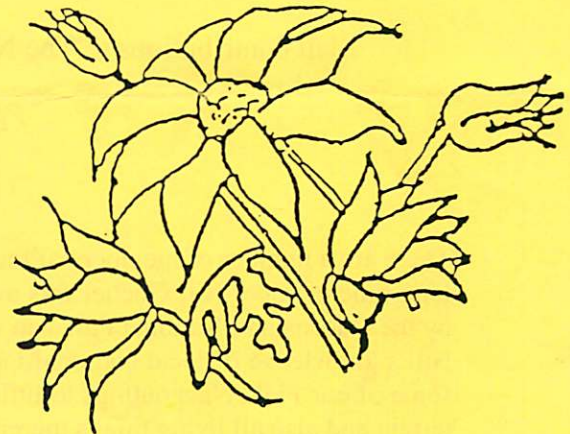
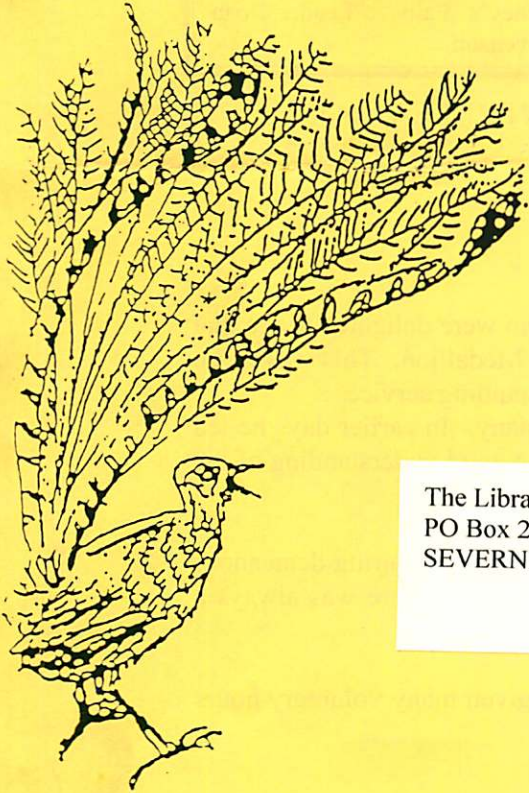


MARCH 2001

Vol. 327

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: Camp Out to Arcot Station March 24th & 25th March. Leader Desley McDonagh.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 28th March 2001. Slides of Western Australia by various club members.

Friday Outing: 6th April to Finney's Falls. Leader Joan Stevenson.

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

By 9th April 2001

e-mail orana@halenet.com.au

Congratulations Bill

There are a number of members of the Stanthorpe Field naturalist Club who were delighted to see that long time member Bill Goebel was awarded a Queensland Australia Day Medallion. This was given by the Queensland National Parks and wildlife service to recognize his outstanding service.

Bill's knowledge of local National Parks has been a great advantage to many. In earlier days he led some of our Field Nats outings to little known parts of the Parks. He has a good understanding of the terrain and also all living things therein.

Gratitude goes much further afield than just locally. As a guide he has a calm reassuring demeanour which gave others the incentive to achieve all sorts of climbs and adventures. There was always a hand of help and encouragement if needed.

Bill was employed by the Park for 26 years (1960 – 1986) and since has given many voluntary hours of work and shared his excellent photography with nature programs.

Congratulations and well done Bill.

A Couple of Bird Observations.

The fig tree in the garden has really featured in this year of drought, and has been very popular. A couple of observations may be of interest.

On one occasion, when surely a "Peace Pact" had been signed there was at the same time a Koel, a Magpie, a grey Butcher Bird and several Noisy Miners, all gathered in various parts of the tree for a meal. Certainly, such friendly overtures are not usually respected by the arrogant Noisy Miners. From previous observations I know the Butcher Birds like the odd sweet morsels, but so do the Magpies apparently. Currawongs were about, but not at that particular gathering.

The second observation was that the Koels came at separate times. However, the partner was usually in the gum trees not far away. Never did I observe the male and female eating figs at the same time. At least one question could be ruled out. They were not taking it in turn to sit on eggs!

Jean Harslett

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 28 February, 2001.**

Opening: The meeting opened at 7.34pm with President, Desley McDonagh, welcoming members to the first meeting for the year.

Attendance: There were 20 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 22 November, 2000 were received. An amendment to the minutes that the accounts for payment for postage of the last newsletter should have been "\$32 not \$320" was noted. The minutes were then received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Kris Carnell, seconded by Rob McCosker. Carried.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club - *Darling Downs Naturalist* – Dec 00; Feb and March 2001
2. Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club - *Footprint* - Dec 2000; Feb 2001
3. Qld Naturalists Club - *Queensland Naturalist* - Dec 2000
4. Chinchilla Field Naturalists - *Urimbirra* – Jan and Feb 2001
5. Samson Total Technology - invoice for 0.31
6. State Library of Qld – acknowledgment of receipt of newsletters
7. InterNational Parktours – *IPT Traveller*
8. Dr Moulds - membership renewal
9. Environmental Protection Authority – newsletter; grants to conservation organisations
10. Senator Andrew Bartlett – Senate Inquiry into Global Warming; tax incentives for donations to community organisations
11. Qld Museum – update of register of naturalist organisations
12. Murrumbidgee Field Nats – *Murrumbidgee Naturalist*- Dec 2000; Feb 2001
13. Qld Naturalists Club – *QNC News* – Jan/Feb 2001
14. Directory of Aust Associations – update
15. Stanthorpe Shire Council – Community Committee meeting
16. M & J Simmonds – Aust Naturalists Network
17. Qld Parks and Wildlife Service – campout at Currawinya National Park at Easter to celebrate completion of bilby fence
18. CGU Insurance – renewal of public liability policy - \$249.82
19. Border Post – Stanthorpe Snaps photo record on 2/3 March
20. Australia Post – post office box rental renewal - \$49.50
21. Land for Wildlife – invitation to launch on 2 March

Outwards Correspondence:

1. Community service announcements for outings and meetings
2. Payment of public liability insurance to CBU Insurance
3. Response to Qld Museum

This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Liz Bourne, seconded by Dave Bright. Carried.

Financial Statement for the period 22/11/00 to 28/2/01:

Balance as at 22/11/2000 \$ 539.03

Receipts:

Subscriptions	87.00	
Half PO Box rental from Camera Club	24.17	
	<u>111.17</u>	<u>111.17</u>
		\$650.20

Expenditure:

Room rent	10.00
Magazine postage	30.00
Samson Total Technology	33.37
Kris Carnell	11.25
CGU Insurance	249.82
Govt tax (Dec; Jan; Feb)	<u>1.90</u>

\$ 336.34

336.34
\$313.86

Balance as at 28/2/2001 is \$313.86

Accounts for payment:

Room rent	10.00
Magazine postage	30.00
Samson Total Technology	0.31
Post Office box rental	49.50
Petty cash to Désley McDonagh	15.00

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

Outing Report:

Liz Bourne reported on the outing to "Dalmoak" on 25th February. Twenty two people participated.

Pre-outing Report:

The next week day outing will be on Friday, 2nd March to Boonoo Boonoo. Desley queried whether these mid-week outings would continue as few other people were offering to organise them.

The details of the campout on 24/25 March to Arcot Station were outlined in the last newsletter. As another group was interested in booking the shearers' quarters accommodation, Desley suggested that as there had only been limited interest expressed by Field Nats members, we should just camp there. She will visit the property again next week.

General Business:

1. Stanthorpe Community Committee

Desley is the Club's representative on this Committee and attended their first meeting. They will meet again on 14 March.

2. Australian Naturalists Network

Desley has written to a number of Field Nats clubs in south east Queensland. The Fassifern Field Nats are interested in joining us on our outing to Mt Mitchell in May. The Gympie Field Nats are also concerned about the high cost of public liability. It was noted that in Western Australia, each local club is affiliated with their state body and is then covered by their policy. However, all decisions of the local clubs are required to be ratified by the state body. Members thought this would be administratively very cumbersome and time consuming if adopted here. Kris Carnell said we should have a management Committee meeting to discuss this issue as well as the state of the Club's finances. A motion to this effect was moved by Kris Carnell, seconded by Millie Marsden and carried.

3. Stanthorpe Shire Council Planning Scheme

The Stanthorpe Shire Council is reviewing its planning scheme and has distributed a Statement of Proposals to assist in this process. They will be holding a series of public meetings at various venues around the Shire to enable people to discuss these issues. Of particular interest to the Club, will be the one on "Areas of Ecological Significance and Areas of Cultural and Historical Significance" which will be held in the Supper Room of the Civic Centre on Thursday 15 March from 7.30 – 9.30pm.

4. Eucalypts Workshop

Naturesearch is organising a series of workshops throughout the Darling Downs on identifying and growing eucalypts. These will be at Crows Nest on 21/22 March; at Lake Broadwater on 28/29 March; at Barakula near Chinchilla on 4/5 April and at Goondiwindi on 9/10 April. The cost will be \$20 per day. Details and bookings can be made on 46881050.

Next Meeting:

This will be an opportunity for members to bring along slides of any trips they may have done to Western Australia.

Committee Meeting:

There will be a Management Committee meeting at 5.30pm on 6 March at Desley's place.

Specimens:

1. Desley McDonagh had photos of "Old Mystery Face" from Girraween National Park.

2. Rob McCosker had a photo of a grub, which Jean Harslett identified as being from the bat moth, *Chelepteryx collesi*, which is quite a large moth with some of the females expanding up to six inches. The reddish brown caterpillar feeds upon eucalypts.
3. Margaret Carnell reported seeing variegated wrens in fennel in a neighbours property.
4. Desley reported on a brown falcon in her yard.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

Millie Marsden and Esme Colley then gave a slide program after the meeting.

Outing Report – “Dalmoak” Sun 25 February

Twenty two people participated on this first outing of the year and, fortunately, the temperatures were reasonably bearable. After leaving the cars beside the Maryland Road, a short walk downhill brought us to the Dalmoak shearing shed, built in 1927 and still in use by the Aiken family. Nancy Aiken joined us here for smoko under some magnificent eucalypts and then gave us a very interesting guided tour of the shed.

We then proceeded downstream beside the Maryland River through open eucalypt forest to a rocky gorge section of the river where a number of birds were sighted. A traverse along the rocky slopes eventually brought us to a very pleasant grassy and shaded lunch spot beside the river. A few of the more energetic people walked downstream for a swim in a larger pool (accompanied by a water dragon and sacred kingfisher) while the others enjoyed the river environs of the lunch spot. After lunch, a brief uphill climb to a rocky ridge brought us back to the cars by early afternoon with some people choosing to return to Stanthorpe by a different route via The Summit border gate.

Our thanks to the Aiken family for allowing us to enjoy their property and the delights of the Maryland River.

Liz Bourne

A Brief Bird List From “Dalmoak” Outing 25th February 2001 (Mostly compiled by Karole Sticka)

Dusky Woodswallow	Superb Glue Wren	Wagtail
Sacred Kingfisher	Black Duck	Wood Duck
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	Pied Currawong	White Naped Honeyeater
Crimson Rosella	Kookaburra	Diamond Firetail Finch
Eastern Yellow Robin	Grey Shrike Thrush	Yellow-eared Honeyeater
Noisy Friar Bird	Spotted pardalote.	

A FEW PLANTS WHICH WERE NOTED AND ENJOYED AT “DALMOAK”

Compiled by Jean Harslett

The huge Eucalyptus trees around the “Dalmoak” shearing shed were greatly admired and their shade enjoyed. Tall spreading stately trees, their upper limbs peeled of their bark revealing silvery-white limbs, were also conveniently flowering. Thus it made it a little easier to identify. Marc Newman took photographs specifically of flowers, fruit, leaves and bark character and located its name. In earlier years it was referred to as *Eucalyptus Viminalis* and its habitat range just extended into Queensland on the eastern edge of the Border Ranges. It is sometimes called the Ribbon Gum because of the decorticating strips of bark it sheds. While it is still associated with the viminalis series, the particular specimens in this northern section have been designated as *Euc. nobilis*. This name certainly describes the beauty of these noble huge trees. Member Marc Newman was enthusiastic enough to go back to the nearby area to check all its characteristics, to be sure of the specific name. Thank you Marc for making these notes possible.

Blackthorn – *Bursaria Spinosa* was still flowering along the river and the cream flowered shrubs really showed up amongst all the green. En route, several *Angophoras* were in flower. Recent rains seem to have spurred them on, and they are flowering throughout the district.

The little mauve three-petalled flower blooming amongst the grass was *Murdannia graminea*. According to A.B. and J.W. Cribb in "Wild Food of Australia", "The tuberous roots containing a small quantity of starch show a central pink or purple area when cut or broken. There seems to be no record of the roots being used by the Aborigines, but we have tried them both raw and cooked and found them quite harmless and without any unpleasant flavour. They would provide an easily obtainable source of emergency food in some areas."

Money Matters

At the Management Meeting held on 6th March, the state of the club's finances was discussed. It appears that by the end of July we will have exhausted our funds and again will have to pay our audit fees and incorporation fees from next year's subscriptions.

In an effort to give the club a financial buffer, we will be running a raffle in May to raise funds. We are seeking donations from members towards the prize for the raffle.

This will be discussed further at the March Meeting.



Pre-Outing Report – Arcot Station – 24/25 March

Arcot Station. Owned and run by Toddy and Barb Kemp, is approximately 71.5km from Stanthorpe. The Arcot Road turnoff turns to the right 59kms from Stanthorpe on the Texas Road. Arcot homestead is 12.5km from that turnoff. (map on back page) Arcot Road is good gravel with some hilly sections and creek crossings. Through the hilly section there are some excellent views towards Texas. The timber is mostly iron bark and cypress with some *acacia cultriformis* shrubs in evidence which flower in spring. We saw quite a number of very big tree prickly pear.

We will be camping at the campground at Arcot on the creek just beyond the homestead. Chemical toilets are installed and there are bush showers. Water is available but you might like to bring drinking water, but this is available from the house. Camping charges are \$15.00 per camp per night.

Saturday afternoon from 2.00pm we will take a walk up Wallaby Knob from the camp ground. It's a fairly easy walk up the ridge to the knob. There are very good views from here and interesting flora to investigate.

Sunday we will leave the camp ground at 9.30am. Day visitors should give themselves an hour from town. The charge for day visiting will be \$10.00 per car. We will be driving around track one of their 4WD tracks. This is a 4WD or high clearance vehicle track, preferably high clearance 4WD. I drove the Rav 4 round the track with encouragement from the passengers and without any real difficulty, and, considering that I've never done such driving before, I am sure that it will be a great day.

We saw a few birds, the one of most interest was an emu. There will be maps available for those driving round the track.

We will stop at a dam for smoko and/or a break and a hut where we will have lunch and several other places of interest. We should be around the track and on the way home by 3.00pm.

Please let me know if you are coming by Wednesday 21st at the latest. Leave a message on my answering machine if necessary PLEASE. **If you would like to go out Friday (23rd) night let me know as soon as possible please.**

Desley McDonagh 46813074.

Friday Outing to Boonoo Boonoo

A small group of Nats enjoyed the trip to Boonoo Boonoo on Friday March 2nd.

We travelled to Cypress Pine Camping Area, formerly Cypress Rest Area, where we walked down to the Boonoo Boonoo River which is running very well. A lot of sand has been washed out of the river there with the recent floods. We then went over to the swimming hole – a beautiful water hole where we enjoyed the view, then moved on to the picnic area at the top of the falls. We walked around to the lookout over the falls after lunch, and also had a look at the top swimming hole. The falls were putting on a good show. We dropped in to view Morgan's Gully on the way home, just fitted in smoko before the rain chased us home.

The improvements to both the camping ground and the picnic area are quite marked, and I certainly appreciate that the money charged for fees is being put to good use. There are now shelter sheds and tables, free gas barbecues, and water laid on at both places. Extra toilets and a shower room (supply shower) have been added to Cypress Pine Camp Ground. I spoke with the rangers at the NPWS stand at the Tenterfield Show and they advised me that money has been allocated for improvements to the Boonoo Boonoo falls track. They are planning to make a track down to where we can view the falls well.

Desley McDonagh

Notes From Clubs Affiliated With Australian Naturalists' Network

I have had responses from most of the Queensland clubs I wrote to. Of most interest to us for the present is that Fassifern Field Nats are joining our Cunningham's Gap outing to Mt Mitchell on May 21st.

Meeting of Stanthorpe Community Committee

The first meeting was held on Monday 29th January. The next will be held on Wednesday 14th March at 7.30pm. This committee aims to maximise networking between the Council, the Stanthorpe community and the Government. GraniteNet is a 2 year pilot program to develop an electronic local community model for regional Australia. I will keep the club members informed of further developments.

Outing Friday 6th April .

The outing on Friday 6th April will be to Finney's Falls. We will meet at Weeroona Park at 11.30am. and will carry lunch and drinks.

Contact person is Joan Stevenson 46811009.

Thank you to Jean Harslett who supplied the following information about the Bat Moth which Rob McCosker asked about at the last meeting.

OUR INSECTS

105

THE BAT MOTH.

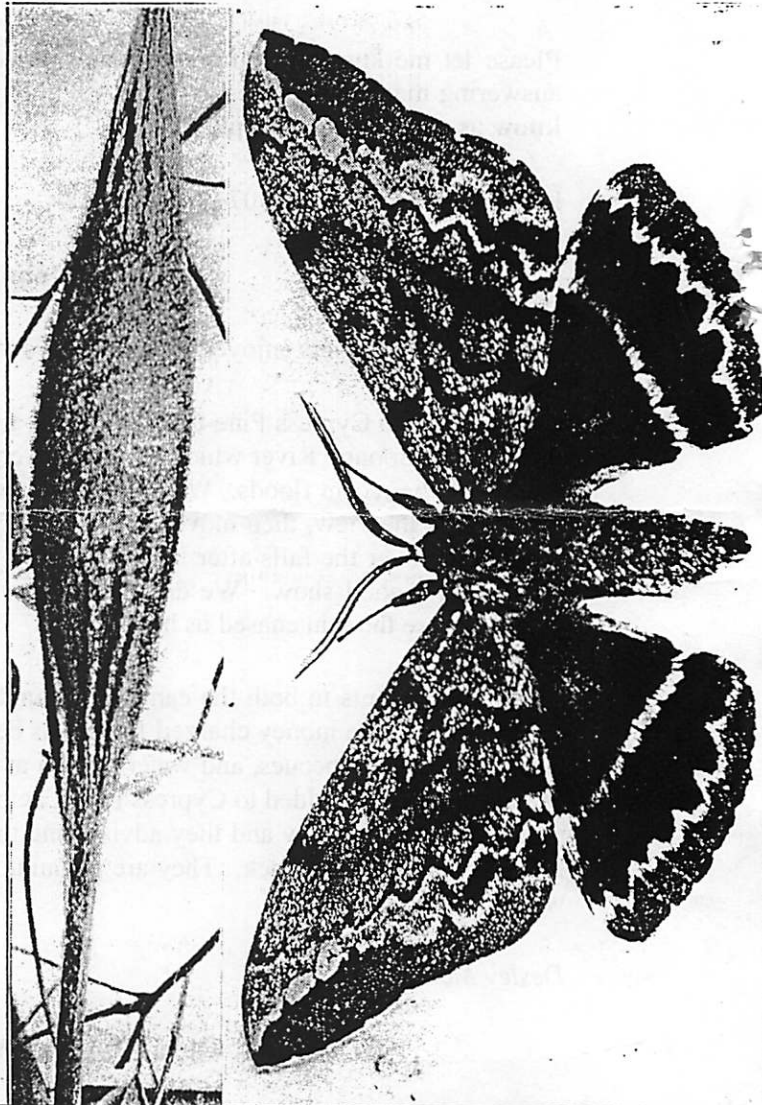
Family: ANTHELIDAE.

Chelepteryx collesi Gray.

This fine moth is the giant of the family, some of the females expanding up to six inches. The dark coloured wings are marked with waving lines. The base of the forewings and the front margin or costa is dusted with grey scales. The black hindwings have a whitish line running across them.

The reddish-brown caterpillar feeds upon eucalypts. It is very often found upon stunted bushes. The body is covered with stout bristles which are forced during the operation of pupating through the outer covering of the long cigar-shaped cocoon. This is attached to the underside of a limb which it resembles very closely in colour and conformation. The cocoon needs careful handling as the spines become detached and penetrate the skin.

The moths are on the wing during April and May. They are readily attracted by a bright light, and are sometimes taken while fluttering around electric lights. The bodies of newly-emerged females require to be stuffed, otherwise the weight of the eggs will most likely cause the abdomen to drop off after the specimen has dried.



CUNNINGHAM HIGHWAY

Karara

WARWICK

INGLEWOOD



Pikedale
Yards

Arcot
Road

STANTHORPE

Limevale

NEW ENGLAND HIGHWAY

TEXAS

Mingoola

TENTERFIELD