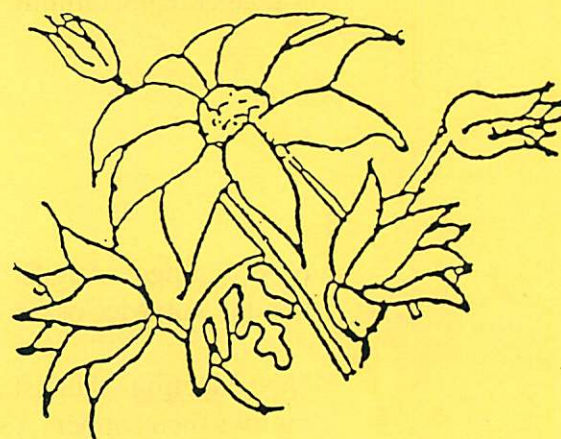


AUGUST 2000  
Vol 322

# THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST



Monthly Newsletter of the  
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.

## 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:	4 <sup>th</sup> <u>Wednesday</u> of each Month at QCWA Rooms at 7.30pm.
Outings:	The <u>Sunday</u> preceding the 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each Month.
Subscriptions:	Single \$15.00 Family \$25.00 per annum July to June.
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 August 20<sup>th</sup> Outing to Doctor Roberts Waterholes, Girraween N. P.  
Leader Rob McCosker - Meet at Weeroona Park, Stanthorpe at 9.00am.

Next Meeting August 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting followed by slides of past  
outings then supper. 7.30pm at the QCWA Rooms, Victoria Street, Stanthorpe.

Extra Outing September 3<sup>rd</sup> Half Day wildflower outing to Brian McDonagh's  
property and adjoining Girraween N.P. - Meet at Weeroona Park at 1.30pm.

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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 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2000**

**Opening:** The meeting opened at 7.37pm with Roger Logan standing in for Desley McDonagh who is away in Alice Springs. A special welcome back was made to Ailsa and Frank Wilkinson.

**Attendance:** There were 21 present at the meeting and 9 apologies as per the attendance book.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting, held on 28 June were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Rob McCosker, seconded by Millie Marsden. Carried.

**Correspondence:**

**Inwards:**

1. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club - *Darling Downs Naturalist* - July 2000
2. Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club - *Footprint* - July 2000
3. Chinchilla Field Naturalists - *Urimbirra* - July 2000
4. Samson Total Technology - invoice for \$24.85 plus info on GST implications
5. Pro Bono - questionnaire on information for directory of organisations
6. Patience James; Lyn and Peter Haselgrove - membership renewal
7. Senator Andrew Bartlett - information on tax incentives for donations of land for conservation purposes
8. Australian Film Institute - request for support of the Institute
9. Directory of Australian Associations - request for updated information

**Outwards Correspondence:**

1. Community service announcements for outings and meetings

This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Liz Bourne, seconded by Jean Harslett. Carried.

**Financial Statement:**

**Financial Statement for the period 28/6/00 to 26/7/00:**

Balance as at 28/6/2000 \$ 77.07

Receipts:

Subscriptions	41.00	
Room rent collection	5.00	
Donation	25.00	
Save the Bilby Fund	1.00	
	<u>72.00</u>	<u>72.00</u>
		\$149.07

Expenditure:

Room rent	12.50	
Magazine postage	32.00	
Samson Total Technology	16.24	
Govt tax ( July )	<u>0.60</u>	
	<u>\$ 61.34</u>	<u>61.34</u>
		<u>\$ 87.73</u>

Balance as at 26/7/2000 is \$87.73

Accounts for payment:

Room rent	12.50
Magazine postage	32.00
Samson Total Technology	24.85

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

**Outing Report:**

David Wilson reported on his outing to Kinnane's Falls, east of Wilson's Peak on 23 July. This outing attracted 15 participants. The falls were not flowing due to the dry weather.

**Pre-outing Report:**

Rob McCosker reported on his proposed outing on 20 August which had been proposed to be held in conjunction with the Warwick Branch of the Society for Growing Australian Plants. It is now proposed to go to Dr Robert's Waterhole in Girraween National Park.

The first of the mid-week outings will also be to Girraween National Park on 4 August.

**Specimens:**

1. Rod Hutchin had a beautiful potted specimen of a flowering greenhood orchid which he had collected on his property over ten years ago. It has come into flower earlier than other wild specimens on his place.

**Next meeting:**

Roger reminded everyone that the next meeting on 23 August was the Annual General Meeting and members should bring along slides from the last year's outings as well as food for supper.

The meeting closed at 7.56pm

David Wilson then gave a very interesting slide program on Norfolk Island.

### **Coming Attractions**

August	19 <sup>th</sup>	Outing - Doctor Roberts Waterhole, Girraween N.P., Leader Rob McCosker. Meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am.
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Annual General Meeting with Slides and Prints of Past Outings followed by Supper. Meeting to start at 7.30pm.
September	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Extra Outing to enjoy Girraween Wildflowers. Leader - Brian McDonagh. Meet at Weeroona Park at 1.30pm.
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Outing to the Amiens Forestry - Leaders John & Sue Kenna.
	27 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting program to be provided by Desley McDonagh.

## **Australian Naturalist's National Get-Together**

### **Alice Springs July 2000**

#### **A SHORT HISTORY OF THE NETWORK**

A network of Natural History Groups evolved, beginning when the Geelong Field Nats Club considered a way of alerting touring naturalists that a group existed in Geelong. The Victorian Field Naturalists Association suggested a sign at the entrance of each town where a natural history group existed, and agreed that it should be Australia wide. It is interesting to note, as a Queenslander, that Victoria has a State wide campout regularly. The mind boggles at the thought of such a campout in our state!!! The logo was designed and signs have been prepared, which can be put at town entrances or on club rooms if applicable. I have purchased one of their Polo shirts which you will see me wearing proudly on summer outings. There are also car stickers available. The Network arranged the get together which I attended at Alice Springs recently.

#### **THE GET-TOGETHER**

There were 60 + people who attended this function and I found it a tremendous experience. I wish other members of our club could have come. The botanists would have had a wonderful time, as would the birdo's. Some members had travelled across the desert from WA to be there and there were members from Victoria, SA, and clubs on the border of NSW and Vic as well as one Queenslander. We stayed at Macdonnell Ranges Holiday Park which had cabins, bunkhouses, powered sites and tent sites.

Most days we went out in a bus which was hired for the time of the get-together. Dick Southcombe from the Geelong Field Nats organised the whole activity. He did a marvelous job. Places visited included Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve; Ormiston Gorge; Trephina Gorge and Hayes Rock Hole; Simpson Gap and Standley Chasm; Desert Park and Ewaninga and Kuyunba Reserves. Because the Centre has had such good rain recently the wildflowers were magnificent. There was also an abundance of birds and I had pleasure in seeing a number of bird species in the wild for the first time. These included mulga parrots, spotted bower birds, Major

Mitchell cockatoos and crimson chats. The most common birds were white-plumed honeyeaters - they were everywhere, as were crested pigeons. I was thrilled to see budgies in the wild in numbers rather than in cages. The Alice Springs Field Nats were very helpful and accompanied us on some of our outings, sharing their local knowledge.

I had a wonderful time at the Australian National Naturalist's Get-Together in Alice Springs and will share some of the special experiences with you with further articles in later Newsletters. The beauty of the flora will stay with me for a long time. Now I have contacts with Nats from "all over" and I'm sure they'll be calling in here if they come this way on their travels. I hope you meet some of them sometime.

The next ANN Get -Together will be in Tasmania in 2002 - start saving!!!

Desley McDonagh.

## Report on the First Weekday Outing - Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August

Eleven members and friends met at Girraween picnic area and enjoyed a barbeque lunch. Following this we ambled down the track to the Junction which is, as is all the district, very dry, enabling us to go places that are not usually accessible. We had a very pleasant time together, observing the many wildflowers out in bloom and many coming. The Flannel flowers should be magnificent when they bloom - I have not seen so many plants there before. ( We are planning to visit Girraween again on the first Friday in November to see how the flannel flowers are doing.) The hovea and acacias look good for the future too. Flowers we found in bloom included - mirbelia; pimelia; boronia; 4 acacias; stenanthemum; helichrysum; leucopogon; epacris and melichrus.

The birds which joined us for lunch were - grey butcher bird; peewee; satin bower birds 9male and females); kookaburra; currawongs (of course); magpies; wattle bird and on the walk we saw - crimson rosellas; a yellow tufted honeyeater and a grey shrike-thrush.

A good time was had by all.

### FOR THE FUTURE

It was resolved by those present that we have regular weekday outings on the first Friday of the month. Consequently we plan to meet at Weeroona Park on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September at 11.30am. Bring lunch and afternoon tea. Leaders and outing venues will be organised as the programme evolves, but for the September outing contact me on 4681 3074.

Desley McDonagh.

## Some good one-liners

Remember, amateurs built the ark. Professionals built the Titanic.  
Conscience is what hurts when everything else feels so good.  
Talk is cheap because supply exceeds demand.  
Stupidity got us into this mess -- why can't it get us out?  
Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.  
An optimist thinks that this is the best possible world. A pessimist fears that this is true.  
There is always death and taxes; however death doesn't get worse every year.  
It's easier to fight for one's principles than to live up to them.  
I don't mind going nowhere as long as it's an interesting path.  
If it ain't broke, fix it till it is.  
I don't get even, I get odder.  
In just two days, tomorrow will be yesterday.  
I always wanted to be a procrastinator, never got around to it.

## July Outing Report - Kinnanes Falls

Members met at the turnoff outside Killarney before setting off to Daggs Falls for a quick look from the viewing platform, then continued to 'The Head' and stopping to take in the view from Carr's Lookout. At the top of the range then we stopped to look at the Teviot Falls before continuing to the turnoff for Kinnanes Falls where we had morning tea.

True to David's word the walk was very steep, up a grassy slope to the base of a cliff, where we all decided to take the "scenic" route around The Veranda. This was negotiated very slowly and carefully, with several stops to photograph and enjoy the scenery. On top of the ridge then it was an easy walk around to the Falls through open grassland with large Grass-trees along the edge of the cliff-line providing more excellent photo opportunities.

The cliff near the falls is home to the large Spear Lily *Doryanthes palmeri*, which seem to hang on the rock face in ridiculous places, defying gravity, and making it very difficult to get close enough to photograph their huge red flower spikes. Also in flower just over the edge of the cliff at the waterfall was a clump of yellow rock lily orchids *Dendrobium monophyllum*. After investigating the creek, Wilson Creek, which was little more than a trickle, we lunched at the top, then took the less scenic route back to the cars. Care was needed here as there were loose stones along the steeper sections.

On the return trip we stopped again at Carr's Lookout but the view was totally obscured by smoke from 'burning off' fires in the Condamine Valley. At the picnic area near Browns Falls we had afternoon tea and enjoyed the walk to the falls along the delightful spring fed stream.

Our thanks to David and Narelle for organising another most enjoyable Nats outing - another of those places to add to the list in the "Must return to" category, specially after heavy rain.

## Half day Outing for wildflowers - Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

This will be led by Brian McDonagh to the area of Girraween N P which adjoins his property at Lyra. This is generally an excellent area for wildflowers. We will meet at Weeroona Park at 1.30pm, or later at the Day's Road turnoff just North of the Accommodation Creek bridge, South of Ballandean. Bring afternoon tea.

Contact Brian on 4684 1284 or Desley on 4681 3074.

## Outing to Doctor Roberts Waterholes - August 20<sup>th</sup>

After having two rather strenuous outings in the Warwick area in the last two months, and as my plans to visit a couple of the Warwick SGAP Member's gardens have been thwarted because the people will be unavailable, I have decided to visit Doctor Roberts waterholes instead.

In the 1920's Doctor Spencer Roberts of Stanthorpe urged the Queensland Government to establish a National Park in this area, and consequently this delightful section of permanent waterholes in Bald Rock Creek has been named in his honour. We should have the opportunity to see a wide variety of bird life along the creek banks and if lucky we may spot an *Ornithorhynchus anatinus* in the waterholes. At very least there should be a display of wildflowers including leucopogon, boronia, hovea acacia and phebalium, though with such a dry winter don't expect a brilliant display.

We will meet at Weeroona Park, Stanthorpe at the usual time of 9.00am and drive via Storm King Dam and Pyramids Road to the Dr Roberts Waterhole parking area. After morning tea we will walk to the creek and investigate the banks of the waterholes. The more energetic members may wish to go on to the Underground Creek before returning to have lunch on the granite slabs at the downstream end of the waterholes.

This will be a grade 2 walk, as the tracks have recently been upgraded, except for the Underground Creek walk, which is about grade 4.

After returning to the cars we will drive to a property adjacent to the National Park for afternoon tea and inspect the progress of the new Environmental Lodge under construction.

Rob McCosker Ph. 46835371.