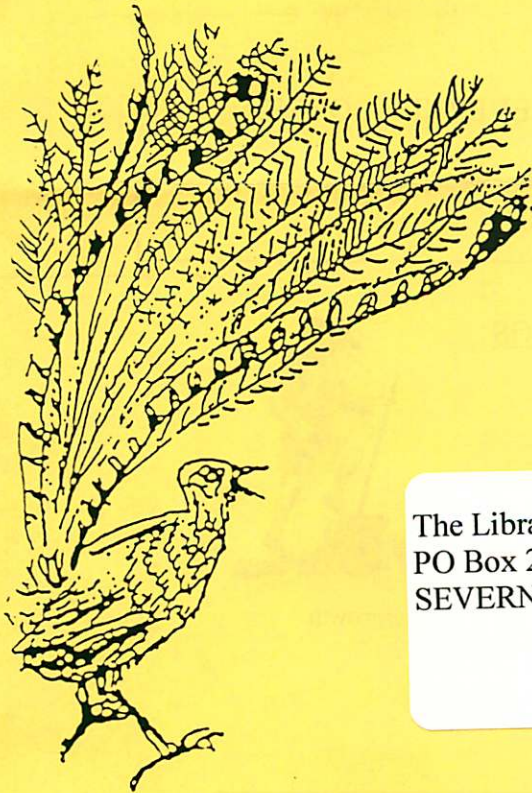


MAY 2002
Vol. 339

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 2001 - 2002

President	Kris Carnell	46835268
Vice-Presidents	Millie Marsden	46 811593
	Mario Pennisi	46813750
Secretary	Liz Bourne	46 836374
Treasurer	Dave Bright	46811034
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Mail contributions to The Newsletter Editor, PO Box 33 SEVERNLEA Q 4352
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Deadline for Newsletter: 10th June 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.



Coming Up

Next Sunday Outing: May 19th Red Rock Gorge & 1890 Road led by Peter Haselgrove

Next Meeting: Wednesday 22nd May. Program by Kris Carnell

Weekday Outing: Friday 10th May Tenterfield led by Rod Hutchin

Weekday Outing: Friday 7th June Dalveen Tunnel led by Tim Murray

This month's magazine has been produced early, as I will be on holiday for two weeks after the Camp Out to Kings Plains. Any outing reports which have been omitted, will be included in the June magazine.

Editor

Outing to Old Beehive Mine – Sunday 19th May 2002

Leaders Peter and Lynette Haselgrove

We will meet at the gate at the Ballandean end of Sundown National Park at 9.00am and proceed to Red Rock Gorge parking area for a look at the gorge and smoko. Vehicles will be leaving from Weeroona Park at 8.30am if anyone wants to vehicle share from there. From 10.00am – 12.00 we will walk along the old mining track etc., returning to vehicles for lunch. It's not a long one, about 1 1/2 to 2 hours return and not particularly difficult, with some nice views and a touch of history - it's the old Beehive Mine access track.

After lunch those still energetic can walk back to the entrance of the park along the original access road - probably another 2 hours, mostly downhill but fairly thick going. This means there will need to be some car pooling to ensure all the vehicles get back.

Some of the walk will be a bit rough so people should wear light trousers or have an old set of legs that it won't matter if they get scratched.

OUTING REPORT CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN

Two dozen Nats in 8 4WD's from Weeroona Park and Warwick ventured onto Ross McCorquodale's property at Braeside. After meeting the owner at his dwelling he informed us he was unable to escort our party to the gorge. We set off with a map but missed the first turn off and the owner hastily recalled us.

Many had expressed a desire to see his property so after morning tea under some shady trees, we set off on a tour of the extensive estate. We returned to the morning tea stop and after some reconnaissance, found the main, but sometimes indistinct track. By this time the Nats anxiety had reached fever pitch, so after lunch we took the short walk to the gorge lookout. "Stunned Mullet" would be a good term to use as the group gazed in total amazement at what was on view. How could such an impressive gorge exist so close to home and the Nats not know of its existence?

Many were happy to enjoy the beautiful day and relax at the various vantage points and watch several rock wallabies hopping around, while 10 ventured down into the gorge (grade 6/7). Many photos were taken and with scrambling and hopping over the metamorphic rocks the main thrust proceeded some 600/800 meters down the gorge. However time was getting away so we retraced and climbed out via a side gully.

Conversations discussing re-visits, camp-outs and thru walks could be clearly heard. Some would like to see the falls running or in flood, but access may be difficult. However I will undertake further investigations of the surrounding areas, as this is definitely a place to revisit.

Dave Bright 20.04.2002

Bird List Braeside Gorge

Sulphur crested cockatoo, wedgetail eagle, banded lapwing, white faced heron, babblers (grey crowned), apostle birds, brown tree creeper, hooded robin, yellow rumped thornbills, eastern rosella, king parrot, maned geese (wood duck), brown quail, willy wagtail, jacky winter, peewee, blue faced honeyeater, magpie, crow, lorikeets, unidentified honeyeaters.

Plant List Braeside Gorge

Zinnia, solanum, kapok bush, daisy – white & mauve, callistemon (viminalis type), goodenia, whalerbergia (bluebell), purple top (weed), little yellow weed, seeds on hyacinth orchid, gum on grass trees.

Minutes of Meeting of Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc Held in the QCWA Hall Stanthorpe on Wednesday 24th April 2002.

Opening: The meeting opened at 7.37pm with chairman Kris Carnell welcoming members.

Attendance: There were 21 people present and five apologies as per attendance book.

Minutes of Previous Meeting were moved to be a correct record of that meeting on the motion of John Allison, seconded Patience James. Carried.

Correspondence: The inwards correspondence was received and the outwards adopted on the motion of Margaret Carnell, seconded Robin McCosker Carried.

Inwards:

1. Toowoomba Bushwalkers – Footprint April 02
2. Save the Bilby Fund – Report and newsletter
3. Australian Society of Association Executives – magazine
4. Murrumbidgee Field Nats – Murrumbidgee Naturalist April
5. Chinchilla Field Nats – Urimbirra April
6. Canon – brochure on photocopiers

Outwards:

1. Letter of thanks to C & A Potanin
2. Letter of thanks to Ross McCorquadale

Finance:

The following financial statement was received on the motion of Dave Bright, seconded Vern Sullivan. Carried
Dave reported that the fees for the room rent will be \$15.00 each month, with no increase during the winter months.

Financial Statement for April 2002 from 27/3/2002 to 24/4/2002.

Cash Book balance at 27/3/2002 \$1059.36

Receipts:

Room Rent Collection	5.50
Camera Club PO Box rental	26.00

Expenditure:

Magazine postage	45.00
Room Rent Feb/March	20.00
Govt Tax	0.60

Balance as at 24/04.2002 \$1025.26

Outing Reports:

As reported in the April magazine the outing to Harsletts was a very enjoyable one.

Crystal Mountain: Dave reported that Ross McCorquadale couldn't guide us so we had a tour of the property before arriving at the gorge which was quite impressive. We all went to the lookout and some went to the bottom of the gorge. We couldn't find the turn to the north from the bottom of the gorge, but it was visible from the top. Of interest were callistemons flowering in the gorge, perhaps *C. viminalis*, and the cypress on the northern face of the gorge. Rob McCosker noticed that the rocks on the northern side were black, while those on the southern side were red.

Pre Outing Reports:

Camp out to Kings Plains N.P. : Kris tabled maps for interested members to use, and photos taken at the pre-outing.

Red Rock Gorge and 1890s Road: Peter Haselgrove had supplied details of the outing on 19th May. We will have smoko at the gorge then walk the old mining track to the Beehive Mine. Those who wish may walk out via the original access road.

Friday Outing to Tenterfield: This will take place on May 10th led by Rod Hutchin.

Friday Outing June 7th. The outing, which will be led by Tim Murray, is to the railway tunnel on Cameron's property at Dalveen.

It was suggested that if there is a camp out on the first weekend of the month, the Friday outing for that month should be cancelled, as the second Friday of the month is not suitable for a number of members who have other meetings to attend.

Specimens:

1. John Allison brought a branch of a wattle tree, which had teeth marks on it and sap running out. Col Hockings suggested it might be caused by parrots.
2. Kris Carnell had two specimens of galls on gum trees from the outing to Braeside Gorge and
3. Gum from a grass tree, which had been burnt around the bottom. There was some discussion and it was mentioned that this was once used for varnish and also as an ingredient of explosives.
4. Rob McCosker had some water snail shells from the outing to Braeside Gorge.

General Business: As there was no General Business the meeting closed at 8.04pm.

Program: Dave Bright presented a very interesting program on England and the Continent.

Pre-Outing Report – Dalveen Tunnel - 7th June Leader Tim Murray.

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 11.00am and travel to Dalveen where we will have lunch. Grace Cameron has offered to guide us to the railway tunnel on their property. Further information will be provided in the Border Post closer to the day. Keep an eye out for it in case there is a change of plan.