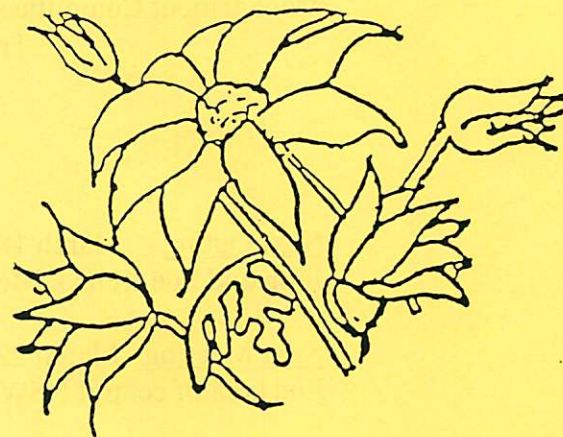


MARCH 2000
Vol 317

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 March 18th-19th Campout at Sundown National Park Leaders - John and Sue Kenna. **Meet at Broadwater Camping Area for 1.30pm start.**

Next Meeting March 22nd Slide Program by Kris and Margaret Carnell on the Hill End area of central NSW. 8.00pm at the QCWA Rooms, Victoria Street, Stanthorpe.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER 9th April 2000

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 23rd February, 2000

Opening: The meeting opened at 8.03pm with President, Desley McDonagh, welcoming members.

Attendance: There were 23 present at the meeting and 6 apologies as per the attendance book.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 24th November, 1999 were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Patience James, seconded by Rod Hutchin. Carried.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club - *Darling Downs Naturalist* - Dec '99; Feb 2000
2. Qld. Naturalists' Club - *QNC News* - Jan-Feb
3. Who's Who in Business - offer to purchase
4. Stanthorpe Shire Council - public toilets in Heritage Park
5. Senator Andrew Bartlett - "Ecowatch"
6. Vince Allen - information on new tax system
7. Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club - *Footprint* - Dec '99; Jan & Feb 2000
8. Qld Naturalists Club - *Old Naturalist* - Dec '99
9. Stanthorpe Shire Council - Pest Management Plan
10. Environment Protection Agency - Annual Report
11. State Library of Qld. - acknowledgement of receipt of newsletters
12. Samson Total Technology - invoice for \$57.40
13. Chinchilla Field Nats. - *Urimbirra* - Jan & Feb 2000
14. Mrs Mallon - return of newsletter
15. Environment Protection Agency - grants to conservation groups
16. David Wilson - membership renewal
17. TEO Training Pty Ltd - GST training courses
18. Environment Protection Agency - Annual Report on admin. of Env. Protection Act

Outwards Correspondence:

1. Community service announcements for outings and meetings

This correspondence was received on the motion of Kath Sullivan, seconded by Margaret Carnell. Carried.

Financial Statement for the period 24/11/99 - 23/2/2000:

Balance as at 24/11/99 \$ 615.67

Receipts:

Subscriptions	85.00	
Change from magazine postage	4.60	
Room rent collection	<u>8.00</u>	
	<u>97.60</u>	<u>97.60</u>
		\$713.27

Expenditure:

Room rent (Oct and Nov)	20.00	
Magazine postage (Oct and Nov)	75.00	
Samson Total Technology	71.43	
Liz Bourne - purchase of book for library	40.00	
CGU Insurance	177.48	
Office of Fair Training - public liability	62.50	
Desley McDonagh - petty cash	15.00	
Govt. tax (Dec '99)	1.80	
Govt tax (Jan 2000)	<u>1.60</u>	
	<u>\$ 464.81</u>	<u>464.81</u>
		<u>\$ 248.46</u>

Balance as at 23/2/2000 is \$248.46

Accounts for payment:

Room rent	10.00
Magazine postage	37.50
Samson Total Technology	57.40

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

Outing Report:

Desley reported on the trip to Undercliffe Falls on 20th February which 40 people attended. Margaret Carnell said they had seen a Pacific baza on the trip. Jean Harslett said that a pair had nested near her place some years ago.

Pre-outing Report:

The next outing will be a weekend campout to Sundown National Park on 18/19 March and this will be led by Sue and John Kenna.

Next Meeting:

The presentation at the next meeting will be on the Hill End area of central New South Wales, given by Margaret and Kris Carnell.

General Business:

1. The Australian Naturalists Network is holding a get-together in Alice Springs on 21-29 July. Desley is likely to attend but our club needs to join the network. This would cost us \$7 per year. It was resolved to join. Moved by Vern Sullivan, seconded by Peter Andrewartha. Carried.

2. Week day outings

Desley suggested that there might be people with the time to go on mid-week outings amongst some of the members and she will write an article for the next newsletter to gauge the level of interest.

3. Heritage Park

The sign at the park needs repairing as it has been damaged by vandals. Desley and Rob McCosker offered to get it fixed. The gardens also need weeding and general tidying up. Vern Sullivan offered to co-ordinate a working bee at 9am on Tuesday 29th February.

4. Naturesearch

The Toowoomba co-ordinator, Peter Sparshott, has agreed to speak at our meeting in May about the Naturesearch program and the Birds Australia survey.

5. Mt Marley

Penny Greenslade from CSIRO Entomology in Canberra is seeking information on the natural history of Mt Marley. Jean Harslett has been helping her with this.

Specimens:

1. Liz Bourne had a specimen of what she thinks is a common planigale which unfortunately drowned in a drum of water on her place.
2. Jean had a photo of a bearded dragon shedding its skin plus a photo of a branch damaged by black cockatoos.
3. Liz asked if anyone had sighted powerful owls in the district as her husband had startled a family of three recently in the Amiens State Forest. Others at the meeting reported on seeing them at Horan's Gorge and at the back of Wallangarra.
4. The Keith Williams' book *Native Plants of Queensland - Vol 4* is now in the club library.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Errol Walker then provided members with a very enjoyable presentation of slides taken on a trip along the Nile River and around Cairo.

Editorial

This edition of the Newsletter has been produced rather more hurriedly than usual, so I hope I haven't missed anything. With the recent Stanthorpe Show and Apple and Grape Harvest Festival behind us I hope things will quieten down a little from now on. No doubt everyone who helped stage this years Festival will be congratulating themselves on its success and will be enjoying a well earned rest. On that note, I would appreciate some contributions for the Newsletter to make it more enjoyable for everyone. Just a few words on an unusual flower or bird, or perhaps some aspect of the weather would be of great assistance.

Outing Report - Undercliff Falls - 20th Feb., 2000

About 40 people enjoyed the fine weather over the border on the February outing to the Undercliff Falls. After arriving at the car park near the top of the falls we had morning tea then set off to explore the area. Some went a short distance down the track to view the falls then returned to the top to explore the water holes above the falls, while others continued to the bottom, rock-hopped down the gorge for some distance then returned to the cars via the rock face of the falls.

Back at the cars around midday, after some people had their fill of blackberry appertiser, we spread out in the shade for lunch under the watchful eyes of a very tame Fantail cuckoo. The long green grass made a pleasant rest area for some in spite of attacks by march flies and leeches. Club member Irma Rickard, whose property adjoins the Bookookoorara Creek just above the Undercliff falls joined us for lunch. Her photo album showing a shot of the falls in flood, taken in 1921, caused a lot of interest.

Bird List for the outing-

Black cockatoo (yellow tail)	Fantail cuckoo
Black faced monarch (male and female or juvenile)	Superb blue wrens
White-browed scrub wren	Leaden flycatcher
Striated thornbill	Crimson rosella
Silvereye	Willie wagtail
Grey fantail	Lewins honeyeater
White-throated tree creeper	Yellow faced honeyeater
Fire tail finch	Pacific baza (Crested hawk)

Plant list for the outing-

Hibbertia sp.	Trachymene incisa
Spiranthes sinensis	Centaureum spicatum
Lythrum salicaria (purple loosestrife)	Bursaria spinosa
Wahlenbergia trichogyna (bluebells)	Helichrysum bracteatum
Brachycome sp	Viola hederacea (wild violet)

Coming Attractions

March	18-19 th	Campout at Sundown National Park - leaders Kennas
	22 nd	Meeting - Slide Program by Kris and Margaret Carnell on Hill End, central NSW.
April	16 th	Outing to Stanthorpe State Forest - leaders Jurgensens
		Note- this is one week early because of Easter.
	26 th	Meeting - Talk on Naturesearch Program and Birds Australia Survey by Peter Sparshott.
	29-30 th /May 1 st	Campout at Crowsnest - leader Desley McDonagh

March 18-19th Campout at Sundown National Park

Sundown National Park can be accessed by taking the Texas Road from Stanthorpe and following the signs. There is about 75km of bitumen and 4km of good gravel so allow 1 1/2 hrs to get there.

On Saturday we will meet at the Broadwater Camping Area for a 1.30pm start to walk to Ooline Creek. This is a grade 8 walk as the going is quite rocky so we suggest you wear good walking boots. The Sundown area is usually quite hot so be sure to carry water. For those not prepared to do this walk there are plenty of short walks along the creek and the chance of catching a fish for your dinner, if you feel inclined to try.

On Sunday we will cross the river and walk up McAllisters Creek to the two sets of waterfalls. Bring a pair of old spare shoes for the crossing, to save getting your boots wet, and a walking stick to help negotiate the slippery rocky river bed. This will be a 5-6 hour walk, once again grade 8, so we will carry lunch and of course water. Resident Park Ranger, Peter Haselgrove will be present, to share with us his extensive knowledge of the area.

For more information contact Leaders - Sue and John Kenna 4683 3241 or Sundown National Park Office 02 6737 5235.

