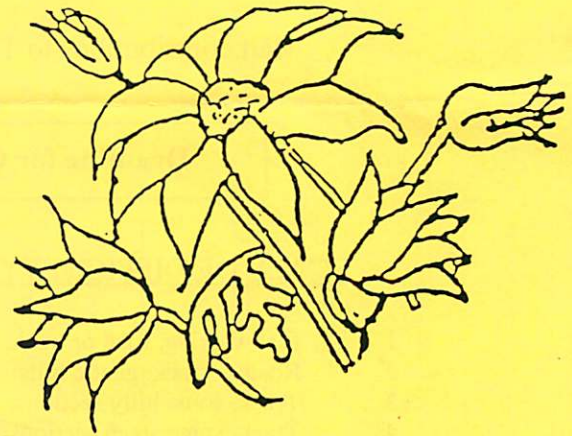


SEPTEMBER 2001
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THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST



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	Kris Carnell	46835268
Vice-Presidents	Millie Marsden	46 811593
	Mario Pennisi	46813750
Secretary	Liz Bourne	46 836374
Treasurer	Dave Bright	
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: 23rd September
Girraween Lodge and Lyrebird's
nest led by Rob McCosker.

Next Meeting: 26th September.
Program by Tom Archer – Looking
Back on Past Outings.

Half Day Wildflower Outing: 14th
October. Jolly's Falls

October Outing: 28th October
Amiens area led by Liz Bourne with
Queensland Field Nats. **Please note
change from regular date.**

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

Deadline for October Newsletter: Wednesday 10th October.

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.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2000 – 2001

It is with pleasure that I present the Annual Report of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club for 2000/2001.

I believe that we have had a good year, one in which members and friends have been able to enjoy outings and meetings, and also increase their knowledge of our natural heritage.

I thank the Vice Presidents, Millie and Kris on your behalf for their work for the club, and personally for their support and assistance during the year as well as holding the fort while I was "globetrotting". I express thanks also for Liz's commitment to the task of secretary which she does so efficiently. The Newsletter Editor, Margaret, and the "Crew" Neil and Wendy also deserve our appreciation. Thank you all! Our Publicity Officer, Patience faithfully writes up the notes for the Border Post and sees that they are published in time. I believe that we are fortunate that the Border Post is so supportive of local clubs and organisations.

One person to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for many years of dedication to our finances, is Julia Brown. She has seen us through the change incurred when we became incorporated and has done such an excellent job that she has been commended by the auditors. Julia, the Field Nats are very

appreciative of all you've done for us over the years while being so committed to Guides and your family. We thank you sincerely and wish you well in whatever your future holds.

My thanks to all members who have been willing to lead outings and do programmes for meetings. This year the Friday outings have been very enjoyable for those able to attend. I believe this is an activity of the club which should continue. The Sunday outings and campouts have also been enjoyable. We are grateful for members of the public who have made us welcome on their private land.

Two campouts were held – one in May to Lanakai and one in March to Arcot Station. Those who attended enjoyed them.

Our outing to Mt Mitchell was a combined one with the members of the Fassifern Nats. This combination was a direct result of the Australian Naturalist Network affiliation. I would hope that there may be more such outings, perhaps with other clubs.

The financial problem caused by the increase in the cost of Incorporation Insurance has, for the present, been reduced by the holding of a raffle which netted us over \$600.00. I thank those who donated to the raffle, those who sold tickets for us and particularly Kris and Millie who made arrangements for the raffle.

Thanks also to those who helped with the necessary work on Heritage Park Gardens. It is good to keep those gardens neat and tidy.

In conclusion, I again thank all who have helped the club in any way whatever, and wish the members an enjoyable year 2001/2002.

Desley McDonagh (President)

Outing 23rd September to Lyrebird's nest, Girraween

Leader : Rob McCosker

This outing will allow us to use some of the walking tracks at the Girraween Environmental Lodge.

We will depart Weeroona Park at 9.00am and following the signs to Girraween National Park, drive to the Lodge at Wyberba. Turn off the Pyramids Road at signposts on the right before reaching Girraween National Park.

We will do one short walk before enjoying a "cuppa" beside Ramsay Creek where real "billy tea" and Anzac bikkies will be provided to save you the trouble, but bring your own if you desire.

You will then have the option to take the strenuous walk to the Lyrebird's nest, which will require you to carry your lunch, or explore the other marked tracks on the property, returning to the cars for lunch. I will have some "mud maps" available on the day so people can find their own way around. The strenuous walk has some steep rocky sections with no marked track, about a grade 8 on the Nats scale, while the others are about 4 or 5, and I expect we will be back to the cars by about 3.30pm.

Although not in use the nest is well preserved, having been there for over 40 years. There is evidence of lyrebirds in the area, so it is hoped it will be put to use some time in the future.

The recent rain should put an extra glow in the wildflower display, and be sure to bring binoculars for the birdlife along the creek. For any other info please phone me on 46835371.

Pre Outing Report Jolly's Falls Sunday October 14th.

This outing will take the place of a Friday outing for October. As most people know access to Jolly's Falls has been restricted for some time, but as we are an incorporated body, the Jolly Family has given permission for us to have an outing. We will meet at Weeroona Park at 1.00pm and travel direct to Jolly's Falls. We will walk and explore the area, and will meet with Neville Jolly for afternoon tea at approximately 3.00pm. He will explain the history of the Jolly family's involvement with this area.

If you need further information ring 46835268.

Report on Outing to Red Rock Gorge

Seventeen people attended a most enjoyable outing to Red Rock Gorge led by Peter Haselgrove on 19th August. We met at the gate into Sundown National Park where we left some of the 4WDs and drove to the picnic area for morning tea and a look at the gorge from the viewing platform. It was quite cold and windy and there was no water going over the waterfall. While we were there someone asked Peter why the rock was called traprock. An explanation is printed below.

Having inspected the falls, we drove back a short distance and crossed the river to the other side. After parking the cars we walked about a kilometre firstly through traprock, and then on to granite to have lunch. The granite in this area is Ruby Creek Granite, which is slightly younger than Stanthorpe Granite. On the way, we stopped to inspect the site of an old miner's hut, which still had the stove intact. There were numerous birds to be seen including spotted pardalotes, which Colin called up by imitating them. We also noticed veins of quartz of various widths through the granite.

As soon as we reached the granite, we noticed wildflowers in bloom, including a blue caladenia. The view of the gorge from the southern side was quite different, and it seemed wider somehow. We noticed the more uneven face of the rock wall on that side, and listened to the wind roaring over near the falls while we sat in stillness.

One of the highlights of the outing was sighting a peregrine falcon, which nests on the cliff. It made John's day! On the way back we all saw chestnut rumped hylacolas or heath wrens, which were flitting and hopping very quickly in amongst the undergrowth. They seemed to be throwing their voices, so that we thought they were higher up than they were. We walked back to the cars and drove back to the gate where we had afternoon tea before setting off for home. In our car we were fortunate to see what we think was a spotted harrier in Ballandean Station. The sighting was too brief to make a positive identification.

All in all it was a very satisfactory outing, and thanks to Peter for organizing it and being such a fund of information.

Margaret Carnell

Peter has supplied the following information about the gorge.

Traprock *In basaltic lava-fields a remarkable step-like or terrace-like appearance is observable. The country seems to rise in successive tables or benches. From this has arisen the term trap, from*

the Swedish work trappa, a stair. This configuration is due to abrupt terminations of the successive flows

The name trap rock is often used as a field term to designate various kinds of dark heavy granular rocks such as basalt and diorite. In the Severn River – Sundown Creek area, Southwest of Stanthorpe, the Palaeozoic Texan Beds comprising sandstone, conglomerate, schist, limestone, and acid to intermediate volcanics have been often referred to as containing trap rock. From the American Geological Institute Publication “Glossary of geology and related Sciences”

On a gully running north-westerly into the Severn River, and in slate country at an elevation of three thousand feet above the sea, an irregular patch of granite occurs which appears to have been intruded through the over-lying metamorphic rocks; the result being a chasm of between two and three hundred feet deep, with slate cliffs on its north-east and granite ones on its south-west sides. At every few yards on the surface of the latter rock, and more particularly on the face of the cliff, stanniferous quartz veins can be seen, the widths varying from one inch to eighteen, and the strike being about north-east. So far as one can judge, they all appear to be nearly vertical. Hume Walter (Report on the Queensland Tin Field 1874)

Erosion of the valley of Red Rock Creek proceeded differently once the granite was unroofed. The more massive nature of the granite meant that erosion could only occur by chemical weathering along broadly spaced fractures, and by removal of the large intervening boulders. As a result cliffs developed in the massive rocks, including that of Red Rock Falls, which have retreated upstream only by undermining and collapse of large blocks. This is in contrast to the down-cutting of other valleys in the layered and fractured sediments, which are plucked out small piece by small piece. - Geological Society of Australia Inc (Qld Division).

Bird List – Outing to Red Rock Gorge

Pardalote (spotted)	Wedgetail Eagle	Pied butcherbird	Magpie
Wattle bird	Swallow	White heron	Noisy Miner
Currawong	Noisy Friar bird	Willy Wagtail	Yellow robin
White eared honeyeater	Black faced Cuckoo	White Browed scrub wren	Chestnut Rumped
	shrike		Hylacola
Weebill	Black duck	Superb blue wren	Satin bower bird
Ibis	Jacky winter	Crimson rosella	Kookaburra
Peregrine falcon	Grey butcherbird	Starling	Grey shrike thrush
Black shouldered kite	Crow	Wood duck	Grebe
Brown thornbill	Spotted harrier	Brown tree creeper	Whistler (f)
	Blue faced honeyeater	White winged chough	Yellow faced honeyeater

Flower List – Outing to Red Rock Gorge

Acacia nerifolia	Pimelea sp	Pomaderris sp	Melichrus sp
Calytrix tetragona	Hovea (small blue pea)	Olearia ramissima	Drosera (sun dew)
(Common Fringe Myrtle)		(Blue Mountain Daisy)	
Leucopogon sp	Hibbertia sp	Caladenia (blue)	Violet (purple)
Ozothamnus obcordatas			

Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 22 August, 2001

Opening: The meeting opened at 7.48pm with President, Desley McDonagh, welcoming members.

Attendance: There were 20 present at the meeting and 11 apologies as per the attendance book.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the last meeting, held on 25 July, 2001 were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Dave Bright, seconded by Trish McCosker. Carried.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club - *Footprint* - August 2001
2. Qld Naturalists Club – *Queensland Naturalist* – June 2001
3. Pro Bono – subscription to directory
4. Girraween Environmental Lodge – information on facilities
5. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club – *Darling Downs Naturalist* – August 2001
6. Senator John Woodley – announcing his retirement
7. Directory of Australian Associations – requesting update
8. Australian Naturalist Network – re Get Together in November 2002
9. Membership renewals – Terry and Margaret Tricker; Alex and Denise Harslett; M. Compton; Peter and Lyn Haselgrove; Neil and Wendy Donges; Jack Watters

Outwards Correspondence:

1. Community service announcements for outings and meetings

This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Liz Bourne, seconded by Narelle Crawford. Carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes:

1. Get Together of the Australian Naturalists Network

Desley said she would do a precis of the proposed program for the next newsletter.

Financial Statement for the period from 27/6/01 to 22/8/01:

In the absence of the Treasurer, an interim financial statement was presented by the Secretary, Liz Bourne.

Balance as at 25/7/01

\$ 741.65

Receipts:

Subscriptions 305.00

Room rent collection 1.00

Donations 15.00

321.00

321.00

\$1062.65

Expenditure:

Room rent 12.50

Magazine postage 32.00

Samson Total Technology 41.29

\$85.79

85.79

\$976.86

Balance as at 22/8/01 is \$976.86

This interim financial report was received on the motion of Liz Bourne, seconded by Rod Hutchin. Carried.

Outing Report:

Seventeen people went on the outing to Red Rock Gorge in Sundown National Park, led by Peter Haselgrove. A good variety of birds was seen, including a peregrine falcon and spotted harrier. Peter has offered to lead another walk to Sundown next May to look at the road built in the 1890's.

Pre-Outing Report:

There will be an outing to Basket Swamp on 9 September to look at the wildflowers.

On 23rd September, Errol Walker will be unable to lead the trip as arranged. Instead, Rob McCosker has offered to take people to look at Girraween Lodge where some short walks are available.

Next Meeting:

Tom Archer will give a presentation of slides taken on previous Club outings.

General Business:

1. Outing to Jolly's Falls

Millie said it would be a pity if an outing to Jolly's Falls could not be arranged as it was a good area for wildflowers. Desley said she would try and arrange this.

Meeting closed at 8.03pm.

STANTHORPE FIELD NATS 2001-2002 PROPOSED PROGRAM

DATE				LEADER
Oct	14	Outing	Jolly's Falls	½ Day
	24	Meeting	R Hutchin	
	28	Outing	Amiens Area	L Bourne Outing with Qld Field Nats
Nov	2	Friday Outing		Stevensons
	25	Outing	Petzlers Hill	R Simcocks
	28	Meeting	W Goebel	
Dec	9	Break-up	Carnells	
Jan	23	Outing	Severn River	K & M Carnell
Feb	8	Friday Outing		J Bourne
	24	Outing	Cliff Mountain	G Crossman
	27	Meeting	E Walker	
Mar	1	Friday Outing		D McDonagh
	24	Outing	Warwick Area	D Wilson
	27	Meeting	D McDonagh	
April	5	Friday Outing	D Bright	
	21	Outing	Braeside Gorge	D Bright
	24	Meeting	D Bright	
May	4to6	Campout	Kings Plains N.P.	K & M Carnell
	10	Friday Outing		R Hutchin
	19	Outing	Red Rock – 1890's road	P Haselgrove
	22	Meeting	Torrington to Coolah	K Carnell
June	7	Friday Outing		Tim Murray
	23	Outing	Walking with John	John Allison ?
	26	Meeting	R McCosker	
July	5	Friday Outing		M Marsden
	21	Outing	Mt Superbus / The Steamers	T B A
	24	Meeting	D Wilson	
Aug	2	Friday Outing		J Allison ?
	25	Outing	Sugarloaf	M Pennisi
	28	Annual Meeting	Remember Last Year	
Sep	8	Outing	½ Day Wild flowers	
	22	Outing	Mt Norman Area	R McCosker
	25	Meeting	J Harslett	

Spare Outings :- Nundubbermere Falls , Horans Gorge ?

Spare Program :- R McCosker

The Hidden

Girraween Program

Saturday 6th October, 2001

Entertainment (centre stage) (1)

9.30 - 10.00am Official opening by VIP - revealing the Hidden Girraween.
 10.00 - 11.00am BREAK
 11.00 - 11.30am Ranger Tim & Herbie
 11.45 - 12.15pm Daingatti Dreamtime Dancers
 12.30 - 1.00pm Jack Drake - Australian bush poet
 1.00 - 2.00pm BREAK
 2.00 - 2.30pm Ranger Tim & Herbie
 2.45 - 3.15pm Daingatti Dreamtime Dancers
 3.30 - 4.00pm Jack Drake - Australian bush poet
 4.00 - 4.15pm Art competition winners announced
 4.15 - 5.00pm BREAK
 5.00 - 5.40pm Lionel O'Keefe/ Cathy Duffy & Border band
 5.40 - 6.00pm The Sheek - Country singer
 6.00 - 6.40pm Lionel O'Keefe/ Cathy Duffy & Border band
 6.40 - 7.00pm BREAK
 7.00 - 7.40pm Penny Davies & Roger Iott - Country singers
 7.40 - 8.00pm The Sheek - Country singer
 8.00 - 8.40pm Penny Davies & Roger Iott - Country singers
 8.40 - 9.00pm The Sheek - Country singer
 9.00 - 9.40pm Penny Davies & Roger Iott - Country singers

Other Activities

10.00 - 12.00pm Nestbox Making Workshop Land for Wildlife Marquee (2)
 10.15 - 10.45am Aboriginal Antics Talk & Demonstration Art & Craft Marquee (3)
 10.30 - 12.30pm Guided walk to Underground Creek Dr Roberts carpark (6)*
 10.30 - 1.30pm Guided walk to Castlerock Castlerock track entrance opposite Gunn's Cottage (4)*
 10.30 - 1.30pm Guided walk to the Junction Junction track entrance from picnic area (5)*
 1.15 - 1.45pm Aboriginal Antics Talk & Demonstration Art & Craft Marquee (3)
 2.00 - 5.00pm Guided walk to Castlerock Castlerock track entrance opposite Gunn's Cottage (4)*
 2.00 - 5.00pm Guided walk to the Junction Junction track entrance from picnic area (5)*
 5.30 - 6.30pm Guided Walk to Dr Roberts Waterhole Dr Roberts carpark (6)*
 7.30 - 9.00pm Stargazing Activities Castlerock paddock (7)

* Prior bookings at information centre required, number restrictions apply.

Sunday 7th October, 2001

Entertainment (centre stage) (1)

11.30 - 12.00pm Ranger Tim & Herbie
 12.15 - 12.45pm Daingatti Dreamtime Dancers
 1.00 - 1.30pm Little Theatre Junior Group - Performing "The Lost Bunyip"
 written by Penny Davis
 1.30 - 2.00pm BREAK
 2.00 - 2.30pm The Sheek - Country Singer
 2.45 - 3.15pm Ranger Tim & Herbie
 3.30 - 4.00pm Daingatti Dreamtime Dancers

Other Activities

5.30 - 6.30am Guided walk to Dr Roberts Waterhole Dr Roberts carpark (6)*
 5.30 - 6.30am Guided walk along Bald Rock Creek Track entrance in picnic area (5)*
 9.00 - 11.30am Treeplanting Pyramids paddock (8)
 10.00 - 10.30am Aboriginal Antics Talk & Demonstration Art & Craft Marquee (3)
 10.30 - 12.30pm Nestbox Making Workshop Land for Wildlife Marquee (2)
 1.00 - 3.00pm Guided walk to Underground Creek Dr Roberts carpark (6)*
 1.00 - 4.00pm Guided walk to Castlerock Castlerock track entrance opposite Gunn's Cottage (4)*
 1.00 - 4.00pm Guided walk to the Junction Junction track entrance from picnic area (5)
 1.30 - 2.00pm Aboriginal Antics Talk & Demonstration Art & Craft Marquee (3)

* Prior bookings at information centre required, number restrictions apply.

All Weekend

The Hidden Girraween photography and art exhibition Gunn's Cottage (9)
 Journey's Through Time display Gunn's Cottage (9)
 Art competition exhibition Art & Craft Marquee (3)
 The Hidden Girraween display Exhibition area (10)
 Stanthorpe district school mural Centre stage (1)
 Face painting Art & Craft Marquee (3)