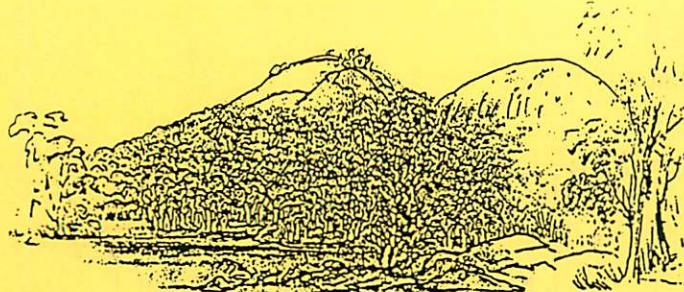
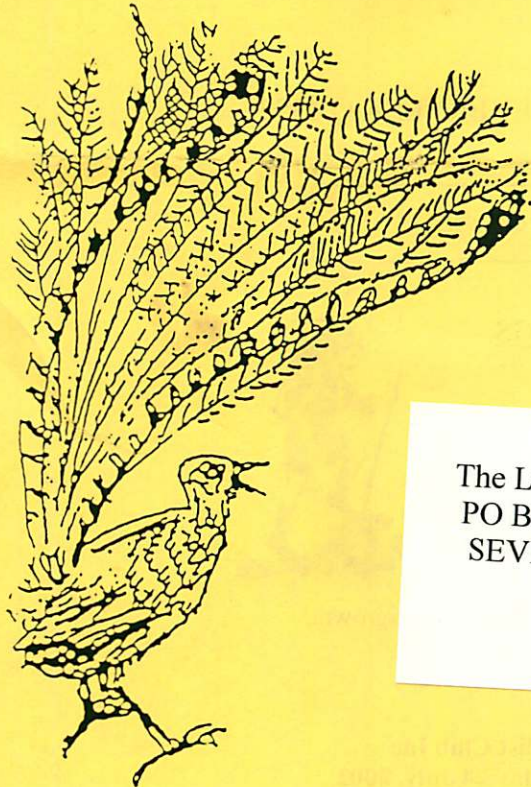


AUGUST 2002

Vol. 342



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:

Outings:

Subscriptions:

Address:

4th Wednesday of each Month at QCWA Rooms at 7.30pm.

The Sunday preceding the 4th Wednesday of each Month.

Single \$15.00 Family \$25.00 per annum July to June.

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: 25th August
to Sugarloaf with Mario Pennisi

Next Meeting: Wednesday 28th
August – Program “Remember Last
Year” prints and slides.

Half Day Outing: September 8th to
be arranged.

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

Deadline for Newsletter: 10th September

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 24 July, 2002

Opening: The meeting opened at 7.35pm with Vice-President, Millie Marsden, welcoming members in the absence of the President, Kris Carnell.

Attendance: There were 24 present at the meeting and 10 apologies as per the attendance book.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 26th June were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Rob McCosker, seconded by Patience James. Carried.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club - *Footprint* - July 2002
2. Murrumbidgee Field Nats Club - *Murrumbidgee Naturalist* - July 2002
3. Chinchilla Field Nats Club - *Urimbirra* - July 2002
4. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club - *Darling Downs Naturalist* - June 2002
5. Qld Naturalist Club - *Qld Naturalist* - June 2002
6. Qld Naturalist Club - Qld Natural History Awards
7. Peter and Lyn Haselgrove; Sue Frances; Audrey Ridge- membership renewals
8. Canon Copiers - information
9. Enterprise Care - Not-for-profit organisations survey
10. Westfarmers Landmark - change in management for our public liability insurance
11. interNational Parktours - newsletter
12. QCWA - invitation to their AGM

This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Col Hockings, seconded by Val Richardson. Carried.

Financial Statement for the period from 26/6/02 to 24/7/02:

Cash book balance as at 26/6/02 \$ 969.40

Receipts:

Subscriptions	265.00
Room rent collection	2.50
Donations	20.00

Balance as at 24/7/02 is \$1256.90 which agrees with the cash book balance as at 24/7/02.

Less outstanding cash receipts of \$130 from membership renewals.

Accounts for Payment:

Samson Total Technology - \$88 for service of photocopier

This financial report was received on the motion of John Allison, seconded by Errol Walker. Carried

Outing Reports:

1. Quart Pot Creek

Millie Marsden led a walk on 5 July up Quart Pot Creek from Heritage Park to Finney's Falls

2. Stone Houses in Girraween National Park

12 people attended this outing on 20th July to visit the ruins of the stone houses in Girraween National Park.

They first visited one stone house in disrepair and after smoko at the Mt Norman parking area, then drove to the start of the walk to the Round House and visited another building behind it.

Pre-outing Reports:

1. Next Friday Outing - 2 August

This will be led by John Allison and will be going to Dr Robert's Waterhole in Girraween National Park.

2. August outing - Sunday 25th - Sugarloaf tin mining area

This walk will be led by Mario Pennisi and will be a leisurely day.

3. Next meeting - 28 August - Annual General Meeting

As this will be the Annual General Meeting, members were reminded to bring along slides from trips in the past year as well as a plate to share for supper.

General Business:

1. Desley reported she had seen 10 black swans and 5 pelicans at Storm King Dam recently.

2. Rob McCosker spoke about the eucalypt identification and propagation workshop organised by Land Care and Greening Australia, which had been held at Girraween Environmental Lodge.

Specimens:

There were photos of the outing to the stone house at Girraween.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm and was followed by a spectacular slide presentation by David Wilson of volcanic activity on the North Island of New Zealand. Errol Walker gave the vote of thanks and Desley McDonagh was also thanked for providing the screen.

Outing Report – Stone Houses – Girraween National Park

A small group of Nats left Weeroona Park and travelled to the Mt Norman section of Girraween on Sunday 21st July. On arrival at the gateway to the first stone house we met up with Errol, Annette and Col who had travelled through the back road.

We had a pleasant walk to the house, where we inspected the workmanship and the graffiti,

which gets worse all the time. Three species of wattle were in bloom - *Acacia adunca* (Wallangarra wattle), prickly Moses and one other with red stems, but it was too dry and too early in the season for many wildflowers.

After morning tea we drove to the picnic area at Mt Norman and set off along the Mt Norman track until lunch time. We walked to the granite slabs where we had an excellent view of Mt Norman and also Bald Rock. It was very pleasant sitting in the sun on the rock admiring the view, and it was very pleasing that some people who had never seen Mt Norman before had the chance to do so.

While eating lunch at the picnic area we saw yellow faced honeyeaters and eastern spinebills in the trees above us, feeding on the mistletoe.

Col took charge to direct us to the next port of call – the round stone house. We followed the old track from the road to the site of a rock trough, through stands of *Banksia spinulosa*. There was quite a lot of conjecture as to whether the trough was used as a bath, or a dip for cleaning windows and doors. There was some broken glass and some window fittings lying around. There was also another stone structure, which may have been a toilet.

We walked through quite a lot of scratchy heath to get to the round house which is a two storied structure. The ladder and floor to the top story were quite sound and Erin went up and looked through the window. There was some lovely *Mirbelia* flowering in the area.

From there we walked uphill to the beginnings of a third stone house. The rock work on this one was beautifully done and there were ten bags of cement still lying where they were left. Erin and I explored the base of the large granite boulders nearby. We agreed it would be a lovely place to live. This house was just on the western side of Twin Peaks. We admired some *Phebalium rotundifolium* in bloom amongst the granite slabs and heard scrub wrens calling

Flower list: *Mirbelia* (*rubrifolia*?), *Melichrus* sp, *Acacia* (Prickly Moses), *Acacia adunca* (Wallangarra wattle), *Acacia* sp., *Banksia spinulosa*, *Epacris* (coral heath), *Leucopogon* (2), *Phebalium rotundifolium*.

Bird List: Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Thornbill, Yellow Faced Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, White Throated Treecreeper, Scrub Wren (call), Lyre Bird (call)
Margaret Carnell

Outing to Sugarloaf on 25th August

Leader: Mario Pennisi

The outing for 25th of August will be to a property owned by my father, of approximately 400 acres in the Sugarloaf area. We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.30 am, and travel via Sugarloaf Road, then taking Lode Creek Road into private property. Conventional vehicles will make it in with no need for a four wheel drive. We will have a smoko break at the entrance to the property, and then proceed on foot. Lunch should be taken with us. It is an easy walk with hopefully, some bottle brush in flower. In the middle of the property is an unused tin mine of approx. 100 acres. We can walk around it at ease, exploring and eventually stopping to have lunch on one of the many sand dunes. We can do more exploring after lunch, or just relax on the sand in the warm sun

Remember Last Year

The program for our next meeting on 28th August will be "Remember Last Year". Please bring any slides or prints of last year's outings. We will have supper as we usually do at the Annual Meeting so please bring a plate to share.

**STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC.
STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE
FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2002**

INCOME	\$	
Member Subscriptions	1218.00	
Donations	60.00	
Room rent	23.75	
Bank interest	0.84	
Sundry Income	26.50	
		1329.09
EXPENDITURE		
Audit fee	115.00	
Bank fees	8.90	
Insurance	249.75	
P.O.Box rental	52.00	
Magazine printing costs	88.49	
Magazine postage	269.40	
Room rental	130.00	
Sundry expenses	31.20	
		944.74

**STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC.
BALANCE SHEET – YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2002**

ACCUMULATED FUNDS:

Opening balance 1 st July 2001	\$742.55	
Profit for year	\$384.35	
Total accumulated funds 30 th June 2002		\$1126.90

Represented by:

Funds in Comm. Bank account cheque account (Statement dated 30.06 2002 attached)	\$1126.90
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Palm Valley – Northern Territory

In July we went of a 4WD trip which took in Palm Valley or Mpulungkinya, in the McDonnell Ranges of the Northern Territory. Three vehicles full of teenagers and recycled teenagers wanted to see palm Valley. We glanced at the map and saw 20kms from Hermannsberg. A reference we consulted called the drive comfortable, so we hit the track. One and a half hours later we arrived at the beginning of our trek through the valley – the teenagers really lvoed the harrowing track into the valley, revelling in the exciting angles the 4WDs lurched to, and the sound effects of the grinding rocks across the bottoms of the vehicles. Two of the group has trailers, and if we had known the real condition of the track, we would have left the trailers at the Mereenie turnoff.

Part olf the track bumps along the dry bed of the Finke River (oldest river course in the world). Along this section were some brilliant glistening rocks. Palm Valley is a wonderful sea of greens accented by the vibrant reds of the ranges. There are two moderate walks, one being the Arankala track which range through a sea of *Livistonia Mariae* palms and giant cycads (*macrozamia macdonneli*). This species has survived for more than 50 million years since the entire area was a tropical rainforest. Some of the present plants have been growing for about 300 years, as evidenced by their stems. They nestle in a gorge of sedimentary rocks which have tilted and folded providing a special environment for the species.

For a really special view, climb Initiation Rock, a site of significance for the Aranda tribe who are custodians of the area.

At the beginning of the Gorge there is a campsite with good facilities and picnic tables and a barbeque. A Ranger can be found also.

The valley is a very special and unique environment and well worth the hard track getting there – which is of course, half the fun.

Jann Newman