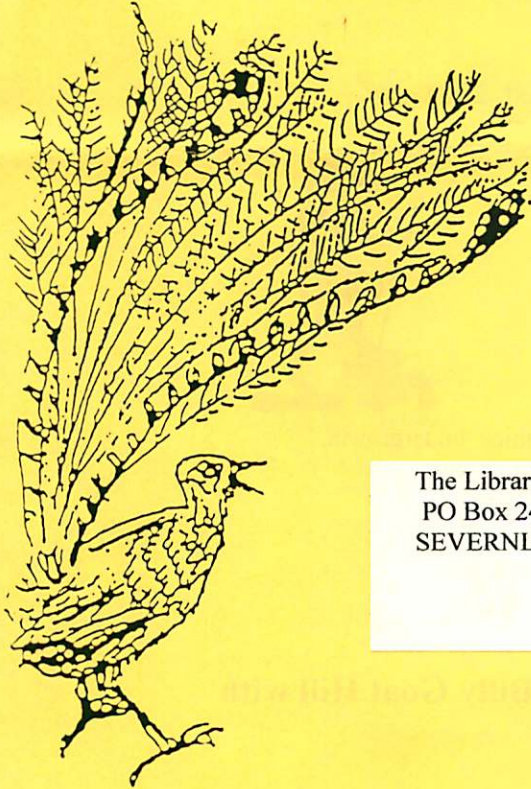


JULY 2001  
Vol 331

# 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: 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:** Girraween, SE of Billy Goat Hill, Sunday July 22<sup>nd</sup> led by Col and Janet Hockings.

**Next Meeting:** July 25<sup>th</sup> QCWA Rooms at 7.30pm. Program by Peter Robinson – South African Flora and Fauna.

Mail contributions to The Newsletter Editor, PO Box 33 SEVERNLEA Q 4352  
e-mail [orana@halenet.com.au](mailto:orana@halenet.com.au)

## **Deadline for next newsletter Friday 3rd August 2001**

### 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.



**Next Outing 22nd July**

## **An interesting granite outcrop in Girraween, SE of Billy Goat Hill with great views, weather permitting.**

Leaders: Col and Janet Hockings. Phone: 46811978

Meet at Weeroona Park.

Depart at 9.00am in **HIGH CLEARANCE FOUR-WHEEL-DRIVES.**

Morning Tea will be at the locked gate at the beginning of South Bald Rock road.

Carry lunch and drinking water.

We will be walking part of the way on National Park service roads and the remainder will be cross-country through sometimes scratchy, prickly undergrowth.

The Scale of Difficulty varies from 1 to 7.

We will be walking for about 5km.

High clearance 4WD's are necessary as the Mt Norman Road has some high water bars and rough rocky sections.

If you need a lift please try to arrange it beforehand.

Tree is one of the original survey trees, marked when the Queensland/New South Wales border was surveyed.

To get there we will drive out along Sugarloaf Road and then through the pine forest. There is a walk of about 200 metres from where we park the cars.

### **Magpie Study**

A researcher from Griffith University, Dan Rollison, is investigating how the behaviour and ecology of urbanised magpies differs from those living in rural or natural areas. He is particularly interested in seeing whether the feeding of magpies by humans cause them to initiate breeding earlier.

If any members have magpies living on their property and are in a position to observe their breeding behaviour and would like to participate in this study, please contact me for further information and survey forms.

### **Liz Bourne**

*Ph 4683 6374 batmaps@halenet.com.au*

### **New Maps of Stanthorpe**

Sunmap has recently completed a new series of 1:25,000 topographic maps of the Stanthorpe area covering the region from Pikedale in the west to the NSW border in the east and south and the rabbit fence in the north. These maps were long awaited by those of us who enjoy the outdoors as the previous 1:100,000 map were inadequate for accurate navigation when bushwalking etc. The new maps have a normal topographic map on one side and on the reverse side, a coloured airphoto of the same area, overlaid with contours so provide a very good coverage of the local landscape. As they have been produced from air photos taken in 1999, they are fairly up-to-date.

The maps may be viewed and ordered from the Stanthorpe Sports and Camping store at 13 Maryland Street. Ph 4681 1196. There are also relatively recent maps in same series covering the Warwick and Allora areas for those members interested in those areas and these may be obtained from Garry Hayes, 12 Locke St., Warwick. Ph 4661 4752.

### **Liz Bourne**

*Ph 4683 6374*

### **Food for Thought**

Over the past few months there has been considerable discussion about the Field Nats monthly programme and how to attract new members to our club. There are a number of issues that need to be addressed when our next programme is planned.

- ◆ There is a wide age range in our club membership, with an equally wide range of agility. Can we have outings that suit all members and still attract new younger members, or do we plan to please most of the members most of the time?
- ◆ The aims of the club are quite specific and each outing should contain some part of the aims.

selection of Ewingar and Baryulgil stations. While there, we observed a pheasant coucal high up in a gum tree acting more like a raptor.

We arrived at the Pikapene Forestry picnic area in time for lunch. The picnic area is in a State Forest Hoop Pine plantation, which is surrounded by the National Park. There are no signs at all to show where the National Park begins or ends. There is a sign for a 10 minute walk which we explored, but it appears to be 5 minutes each way. We did find an old well with the remains of a suction pipe.

After our walk, we backtracked a little and then drove around the plantation area. There is a small area of rainforest near the top of the ridge and some interesting looking tracks going off into the National Park area.

After rejoining the road we travelled on a little way until we met the Old Lawrence Road and turned towards Mallanganee. The Old Lawrence Road is the route taken when wool was taken by horse teams, from the Tenterfield area to the port of Lawrence on the Clarence. Deep Creek Road then took us through farming country to the Bruxner Highway just outside Mallanganee where we turned for home.

Our day's trip took us past some interesting sections of the Timbarra and Clarence rivers, and there are bird habitat areas near Tabulum and Mallanganee. We also noticed hundreds if not thousands of acres of hardwood plantation, which we presume are on private property. Our initial thought was that the Pikapene area was not suitable for a weekend campout. However, at the June meeting a new member informed us of two interesting walks from the picnic area, one to the fire tower and another across the road. It's a pity that this information was not available from the National Parks.

If any members are in the area and can explore it more, maybe we will still have a campout there sometime.

Kris Carnell

### **Outing Report – Friday Outing 6<sup>th</sup> July**

Nine people, including two new members, led by Harry and Joan Stevenson, braved the cold to visit Donnelly's Castle. There were a few bursts of sunshine, which made it slightly warmer as the day went on. As the group was exploring around the rocks they split up and then met up again.

A red robin, crimson parrot and tree creeper were sighted, as well as a fox sitting on a rock. In the way of flowers we saw micromyrtus, mirbelia, indigofera, pimelia, leucopogon, and wattle. The hovea was quite tall with lots of buds, and should have a good display later.

On the way home we called at the Passchendaele Tower and as well as the view, saw a second leucopogon, a different wattle, senecio and hibbertia.

### **Friday Outing – August 3<sup>rd</sup>**

The outing on August 3<sup>rd</sup> will be led by Joan Bourne to Roberts Tree on the border at Sugarloaf. We will leave Weeroona Park at 11.00am. and will take lunch with us. Roberts

**General Business:**

**1. Photocopier**

A letter has been received from Samson Total Technology informing us that as our photocopier is now considered old, they are having difficulty obtaining parts so delays in servicing it may occur. As our existing servicing agreement expires on 18 July, they will now invoice us on the basis of parts, toner and labour rather than on the basis of the monthly volume of copies.

Kris recommended that the Management Committee investigate the other photocopying options, including the purchase of a new copier. External funding sources such as the Community Benefit Fund should also be looked at. A member offered to do the copying at work if the Club was able to supply the paper.

**Outing Report:**

Kris Carnell reported on a reconnaissance outing to Pikapene National Park that was held on 24 June and attended by 6 members. His opinion was that it probably was not a very suitable venue for a campout. However, visitor, John Allison, reported that he had had some interesting walks there with the Gold Coast Bushwalking Club.

**Pre-Outing Report:**

Col Hockings will be leading a trip to a rocky outcrop, south east of Billygoat Hill in Girraween National Park on 22 July. Those going on the trip will need to travel in high clearance 4WD vehicles.

The next Friday outing will be to Donnelly's Castle on 6 July and will be led by Joan Stevenson, leaving from Weeroona Park at 11.30am.

**Mt Mitchell:**

Despite rather wet and cloudy conditions, 25 – 30 people came on this outing, including five from the Fassifern Field Naturalists Club. Some got good views from the peak during a break in the weather.

**Specimens:**

1. Kris Carnell had maps of the area visited on his outing to Pikapene National Park
2. Col Hockings had a slide projector available for sale

**Next Meeting:**

Peter Robinson will do a slide presentation on the flora and fauna of South Africa.

**General Business:**

**1. Magpies**

Liz Bourne reported that a researcher from Griffith University was looking for people to observe the breeding of magpies in their local area to see if feeding them affected the timing of their breeding season. She has survey forms if members are interested in participating in this study.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Members were then entertained by a slide presentation on South America from Nola and Brian Dodd.

**Outing Report – Pikapene National Park and State Forest**

The outing to Mt Pikapene was planned as a pre-outing excursion to see if the area is suitable for a campout. It turned out to be a very pleasant Sunday drive for two cars. We knew that a lot of our members were either on holidays or otherwise engaged.

We left Stanthorpe and travelled to Tenterfield where we picked up 2 more passengers and then continued on to the Girard State Forest Picnic area for morning tea. We continued along the Bruxner Highway until just before Tabulum, where we turned onto the Plains Station Road. As soon as we glimpsed the Timbarra River, we noticed the extensive erosion caused by the floods earlier in the year. At Yates Crossing over the Clarence Helen Hartman mentioned a memorial plaque on the bank just over the crossing. It commemorated the

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc  
held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 27 June, 2001**

**Opening:** The meeting opened at 7.38pm with Vice-President, Kris Carnell, welcoming members, especially Gordon and Nor Davis, as well as visitors, John Allison and Carol Rix.

**Attendance:** There were 20 present at the meeting and 12 apologies as per the attendance book.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting, held on 23 May, 2001 were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Dave Bright, seconded by Rod Hutchin. Carried.

**Business Arising from the Minutes:**

**1. Raffle Report**

Kris Carnell once again thanked members for their efforts in selling so many tickets and reported that \$650 had been raised.

**Correspondence:**

**Inwards:**

1. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club – *Darling Downs Naturalist* - June
2. Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club - *Footprint* - June
3. Murrumbidgee Field Nats – *Murrumbidgee Naturalist*- June
4. Qld Naturalists Club – Qld Natural History Award
5. Chinchilla Field Naturalists Club – *Urimbirra* – May and June 2001
6. Society for Growing Aust Plants – Warwick – new address
7. InterNational Park Tours – *IPT Traveller*
8. Pro Bono – subscription to directory
9. Diane Holley – death of former member, Nancie Hodgson
10. QCWA – Stanthorpe Branch – invitation to AGM on 27th July at 10am

**Outwards Correspondence:**

1. Community service announcements for outings and meetings

This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Liz Bourne, seconded by Errol Walker. Carried.

**Financial Statement for the period from 23/5/01 to 27/6/01:**

Balance as at 23/5/2001 \$ 189.39

**Receipts:**

Subscriptions	15.00	
Room rent collection	.60	
Raffle	650.00	
Camera Club (half PO Box rental)	<u>24.75</u>	
	<u>690.35</u>	<u>690.35</u>
		\$ 879.74

**Expenditure:**

Room rent	12.50	
Magazine postage	32.00	
Samson Total Technology	<u>33.14</u>	
	<u>\$ 77.64</u>	<u>77.64</u>
		<u>\$802.10</u>

Balance as at 27/6/2001 is \$802.10

This report was received on the motion of Kris Carnell, seconded by Dore McCosker. Carried.

**Accounts for payment:**

Room rent - QCWA	12.50
Magazine postage	32.00
Samson Total Technology	6.60
Millie Marsden – advert in "Border Post"	11.00

These accounts for payment were approved on the motion of Kris Carnell, seconded by Dore McCosker. Carried.



- ◆ Each outing needs a leader, and in the past it has been difficult getting enough leaders for the year's programme. If one of the suggestions is taken up and some of our outings have a choice of either an easy or difficult day, meeting for lunch in the middle, then we could need two leaders for those outings.
- ◆ With the N.S.W National Parks now charging day use fees, does the club make a decision what to do in the future, or do we leave it up to the leader?

If you have any suggestions for the next year's outings or the monthly meeting programme, please fill in the form and return it before the annual meeting.

*Kris Carnell*

**Annual Meeting August 22<sup>nd</sup> 2001**

Subscriptions are now due for 2001/2002

Family \$25.00 – Single \$15.00

Please complete your correct name and address details below and present with your subs. to the meeting, or post to:

Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, STANTHORPE Q 4380.

Name (including title please) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Payment enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please note – Receipts not collected at the meeting will be enclosed with your Newsletter.

**Club Program Suggestions – 2001/2002**

The committee once again asks for your assistance to provide a wide range of outing activities and meeting programs for the coming twelve months. Please **jot down your suggestions below**, and indicate if you would be prepared to lead an outing or provide a meeting program. All suggestions will be considered at a special committee meeting to be held shortly after the AGM.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---



# Platypus

NatureSearch is on the look out for platypus!

Much remains unknown about this elusive and remarkable mammal that fortunately shares many of our East Australian freshwaters. In Spring 2001, NatureSearch around the state will launch 'PlatySearch'. Volunteers will be invited to team up and record their sightings of platypus in local areas. This experience will undoubtedly help us to learn more about this species and their habitat. New sightings and the contribution of valuable records, will better enable us to conserve existing platypus populations.

## Phase 1

Do you know where platypus are near you?

Leading up to PlatSearch, we are hoping to start and continue a PlatySearch database that tells us of local platypus sites and abundance. This information will assist us in selecting locations for our regional PlatySearch. If you have knowledge of platypus in your area and would like to help by providing site details and/ or more, please fill out a NatureSearch record sheet or get the details to Peter Sparshott at the Toowoomba QPWS office. Your name and number, the date of your observation, and some location details are all that is required...

## Phase 2

Do you want to know more about platypus?

If you would like to learn more about platypus and their preferred habitat, or perhaps, like to brush up on your identification skills when it comes to looking for platypus...then think about attending the platypus workshop led by Peter Sparshott of NatureSearch. This is a good opportunity for those people wishing to lead a volunteer team in the PlatySearch!

PlatChat workshop : 25<sup>th</sup> August 2001

Cooyar (A BBQ is planned followed by a information session and  
Platypus spotlighting along Cooyar and Back Creeks  
5.00pm - 8.00pm. Bookings to Peter on 36298318

## Phase 3

More to come...

Keep watch for future news about PlatySearch. If you have any queries, ideas or information to share, please contact Peter Sparshott - PO Box 731 Toowoomba 4350  
peter.sparshott@env.qld.gov.au; 07 46398318