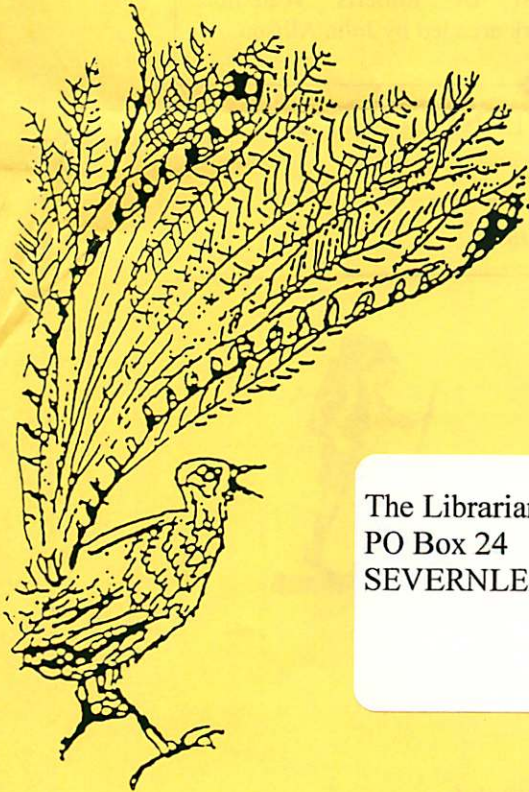


JULY 2002

Vol. 341

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
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: 21st July
Stone houses at Girraween led by
Nats members

Next Meeting: Wednesday 24th
July Program by David Wilson -
Volcanoes of North Island of N.Z.

Weekday Outing: Friday 2nd
August Dr Roberts Waterhole
Carpark area led by John Allison.

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

Deadline for Newsletter: Monday 12th August

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.



Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 26 June, 2002

Opening: The meeting opened at 7.40pm with President, Kris Carnell, welcoming members.

Attendance: There were 17 present at the meeting and 7 apologies as per the attendance book.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 22nd May were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Col Hockings, seconded by Tom Archer. Carried.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club - *Footprint* - June 2002
2. Murrumbidgee Field Nats Club - *Murrumbidgee Naturalist* - June 2002
3. Chinchilla Field Nats Club - *Urimbirra* - June 2002
4. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club - *Darling Downs Naturalist* - June 2002
5. Qld Naturalist Club - *QNC News* - July/August 2002
6. Fassifern Field Naturalists Club - Newsletter - May/June
7. Enterprise Care - Not For Profit Services - privacy kit
8. Mr M Deutscher; Alex and Denise Harslett - membership renewals

Outwards Correspondence:

1. Qld Treasury - Group Insurance Task Force - public liability insurance

This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Liz Bourne, seconded by Trish McCosker. Carried.

Business Arising from the Correspondence:

We have yet to hear back from the Group Insurance Task Force concerning what we might be offered as an alternative to our current public liability insurance. They have said that they hope to have the matter finalised by 1 September.

Financial Statement for the period from 22/5/02 to 26/6/02:

Cash book balance as at 17/5/02 \$ 907.46

Receipts:

Room rent collection	6.00
Subscriptions	80.00
Bank interest	.64

Expenditure:

Room rent	30.00
Govt tax	0.90

Balance as at 26/6/02 is \$969.40 which agrees with the cash book balance as at 26/6/02.

Less outstanding cash receipts of \$80 from membership renewals.

Agrees with bank balance as at 19/6/02 of \$889.40

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

General Business:

Photocopier

Since the last meeting, the photocopier required some servicing which cost \$88. The technician said that it should now be alright for another few years unless one particular part needs replacing, in which case it would be cheaper to get a new copier. Kris estimated that a new copier would be of the order of \$2,000 and it therefore might be more feasible to look at getting our copying done elsewhere around Stanthorpe. When our copier was bought with a government grant, the Club was required to meet 50% of the cost of this. Liz said that grants from the government's Gambling Community Benefit Fund could be used for the purchase of capital items and did not require a matching contribution from the club. She will obtain further information about this and an application form.

Brochure

Tom Archer said he had been considering developing a publication outlining places of interest in and around Stanthorpe eg. birds, fossicking, fishing etc. He thought it might take the form of a booklet that could be sold to tourists. Members at the last meeting were asked for feedback on this idea. Tom produced some further information on birds and local geology for members to have a look at. Kris asked whether he had approached the Granite Belt Tourist Association to help produce the booklet but Tom said he would prefer to develop the material a bit more before he went to them. Further comments from members were encouraged.

Outing Reports:

1. Dalveen Tunnel

This was a very interesting and informative outing led by Tim Murray and hosted by Grace Cameron on her property at Dalveen. Grace gave everyone a good history of the area and the tunnel's construction from locally made bricks.

2. Bald Rock National Park

19 attended this outing on 23rd June to Bald Rock National Park, led by John Allison. It was a wonderful winter's day with excellent views from the summit.

Pre-outing Reports:

1. Next Friday Outing - 5 July

This will be led by Millie Marsden and will be up Quart Pot Creek from Heritage Park.

2. July outing - Sunday 21st

This was scheduled to go to The Steamers on the Main Range and be led by Warwick member, David Wilson. However, on a reconnaissance trip to the area, he determined that it would not be suitable as it was of a grade 8 - 9 standard and would require a full day. It was decided to re-schedule this to a later date in the year when their

would be longer days but have it as an additional outing (ie. not on a normal outing weekend). As it would require a very early start from Stanthorpe eg. 6am, it may be best to try and arrange to camp somewhere closer on the Saturday night. An alternative for the 21st July outing could be either Nundubbermere Falls, Horan's Gorge, Wellington Rock or the Round House in Girraween National Park. It was agreed to take a trip to try and locate this house, from the Mt Norman car park.

3. Next meeting - 24 July

This will include a presentation from David Wilson on the volcanoes on the North Island of New Zealand.

Specimens:

1. Rob McCosker had the well preserved body of an azure kingfisher that had collided with a window at their place.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm and was followed by a very interesting and informative slide presentation by the McCoskers on a boat trip they had taken from Broome in WA, north along the Kimberley coastline.

Outing Report - Dalveen Tunnel - 7th June 2002



At 11.00am, 16 of us left Weeroona Park and travelled to Dalveen, where we were met a short distance along Tunnel Road by Mrs Grace Cameron, whose family have owned the property through which the tunnel passes since 1924. She gave us a very interesting and informative account of the early history of the Dalveen district and the tunnel construction.

We stood on the site of the old brick kiln and clay pit (now a small dam) where the bricks were manufactured, with evidence of broken bricks all about us. Apparently, they were all carried by a woman, Mrs Stonebridge, to the tunnel site some few hundred metres away - uphill! One wonders what a woman's wage was in those days!

We then crossed the line and walked up to the tunnel, with its graceful arch framed by large sandstone blocks. A large proportion of the bricks are in pristine condition and beautifully laid, though there is some weathering of the sandstone blocks on the northern side. A recently restored block on the southern end is engraved -1888.

After a walk along the line, we returned to the kiln site for lunch and then home.

PS. Anyone wishing to walk through the tunnel should first contact the Camerons and the stationmaster in Stanthorpe as trainee drivers are sometimes brought up from Brisbane to test their skills on the variety of grades and curves on the Warwick - Stanthorpe line.

Tim Murray
Ph 4683 2303

Outing 2nd August to Dr Roberts Waterhole Area Led by John Allison

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 11.00am, then travel to an area near Dr Roberts Waterhole car park. We will take our lunch with us and explore the forest and creek on the west side of the road between the carpark and the Mt Norman Road intersection. The outing would be graded #2 (road or track gentle hills). Hopefully it should be good for bird watching and flora. See you then.

Outing Report - Bald Rock National Park - Sunday 23 June 2002

Nineteen people gathered in the car park at the foot of Bald Rock for smoko at 10am before setting off on the climb up the mountain via the graded track, rather than tackling the direct ascent up the granite slabs. Surprisingly, there were no other visitors about in the car park - maybe the cool mornings had kept them all in bed for a while.

It was a beautiful winter's day with clear skies and not too cold. Although few wildflowers were seen, there were quite a few birds about as we ascended up through the boulder clusters. The summit was reached about 11.30am and everyone stretched out in the sun to look at the views and eat lunch. By mid-day, other people had started to arrive at the top and as we descended, we passed lots of family groups climbing up. Some of us were lucky enough to hear a lyrebird in the bush to the south of the mountain.

More cups of tea were drunk back at the car park and some people stayed on to do some further walking along the fire trail towards the border. All in all, a very pleasant outing. Our thanks to John Allison for organising it.

Bird List:

crested shrike tit	striated thornbill	currawong	white eared honeyeater
blue wren	eastern yellow robin	grey shrike thrush	kookaburra
red wattlebird	white browed scrub wren	magpie	grey fantail
welcome swallow	superb lyrebird	white throated treecreeper	white bellied cuckoo shrike

Liz Bourne

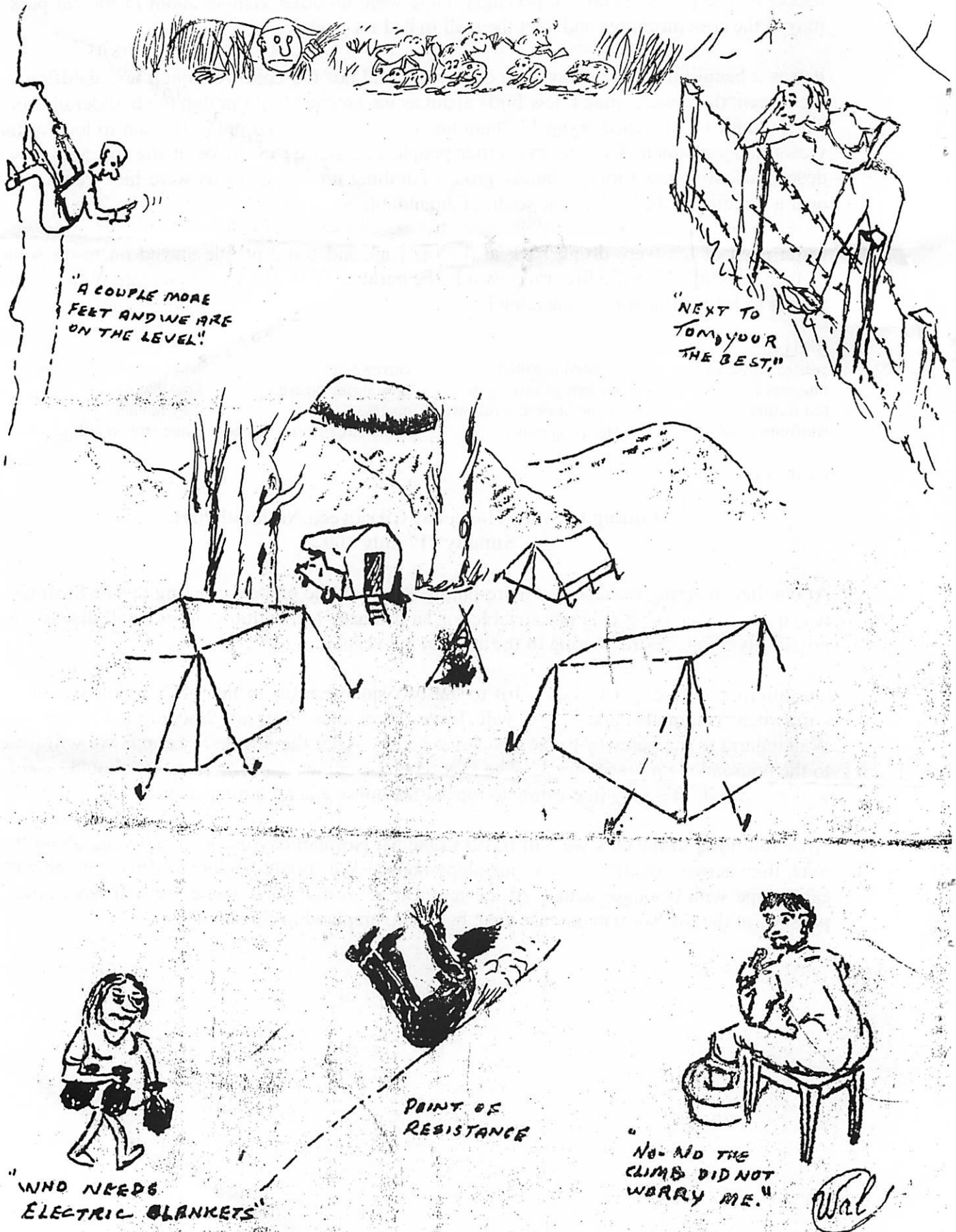
Outing to Stone Houses at Girraween National Park Sunday 21st July 2002

At our June meeting we received a pre-outing report on the proposed outing to The Steamers. It is quite obvious that it is not suitable for an ordinary Nats outing and we will discuss the possibility of an :”extra” outing to the area for the very fit.

Our alternative outing will be a visit to the two stone houses in the Mt Norman section of Girraween National Park. We will leave Weeroona Park at 9.00am and travel via Wallangarra to the gateway to the first stone house. After the mandatory cuppa we will walk to the house along a graded track. The first section is quite steep but everyone should be able to cope with it. It's very interesting to look at the house and adjoining stables.

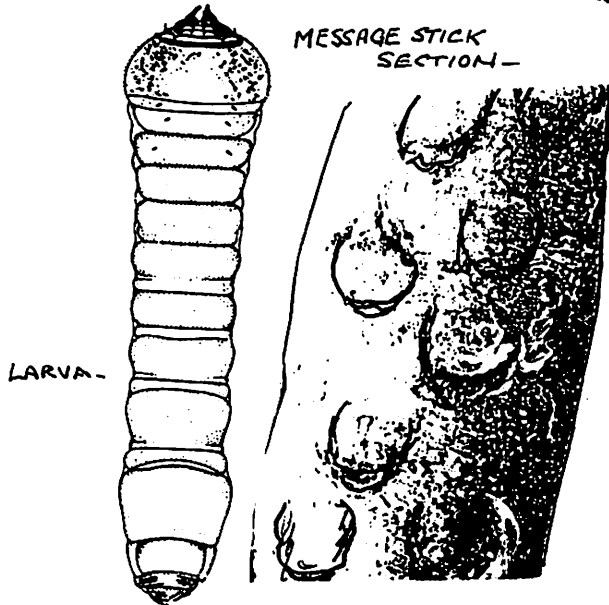
After returning to the cars we will travel to the Mt Norman day use area and walk along the road, then across country to the round stone house. We should be able to drive anyone who can't cope with a longer walk. At the moment we're not sure where we will have lunch, possibly at the Mt Norman day use area, but come prepared to carry lunch.

One of our favourite places is Gibraltar Range National Park. Recently former members, Ness and Wal Cathcart passed on to us a cartoon which Wal drew after a campout to Gibraltar Range in 1975. We reprint it here for your enjoyment. Many thanks to Wal and Ness for sharing it with us.





LONGICORN



Member John Allison brought along what appeared to be a message stick with hieroglyphics. Nobody was able to read the message, so off it went for a modern reviewing on an xray machine. Beneath these curious markings were found small larvae of longicorn beetles. They have really taken a liking to the wattle trees (*Acacia fimbriata*) bounding the Allison property.

Longicorns in their larval stage tunnel into wood of trees which are usually showing a little bit of stress. The larvae have small heads, the thoracic segments are much larger and legs are nearly aborted.

Its design is perfect for its way of life. As it chews ahead wide enough for the thorax to pass along, then the body tapers allowing frass and wood dust to fall behind it. This is pressed by the posterior segment into a plug for the tunnel below. Thus the larva never loses ground.

As mentioned they frequently choose slightly damaged trees. An interesting observation by a scientist, who noticed that the timber near a Rifle Range had been pierced by bad marksmanship. There was a general sign of lowered vitality of the trees and many longicorn beetles had found them a favourable place to lay their eggs. This family of insects does sterling work in breaking down dead wood which in turn and time improves the soil and landscape's appearance.

Just a few notes on insects from the pleasant outing to the Rail Tunnel at Dalveen. led by Grace Cameron and Tim Murray.

A 'Pie Dish' beetle was observed. So called because of its shape which is round and the size of a ten cent piece and its elytra is like an upturned shallow pie dish. It lives on the ground and is often seen under overturned logs.

A large vivid pea green grasshopper came in for a deal of admiration which it seemed to enjoy. It rested, in state, on John Allison's hand long enough for a good look at it. While admiring some tall growing large flowering Everlasting Daises (*Helichrysum bracteatum*) we suddenly saw a very well disguised small case moth. It was feeding on the flower. Its case "home" was hardly visible, decorated by sections of the golden bracts. Meanwhile it found the centre, the softer flower parts, a more palatable part to eat. Another plant was nearly passed as having berries, but were brightly coloured red galls on the plant.

The leading depressions to the tunnel may make it easier for night birds to catch insects, for we found several "Casts" with a variety of night flying insects in them.

Jean Harslett.

Management Matters

As subscriptions are now due for the next 12 months, at the next meeting there will be some time allotted for the treasurer to write receipts between the end of the meeting and the beginning of the program.

If paying by **cash** at the meeting please put your **money in an envelope with your name on the outside** to make it easier for the treasurer.

Subscriptions for 2002/2003

Family \$25.00 – Single \$15.00

Please complete your correct name and address details below and present with your subs. to the meeting in an envelope with your name on the outside, 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.

Names and addresses are only used for posting the magazine and are not passed on to anyone else.

If anyone does not want their name mentioned in outing reports could they please advise the editor.

Club Program Suggestions – 2002/2003

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: _____

Please refer to last month's magazine if you want to make a comment on campouts as we don't have room to reprint that page.