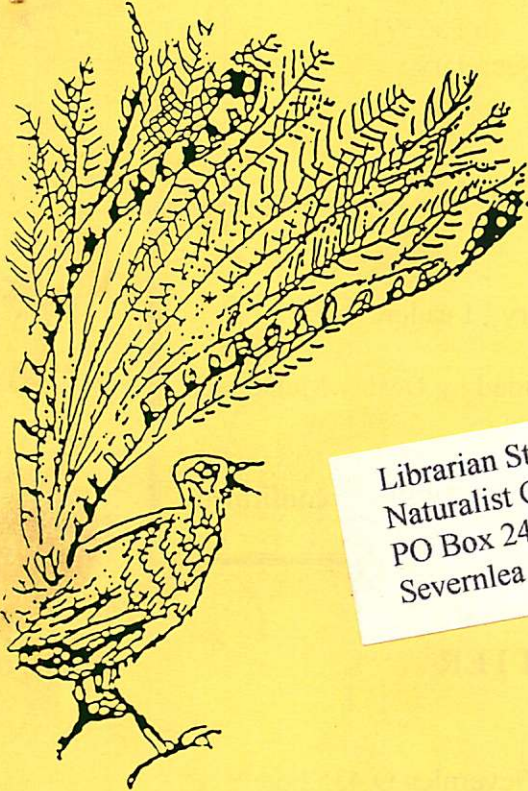


SEPTEMBER 2000

Vol 323

THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST



Librarian Stanthorpe Field
Naturalist Club
PO Box 24
Severnlea Q 4352

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.

Meetings: 4th Wednesday of each Month at QCWA Rooms at 7.30pm.
Outings: The Sunday preceding the 4th 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 2000 - 2001

President	Desley McDonagh	46 813074
Vice-Presidents	Millie Marsden	46 811593
	Kris Carnell	46 835268
Secretary	Liz Bourne	46 836374
Treasurer	Julia Brown	46 814540
Newsletter Editor	Margaret Carnell	46 835268
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 Attractions

September	24 th	Outing to the Amiens Forestry - Leaders Sue Kenna.
	27 th	Meeting program to be provided by Desley McDonagh.
October	6 th	Friday Outing - Mary Walters
	22 nd	Outing to Sailor Jack - Patience James
	25 th	Meeting program by National Parks (to be confirmed)

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER 8TH OCTOBER 2000

Mail contributions to The Newsletter Editor, PO Box 33, Severnlea Q 4352 or
e-mail orana@halenet.com.au

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 August, 2000**

Opening: The meeting opened at 7.38pm with President, Desley McDonagh, welcoming members and visitors.

Attendance: There were 22 present at the meeting and 8 apologies as per the attendance book.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the last meeting, held on 26 July were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Rob McCosker, seconded by Neil Donges. Carried.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club - *Darling Downs Naturalist* – Aug and Sept 2000
2. Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club - *Footprint* - August 2000
3. Qld Naturalists Club - *Queensland Naturalist* - June 2000
4. Chinchilla Field Naturalists - *Urimbirra* - August 2000
5. Samson Total Technology - invoice for \$29.77; statement for \$10.82
6. Office of Fair Trading - annual return from club
7. interNational Parktours - brochure
8. Deutscher; A & D Jones; T & M Tricker; Mary Walters; Audrey Ridge; Mr and Mrs Power; Hilary Neden; P & D Langdon; Alec and Denise Harslett - membership renewal
9. Mahlab Group - application for listing in Pro Bono
10. Senator Andrew Bartlett - information from Aust. Democrats
11. Who's Who in Australia

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.

Financial Statement:

In the absence of the Treasurer, Julia Brown, this statement was read out by Desley.

Financial Statement for the period 26/7/00 to 23/8/00:

Balance as at 26/7/2000 \$ 87.73

Receipts:

Subscriptions	160.00	
Room rent collection	<u>4.40</u>	
	<u>164.40</u>	<u>164.40</u>
		\$252.13

Expenditure:

Room rent	12.50	
Magazine postage	32.00	
Samson Total Technology	24.85	
Govt tax (Aug)	<u>1.20</u>	
	<u>\$70.55</u>	<u>70.55</u>
		<u>\$181.58</u>

Balance as at 23/8/2000 is \$181.58

Accounts for payment:

Room rent	12.50
Magazine postage	32.00
Samson Total Technology	10.82
United Tax Accounting	110.00

This report was received and adopted on the motion of Desley Mc Donagh, seconded by Patience James. Carried.

Outing Report:

Rob Mc Cosker reported on his outing to Dr Robert's Waterhole in Girraween National Park on 20th August. Twenty one people participated and there were lots of flowers and birds to be seen. A special presentation was made to Kris Carnell at the meeting for his assistance in helping people across the creek.

Pre-outing Report:

There were no details about what Sue Kenna has planned for her outing to Amiens State Forest on 24th September as she is currently away overseas. Liz Bourne will contact her when she returns.

There will be a half day outing to Brian McDonagh's property near Girraween on Sunday, 3rd September.

The next week day outing will be on Friday, 1st September to Quatpot Creek and this will leave from Weeroona Park at 11.30am. The 6th October outing will be led by Mary Walters and the one on the 3rd November will be to Girraween to see the flannel flowers.

Specimens:

1. Desley Mc Donagh had a new bird book by Michael Morcombe "A Field Guide to Australian Birds", bought for \$39.95
2. Jean Harslett had a dead ring-tail possum found in her garden
3. Patience James had a collection of writings from Fred Simson
4. Rod Hutchin had two orchids - a greenhood and an orange blossomed
5. Kris and Margaret Carnell had three flowering hakeas from their garden - *H. laurina*; *H. sericea* and an unidentified hakea from Western Australia which was grown from seed collected from a plant in Wellington, NSW
6. Rob Mc Cosker had some honeycomb from a beehive on the road into Girraween

Next Meeting:

Desley will show some slides from Central Australia or have a quiz.

Meeting closed at 8.06pm.

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club
23rd August, 2000
held in the QCWA Rooms, Victoria Street, Stanthorpe**

Meeting opened at 8.07pm

Attendance: As per the attendance book

Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 25th August, 1999:

These were distributed at the meeting.

An amendment was made that Roger Logan was nominated and elected as a vice-president, not Patience James as recorded in these minutes.

Motion: "That the amended minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting be accepted"

Moved: Roger Logan Seconded: Kris Carnell Carried.

Financial Statement:

This was tabled by the President, Desley McDonagh, in the absence of the Treasurer, Julia Brown.

Receipts:

Membership fees	\$778.00
Room rent donations	\$112.95
Sundries	<u>\$ 85.26</u>
	<u>\$976.21</u>

Expenditure:

Room rent	\$112.50
Magazine postage	\$321.00
State Govt. tax	\$ 11.60
Photocopier charges	\$281.70
Sundries	<u>\$554.28</u>
	<u>\$1,281.08</u>

Cash book balance:

30 June, 1999 balance	\$393.20
Receipts	<u>\$976.21</u>
	\$1,369.41
Expenditure	<u>\$1,281.08</u>
	88.33

Cash book balance as at 30 June, 2000 is \$88.33

Bank Reconciliation:

Cash book balance 30 th June, 2000		\$88.33
Add outstanding cheque 00246	\$32.00	
00247	<u>\$16.24</u>	
	<u>\$48.24</u>	<u>\$48.24</u>

		<u>\$136.57</u>
Less outstanding cash: Receipt 1	\$50.00	
Receipt 2	\$16.00	
Receipt 3	\$ 1.00	
Receipt 4	<u>\$ 5.00</u>	
	<u>\$72.00</u>	<u>\$72.00</u>
		<u>\$64.57</u>

Agrees with bank statement of 30-6-00 of \$64.57

Motion: "That this audited financial statement for 1999/00 be accepted"

Moved: Desley McDonagh Seconded: Jean Harslett Carried.

President's Report:

This was read out by Desley McDonagh.

Motion: "That the President's Report be accepted".

Moved: Desley McDonagh Seconded: Patience James Carried.

Desley then declared all Committee positions vacant and vacated the chair. The Secretary, Liz Bourne, called for nominations for the position of President.

President:

Roger Logan nominated Desley McDonagh for the position and this was seconded by Patience James. This being the only nomination for the position, Desley was duly elected.

Vice-Presidents:

Roger Logan nominated Kath Sullivan but she declined.

Jean Harslett nominated Millie Marsden and this was seconded by Vern Sullivan.

Margaret Carnell nominated Kris Carnell and this was seconded by Rod Hutchin.

As there were no further nominations, these people were duly elected.

Secretary:

Liz Bourne was nominated by Jean Harslett, seconded by Kath Sullivan. This being the only nomination for the position, she was duly elected.

Treasurer:

Julia Brown was nominated by Desley McDonagh, seconded by Rob McCosker. This being the only nomination for the position, she was duly elected.

Newsletter Editor:

Margaret Carnell was nominated by Kris Carnell, seconded by Rob McCosker. This being the only nomination for the position, she was duly elected.

Magazine Committee:

Wendy and Neil Donges have agreed to continue with these positions.

Publicity Officer:

Patience James was nominated by Liz Bourne, seconded by Narelle Crawford. Carried.

Librarian:

Trish McCosker was nominated by Liz Bourne, seconded by Col Hockings. Carried.

Auditor:

Desley McDonagh nominated Trevor Smith of United Taxation Accounting to be the Club's auditor and this was seconded by Rob McCosker. Carried.

Following the elections, President, Desley McDonagh, said she would arrange a suitable date for a committee meeting and advise members.

The meeting closed at 8.26pm and was followed by slides and supper.

President's Report 1999-2000

It is with pleasure that I present the President's Report for the year 1999-2000. I believe we have had a successful year. We've enjoyed varied meeting programmes and outings. I thank all those who have taken the time and given of their talents in arranging these activities. Some outings have been challenging, some have been easy rambles in local National parks, (although some have not been quite as easy as they were meant to be.) We are indeed fortunate to have so many places to visit in the surrounding areas. We are also fortunate that we have the regular use of the QCWA rooms which are very suitable for our meetings.

Something very special about the Stanthorpe Field Nats is the way the members care about and help each other. I can assure you that this is much appreciated when people care enough to make sure that everyone has maximum enjoyment on our outings. Those of us who sometimes need that little bit of help really appreciate you. Where else would you find someone who will stand in cold water to help people cross a log across a creek? When I was with Nats from all over the country in the centre recently, the same sort of care was obvious there also. Seems to me that Nats are special people. Take a bow!!!

We have begun weekday outings, the first, which was a great success, being on August 4th at Girraween. Plans are to continue to meet on the first Friday of the month for these outings, except for December, January and possibly February, that month depending on the weather.

In May Peter Sharpshott from Nature Search and Birds Australia addressed the meeting. I believe it is good for us to be involved in these activities. If you are not involved and would like to be, talk to me about it.

We have recently affiliated with the Australian Naturalists' Network. This network will enable Nats travelling in Australia to link up with the naturalists in the areas we visit. The network was the idea of Dick Southcombe of the Geelong FNC and I'm sure those of us who are able to travel will find it helpful to link up with members of other affiliated clubs. I am happy to pass on the names and addresses of the Nats I met in Alice Springs at the first Get-together recently. The second is planned for Tasmania in 2002 in their spring season.

A small group tidied up Heritage Park for the Apple and grape Harvest Festival week. I thank them for their efforts.

We had 2 campouts, one in March at Sundown NP led by Sue Kenna and one on the long weekend in May at Crow's Nest which I arranged. Both these campouts were enjoyed by those who were able to attend although, in both cases, the weather could have been more co-operative.

I regret that a decision had to be made to increase subscriptions after many years of low cost to members. For the past year and more, our expenses increased from the cost of photocopy paper to the charge per copy to produce the Newsletter. I hope members believe, as I do, that our club is a club worth belonging to.

I extend sincere thanks to the team – Vice Presidents Roger and Millie; Secretary Liz; Treasurer Julia; Publicity Officer Patience and the Newsletter Crew – Rob McCosker who has done a mammoth and excellent job for quite some years – and only those who have been newsletter editor realise what a task it is; for Neil and Wendy Donges who have been putting it together for years and also Julie Beddow who sees that it gets posted. I am very appreciative of all the hours of work that go into making the Stanthorpe Field Nats club run well. Thank you all.

I wish the club a successful year in 2000-2001.

I move that my report be received.

Desley McDonagh

August Outing Report - Dr. Roberts Waterholes, Girraween NP

After setting off from Weeroona Park a little after the scheduled time of 9.00am Our first stop was at a large tree beside Pyramids Road to view the beehive which is attached to a branch high above the road. The hive, of European bees, has been there for several years and has large 'shawls' of empty wax combs hanging from a branch.

We continued to the Parking area for Dr Roberts waterholes for morning tea, then set off down the track with the most noticeable wildflowers, the Coral Heath, *Epacris microphylla* and the occasional *Hovea heterophylla*. Soon after passing the turnoff to the Underground Creek we saw *Banksia spinulosa* var. *neoanglica*, which seems to always have flower spikes, the common Snowbush *Leucopogon melaleucoides*, a couple of straggly specimens of Rice Flower *Pimelea linifolia*, and the first few flowers open on a Starflower Daisy, *Olearia microphylla*. Continuing on to the edge of the waterholes we counted seven wattles in bloom, including Prickly moses *Acacia ulicifolia*, *A. ruppii*, *A. venulosa*, *A. adunca*, Sally wattle *A. floribunda*, *A. filicifolia*, and *A. pruinosa*. We made our way through the dense undergrowth to the large flags of granite at the downstream end

of the waterholes. This area provides a suitable microclimate at the edges of the rock for several showy wildflowers, which benefit from the run-off from even the lightest shower of rain. Seen here were *Leucopogon neoanglicus*, *Mirbelia speciosa*, *Micromyrtus sessilis*, *Ziarea sp.* and *Hovea linearis*. The consensus then was to continue as a group across the creek, which was not even a trickle due to the dry weather, and walk upstream towards the underground creek. On the higher rocky slopes we saw *Phebalium rotundifolium*, with its bright yellow terminal flowers and characteristic pungent smelling leaves, which some people liken to cat's urine. There was also a Sarsaparilla, *Hardenbergia violacea*, with just the first few blooms appearing, and the ever-present Ten-corner, *Melichrus urceolatus*.

When we reached the creek, which had to be crossed to get back onto the Underground Creek track, the only options were to cross a log, or paddle through. Thanks to a gallant effort by Kris, who shed his shoes and stood in the freezing cold water well above his knees to assist people across, we all eventually reached the track, safe and dry. We had lunch at the Underground Creek, then explored the rock formations carved out by the rushing water of Bald Rock Creek, made much easier on this occasion, due to the lack of rushing water. Along the track, as we returned to the cars, we saw some very nice specimens of Woolly buttons, *Stenanthemum scortechinii*, and the first flowers open on a Mint bush, *Prostanthera phyllicifolia*.

We had afternoon tea at the cars before driving through the National Park and on to inspect progress at the Girraween Environmental Lodge, which is under construction on a neighbouring property. We followed a track which has been constructed through the bush and rocks to access one of the Lodges and which also facilitates the provision of water, sewerage, power, television and telephone services. A feature of the Lodges is the use of recycled timber for some wall cladding and verandah flooring. We also took the opportunity, before heading home, to walk the track to a nearby ridge with some interesting balancing tors and views over the development to the Sphinx and Turtle Rock on the distant ridge to the south east.

Bird List, for the outing, thanks to Narelle.

New Holland honeyeater	Eastern spinebill	Striated thornbill
White-eared honeyeater	Scarlet robin	Yellow-faced honeyeater
Currawong	Superb fairy wren	Grey shrike-thrush
Little friarbird	Maned duck	King parrot
Grey butcherbird	Noisy miner	

Incidentally, we didn't spot any platypus at Dr Roberts Waterholes.

Rob McCosker.

Outing Report Quartpot Creek Walking Tracks Friday 1st September

A small group enjoyed the second of our weekday outings. We met at Weeroona Park at 11.30am, lunched at Apex Park and walked along Quartpot Creek up the walking track, Kingston Road, Sugarloaf road, Pioneers Parade, down the track back to Quartpot Creek at the small bridge that the Nats painted some years ago (and which needs painting again) for afternoon tea at Heritage park. We then separated, some to go home from there and the rest back to Weeroona Park. It was a very pleasant outing and quite some time since some of us had done that walk. We really enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere, the company and the area we covered. If you haven't been up that way at all or for some time, I'm sure you would find the walk well worth the time it takes and very easy walking.

The creek is barely running but there were some flowers struggling to survive in the drought conditions. We recorded 2 leucopogon species; 6 acacia species: a. granitica, a. floribunda, a. adunca, a. fimbriata, a. nerifolia, a. pruinosa; 2 hovea species, phebalium rotundifolium, stenanthemum scortechinii, and anguillaria dioica.

We saw and heard quite a few birds: superb blue wren (male and female), galah, crimson rosellas, eastern rosellas, kookaburras, pee wee, pied butcher bird (heard), willy wag tail, magpie, yellow rumped thornbill, silvereye, firetailed finch, banded lapwing, black duck, pied cormorant, dusky moorhen, purple swamphen. We also heard a whistler but couldn't identify it by its call.

Thanks to those who came and made the outing so enjoyable.

Desley McDonagh

Outing to Amiens State Forest - September 24th

This walk will explore the granite slabs and wildflowers of the southern, eucalypt section of Amiens State Forest, west of Stanthorpe. A recent visit there by Liz Bourne found a proliferation of wildflowers - *Boronia granitica*, *Mirbelia speciosa*, *Hovea purpurea*; *Leucopogon* sp.; *Bossiaea* sp. as well as lots of *Acacia adunca* and *A. granitica* in flower - despite the dry conditions. The walk will depart from Sue Kenna's place off Sonogo Lane so those members on the western side of town may care to meet there by 9.15am. For others interested in going on the outing, meet at Weeroona Park in Marsh Street at 9am.

The walk will be a reasonably strenuous one (Grade 7 - 8) as it is predominantly through rough bush and will involve a few steep climbs up the hills. However, we should be rewarded by good views from the granite slabs and plenty of wildflowers. If we should be lucky enough to actually have some rain (what's that?) before the outing, many of the creeks and cascades will also be very pretty. Should people be energetic enough, we can visit a gorge on one of the creeks where a family of powerful owls have been sighted. There is a wealth of interesting natural features to explore in this State Forest and where we go will depend on the fitness and interests of participants. However, we will aim to be back at the Kenna's place by 4pm. Bring your lunch, water bottle, camera, binoculars, hat and sunscreen and sturdy footwear.

For further inquiries, please contact either Liz Bourne (4683 6374) or Sue Kenna (4683 3241).

Details of Friday Outing to Mary Walters on October 6th 2000

The outing will commence with a barbeque lunch at Mary's place at 12.30pm.

To find Mary's place, drive up Thorndale Road from Glen Aplin, turn left from Thorndale Road into Hoey Lane. Mary's is the first turn on the left.



Bring your own tucker. Mary will supply the barbeque.

After lunch there will be a walk on the property.

For further details contact Mary on 46835306.

Have you paid your subscription yet?

Subscriptions are now due for 2000/2001

Family \$25.00 - Single \$15.00

Please complete your correct name and address details below and present with your subs. to the next meeting, or post to -

Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
P O Box 154
Stanthorpe Q 4380

Name (Including title please) _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

Payment enclosed \$ _____

Please Note - Receipts not collected at the meeting will be enclosed with your Newsletter.