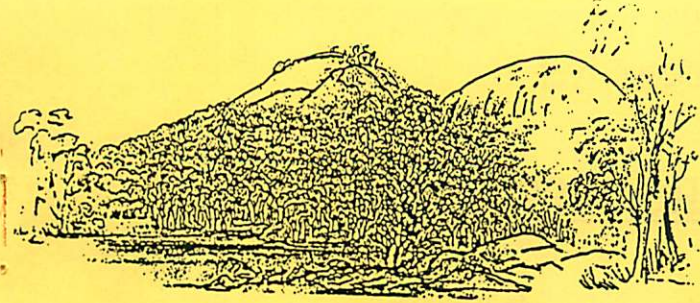
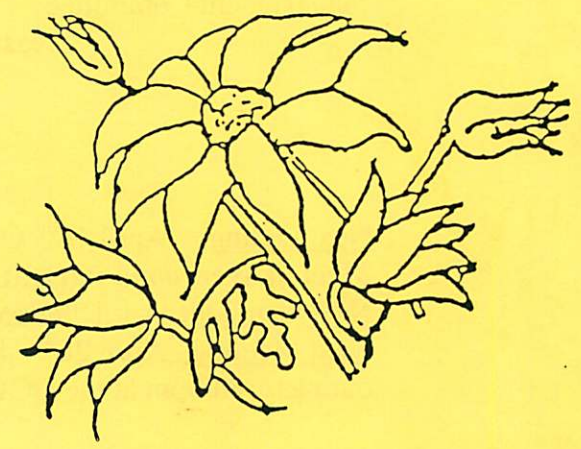


APRIL 2000  
Vol 318



# 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 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 April 16<sup>th</sup> Outing to Stanthorpe State Forest Leaders - Jurgensens  
**Meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am.**

Next Campout April 29/30 May 1- Crowsnest Area Leader - Desley McDonagh.

Next Meeting April 26<sup>th</sup> Slide Program by Tom Archer - remembering past outings. 8.00pm at the QCWA Rooms, Victoria Street, Stanthorpe.

## DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER

7<sup>th</sup> May 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 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2000**

**Opening:** The meeting opened at 8.08pm with President, Desley McDonagh, welcoming members.

**Attendance:** There were 13 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 23<sup>rd</sup> February were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Patience James, seconded by Margaret Carnell. Carried.

**Business Arising from the Minutes:**

**1. Australian Naturalists Network**

Desley has sent off information to this group and she and Patience will attend their get-together in Alice Springs from 20 - 30<sup>th</sup> July.

**2. Weekday Outings**

An article seeking the level of interest from members to the idea of having weekday outings will be written by Desley for the next newsletter.

**3. Heritage Park**

The working bee to weed the beds was successful but it was observed that there was a need for more bark on one of the beds.

**4. Nature Search**

Desley spoke to Peter Sparshott and he has agreed to speak at our meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> May.

**Correspondence:**

**Inwards:**

1. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club - *Darling Downs Naturalist* - March 2000
2. Qld. Naturalists' Club - *QNC News* - March-April
3. Who's Who in Business - offer to purchase
4. Stanthorpe Shire Council - public toilets in Heritage Park
5. Office of Fair Trading - information about auditing requirements
6. interNational Parktours - newsletter
7. Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club - *Footprint* - March 2000
8. Kingfisher Bay Resort - conference facilities
9. Diana Holley - change of address
10. Multiple Sclerosis Society - art union
11. Menzies Hotel - information
12. Information Australia - Directory of Australian Associations
13. Chinchilla Field Nats. - *Urimbirra* - Vol 34 No 3

**Outwards Correspondence:**

1. Community service announcements for outings and meetings

This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Liz Bourne, seconded by Kath Sullivan. Carried.

**Business Arising from the Correspondence:**

The issue of whether another accountant, who is not a certified practising accountant, could be found to audit the Club's accounts will be investigated by the Management Committee.

**Financial Statement for the period 23/2/2000 - 22/3/2000:**

Balance as at 23/2/2000 \$ 248.46

**Receipts:**

Subscriptions	8.90	
Change from magazine postage	7.60	
Room rent collection	<u>7.25</u>	
	<u>22.85</u>	<u>22.85</u>
		\$271.31

**Expenditure:**

Room rent (Feb)	20.00
Magazine postage (Feb)	37.50
Samson Total Technology	57.40

Rob McCosker - p/copy paper	39.45	
Aust Naturalist Network	7.00	
Govt tax (March 2000)	<u>.30</u>	
	<u>\$ 151.65</u>	<u>151.65</u>
		<u>\$ 119.66</u>

Balance as at 22/3/2000 is \$119.66

Accounts for payment:

Room rent	10.00
Magazine postage	32.00

This report was received and adopted on the motion of Julia Brown, seconded by Patience James. Carried.  
As there are quite a few members who have not renewed, our income is down quite substantially. A reminder letter will be sent to these people to see if they have forgotten.

**Outing Report:**

Roger reported on the campout to Sundown national Park on 18/19<sup>h</sup> March which was organised by Sue Kenna. Only a small number of people came on the walk on the Saturday afternoon to Ooline Creek and a few others joined the walk on Sunday up McAllisters Creek.

**Pre-outing Report:**

The next outing will be to the Stanthorpe State Forest, near Happy Valley Resort on 16 April and this will be led by Judith and Mel Jurgensen.

**Next Meeting:**

The presentation at the next meeting will be by Tom Archer.

**Specimens:**

1. Desley had photos from the outings to the Museum and to Undercliffe Falls.
2. Kath Sullivan had a sandstone type rock with a "bubble" in it that they picked up about 200km south of Winton.

**General Business:**

1. Millie Marsden suggested that the Club contribute towards the "Save the Bilby" fund which is trying to raise funds to fence in part of Currawinya National Park so that bilbies can be relocated here and be protected from feral animals. This will be discussed at the next management committee meeting.
2. The Photographic Society of Queensland will be holding a 3 day conference in Stanthorpe over the June long weekend. The naturalist and photographer, Densey Clyne, will be giving a presentation on the Saturday afternoon and Kris Carnell suggested members might be interested in coming along to this.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Kris and Margaret Carnell then provided members with a very enjoyable presentation of slides taken on a trip to the historic gold mining township of Hill End near Mudgee in central New South Wales.



## Save the Bilby Fund

Funds are being sought to help fence a part of Currawinya National Park in south west Queensland so that bilbies can be safely relocated there.

The bilby or rabbit eared bandicoot is one of Australia's most endangered mammals. It used to be widespread across much of inland Australia but habitat destruction and predation by feral animals has reduced its numbers dramatically. It is now confined to a few scattered populations in the Channel Country and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service is hoping to be able to relocate some of them to Currawinya National Park. However, to ensure their survival, it is proposed to construct a predator proof fence around a 25 sq km section of

the park. The total cost of the fence is estimated to be \$250,000 and donations are being sought to purchase panels for \$20 each.

It has been suggested that the Club should contribute to this very worthy cause and a donation tin will be available at the next meeting for those members who would like to help. If you are unable to make it to the meeting, please give your donation to a committee member at the outing or send a cheque, made out to the "Save the Bilby Fund", to the Club's address and we will pass it on.

*Liz Bourne*  
*Secretary*

**Stanthorpe Camera Club**

**In conjunction with**



**"Alive and Clicking"**

**Presents**

**P.S.Q. Convention 2000**

**Stanthorpe Civic Centre  
Marsh Street Stanthorpe**

**Sat 10<sup>th</sup>, Sun 11<sup>th</sup>, Mon 12th June 2000**

**Keynote Speaker:**

**Densey Clyne FRPS, FRES, Aust Mus. Assoc.**



**Warm to Stanthorpe in 2000**



## INVITATION

The Stanthorpe Camera Club invites members of the Field Nats to attend part or all of the convention to be held in Stanthorpe on the June long weekend. A precis of the program is printed below. Interested members will be able to hear Densey Clyne for a small charge or they can register for a day or for the weekend. Densey's presentation will be advertised in the "Border Post".

If you have any queries, or would like to register contact Kris Carnell on 46835268.

### PROGRAM

#### Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> June

9.30 – 10.30 am	Niles Elvery & Lydia Egunnike	<i>"But whose image is it anyhow?"</i>
		<i>"Preserving the Image" and The Boag Collection</i>
11.00 – 12.00pm	Miles Sankey	<i>"Digital Imaging and the World Wide Web"</i>
1.15 – 2.15pm	Densey Clyne	<i>"Closeup on Minibeasts"</i>

#### Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> June

4.00 – 5.00pm	Graham Martin & Warren Viewers	<i>"Do Judges Hate You"</i>
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#### Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> June

9.00 – 10.00am	Eric & Cherie Arch	<i>"ABC of AV"</i>
10.30 – 11.30am	Speaker – To be Advised	

### Coming Attractions

April	16 <sup>th</sup>	Outing to Stanthorpe State Forest - leaders Jurgensens
	26 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting - Slides of past Nats Outings by Tom Archer
	29-30 <sup>th</sup> /May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Campout at Crowsnest - leader Desley McDonagh
May	21 <sup>st</sup>	Outing in conjunction with Baldwin's 4WD Safaris
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting - Talk on Naturesearch Program and Birds Australia Survey by Peter Sparshott.

- The only thing wrong with a perfect drive to work is that you end up at work.
- Australians are getting stronger. Twenty years ago, it took two people to carry ten dollars' worth of groceries. Today, a five-year-old can do it.
- Buy Australian! Price, quality and reliability aren't everything.
- Technology! Technology! The gas pumps of today can pump \$25 in the same amount of time it took just last year to pump \$12.50.

## Report on Sundown Campout March 18-19<sup>th</sup>

With conditions so dry in Stanthorpe it was a lovely surprise to see the country further west looking comparatively green. Sundown National Park had received a little over 2 inches and the Broadwater camping area was a soft green and relaxing place to camp.

Given such a beautiful spot and perfect weather, it was surprising so few people ventured out for a night's camping. Those of us who did enjoyed perfect camping conditions although the river was virtually dry - a year ago when we were there it was flowing fast.

On Saturday afternoon Peter Haselgrove accompanied us on a three hour walk up Ooline Gorge which was a good warm-up for the walk the next day. A couple of us took advantage of the Permanents Waterhole to cool off on the way back. The 'goat track' from the camping ground to the entrance of Ooline Gorge has been upgraded recently and even sports steps!

On Sunday morning we awoke to the prolific bird sounds of the camping area and a hot day. An intrepid little band of 5, including Peter Haselgrove and a keen bushwalker from Mossman who was camped nearby and expressed interest in joining us, headed off at about 9.30 am. We crossed the river without any danger of getting our feet wet and headed up the dry bed of McAllister's Creek. It wasn't long before we found the first pool of water then enjoyed running water and little pools and waterfalls for the whole walk.

This walk had all the essential ingredients - spectacular rock formations, water, some beautiful spots along the way, a few challenges (some of us don't like clinging by our kneecaps to rock faces), great company, tales from a person who knows this country so well, and culminating in a wonderful set of Twin Falls. Peter told us he 'discovered' these falls and that prior to this they were not marked on any maps.

Interesting finds were a yellow hibiscus *Hibiscus hetrophyllus*?, an area of limestone at the Twin Falls with stalactites, whalebone trees *Streblus pendulinus*, and a couple of *Backhousias* - one large specimen behind the toilets in the camping area and one in the gorge.

My sincere thanks to Peter for his guidance and knowledge and to the other walkers for contributing to a good weekend.

Sue Kenna.

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## Report on Management Committee Meeting - 28/3/00

It was noted at the March General Meeting that the club could have financial difficulties before the end of the financial year, as we do not appear to have enough in the bank to cover expenses expected for that time.

The Management Committee met on 28<sup>th</sup> March to discuss this VERY SERIOUS situation. Costs of producing the monthly newsletter have been continuously rising, and with the GST on July 1, these costs will be even higher. Each newsletter costs approximately \$1.00, that is \$10.00 per year, to produce now. Coupled with this, at some meetings the room rent collection does not cover the \$10.00 per night in summer and \$12.50 winter rent charges. Please remember to bring a 50 cent donation for room rent to each meeting that you attend if you have not been doing so. Thank you.

The Committee will be putting a strong recommendation to the April meeting to increase Subscriptions to \$12.00 single and \$20.00 per family. We give notice of this recommendation so that we can discuss it at the April meeting. It has been many years since the subscriptions have been increased and it is with great regret that the committee brings this recommendation, but we really have no choice.

We look forward to your input at the April meeting.

Desley McDonagh, President, for the Management Committee.

Editors note -

The current subscription was set at the Annual General Meeting in July 1990.

Subscription Charges by other Clubs-	Queensland Naturalist Club	Single \$15.00, Family \$20.00
	Chinchilla Field Nats Club	Single \$15.00, Family \$20.00
	Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club	Single/Family \$24.00

## News Items

### Working Bee

The working bee on Tuesday after the last meeting was attended by five energetic members who made short work of the weeds in the garden beds in Heritage Park. One garden bed requires more pine bark chips and the damaged sign still needs to be replaced.

### Apple Pie

Our President, Desley, put her culinary skills to the test on behalf of the Stanthorpe Field Nats Club by entering an Apple Pie in the recent Apple and Grape Harvest Festival Presidents' Challenge Pie Competition. Too bad you didn't win a prize, Desley, but good on you for representing the Club.

### Birthday Wishes

We have another octogenarian in our midst. A very special 'Happy Birthday' wish to Patience James who turned 80 in the first week of this month.

**Are You Retired? Retreaded ? Do you have time off during the week ??  
Would you like to be Re-energised ? Revitalised ?**

**Would you like to take part in an occasional week day outing ?**

I am interested in gauging the viability of occasional week day outings, either half or full day, for the Nats who are interested in and able to attend such outings. Please let me know of your interest or availability for such outings and your suggestions for places to go. I've thought of some of the wild flower areas in spring and other places of interest not far from here.

Please let me know by ringing me on 4681 3074 or speaking to me at outings or meetings, or drop me a line at 4 Pierpoint Street. Your ideas will be very welcome. Thanks.

Desley McDonagh.

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## April Outing Details

The outing on April 16th will be an easy ramble through the Stanthorpe State Forest.

As usual, assemble at Weeroona Park at 9.00am.

We shall proceed to the starting point a few hundred metres past Happy Valley Resort on Glen Lyon Drive.

There is an easy downhill walk to the valley. Here time may be spent exploring the valley or climbing the rocks (for the energetic) after the morning tea break.

After exploring the creek to the south, lunch will be taken.

Following lunch we shall proceed homeward along a well defined track along the southern perimeter of the forest. Bush bashers are free to let their legs wander at will and leave and rejoin the track whenever the spirit moves them.

When we emerge on Glen Lyon Drive again, we shall be about ten to fifteen minutes (on foot) south of our starting point.

The trek is an easy walk and can be as long or short as desired. A map will be supplied for those who need to be home earlier than others and possibly also for those who like to have some idea of where they are.

Leaders - Judith and Mel Jurgensen



## Details for Campout at Crow's Nest 29<sup>th</sup> April - 1<sup>st</sup> May

This outing will take in Crow's Nest Falls National Park, Ravensbourne National Park and Hartmann Park in Crow's Nest.

We will be camping at the Crow's Nest Caravan Park, a very pleasant park on the outskirts of the town. Crow's Nest is approximately 45 minutes north of Toowoomba on the New England Highway. I have made a booking for approximately 20 and we have been allocated a very nice grassy area. Cost will be \$12.00 for an unpowered campsite with discount for single campers. Please advise firm numbers as soon as possible.

Saturday we will meet at the picnic area of the Crow's Nest Falls National Park at 2.00pm. Members who have settled in at the caravan park will meet up with others there. We will walk to the Crow's Nest Falls and then on to Koonan Lookout which looks over the Valley of Diamonds and the junction of Cressbrook and Perseverance Creeks, all on made national park tracks, quite easy walking. The track down to the bottom of the falls is quite rough, but it is not necessary to do that part of the walk. When I walked these tracks early in the year we saw quite a number of birds, wildflowers and a large goanna. This walk will take up as much of the afternoon as you wish. Bring plenty of water if the weather stays hot and afternoon tea to have at one of the stops on the way.

We will spend Sunday at Ravensbourne National Park. If you wish to come for the day and meet us there, please be at Beutel's Lookout at 9.00am. Day visitors from Stanthorpe should take the Esk road from Hampton, and turn off that road to Beutel's Lookout. From Crow's Nest we will be coming via Perseverance Dam and Mt Jockey Roads. I will have maps available on the day for participants. After taking the Cedar Block self guided walk at Beutel's Lookout, where there are magnificent views from the escarpment towards Brisbane and the coast, we will return to the picnic ground closer to the highway where there are several interesting walks, including the Rainforest Circuit, Palm Creek Circuit and the "caves", which are sandstone overhangs, and the Buaraba Creek walk. On the pre-outing (26<sup>th</sup> March) we examined the caves, where we saw a white-headed pigeon, and we completed the Palm Forest and Rainforest Circuits with ease. The picabeen palms were in colourful berry, we saw quite a number of birds on the walks as well as a whip bird and a number of yellow robins at the picnic grounds. We can most certainly fill in most of the day at Ravensbourne N.P. I recommend that we carry lunch and water for the circuit walks.

Monday morning we will visit Hartmann Park in Crow's Nest. This is a small area of unspoilt open forest with several walks available. On the pre-outing Banksias collina and integrifolia were in bloom, as well as some very small flannel flowers and pink rice flower even though it was very hot and dry. This park is a great contrast to the rainforest of Ravensbourne. Carry water and a snack.

The outing will officially end at lunch time or slightly later at Crow's Nest on Monday.

I need to know ASAP of numbers for the Crow's Nest Caravan Park, and if you need power, so please ring me on 4681 3074 if you are coming.

Leader : Desley McDonagh

