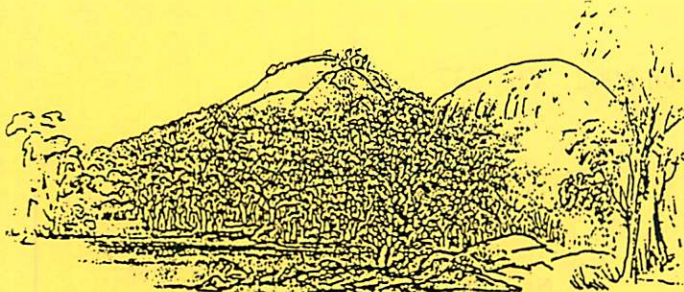
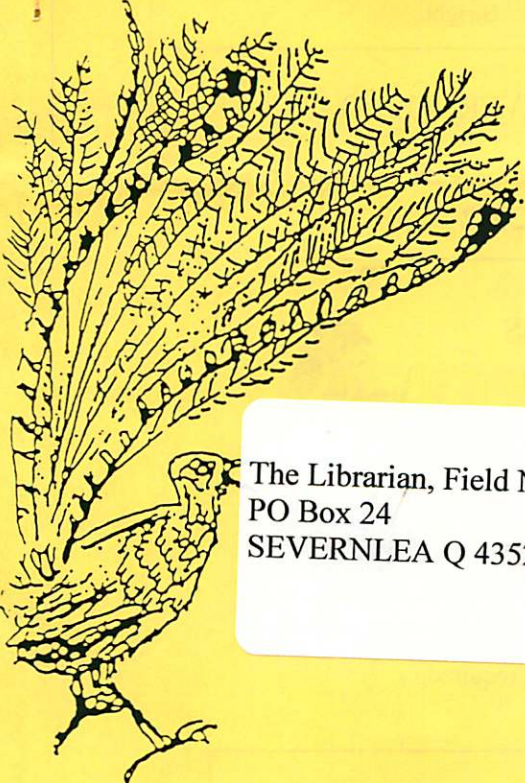


MARCH 2002

Vol. 337



# 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> <u>Wednesday</u> of each Month at QCWA Rooms at 7.30pm.      |
| Outings:       | The <u>Sunday preceding</u> 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.,<br>P O Box 154,<br>Stanthorpe Q 4380. |



### CLUB OFFICE BEARERS 2001 - 2002

|   |                     |           |
|---|---------------------|-----------|
| 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 | 46 812913 |
| Publicity Officer   | Patience James      | 46 811853 |
| Librarian   | Trish McCosker      | 46 835371 |
| Management Committee President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer |                     |           |

### **Coming Up**

**Next Sunday Outing:** 24<sup>th</sup> March  
Cliff Mountain led by Glenn Crossman

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>  
March program by Desley McDonagh, "Scotland, especially Enmore Gardens"

**Weekday Outing:** April 5<sup>th</sup> led by Dave Bright

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 Newsletter: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2002**

### 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.



### **Apology**

I must apologize for printing last year's office bearers in last month's magazine  
Editor

We welcome contributions to "My Favourite Place" each month. It can be somewhere overseas, as we have this month, or somewhere as simple as your own back yard. If anyone would like to contribute but would like some help to write the article, Helen Hartman has kindly offered her assistance. Please ring Helen on 02 67361423.

### **Spider Snippet**

Florence Smith has a spider's web near her front steps with a snail shell in it. She thought the shell must have blown there and been caught, but discovered the spider curled up inside the shell. Would it be a leaf curl spider using the snail shell instead of a leaf?

## My Favourite Place

### Bute – The Unexplored Isle

Bute lies in the Firth of Clyde, tucked in under the Argyll mainland on the Western side of Scotland. It is 24km long and from 5 – 8km wide and has a population of approximately 7500.

Two ferries enable you to get on/off the island. One crosses from Rhubodoach on Bute to Colintrave on the mainland at the northern end of the island. This is the shortest ferry in Europe and takes 5 minutes. The main ferry is from Rothesay on Bute to Wemyss Bay from where you catch the train to Glasgow. This ferry ride takes 35 minutes with another 35 minutes by train to Glasgow.

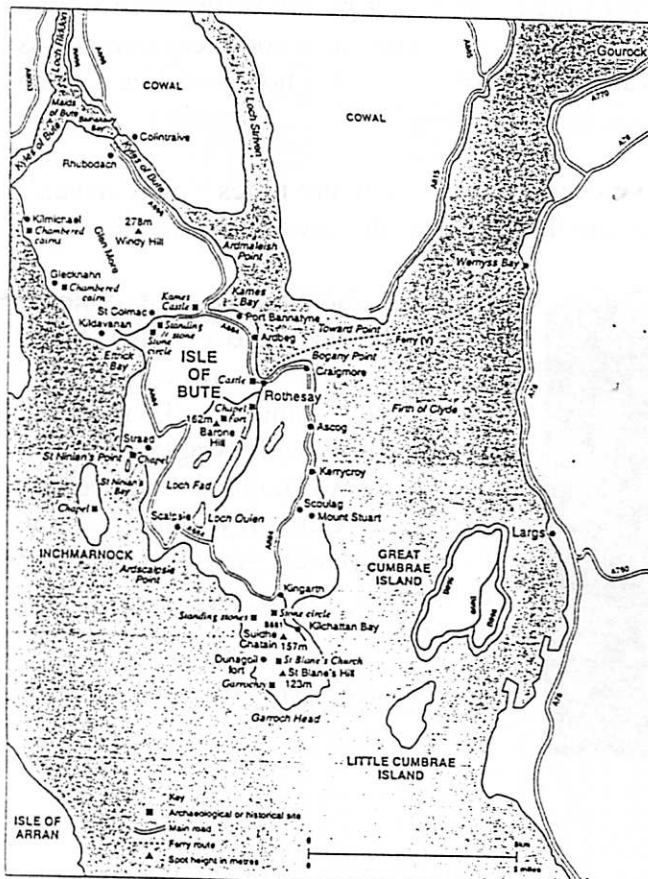
My niece Judith lives at Port Bannatyne on the Isle and I spent nearly 2 months with her in 2001. While there I visited many places on Bute as well as some in Scotland. I was fascinated by the scenery and the history. I learned that, for many years, the “Western Isles” were ruled by the King of Norway as they had been conquered by the Vikings.

Judith's home overlooks the water looking towards the mainland and I spent many hours soaking up the atmosphere looking through the windows watching birds and boats. The swans, however, were all the wrong colour – they were white!

I was surprised to find flowering cherry trees, tulips and daffodils in full bloom right by the sea. There can't be much salt in the breeze.

At the March meeting I will be presenting the programme when I will share with you some of the beauty I found as I saw just some of Scotland.

*Desley McDonagh*





**Pre Outing Report 24<sup>th</sup> March to Cliff Mountain  
Leader Glenn Crossman**

Stanthorpe members will meet at Weeroona Park in Stanthorpe at the usual time of 9.00am and travel to Liston, where we will meet at the park at Liston at 9.30am, for the outing to Cliff Mountain on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March. It is a short drive to Lindesay View air-strip where we will have morning tea, then we will pile into 4WD and high clearance vehicles for another short drive. Then there is a 5 – 10 minute walk (grade 2-3) to the top of Cliff Mountain. We will carry our lunch with us.

There are several spots where you can look out over Rivertree and we can spend some time exploring the escarpment. The Potanin family have built some memorials to loved ones at the top of the mountain and there is also a basic picnic spot. We will find our way back to the airstrip in time for afternoon tea.

**Friday Outing to Lyra March 1<sup>st</sup> 2002**

A small group of Nats and friends enjoyed a ramble up Bald Rock Creek adjacent to Brian McDonagh's property on our March Friday outing.

We drove up to the top boundary of the property and, after lunch at the cars, moved up Bald Rock Creek into that area of Girraween National Park. Very few flowers were seen (or expected to be seen at this time of the year), but the blackthorn (wait a while) was in full bloom, mostly in the creek bed.

This outing was mostly a "haven't been here before" and a bird watching exercise and was enjoyed by all. We moved up the creek a little distance and used our eyes and binoculars. Those in the group who had not seen the yellow tufted honeyeater before were impressed by this small bird's beauty. After returning to the cars and, of course, afternoon tea, some of us drove right around the boundary of the vineyard before we headed for home – some via the Bramble Patch.

One of my visitors made this comment – "I've been to visit you many times – why haven't you brought me here before?" I think that sums up the beauty of this area of the district.



Desley leads the Nats on the Lyra outing

**Bird List:** Sacred kingfisher, collared sparrow hawk, yellow tailed black cockatoo, pied currawong, double barred finch, laughing kookaburra, mistletoe bird, willy wagtail, eastern spinebill, new holland honeyeater, superb blue wren, grey fantail, yellow tufted honeyeater, striated pardalote, red browed finch, pee wee, crow, magpie.

*Desley McDonagh*

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc  
held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 27 February, 2002**

**Opening:** The meeting opened at 7.37pm with President, Kris Carnell, welcoming members and visitors, Geoff and Laraine Lawson from Crows Nest; Doug and Jenny Kent; Lyn Collins and Sherlie Allum.

**Attendance:** There were 36 present at the meeting and 1 apology as per the attendance book.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> November were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Rob Mc Cosker, seconded by Kath Sullivan. Carried.

**Correspondence:**

**Inwards:**

1. Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club - *Footprint* - Jan; Feb/March 2002
2. Murrumbidgee Field Nats Club - *Murrumbidgee Naturalist* - Dec 2001; Jan 02
3. Chinchilla Field Nats Club - *Urimbirra* - Jan/Feb 2002
4. Qld Government - invitation to Community Cabinet meeting and lunch
5. Stanthorpe Toastmasters Club - invitation to speechcraft course 10 April - 29 May
6. Stanthorpe Shire Council - Clean Up Australia Day - 10 March
7. AMP Henderson Global Investors - "Working Towards a Sustainable Future"
8. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club - *Darling Downs Naturalist* - Dec 01; Jan 02
9. Qld Naturalist Club - *QNC News* - Jan/Feb
10. Directory of Aust Associations - update of listing
11. State Library of Queensland - acknowledgment of newsletters
12. Binna Burra Lodge - Ecology weekend

**Outwards Correspondence:**

1. Community service announcements for outings and meetings
2. Payment of public liability policy

This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Liz Bourne, seconded by Margaret Carnell. Carried.

**Business Arising from the Correspondence:**

1. Invitation to the Community Cabinet meeting

Liz Bourne attended the lunch time function on behalf of the club.

2. Clean Up Australia Day

Last year, the club cleaned up the Heritage Park area. John Allison suggested that Minna Street had a lot of rubbish along it. It was agreed to meet at the corner with Amosfield Road at 7am on Sunday 10 March.

3. Stanthorpe Toastmasters Club

Details about their speechcraft course will be included in the next newsletter.

**Financial Statement for the period from 28/11/01 to 27/02/02:**

Balance as at 8/11/01 \$ 1,363.86

**Receipts:**

Subscriptions 80.00

**Expenditure:**

Room rent 10.00

Magazine postage 36.45

CGU - public liability insurance 249.75

Govt tax 1.30

297.50

Balance as at 27/2/02 is \$1,146.36 which agrees with the cash book balance.

No outstanding cheques or cash receipts.

Agrees with bank balance as at 19/2/02 of \$1,146.36

**Accounts for payment:**

Postage of newsletter 45.00

This financial report was received on the motion of Dave Bright, seconded by Desley McDonagh. Carried

**Outing Report:**

Kris reported on the outing on 24 February led by John Allison to the Wallangarra Railway Station and then on to Girraween National Park. A group of 10 left the Mt Norman carpark and headed towards Dr Roberts Waterhole where they got a lift back to the carpark. Group saw a robin redhead and an interesting variety of insects.

**Next Outing:**

This is planned for Sunday 24 March and will be led by Glen Crossman

The next Friday outing on 1 March will be led by Desley McDonagh to her brother's property at Lyra, leaving from Weeroona Park at 11.30am.

**Specimens:**

1. Kris Carnell had an ironbark beetle, *Zopherosis georgei*, and a longicorne beetle found on the outing on Sunday
2. He also had a plant like a Cape gooseberry with a purple flower which he found in his tomato patch and a burr which is not common in the Stanthorpe area. Rob McCosker said the burr was a tribulus or puncture vine which supposedly has aphrodisiac properties.
3. Liz Bourne had a specimen of *Acacia uncinata* collected at Messines. It flowers in January and has brilliant golden flowers in globular heads. According to Jean Harslett, this wattle is not common on the Granite Belt, being only found in the Messines area and at a site on Rangers Road, off the New England Highway on the road to Warwick.
4. Sue Allison had a new brochure on Kings Plains National Park in northern NSW

**General Business:**

1. David Oag's father, who had attended some club meetings while visiting Stanthorpe, had sadly passed away on 23 December, possibly as a result of snakebite. Our sympathies were extended to the family.
2. Desley reported on a bird watching trip with Geoff and Laraine Lawson to Storm King Dam where they saw 31 species of birds in two hours.

The meeting closed at 8.21pm and was followed by a fascinating slide presentation by Errol and Annette Walker of a canal boat trip taken on the canals of Wales.

**Outing Report Mt Norman to Underground River 24<sup>th</sup> February 2002.**

A small group of Nats set out in overcast weather to travel to Wallangarra railway station for the first part of our outing. The Heritage Centre was open that day, and a growers market was operating on the platform. As a dinkum border hopper, I found the Heritage Centre very interesting, and also stocked up with some fresh fruit and vegetables.

From Wallangarra most of us travelled to Mt Norman Picnic Area – the rest went on to Tenterfield to enjoy an open garden. After morning tea John Allison led us at a brisk pace along the Mt Norman track. We hadn't gone very far when someone picked up an unusual looking beetle, which Col later identified as an Ironbark Beetle *Zopherosis georgei*. The one we found was dull brown with deep pits and prominent tubercles on its upper surface.

We turned off the Mt Norman track along a fire trail where we had an excellent view of the Eye of the Needle. There were not masses of wildflowers in bloom, but a large number of different plants had some flowers. We stopped to look at some galls on the mistletoe, and a dianella flower, which was distorted by galls. A striking green and black weevil was seen on a bush. The walking became more strenuous when we turned off the fire trail to climb a rocky ridge where we had lunch. Although we did not see a lot of birds on the outing, we were delighted to see a robin redbreast and a wedgetailed eagle while we were having lunch.

There was also the remains to a stick nest on one of the rocks. We wondered if it was a hawk's nest.

After lunch we continued across country towards the Aztec Temple where we spent some time exploring and clambering about. It is a fascinating area. On the way Col found a female mountain grasshopper on the ground. It didn't look much like an ordinary grasshopper at all. The hind wings are absent and it raised its shell like fore wings (with a little encouragement) to reveal bright red and blue bands on the abdomen.

There were hundreds of green and yellow beetles on the grass beside the track on the way down towards the creek, some of them mating. We saw a white faced heron in the creek which seemed to be having some difficulty in flying. The Underground River was very low, not running at all, but there was water for the wrens and other birds we saw there. Col had left his ute at the car park, so we all piled in to go back to the Mt Norman car park to pick up our vehicles. On the way we saw a quail thrush and firetailed finches.

Thank you John for a most enjoyable outing.

*Margaret Carnell*

**Flower List Outing Mt Norman to Underground River 24<sup>th</sup> February 2002**

Hybranthus monopetalus, Goodenia (2), Leucopogon, Actinotus (Flannel Flower) Banksia spinulosa, Cassinia, Geranium, Spiranthese, Billy Buttons, Whalebergia (bluebell), Fringed Lily (Thelymitria), Dandelion, Bursaria (black thorn), Styphelia, Acacia (broad leafed), Blood root, Correa, Myrdania, Tiny yellow daisy, Swainsonia, Dianella with gall, Isotoma, Hydroxys, Micromyrtus, Drosera (honeydew), Stringybark, Matchsticks, Wild Celery, Everlasting Yellow clusters (Helichrysum), Solanum, Convolvulus, Galeola seeds, Lobelia dentata, Lobelia sp, Callitris, Banksia integrifolia Wombat berry, Ajuga, Stylidium (2) trigger flowers, Podolepsis, Yam, Brachyscombe (purple daisy), Hibbertia (2), Yellow Everlasting

**Wildlife List Outing 24<sup>th</sup> February 2002**

Iron Bark Beetle, Black & green weevil, Galls on acacia, Galls on mistletoe, Orb Spider, Mountain Grasshopper, Green & Yellow beetles, Tree creeper, Grey fantail, Rufous whistler feeding young, Wedgetail Eagle, Welcome swallow, Robin Redbreast, White faced heron, Little pied cormorant Firetailed finch, Quail thrush, Macropods (kangaroos or wallabies).

**Stanthorpe Toastmasters Speechcraft Course**

**Each Wednesday from 7.30 to 9.30 pm**

**From 10<sup>th</sup> April to 29<sup>th</sup> May**

**At Stanthorpe State High School Room CL1.**

The mission of a Toastmaster's club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every member has the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills, which in turn foster self confidence and personal growth.

Regular meetings are held on second and fourth Thursday each month.

Enquiries to Carol Parkinson on 46813553