....	3227 7836
Moggill .....	3202 0219
Toowoomba .....	4639 8318
Burleigh .....	5576 1014
Maryborough .....	4121 1628
Rockhampton .....	4936 0511
Townsville .....	4722 5332
Cairns/Atherton .....	4091 4262



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for you...*



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## Flora record sheet

FM579\_july99

Collector: \_\_\_\_\_ Date:

Contact no: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Latitude:      Longitude:

Habitat:    Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

LFE:    \_\_\_\_\_

Precision:    Datum:

	Species	Status	Seen	In hand	Specimen	Photo	Blossom	Fruit
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								

Please record multiple locations overleaf