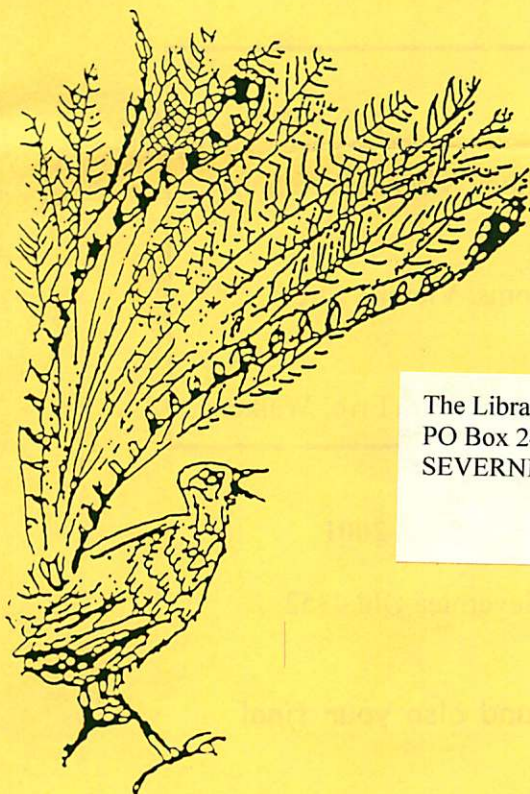
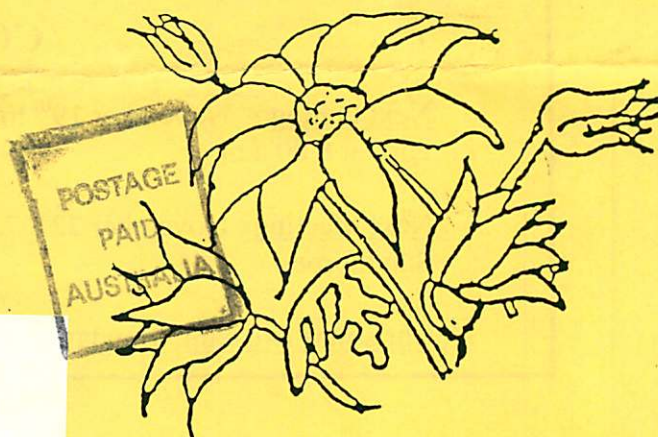


NOVEMBER 2000
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THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST



The Librarian, Field Nats
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,	
Publicity Officer	Patience James	46 811853
Librarian	Trish McCosker	46 835371
Management Committee	President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer	

COMING UP

Next Outing November 19th to Blatherarm Falls, Torrington. Meet at Weeroona Park at 8.00 a.m.

Next Meeting November 22nd 7.30 p.m. at the QCWA Rooms, Victoria Street, Stanthorpe.

Christmas Breakup: Sunday 3rd December from 4 p.m. at Annette & Errol Walkers

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER – 11th FEBRUARY 2001

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

Reminder - This is the last Newsletter for the year, and also your final Newsletter if Annual Subscription has not been paid.

NATS CHRISTMAS BREAKUP

Where? Residence of Annette & Errol Walker, 36 Hale Haven Drive, Stanthorpe



When? Sunday 3/12/2000 from 4.00 p.m. onwards

- ◆ There will not be the opportunity for much 'bushwalking', but we have 10 acres of rock with some wildflowers and views over town.
- ◆ BYO food, drink and chairs (some spare tables and seats available)
- ◆ BBQs and hot water provided
- ◆ A short slide programme will be screened after dark
- ◆ An undercover area is available in the event of rain

Enquiries Phone 46812008

Annette & Errol Walker

WALKER'S NEW ZEALAND



Milford Track



Tongariro Crossing

Here is a taste of what we have to show you on Wednesday 22nd November at the Nats meeting.

We were fortunate enough to have had fine weather for all our walking in New Zealand earlier this year. The Milford area in the South Island receives an average 25mm of rain each day.

Our North Island Tongariro crossing walk covered 23km on a high volcanic plateau next to volcanoes, emerald green lakes and steaming vents.

While visiting gannet colonies on a remote spectacular North Island peninsular we experienced our "closest call" ever when 170m high beach cliffs avalanched only a few metres in front of us. Some of our party were caught in the debris but survived. It was all captured on film.

Annette & Errol Walker

Hybrid Eastern Rosella

Hewan Gibson, a member of our club, has written seeking help with a hybrid Easter Rosella. Hewan has taken a photo of a hybrid Eastern Rosella, which he sent to Dr Steve Van Dyck, senior Curator (Vertebrates) at the Queensland Musuem. Dr Steve Van Dyck says Hewan's bird is a particularly beautiful specimen and far more spectacular than the one figured in the most recent Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds Vol 4). Dr Van Dyck would like to get a larger photograph to add to the museum's photographic collection if possible.

Here is Hewan's letter.

I wondered if the Nats could help by keeping their eye open for a hybrid Eastern Rosella, which is referred to in the letter from Steve Van Dyck.

This particular bird has come to our garden for only a couple of mornings in both 89 & 99, but not this spring unfortunately.

It has a white head, might be slightly creamy, otherwise it has the normal markings of an Eastern Rosella and is very brightly coloured. If someone should see it and be able to get a better photo of it than I got, would they direct it to Steve.

Hewan Gibson

The address is Dr S Van Dyck, Senior Curator (Vertebrates) Queensland Museum, PO Box 3300 SOUTH BRISBANE Q 4101.

From Parrots to Wallabies

Dr Van Dyck also sent this information about wallabies in response to a query: There are a couple of species of wallaby on South Stradbroke. One is the Sandy (or Agile) Wallaby, now only found elsewhere roughly north of Rockhampton, the other the Swamp Wallaby (*Wallabia bicolor*) which, on Stradbroke comes in two forms, one of which is a spectacular strawberry-gold colour. Many years ago it was regarded as a distinct species *Macropus welsbyi*, but was later shown to be a colour variant of *bicolor*. Whatever, they are beautiful creatures and a great source of interest to visitors.

Thank you for passing on this interesting information, Hewan. With regard to hybrid parrots, Kris and I, when at Mt Moffatt three years ago saw quite a flock of what we thought must be hybrids, as they did not fit the description of any of the parrots in our bird books. They were feeding at a water trough with other birds. - *Margaret*

PRE OUTING REPORT – Blatherarm Falls 19th November 2000

Leaders Kris & Margaret Carnell

For our outing to Blatherarm Falls we will meet at Weeroona Park at 8.00 a.m. We will travel to the Torrington State Recreation Area via the Pyes Creek Road, which travels through Bolivia Station. There is a combination of bitumen and dirt roads and of interest is Red Hill, a steep hill with a different type of soil from the rest of the area.

We should arrive at the information sign in the Blatherarm Camping Area at 10.00 a.m. where we will have smoko. After smoko we will drive to the track which leads to the falls. On the pre outing it took under half an hour to reach the top of the falls. About half of the journey is along a fire trail, but the other half is a bit of a scramble down to the creek. We saw two platypus in the pool below the falls when we looked over the top. For the agile, there is an interesting walk across the top and down to the bottom of the falls. We will carry our lunch. After lunch we will investigate the ruins of what appears to be the site of a dwelling with a stone oven.

Our last exploration will be on Blatherarm Creek, upstream of the camping area, where there

are dry stone walls, apparently used for channelling water for mining.

We don't know what wildflowers will be in bloom, but when we were there in mid September there was quite a lot of boronia, banksia spinulosa, several acacias and phebalium sp. and the kunzea was in bud.

We understand that some Nats members are camping for the weekend. Could anyone staying at the caravan park in Torrington, please let us know so we can pick you up on the way past.

OUTING REPORT – “Sailor Jack” on October 22nd led by Patience James

Most of us met at the Lions Park at Wallangarra and travelled to “Sailor Jack” via Sunnyside. Just after we turned off the Bruxner Highway we saw old cement tobacco barns.

It was interesting how the topography changed on Sailor Jack Road. For a start we travelled through open grazing country, then we went up a steep, heavily timbered section, coming out into the fairly flat area around Sailor Jack homestead. The terrain here is Tenterfield granite, which is quite different from Stanthorpe granite, and breaks down to more fertile soil.

On arrival we went to the cottage near the shearing shed where we had morning tea in comfort. Nearby, there was an old log cabin, which was built around the turn of the century. Unfortunately, it has been attacked by white ants and the floor of the attic has fallen in. Even so, the cameras came out to capture it on film.

After morning tea Frank led a group of us on the “easy” walk. First stop was an elkhorn on a rock beneath a fig tree, with a king orchid on the neighbouring rock, all of which were very lush and green. We then walked to the top of a rise to observe the other group who were climbing Sailor Jack Mountain. From there we set out up a road to find a tree fern in a gully. On the way we saw some casuarinas with pendulous branches and lots of seed pods. The tree fern is quite high, and presumably very old, and has a couple of babies beside it. There was a lot of bracken and some sword fern and maidenhair fern in the gully.

It was then a case of onward and upward to the border fence. We had to stop to admire the view a few times, and could see to Glen Lyon Dam and beyond. Rod was very disappointed when we reached the border to discover that someone had been there before us. Frank said it was only a couple of hundred metres further. I think he'd been talking to the National Parks.

After lunch we proceeded down along a track and saw a number of birds, including red wattle birds, thornbills and a snipe on the dam near the house. We arrived back just after the mountaineers in time for afternoon tea. During afternoon tea, Patience filled us in with some history of Sailor Jack and her time living there.

Many thanks to Frank for a most enjoyable walk.

Margaret Carnell

Report from the Mountaineers

Five hardy souls decided to brave the steep slopes of Sailor Jack Mountain. Firstly we drove to the base of the mountain, and then the way was up. The walking was quite steep over traprock country and a lot of it was through peach bush and dead finish, but by following the

animal tracks, we made reasonable time to the top. On the way there were some huge Kurrajong trees, fairly bare of leaves.

At the top there was 360 degree view and a trig station. We saw the TV towers at Passchendaele and Mt McKenzie. To the south we could see the rocky tors in the Torrington Recreation Area. We also saw Glen Lyon Dam. There was considerable discussion as to whether we could see Mt Marlay and Jibbinbar Mountain. Just to the NE of the peak is the gorge in Limestone Creek, which is visible from the Bruxner Highway. Quite distinct was the view down through McMeniman's land towards Ballandean Homestead. We presume this is where the road used to go from Clifton Station to Ballandean Station. Not many birds were seen on the climb, but at the top, we were surprised to see a variegated wren.

Kris Carnell

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC.
held in Q.C.W.A. Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on 25th October, 2000**

Opening: The meeting opened at 7.40pm with President, Desley McDonagh, welcoming members and visitors, Ian and Margaret McKinnon. Guest speaker, Ranger Jo McLellan from Girraween National Park, tendered her apologies due to illness.

Attendance: There were 17 present at the meeting and 5 apologies as per the attendance book.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the last meeting, held on 27th September were amended to record that there were only 6 members present, not 7. They were then received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Patience James, seconded by Peter Andrewartha. Carried.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club - *Footprint* - Oct 2000
2. Qld Naturalists Club - *QNC News* - Nov/Dec 2000
3. Chinchilla Field Naturalists - *Urimbirra* - October 2000
4. Stanthorpe Shire Council - invitation for club to be represented on Community Committee
5. Ian Oag - copy of "Murumbidgee Naturalist"
6. Hewan Gibson - membership renewal
7. Senator Andrew Bartlett - re inquiry into non- profit and charitable organisations
8. Senator Andrew Bartlett - "Eco Watch"
9. Australian Red Cross - fundraiser at Golden Grove Estate on 3 December

Outwards Correspondence:

1. Community service announcements for outings and meetings

Business Arising from the Minutes:

1. Stanthorpe Community Committee

Desley indicated that she was willing to represent the Club on this Committee.

Financial Statement for the period 23/8/00 to 25/10/00:

Balance as at 23/8/2000

\$ 181.58

Receipts:

Subscriptions	520.00
Room rent collection	3.50
Change from magazine postage	<u>5.95</u>
	<u>529.45</u>

529.45

711.03

Expenditure:

Room rent	25.00	
Magazine postage	62.00	
United Tax Accounting	110.00	
Samson Total Technology	30.03	
Office of Fair Trading	31.20	
Govt tax (Sept)	.90	
Govt tax (Oct)	1.30	
	<u>\$260.43</u>	<u>\$260.43</u>
		\$450.60

Balance as at 25/10/2000 is \$450.60

Accounts for payment:

Room rent	10.00
Magazine postage	30.00
Samson Total Technology	42.32
Liz Bourne (bound minute book)	9.95

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

Outing Report:

Patience James reported on the outing she led to the "Sailor Jack" property on Sunday 22nd October. There was a good attendance, with a number of different groups exploring various parts of the property. Errol suggested reprinting the article about the original outing to this property which he thought was held in the early 70's.

Pre-Outing Report:

The next outing will be to the Torrington area on 19 November and it will leave Stanthorpe at 8am. Kris Carnell, the leader, suggests that it will take about 2hrs driving to get there. There will be a short walk to a set of falls for lunch, followed by a visit to the ruins of a miner's hut.

Specimens:

1. Desley had photos from her trip to Central Australia plus information and books.
2. Kath Sullivan had a photo of a giant elkhorn growing on a bauhinia tree
3. Margaret Carnell had specimens of fruit and branches from a casuarina and flowers from kurrajongs growing in their yard. Tom Archer reported that kurrajongs seemed to flower particularly well after drought but that there was often little viable seed as it was eaten by insects and birds.

Next Meeting:

The Walkers will present slides taken on various bushwalking trips in New Zealand.

General Business:

1. Use of the QCWA Meeting Room

The head office of the QCWA is requiring a public indemnity agreement from the Club to cover our use of their premises for our meetings.

2. Newsletters

Kris Carnell suggested changing the format of the newsletter to reduce the number of pages and save on production costs. This was agreed to by the meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.24pm.

Following the meeting, Ric Galbraith from the Land for Wildlife Program, gave a presentation about the program and how local people could get involved.

On the following page are some of the questions from the Quiz at the Nats meeting on 27th September. I'm sorry Desley, there was not enough room for the second page.

QUIZ - NATS MEETING 27TH SEPTEMBER 2000

BIRDS

1. Name three different rosella parrots.
Crimson; Eastern; Pale headed; Western; Adelaide; Northern; Green.
2. Name two different species of robin that can be found in this district.
Eastern yellow; Rose; Flame; Scarlet; (Red capped)
3. What are spur-winged plovers now called?
Banded lapwings.
4. Which butcher birds are found in this district?
Pied and grey.
5. Two small birds which have red plumage found locally.
Scarlet honeyeater; Mistletoe bird.

PLANTS

1. Three species of acacia found locally.
Fimbriata; floribunda; adunca; pubifolia; granitica; nerifolia.
2. What is a common name for Melaleuca Alternifolia?
Snow in summer; Narrow leaved paperbark.
3. Two banksias which are native to this area
Spinulosa/ collina; integrifolia.
4. What is a common name for Integrifolia?
Coast banksia; white banksia;
5. What is the common name for dipodium variegatum?
Hyacinth orchid.

ANIMALS

1. Name the two monotremes.
Platypus and echidna
2. Three species of possum.
Brushtail; ringtail; pygmy; striped;
3. Three introduced animals which have become feral in this district..
Goats; pigs; deer; rabbits; foxes; rats; mice;
4. Two species of snake that are not venomous.
Carpet; tree snake
5. Name three species of wallabies/kangaroos.
Tree; Grey; Red; pademelon; rat-kangaroos; rock wallabies