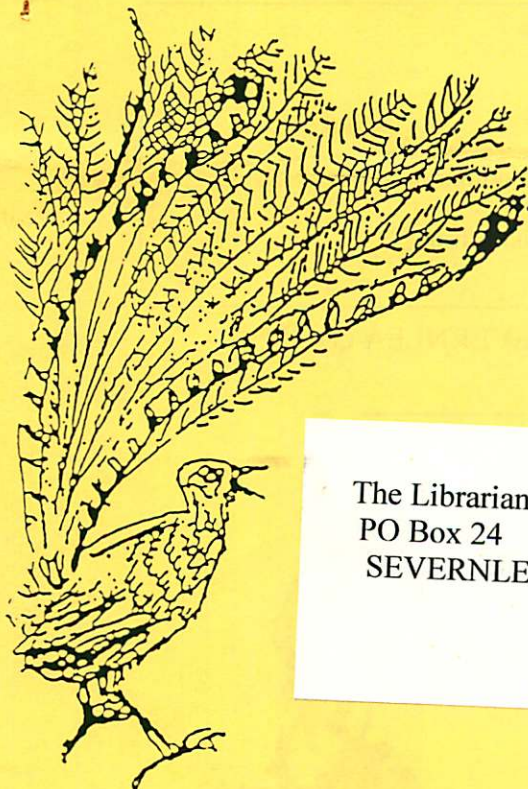


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THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST



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 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: 24th November to Sugarloaf led by Mario Pennisi

Next Meeting: Wednesday 27th November at 7.30pm Program by Peter Andrewartha

Christmas Break-up: Sunday 8th December at *Tully Park* organized by John Allison

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

Deadline for Newsletter: 10th February 2003

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.



Protocol for Travelling in Convoy



When travelling in convoy always check that the car behind is still coming. If not, stop and wait for them to catch up. This way the whole convoy stops if anyone is in trouble and can help them. It also saves people getting lost at crossroads or turns.

When a gate has to be opened, the first car opens the gate, passes through and keeps going. The second car goes through the gate, stops and closes the gate when everyone has passed through.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc
held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 23 October, 2002**

Opening: The meeting opened at 7.39pm, with President, Kris Carnell, welcoming members and visitor, Heidi Hafercamp.

Attendance: There were 19 present at the meeting and 12 apologies as per the attendance book.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 25th September were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Millie Marsden, seconded by Rod Hutchin. Carried.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club - *Footprint* - September 2002
2. Murrumbidgee Field Nats Club - *Murrumbidgee Naturalist* - October 2002
3. Chinchilla Field Nats Club - *Urimbirra* - October 2002
4. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club - *Darling Downs Naturalist* - October 2002
5. Glenn and Jenny Crossman; Hugh and June Nielsen - membership renewal
6. Gambling Community Benefit Fund re our funding application

Outwards:

1. Submission for funding for the purchase of a new photocopier to the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Liz Bourne, seconded by Margaret Carnell. Carried.

Financial Statement for the period from 26/9/02 to 23/10/02:

Cash book balance as at 25/9/02	\$ 1302.50
Receipts:	
Subscriptions	130.00
Room rent collection	2.50
Expenditure:	
Office of Fair Trading - copy of Certificate of Incorporation	14.50
Govt. tax	1.80

Balance as at 23/10/02 is \$1418.90 which agrees with the cash book balance as at 23/10/02.

Accounts for Payment:

Kris Carnell - postage of newsletter 60.30

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

General Business:

1. Fundraising to Support the Historical Society's Building to House Jean Harslett's Collection
Various fundraising options were suggested at the last meeting and it was felt that a special dinner would provide the best financial return. It was considered that holding it sometime in the first quarter of next year would be preferable as there would not be enough time left this year to organise and publicise it properly. Motion: "That the executive committee develop a proposal to stage a dinner to raise funds to donate to the Stanthorpe Historical Society". Moved: Shirlie Allum Sec: Errol Walker Carried.

2. Application for a Grant from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund

An application for a grant from this fund for the purchase of a new photocopier for the club was prepared by the Secretary and submitted in September. It is anticipated that we will hear by the end of the year whether this application was successful.

3. Public Liability Insurance

The Club has yet to receive any formal offer from Aon Risk Services Australia, the insurers appointed by the Queensland Government to operate the Group Liability Insurance Scheme. The Secretary will follow this up and will also attempt to determine the likely premium we will have to pay for next year with our current insurers, CGU.

Outing Reports:

1. Girraween National Park

The planned outing to Bottle Rock in Girraween National Park on 20 October, to be led by Errol Walker, was cancelled due to the bushfire crisis.

Pre-outing Reports:

1. Friday outing to the Underground River in Girraween National Park

As the park has been severely affected by the recent bushfire, the outing on 1 November will now go to Sentimental Rocks on the southern outskirts of Stanthorpe.

2. Christmas Break-up

John Allison will provide further details about the Christmas party on 8 December at Dell Wham's property "Tully Park".

3. January Outing

This was originally proposed to go to the Condamine Gorge but David Wilson advised that this may be an unsuitable venue at this time of the year, being either too hot or too wet. Liz suggested the third crossing of the Severn River at Ballandean where there is an excellent swimming hole adjacent to the Walker's property, only a short distance from the road. She will contact them to arrange this.

4. November Outing

Mario Pennisi will now lead his postponed outing to the Sugarloaf tin mining area on 24 November.

Specimens:

1. Rod Hutchin had a flowering white orchid, *Sarcochilus* sp.
2. Kris Carnell had flowers from 5 different kurrajong trees on their property, showing a variety of colours
3. Neil Donges asked about the name of some yellow orchids he had seen in a paddock which he said looked like fireweed. Members thought they were probably double tails - *Diuris chrysantha* - which only occur where the soil has been disturbed.

Other Business:

1. Errol Walker suggested that the club advertise its meetings and outings on the notice board in the Piazza. Liz said she had been contacted by someone putting together a booklet on activities for tourists in the Stanthorpe area and would give them details about the club's activities.
2. Errol also said he was keen to lead his postponed trip to Bottle Rock in Girraween National Park and it was agreed that this would be held on Sunday 17 November, leaving from Weeroona Park at 7.30am. 4WD vehicles would be needed

The meeting closed at 8.20pm and was followed by a slide presentation by Errol Walker of Maria and King Islands off the coast of Tasmania.

Birds on Funker's Gap Creek

We have had some unusual visitors recently, presumably because "our" stretch of Funker's Gap creek still has a reasonable amount of water in it. At intervals during the winter, we have seen a yellow-billed spoonbill, but two weeks ago it was accompanied by a Royal Spoonbill, and now we have had Pelicans!! Two glided majestically along the creek ten days ago, to the consternation of the flock of wood ducks who normally swim there – they immediately fled to the creek bank and we all watched the strangers who, after some foraging along the creek bank, proceeded to give us a splendid display of "synchronised swimming" as they foraged along the bottom of the creek in absolute unison. One remained for more than a week – I saw it several times in the early morning, but now they seem to have moved on.

We have a Peewee's nest in our neighbour's gum tree not far from our kitchen window, and in the same tree, but at a slightly lower level, a pair of Willie Wagtails have made their nest.

A few days ago I observed both sets of parents successfully driving off a Currawong, and yesterday, a Magpie. Perhaps this explains why the two species frequently nest in the same tree – double the forces to drive off invaders.

Anyway, this afternoon, the three young Peewees have left the nest and are perching on a nearby branch. There is no sign of the Wagtail family as yet.

Audrey Ridge

Christmas Break-up at Tully Park

The break-up this year will be held at Del Whan's place "Tully Park", Mt Tully Road Eukey on 8th December from 2.00pm onwards. To get to Tully Park turn right off Sugarloaf Road on to Mt Tully Road. The entrance is on the left hand side, with a sign "Tully Park".

For those who wish to walk on the property the walk to the top of Mt Tully has interesting plant and rock formations. Bring water and afternoon tea.



The BBQ will start at about 5.30pm. The BBQ and tea, coffee, milk etc will be supplied. Bring your own food to cook, chair to sit on etc. In the hope of wet weather, we will move inside. See you there.

John Allison
46813227

November Outing Sunday 24th

As my outing in August to a Tin Mine at Sugarloaf was cancelled due to bad weather, it will now take place as November's outing.

The property is owned by my parents Carmelo & Sarina Pennisi, and is approximately 400 acres. The area is known as Red Hill. It was mined back in the early 1950's by 3 brothers Larry, Billy, and Donny O'Keefe with their dozer driver Kenny Nixon. The minerals they searched for were Tin & Wolfram. Don's son Michael took over in the later years and ceased mining in the early 1990's. Many remnants of both operations are still lying around.

We will meet at Werona Park at 9.30am, Travelling via Sugarloaf road. Morning tea will be had at the vehicles, and lunch will be taken with us.

Most of the walking will be easy and under the shade of trees. Exploring the mine will be in sunlight so a wide rimmed hat & sunscreen should be taken. (unless it is raining, then bring a brolly) It will be a leisurely day for all with plenty of photo opportunities and exploring to be done. Hope to see you there.

Mario Pennisi.

Outing to The Sentimental Rocks on Friday November 1st

With the bushfires having caused much damage in Girraween the outing was changed to the Sentimental Rocks and time permitting for a walk along the creek. Reason for a morning time was the later heat of the day and another for the rocks was the uncertainty of leaving

unattended cars in a bush environment.

The six in the party roamed around the various rocks and climbed some. The size of them amazed us and also the number for such a small, close to the town area. Wildflowers were at a minimum with only one solanum, one leucopogon, one wahlenbergia being seen. Several rock orchids (small leaf) were found and all struggling for moisture. A lone elkhorn was found.

John was busy with the binocs and produced a long list of birds. He later added to this while on the creek walk.

Smoko was down at Talc Street where the ducks waited for their portion too. We crossed to the western side and went to Britannia Street bridge and back via the north bank. It is distressing to see the lack of water there as in all creeks.

Below is the bird list supplied John.

Sentimental Rocks: Magpie, wattle bird, pardalote (spotted), striated thornbill, brown tree creeper, mistletoe bird, black faced cuckoo shrike, crimson rosella, currawong, noisy friar (Helmeted) bird, Dollar bird, forest kingfisher.

Quartpot Creek: Mallard duck, wood duck black duck, lapwing plover, dusky moorhen, peewee, grebe, white faced heron, shrike thrush, sparrow, wagtail, red rump parrot, clamorous reed warbler, cormorant, grey heron, sacred ibis, dusky woodswallow, crested pigeon, wood swallow, Eurasian coot, white ibis.

Joan Stevenson

**Outing to Bottle Rock – Second Attempt – 17th November
Please note 7.30am start at Weeroona Park**

We have received permission from the National Parks to walk to Bottle Rock on 17th November. We will walk through a lot of burnt area, but it should be very interesting as we will see rocks that are usually hidden. Bottle Rock has to be one of the finest examples of a balancer anywhere in Australia. Finding the rock will only be part of the attraction of this outing because we will also have the opportunity to see some of the best granite mountains, high country swamps and alpine plants. We will be right beside West, Middle and South Bald Rocks during the course of our walk. There will not be time to climb these features but we will get some great views and possibly dramatic photos.

The weather should be warming up by then so a level 2 walk is appropriate. Walking will be 99% on old property trails or fire trails. Because walking will involve 3 hours of our time there should be plenty of opportunities for wildlife photography and bird watching. To get into the good stuff as soon as possible we will need 4WD's to get us to the start of the walk which is half way around the Palingyard Creek – Mt Norman road.

Could everyone please meet at Weeroona Park for 7.30am departure in case there is a change of plan. Lunch will have to be carried with morning and afternoon tea at the vehicles. Carry water, lunch, a hat, camera and binoculars. Shorts should be OK and I hope it rains!

If you have any questions contact Errol. on 46812008

Some Photos of the Recent Bushfire Damage

Most of the following photos were taken on Sunday 27th October during light rain. The fire started on Thursday 17th October. The rain should help with regeneration if we get some follow-up soon. There is grass sprouting near the creek at "Orana".



Rocky Hill at Eukey 27th October 2002



Fletcher Hill after fire during rain



Closed because of fire



Fletcher Hill 27th October 2002



Fire damage at "Orana"