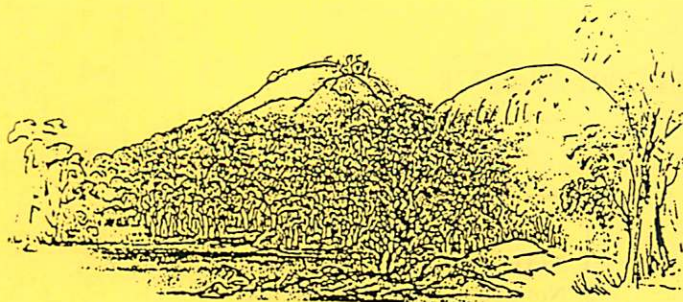


APRIL 2001

Vol 328



# 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.

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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 Up**

**Next Outing:** 22<sup>nd</sup> April Mt Norman led by Rob McCosker

**Next Meeting:** 25<sup>th</sup> April Program by Desley McDonagh

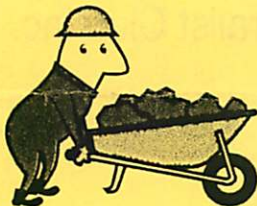
**Camp Out** to Lanakai 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> May led by Kris & Margaret Carnell

**Outing May 20<sup>th</sup>** : Mt Mitchell led by Warwick Members.

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



### **WORKING BEE**

**At Heritage Park**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 9.00am**

**Please bring barrows and shovels.**

## April Outing - Mt Norman

The Outing listed for this month is to Mt Norman on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

We will meet at Weeroona Park and depart at 9.00am to drive to the Lion's Park at Wallangarra, before continuing to the Mt Norman parking area for morning tea, where there is a picnic table and toilet facility. Members are welcome to travel to either of these places in their own time, rather than all travel in convoy down the highway. I expect to start the walk at about 10.00am.

Although the suggested walk is to Mt Norman, as leader I have decided instead to explore Mallee Ridge and beyond, as I feel this is a most interesting area both botanically and geologically, as well as photographically if we can strike a fine day. The ridge gets its name from the Mallee Gum, *E. codonocarpa*, and there are several specimens of the striking Wallangarra White Gum, *E. scoparia*, there as well. The rock formations resulting from weather eroded granite dykes are a special attraction and inspire ones imagination to see prehistoric monsters lumbering across the slopes.

We will have lunch in this area, with views across to the familiar Wyberba landmarks as well as towards Wallangarra and Tenterfield, and I expect to return to the cars by about 3.30pm.

Most of the walking will be on open granite with a little scrambling over rocks and undergrowth, so I will have to rate it at 7, with more challenging alternatives if people are keen.

Rob McCosker  
Phone 46835371

## ARCOT CAMPOUT OUTING REPORT

Those of us who were able to go to Arcot were rewarded with a very enjoyable weekend. Several of us went out Friday afternoon and had a pleasant camp at the campsite. Apart from the fact that the green frogs had taken up residence in the chemical toilet all went well. We got the 'donkey' going and were able to enjoy bush showers. Although the creek was dry, there were many birds around for us to observe. It was a cool and quiet, delightful evening. By Saturday afternoon it was quite hot, so, instead of walking up to Wallaby Knoll, we went for a drive in the Rav 4 around the area, then came back to Wallaby Knoll. This has very interesting flora, being a vine scrub. Quite a lot of wonga vines had grown so big that they had pulled down the cypress they had grown on, with the result that both vine and tree had died. There were some trees in blossom with many noisy friar birds noisily enjoying the nectar. We also saw a dog, which looked very like a young dingo. We reported this to the owners.

Sunday we drove on Track 1 and then Track 22 of the many tracks around the property. The flora we drove through was mostly cypress and iron bark with melaleuca in the creek bed near the Shooters' Hut where we met up with the resident goanna. There are several small dams along the track. Track one, which is the easiest of their tracks takes you through the property and gives a very good idea of the flora. There are many very large prickly pear trees dotted over the area and quite a few acacia species as well as eucalypt and cypress trees. Track 22 branches off track 1 and runs along the top of a ridge with almost 360 degree views back to the east and west to the Texas area. It was well worth the drive for the magnificent views from "on top of the world".

On the pre-outing we were surprised to see one emu, but this time we met up with two. Barb Kemp, owner, assures us that there have always been emus there and they are building up in numbers. The owners already had a bird list produced for them some time ago by a visiting 'birdo'. We recorded 30 from their list and added another 10

This area is well worth visiting and those who went had a very enjoyable campout. I have written to the owners and sent them a copy of our updated bird list.

*Desley McDonagh*

**List of Birds observed at Arcot by Stanthorpe Field Naturalists (and friends) on the weekend of  
23/24/25 March 2001**

**Arcot List 1**

White-faced heron	peaceful dove	bar-shouldered dove (call)	galah
Common bronzewing	crested pigeon	rainbow lorikeet	king parrot
crimson winged parrot	pale headed rosella	red rumped parrot	boobook owl (call)
laughing kookaburra	welcome swallow	grey shrike thrush	restless flycatcher
willy wagtail	superb blue wren	spiny cheeked honeyeater	peewee
noisy miner	white plumed honeyeater	double barred finch	pied butcher bird (call)
grey butcher bid	magpie	pied currawong	

**Arcot List 2**

Black falcon	brown tree creeper	crow
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**Field Nats List**

Grey crowned babbler	turquoise parrot	apostle birds	emu
Australian (Richard's) pipit		spangled drongo	noisy friar bird
Mistletoe bird	plover (call)	little lorikeet	

**Outing to Finney's Falls**

The outing on April 6 was a very pleasant time spent with 8 people enjoying the countryside. To start, a short visit was made to the War Memorial where memories were recalled of wartime, but now in the peaceful atmosphere of the area.

After the recent rain it was a good opportunity to see Finney's Falls in action. We are indebted to Bill Humble for allowing us access to the pretty area. The rock formations are picturesque in themselves and the flow of water made the finishing touch.

The butcher bird gave us dinner music and the yellow everlastings gave colour. Butterflies hovered in the bushes with one being a strange one to me, being about 4cm across with black colour, blue/mauve spots on wings edged with small markings.

After a quiet walk to Quart Pot Creek boundary some of the group drove up Mt Marlay to finish a very enjoyable day.

*Joan Stevenson*

Leader

**Pre Outing Camp Out to Lanikai 5 – 7 May**

Lanikai is a cattle property near the Clarence River approximately 2 hours from Stanthorpe. You travel to Tenterfield and follow the Casino Road until you are about 4kms before



Tabulum, where you turn left onto the Paddys Flat Road (also called the Pretty Gully Road). Lanikai is about 20 kms along this road.

Lanikai is a declared wildlife refuge and has several areas under management agreements as per the Native Vegetation Act. There is an undercover area with a barbecue, table and bush kitchen with hot water once the stove is lit. We can't use the right-hand drawer under the sink because the antichinus have a nest there. The toilets have character. They are long drop toilets and the white ants have attacked the walls somewhat, but privacy is secured by the hessian lining. The shower block is clean and sturdy and has a heating system for which the fire has to be lit.

On our pre-outing in October we saw 47 species of birds, grey kangaroos, paddymelons, wallabies and a koala. The paddymelons and wallabies frequent the camping ground, as do a number of birds. The site of an old dairy is close to the camping ground and very interesting to explore. We stood under a mango tree and watched a whip bird and rufous fantail.

On Saturday morning we will set up camp, and in the afternoon walk to the creek where there is rainforest type of vegetation. There is a 1.5km return walk on the Grey Gum Ridge track, the uphill part being on the way back. There is a longer walk along the Dairy Gully Track, which is about 3km return, to another interesting pool on the creek. It depends on how people feel as to which walk we do. On both these walks there is evidence of the water race built in the 1880s to carry water to miners, approximately 9km long.

On Sunday we will leave the camping ground at 9.00am to travel to the Reserve, which is an area of rainforest, with a short easy walk. From there we will travel to Lanikai homestead to spend some time in the garden which is quite beautiful. The next stop is Paddy's Flat where the road crosses the Clarence River. There is heaps of sand and shallow water. Close by there is an old graveyard which is worth a look. There was a beautiful pink autumn crocus in bloom when we were there (it had its seasons mixed). We will take smoko and lunch for the day, and return to camp in time for a barbecue tea.

Monday morning's excursion will be by vehicle to an area on the track down to the Clarence, where there is an impressive stand of grass trees. If there are sufficient interested and competent four wheel drivers we may be able to drive down to the Clarence. It is very steep and definitely a dry weather track only. After lunch we will pack up and come home.

If you are interested could you please let us know, so that we can give the owners approximate numbers. The cost is \$7.00 per adult per day, and \$4.00 per child under 12.

Kris & Margaret Carnell  
Phone: 46835268



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

**Opening:** The meeting opened at 7.40pm with Vice-President, Millie Marsden, welcoming members in the absence of the President, Desley McDonagh.

**Attendance:** There were 16 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 28 February, 2001 were received. as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Rob McCosker, seconded by Peter Andrewartha. Carried.

**Correspondence:**

**Inwards:**

1. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club - *Darling Downs Naturalist* – April
2. Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club - *Footprint* - March
3. Qld Naturalists Club – *QNC News*- March/April
4. Chinchilla Field Naturalists - *Urimbirra* – March
5. Murrumbidgee Field Nats – *Murrumbidgee Naturalist*- March
6. Aust Naturalists Network – ANN Get Together from 9 - 17<sup>th</sup> November 2002 in Launceston
7. Information Australia – Directory of Aust Associations
8. Our Community – information on grants to community organisations
9. M and J Newman – membership
10. Conservation Volunteers Australia – “Green Reserve”

**Outwards Correspondence:**

1. Community service announcements for outings and meetings

This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Col Hockings, seconded by Rod Hutchin. Carried.

**Financial Statement for the period from 28/2/01 to 28/3/01:**

Balance as at 28/2/2001 \$ 313.86

**Receipts:**

Subscriptions	30.00	
	30.00	<u>30.00</u>
		\$ 343.86

**Expenditure:**

Room rent	10.00	
Magazine postage	30.00	
Aust Post – PO box rental	49.50	
D. McDonagh	15.00	
Govt tax (March)	<u>0.30</u>	
	<u>\$ 104.80</u>	<u>104.80</u>
		<u>\$239.06</u>

Balance as at 28/3/2001 is \$239.06

This report was received on the motion of Julia Brown, seconded by Vern Sullivan. Carried.

**Accounts for payment:**

Room rent	10.00
Magazine postage	32.00

These accounts for payment were approved on the motion of Rob McCosker, seconded by Trish McCosker. Carried.

Peter Andrewartha queried whether the club had obtained other quotes for our public liability insurance as it was a significant part of our yearly expenditure. It was felt that the cost of this was fairly standard, based on what other clubs are having to pay. However, it will be reviewed by the Management Committee.

**Fundraising Proposal by Management Committee:**

As outlined in the last newsletter, the Committee has suggested that the Club run a raffle to raise funds to cover the estimated \$300 required for the rest of the year. It is proposed that a basket of food/craft items, donated by members, would be good. Tickets to be 50c each. Street sellers would include Millie, Dave Bright, the McCoskers and the Colleys. Dave Bright will investigate whether we could get into the Stanthorpe Plaza to sell tickets. Members should bring donated items to the next meeting. Vern suggested that we should have some hand out information about the Club and its future outings in case those buying tickets are interested. Rob McCosker is to investigate whether the Club still owns a banner, otherwise we will need some sort of sign to identify the purpose of the raffle.

Moved: Dave Bright Seconded: Esme Colley that we conduct a raffle during May to raise funds for the Club. Carried.

**Outing Report:**

In Desley's absence, Dave Bright reported on the camp-out to Arcot Station. Despite only a small group attending, it was a very enjoyable weekend and Desley was thanked for her efforts in organising it. Unfortunately, a number of people who had hoped to go on the weekend had to cancel at the last minute for a variety of reasons.

**Pre-outing Report:**

The next week day outing will be on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> April to Finney's Falls.

The 5-7 May campout will be to Lanikai near Tabulum, led by Kris and Margaret Carnell. This is about 1 hour from Tenterfield. Camping will be \$7/person/night and there are showers and toilets available. The Carnells will be going there on the Friday night.

**General Business:**

1. Stanthorpe Community Committee

The meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March did not go ahead.

2. The Queensland Field Naturalists Club have expressed an interest in having a joint outing with our Club in October. Liz will contact David Hangar, their Outings Officer, to discuss this further.

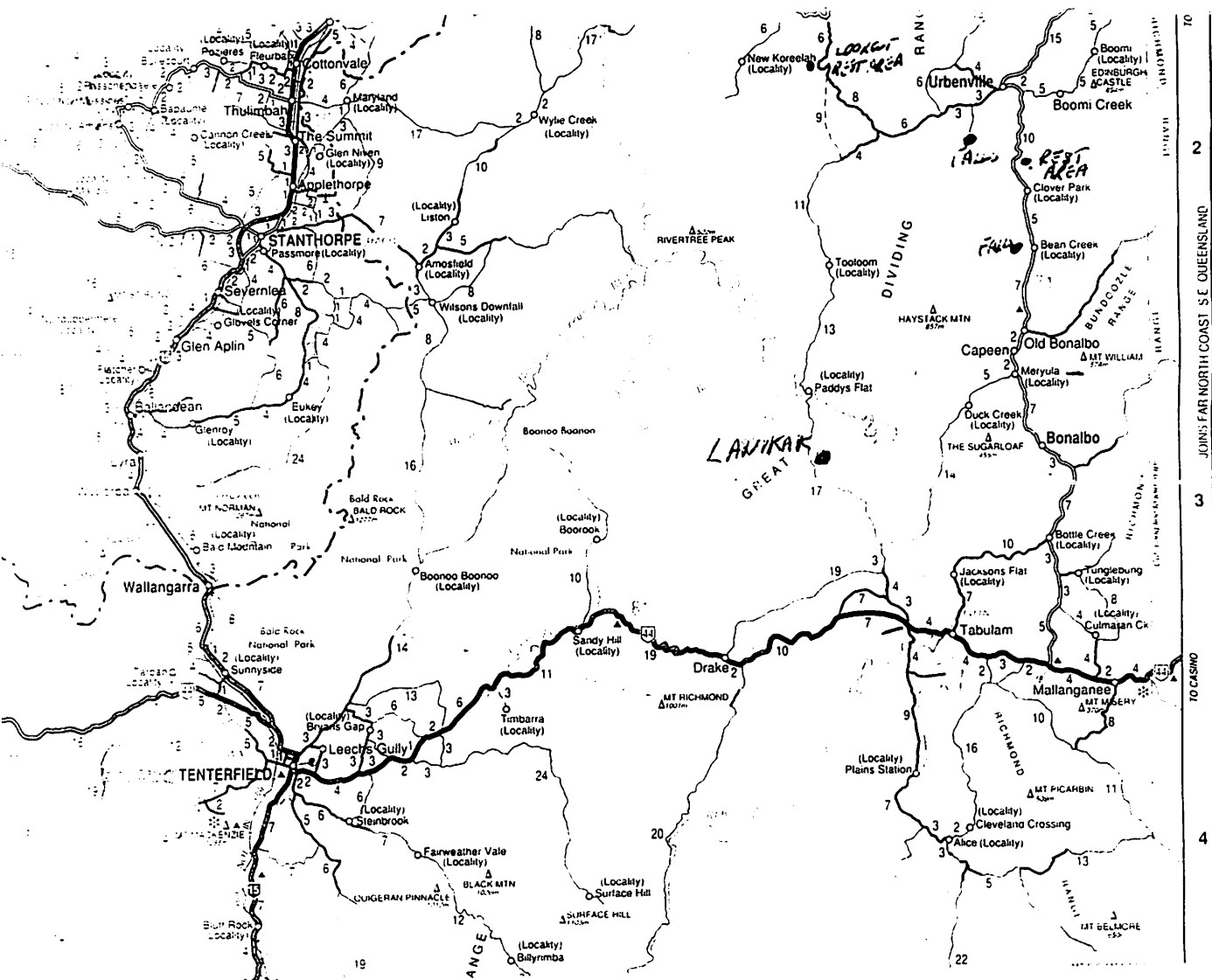
**Specimens:**

1. Liz reported that a mottled petrel had been found at The Summit following the recent bad storms south of Brisbane. The normal range for this bird is the Tasman Sea so it had been blown well off course. It was cared for by Joan Anderson and later released in Deception Bay.
2. The McCoskers found a grey budgerigar at their place.
3. Roger Logan reported finding a dead brown falcon on an electricity line.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Rod Hutchin, Rob McCosker and the Andrewarthas then showed members slides taken on of various trips they had made to Western Australia.

# Map for Lanikai Camp-Out



## RAFFLE

The Management Committee recommended that we hold a raffle to raise funds. Members are asked to make donations to fill a hamper at the April meeting. Tickets will be sold in May on the following dates. If you can help sell tickets, even if for an hour, please indicate on the form below and bring it to the April meeting, or contact Kris on 46835268.

Date	Venue	Time Available	Name
Thurs. 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Independent Grocer	9 – 12	Millie Marsden
		12 -	
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Plaza		
Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Independent Grocer		
Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Plaza		
Frid 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Country Club		
Thurs 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Plaza		