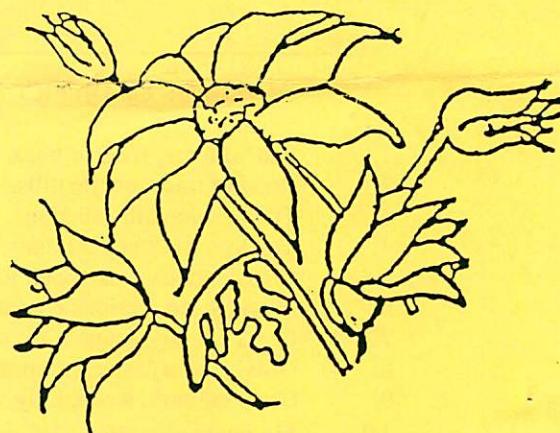


FEBRUARY 2001

Vol. 326

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.

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: 25th February to "Dalmoak" on the Maryland River led by Liz Bourne

Next Meeting: 28th February at 7.30pm at Q.C.W.A. Room Stanthorpe.

Friday Outing: 2nd March to Boonoo Boonoo Falls

March Campout: "Arcot Station" between Pikedale and Limevale. Led by Desley McDonagh

Mail contributions to The Newsletter Editor, PO Box 33 Severnlea Q. 4352

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, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 22nd November 2000.

Opening: The meeting opened at 7.35 p.m. with president, Desley McDonagh welcoming members and visitor Craig Johansen

Attendance: There were 20 present and 5 apologies as per Attendance Book.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting held on 25th October 2000, were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Kris Carnell, seconded Kath Sullivan. Carried.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Australian Society of Associated Excess – Association Management
2. Environmental Protection Agency – Annual Report on operation of EPA
3. International Park Tours – ITP Traveller
4. Australian Naturalist Network - Register
5. Samson Total Technology – Invoice
6. Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club – "Footprint" November 2000
7. Toowoomba Field Naturalist Club – "Darling Downs Naturalist" November 2000
8. Stanthorpe Shire Council – Christmas Party invitation
9. Stanthorpe Shire Council – Australia Day awards
10. Avectra – Association management software
11. Jenny Crossman – membership renewal
12. Rosey Harslett – re presentation of GOLD
13. S & B Amos – membership renewal
14. Samson Total Technology – invoice
15. Stanthorpe Camera Club – cheque for half PO box rental
16. Chinchilla Field Naturalist Club – "Urimbirra" November 2000

17. Toowoomba Birdwatchers – invitation to join them addressed to Jean Harslett

Outwards:

1. Community service announcements for outings and meetings.
2. Letters to Qld Clubs affiliated with National Network written by the president.

Millie Marsden moved, Patience seconded that the inwards correspondence be received and the outwards adopted. Carried

Business Arising From Correspondence:

1. Desley and Patience volunteered to go to the Council Christmas Party on 13th December.
2. GOLD – Growing Old Living Dangerously- needed numbers of those attending function on 6th December.
3. Australian Day Awards – no discussion.

Financial Statement:

Financial Statement for the period 25/10/2000 to 22/11/2000

Balance as at 25/10.2000 450.60

Receipts

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------|--------|
| Subscriptions | 175.00 | |
| Room Rent Collection | <u>7.50</u> | |
| | \$182.50 | 633.10 |

Expenditure

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Room Rent | 10.00 | |
| Magazine Postage | 30.00 | |
| Samson Total Technology | 42.32 | |
| Liz Bourne | 9.95 | |
| Govt Tax Nov | <u>1.80</u> | |
| | 94.07 | 94.07 |
| | | <u>\$539.03</u> |
| Balance as at 22/11/2000 | | \$539.03 |

Accounts for payment:

1. Room Rent \$10.00
2. Australia Post \$320.00
3. Samson Total technology Centre \$33.37
1. Kris Carnell (yellow paper) \$11.25.

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

Outing Reports:

Desley McDonagh reported on the Flannel Flower outing to Girraween National park on 5th November. This was a very successful outing with masses of flannel flowers in bloom.

Kris Carnell reported on the outing to Blatherarm Falls which was attended by 11 people, in drizzly weather. Four people went to Old mystery face and the rest to the falls. Numbers of convict ants were seen – ants with yellow Vs on their tails. There was a clump on a rock with larvae. The ants of this family are general scavengers, seen in the soil or on trees. They warm up the larvae by taking them above ground. There was head high boronia, and Peter Haselgrove was able to identify several birds from their calls.

PreOuting Reports:

The next outing will be the Christmas Party to be held at Errol and Annette Walker's place on 3rd December. This will be a barbecue followed by a short slide program.

January Outing: Millie Marsden will lead the January outing to Boonoo Boonoo River Crossing. Details will be published in the "Border Post"

Specimens:

Injune bottlebrush

Photo of Pee Wee with a nest on a post. Desley said Pee Wees had a nest blown down at her place and rebuilt in the same tree.

Photo of fungi – ink caps at the Severnlea School.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on 28th February 2001.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Errol and Annette Walker gave a very interesting slide program on New Zealand



Outing Report – The “Flannel Flower” Outing.

The Flannel Flower outing on Friday November 5th was a great success. We enjoyed lunch together, some of us barbecue, others cold food. We were accompanied as we had lunch, by the usual bird onlookers. One male satin bower bird was tame/bold enough to take food from our hands.

We walked up the Granite Arch track, then down the Junction track to the hillside of granite part way between the Junction “crossover” and the Junction itself. The flannel flowers in this area were spectacular. The flowers were quite small but there were masses of them. Hovea, which generally is in bloom much earlier in the year, was in full bloom also. Considering the dry season we’ve had, the wildflowers there are spectacular. We have made a comprehensive list of flowers that we could identify, but there were several which were beyond our collective botanical knowledge. Rod called these “ah yes” or even in one case, “ah no”.

Desley McDonagh

P.S. The bull dog ants were very active – many along the walking tracks waiting to bite! I’ve never seen them so busy!

Plant List - Outing November 5th to Girraween N.P.

Stenanthemum scortechinii (billy buttons) snowballs/Pepper & salt

Hovea purpurea

Dampiera purpurea (mountain dampiera)

Callistemon linearis (red) (narrow leaved bottlebrush)

Callistemon ptyoides (creamy yellow) (alpine bottlebrush)

Kunzea bracteolata (creamy white)

Notelaea linearis (narrow leaved mock olive)

Grevillea linearifolia (narrow leaved spider flower)

Eriostemon myoporides (wax flower)

Actinotus helianthi (flannel flower)

Zieria aborescens

Hakea microcarpa (small fruited hakea)

2 x *Leucopogon* sp

Ozothamnus diosmifolius (sago bush, white everlasting)

Bossiaea/Daviesia/Dilwynia/ Pultenaea?

Mirbelia speciosa (showy mirbelia)

2 x *Pomaderris* sp

Phebalium whiteii

Kunzea obovata (pink-purple)

Boronia amabilis

Hovea sp aff. *Acutifolia*

Phebalium rotundifolium

Pimelea linifolia (queen of the bush)

Styandra glauca

Calytrix tetragona (heath myrtle)

3x *Leptospermum* sp

Conospermum taxifolium

Bird List – Outing November 5th to Girraween N.P.

Butcherbird

Crow

Wattlebird

Superb blue wren

Reptiles: water dragon, skink & several other lizards

Yellow rumped thornbill

Satin bower bird (m & f)

Crimson rosella

White plumed honeyeater

Weebill

Magpie

Yellow faced honeyeater

Currawong

Kookaburra

Willy wagtail

Outing to "Dalmoak" – Sunday 25 February

"Dalmoak" is a mixed sheep and cattle grazing property along the Maryland River, just across the border from The Summit. As it is likely to be hot, the proposed walk will not be too strenuous and will follow the Maryland River through predominantly forested country. The whole trip is probably only about 3 hours walking time so it won't be a long day.

We will meet as usual at Weeroona Park in Marsh Street, Stanthorpe at 9am and then travel out along the Amosfield Road until reaching Maryland Road, just after crossing the border gate. This road dissects "Dalmoak" and we will follow it for approximately 7km before leaving the cars.

It is proposed to then walk a short distance to the "Dalmoak" shearing shed, built in 1927, where we will have smoko and a guided tour of the shed by owner, Nancy Aiken. We will then follow the Maryland River, which should have a good flow in it following the recent rain. The river flows through a rocky gorge section but we will probably skirt above this to avoid the rock scrambling.

Where we stop for lunch will depend on people's inclinations but there are a number of good swimming holes along the river and some very pleasant, grassy areas under trees. Birds and frogs should be out in force after the rain. Nancy Aiken has quite an impressive bird list for "Dalmoak", including a red goshawk, so there should be plenty of wildlife.

Following lunch, we can amble back towards the cars at a leisurely pace, exploring an interesting rocky ridge along the way. I estimate we would be back no later than 3pm.

For further information, please contact the trip leader, Liz Bourne, on 4683 6374.

Pre Outing Report – Friday 2nd March 2001.

The outing on Friday, 2nd March will be to Boonoo Boonoo Falls, leaving Stanthorpe at 11.00 a.m. and travelling to the Cypress Rest Area for lunch. Further information from Desley McDonagh on 46813074.

Advance Notice – March Camp Out

The Camp Out on 24th and 25th March, which will be led by Desley McDonagh will be to Arcot Station, between Pikedale and Limevale. There is accommodation available at the shearing quarters, which have septic toilets, showers and kitchen at a cost of \$35.00 per day per car, or we can camp by the creek which has bush showers and chemical toilets, for \$15.00 per car per day.

There are numerous four wheel drive tracks on the property if anybody is interested.

Full pre outing report will be in the March newsletter.

Outing Report – Blatherarm Falls 19th November 2000

In somewhat uncertain weather a few cars left Weeroona Park to head towards Torrington for our outing to Blatherarm Falls, meeting with Helen Hartman at Sunnyside. We travelled along the Pyes Creek Road, observing the amount of water in the creeks and water holes, obviously from recent rain, and feeling envious. There was a large wedge tailed eagle at Bolivia as well as the usual rosellas, magpies etc. We arrived at the Blatherarm Picnic Area in time for morning tea, meeting up with the Haselgroves, who had travelled via the Silent Grove Road. A tame wallaby came quite close while we were eating.

After a cuppa, with raincoats at the ready, eight people set off to the Blatherarm Falls, while four opted for the less energetic outing to Old Mystery Face. On the way to the falls there was a lot of botanising and bird watching. Peter Haselgrove identified many of the birds by their calls.

We had no trouble finding the track and we decided to walk across the top of the falls, and down to the bottom. We walked through head-high boronia at the top of the falls. On the way down we came across “convict ants” (because of the yellow Vs on their tails), which were clumped on a rock with their larvae. Peter borrowed a film canister and took a couple of specimens home to identify. They were Dolichoderus family, which is quite wide spread. They bring their larvae out to warm them under certain conditions. They are scavengers and the last study was done on them in the 1930s. They have four spines on their backs, two pointing forwards and two back.

When down the bottom we discussed whether we could walk across country to our rendezvous with the others for lunch, but decided to backtrack to the turnoff and then continue on to the former campsite. We arrived there just in time for a downpour, and after waiting a few minutes decided to return to the cars, where the rest of the party were eating their lunch in the comfort of the vehicles.

The four of us who walked to Old Mystery Face had a very pleasant amble, looking at quite a large variety of wildflowers, none of which was very prolific at that time. There were at least four eggs and bacon type peas in flower, which no one was game to identify. We headed back to Blatherarm for lunch, and had only walked a short distance down the track when the rain began.

It was too wet to continue the outing after lunch, so we missed out on the stone diversion wall on Blatherarm Creek. We headed for home via Deepwater, stopping to look at trigger flowers, stackhousia, buttercups and rose clover beside the road.

Kris & Margaret Carnell

Bird List – Blatherarm Falls Outing

Wedgetailed eagle, crimson rosella, eastern rosella, kingfisher, wood duck, noisy miner, fire tailed finch, king parrot, willy wagtail, currawong, pee-wee, bronzewing, magpie, kookaburra, dollar bird, black cormorant, brown falcon, swallow, starling, galah, mistletoe bird, ibis, heron.