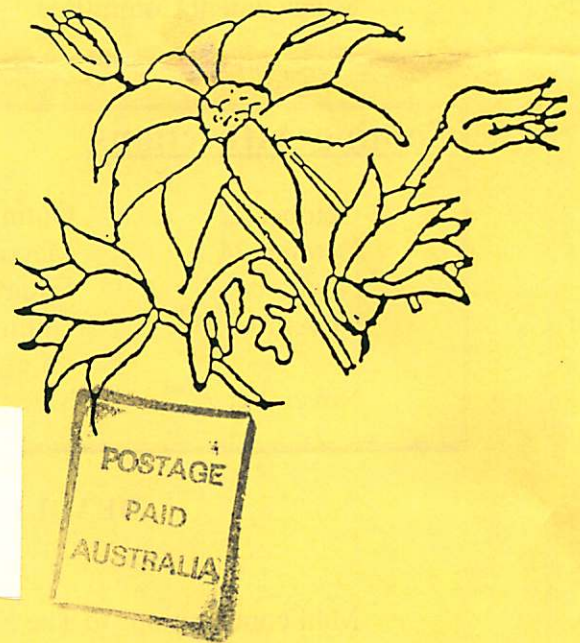


OCTOBER 2000

Vol 324

# THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST



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STANTHORPE FIELD NATS CLUB  
P. O. Box 24  
SEVERNSEA 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: 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each Month at QCWA Rooms at 7.30pm.  
Outings: The Sunday 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 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	
Publicity Officer	Patience James	46 811853
Librarian	Trish McCosker	46 835371
Management Committee	President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer	

### Coming Attractions

October 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Outing to Sailor Jack – Leader Patience James
October 24 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting - Program by National Parks
November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Friday Outing to Girraween National Park – Flannel Flowers
November 19 <sup>th</sup>	Outing to Blatherarm Falls, Torrington Leaders Kris & Margaret Carnell. Leave Weeroona Park at 8.00am
November 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Meeting – Program provided by Errol Walker

### **DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November**

Mail contributions to The Newsletter Editor, PO Box 33, Severnlea Q 4352 or  
e-mail [orana@halenet.com.au](mailto: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 27th September, 2000**

**Opening:** The meeting opened at 7.40pm with President, Desley McDonagh, welcoming members.

**Attendance:** There were 7 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 23<sup>rd</sup> August were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Patience James, seconded by Rob McCosker. Carried.

**Correspondence:**

**Inwards:**

1. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club - *Darling Downs Naturalist* – Oct 2000
2. Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club - *Footprint* - Sept 2000
3. Qld Naturalists Club - *QNC News* - Sept/Oct 2000
4. Chinchilla Field Naturalists - *Urimbirra* - September 2000
5. Samson Total Technology - invoice for \$19.21
6. Environmental Protection Agency - Newsletter - August 2000; "Valuing the Environment - summary of Qld Gov'ts environmental management program"
7. Avectra - information on software for association management
8. Margaret Compton; Ron and Nancy Gooding; Fred Simson; Bob and Mary Clarke; Sue Kenna - membership renewal
9. Sport and Recreation Queensland - request for information on club
10. GST Start-up Assistance - details about workshop
11. Asia-Pacific Incentives Expo - information

**Outwards Correspondence:**

1. Community service announcements for outings and meetings
2. Office of Fair Trading - annual return for club
3. Sport and Recreation Queensland - information on club

This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Liz Bourne, seconded by Rod Hutchin. Carried.

**Financial Statement:**

In the absence of the Treasurer, Julia Brown, there was no financial statement presented.

**Outing Report:**

Liz Bourne reported on the outing to Amiens State Forest on 24 September, led by herself and Sue Kenna. Seven people attended the outing which left from Sue's place, crossed an adjoining property and then traversed through a natural bushland section of the State Forest. Due to the drought, there were fewer wildflowers than normal but good views were had from the sheets of granite on the higher slopes.

Desley reported that 12 people attended the half day outing to her brother's place on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, including a couple from Western Australia.

**Pre-outing Report:**

This will be to the Sailor Jack area near Tenterfield on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, led by Patience James. As the property has recently been sold, it will be the last opportunity for the club to visit the area.

**Specimens:**

1. Desley McDonagh had various items relating to her recent trip to Alice Springs - photos; books and brochures plus a large moth found at her home.
2. Patience James had a squashed egg - possibly from a plover
3. Rod Hutchin had two orchids - a white Australian native - *Sarcochilus "Hartmanii"* and a pink flowering one from SE Asia - *Pleonie "Formosa"*

**Next Meeting:**

There will be a program presented by someone from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, either in town or out at Girraween.

Meeting closed at 8.24pm.

Desley then conducted a natural history quiz.



### Outing to "Sailor Jack" on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2000

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> October our outing is to "Sailor Jack", my old sheep property, now owned by my daughter and son-in-law, Marcia and Brian Murray. The property is situated west of Tenterfield on the N.S.W, Qld border.

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 8.30am (please note not the usual time of 9 o'clock), or if you prefer, we can meet you at the Lion's Park, Wallangarra at 9.00am. After leaving Wallangarra, travelling south for 8kms, crossing over Tenterfield Creek, turn right at the Sunnyside signpost, keep left at the top of the hill, till you come to a T junction. This is the Bruxner Highway west, or the Bonshaw Road, keep right for 20kms, turning right at Back Creek Road. This corner has a phone exchange and a steel tower with a dish on it. Keep on this gravel road for approximately 7kms, till you come to "Sailor Jack" road, with letter box on corner, turn right here, and drive up the mountain 6.7kms., drive past the house and park near the woolshed.

We will go into the cottage (at the back of the sheepyards) for morning tea, and discuss where you would like to walk – there are a few options. Be prepared to carry lunch and water. The walking can be as easy or as hard as you like.

When driving please respect the stock, as lambing and calving is in full swing in the district.



If you have any queries please ring me on 46811853.


*Patience James*

### Program for Nats Meeting October 25<sup>th</sup>

Ranger Jo from Girraween will show some general slides of Girraween National Park. I have asked Jo to bring some books that may be of interest to members. You will be able to purchase them if you wish, so come prepared.

*Field Guide to Australian Wildflowers @ \$30.70; Exploring Girraween @ \$5.40 and The Flora of Girraween and Bald Rock National Parks @ \$22.00.* This publication is an excellent reference for this area and well worth owning.

### NOVEMBER WEEKDAY OUTING

 The November weekday outing is on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. We go to Girraween to check on the flannel flowers and other flowers that may be flowering. Meet at the picnic area at 12.00 noon and we will have a barbecue lunch, then do the walk around the Granite Arch and down to a known flannel flower area. We may even fit in a swim in the creek if people like the idea. Contact for this outing Desley McDonagh 46813074.

***This will be the last weekday outing till March 2001. Details of that outing will be in the February Newsletter.***

*Desley McDonagh*

### **The Land for Wildlife Program**

Land for Wildlife is a voluntary program which encourages and helps landholders to provide habitats for native plants and animals on their property.

#### **What Does Land for Wildlife Offer?**

The program offers landholders a variety of benefits including:

- free advice and assistance on managing wildlife habitat with other land uses
- recognition and support for the landholder's contribution to nature conservation in Queensland; and
- opportunities for landholders to share ideas and experiences through publications, field days and the Land for Wildlife network

#### **Who Can Join?**

Any landholder, private or public, who has natural areas of vegetation, including rangelands, shelter belts or vegetation along watercourses is welcome. This includes primary producers, rural residential landowners, commercial landowners (such as golf clubs or schools), governments, non-government organisations and community groups.

Alternatively, you can get together with a group of neighbouring landholders and join Land for Wildlife with the objective of conserving habitat for a particular species of native animal or managing native vegetation across properties or catchments.

#### **How Does Land for Wildlife Work?**

On receipt of your application, you will be contacted by a Land for Wildlife officer who will visit your property and discuss management options. Your property can then be registered as a Land for Wildlife property and you will receive an attractive sign and certificate in recognition of your efforts.

Once registered, you will receive professional information, support and advice on conserving native plants and animals as well as solutions to environmental and wildlife management problems on your property.

If the natural vegetation on your property is being rehabilitated or requires some improvement before it provides habitat for wildlife, you can register as "working towards registration". You still become a member of the Land for Wildlife network and receive free management advice to improve the quality of wildlife habitat.

Land for Wildlife is voluntary and free of all legal binds. Landholders can leave the program at any time.

#### **Where is the Program Operating?**

Land for Wildlife has been operating in south-east Queensland since March 1998 and currently has 15 participating local governments. The program has recently been expanded to include the Darling Downs region and a part-time officer, Rick Galbraith, is located in the Toowoomba office of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. Rick recently addressed a meeting of the Stanthorpe Shire Council to introduce the program to them. If you would like further information about Land for Wildlife or would be interested in registering your property, Rick may be contacted on 4639 8311 or via email on [Rick.Galbraith@env.qld.gov.au](mailto:Rick.Galbraith@env.qld.gov.au)

### Alice Springs Desert Park

*"Take a walk in the park and discover the natural wonder of arid Australia."*

One of the highlights of my recent trip to Alice Springs was Desert Park, just outside the town and nestled in the foothills of the MacDonnell Ranges. Sir David Attenborough is quoted as having said "There is no Museum or Wildlife Park in the world that could match it." This is very high praise, but, in my opinion, well deserved.

As a group of naturalists, we were given special privileges – one in being able to go "Behind the scenes" and examine the areas where plants, animals and birds are cared for before they become part of the park. I found it interesting to see the birds in cages there ready to replace those in the aviaries. The botanical work was also of interest. There were also birds and animals being cared for after they had been hurt.

Each hour a short history "The changing heart" is presented in the theatrette before people are 'let loose' in/on the park. Give yourself at least a day to see this wonderful place. There is every possibility that you may want to go back again even after a full day's visit. The Nature Theatre display of free-flying birds of prey was very exciting, even to me, who knows a bit about them and had seen wedgetail eagles at close proximity, and I sensed the excitement of those who were experiencing something new.

There's an easy walking track, which leads you to several different habitat displays: - sand country; desert rivers; woodland; as well as the nocturnal house and the kangaroo and emu enclosures. I spent the major part of the day enjoying the birds and plants as I walked round the track. There were walk through aviaries as well as enclosed aviaries. The birds there were so happy that the outside birds were trying to get in – not the reverse. Some of the birds that I observed in captivity (if you could call it that) were the banded whiteface, little button quail, grass wren, chiming wedgebill (and did he/she chime!) crimson chat, redbacked kingfisher, inland dotterel, red capped robin, princess parrot, bourkes parrot, etc. etc. I had a wonderful time.

I entered the nocturnal house and saw a bilby as well as a thorny devil before I had to beat a hasty retreat as I get claustrophobic, but I'm sure that those who cope with such conditions would spend much more time there.

There were many cultivated native plants in Desert Park but the area was so well planned that everything seemed quite natural. The acacias were in bloom, as were a number of eremophila and cassia. There were some cultivated sturt desert pea in the garden at the entrance, which gave a splash of colour, as they were at their peak. Considering that Desert Park has only been open since March 1997, the place is amazing.

At 5.00pm we were given talks by several Park Guides on the aboriginal culture and customs of Central Australia.

We completed the day with a light meal (an excellent one!) in the restaurant, followed by an illustrated talk by Graham Griffin, a Senior Research Scientist with the CSIRO. This had been specially arranged for us.

It was a very long day, as we left base at 8.30am and arrived home at approximately 10.00pm, but I would recommend to anyone visiting Alice Springs that they set aside at least half a day, if not a whole day, to visit Desert Park. Your day doesn't need to be as long as ours was. It is a magnificent park to visit and enjoy.

*Desley McDonagh*

Stanthorpe Field Nats 2000 - 2001 Proposed Program

<u>September</u>	24	Outing		
	27	Meeting	Slide or Quiz	Desley McDonagh
<u>October</u>	6	Friday Outing		Mary Walters
	22	Outing	Sailor Jack	Patience James
	25	Meeting		National Parks
<u>November</u>	3	Friday Outing	Girraween National Park	Flannel Flowers
	19	Outing	Blatherarm Falls	Kris & Margaret Carnell
	22	Meeting	Walker's New Zealand	Errol & Annette Walker
<u>December</u>	3	Christmas Breakup at Walkers		Errol & Annette Walker
<u>January 2001</u>	21	Outing	Harrigan's Lane	Millie Marsden
<u>February</u>	25	Outing	Dalmoak	Liz Bourne
	28	Meeting	Slide Program	Millie & Esme
<u>March</u>	2	Friday Outing		
	24/25	Campout	To be advised	Desley McDonagh
	28	Meeting	West Australian Slides	Various Members
<u>April</u>	6	Friday Outing		
	22	Outing	Mt Norman	Rob McCosker
	25	Meeting	Slide Program	Desley McDonagh
<u>May</u>	4-7	Camp Out	Lanakai	Kris & Margaret Carnell
	20	Outing	Mt Mitchell	Warwick Members
	23	Meeting	Slide Program	Warwick Members
<u>June</u>	1	Friday Outing		
	24	Outing	Moogerah & Back	Peter Andrewartha
	27	Meeting	Slide Program	Noela Dodd
<u>July</u>	6	Friday Outing		
	22	Outing	Bald Rock	Col Hocking
	25	Meeting	Program – South Africa	Peter Robinson
<u>August</u>	3	Friday Outing		
	19	Outing	4 Wheel Drive	Peter Haselgrove
	22	Meeting	AGM - Remember Last Year	
<u>September</u>	2 or 9	Extra Outing	The Desert /Basket Swamp	
	23	Outing	South Bald Rock	Errol Walker
	26	Meeting	Slide Program	Previous Years

Spare Program: Kris & Margaret Carnell

This is the proposed program and subject to changes. Please watch your Newsletters for full details and changes.

## A Bounty of Butterflies

With the very dry weather and the lack of wildflowers and blossom, our garden is full of butterflies of various kinds. We have several lavender bushes in bloom and they are feasting on the nectar.

There are the ones we commonly see – meadow argus, caper white and cabbage white, as well as one of the grass blues – the common one I think. The orchard butterflies are about, and there is a grass yellow, but they are so flitty I can't tell which one. On Sunday we saw a couple of glasswings and for the first time ever, a chequered swallowtail. The swallowtail was feeding on the weigelia blooms. There was also a common crow and several skippers. There are also dozens of lesser wanderers, which I don't remember seeing here before.

At night there have been lots of moths, including hawk moths, which feed on the jasmine outside the kitchen window.

Of interest, is the fact that the lavender is attracting lots of honey bees, but no native bees or hoverflies which we have had in previous years. Usually we have native bees with blue/green striped abdomen. Is it too early for them, or too dry?

*Margaret Carnell*

Below is a map showing the way to Sailor Jack

