

Report of Outing Friday 7 June 6th 2003

Leaders Archie and Grace Cameron

After meeting at the Jim Mitchell Park in Dalveen and signing the indemnity forms required by the railway, the party of 29 set off down Old Stanthorpe Road to the site of the first commercial brick works in Dalveen on Chris Stewart's property. From there to the gate into Aspinall's near the overhead bridge and on to the end of that paddock. A short walk along the fire track and railway line brought the party to the "Big Tunnel", 272 metres in length and the site of the first use of concrete for a tunnel in Queensland and one of the first in Australia.

On through the tunnel and most went on to the Gorge Dam, the oldest concrete arch dam still existing in the world. The hardy walkers proceeded to the Gorge Tank, erected in 1881, and used during the period 1881-1912 on a regular basis, then only as an emergency water supply. Back to the tunnel for lunch, then a walk to the cars and out onto Old Stanthorpe Road where Desley and Patience joined the convoy.

A short trip down Perrott's Gap to the site of the Gap Hotel, on Rokeby, whose owner Don White not only gave us permission to enter, but burnt the blackberries hiding the cellar to enable us to view this. After a description of what the hotel was like in 1875 and a look around the spot, it was back to the cars and return to Dalveen to visit the place where the bricks were made for the Dalveen Tunnel, a walk through this tunnel, 141 metres in length, then back to the cars parked on top of the tunnel.

The outing began at 9:00am and was finished by 3:30pm. Thanks to the Railway Department, Chris Stewart, Philomena Aspinall, Don White and Archie Cameron for permission to enter their property.

Grace Cameron

We saw a number of interesting things on this outing. When we were walking along the railway line we found some pieces of quartz and quite a few pieces of rock with olivine crystals on them, as well as pieces of metal in a number of shapes, and a couple of old bottles.

I did not keep a list of birds, but from memory we saw eastern rosellas, crested pigeons, noisy miners, magpies and four beautiful wedgetail eagles which soared above us disappearing and re-appearing behind the hills.

Margaret Carnell

Liston Outing 22nd June

On a cold windy day we travelled to Potanin's home near Undercliff. There about 22 of us rearranged ourselves into various 4WD vehicles and drove to Cliff Mountain where it was still cold and windy so we didn't stop long.

We drove on to the plumbago mines where we attempted to find a spot out of the wind for morning tea. Some walked down to look at the mine tunnel in the gully.

We then drove along a steep and windy track in low range, admiring the beautiful scenery, till we finally arrived at the Boonoo Boonoo River. Here we lit a fire and had lunch and some then walked a couple of kilometres while others in vehicles drove around the hills to meet them further down the river. Further along we came across a large crop of pie melons before continuing on to another waterhole for afternoon tea near the flying-fox across the river. We drove up a steep hill to the main road and continued back to Potanin's house where some warmed up with a drink while others escaped to the warmth of their cars to drive home.

G & J Crossman

List for Sunday Outing to Liston 22nd June

Pterostylis acuminata were discovered at the graphite mines.

Birds: wedgetail eagles, crested bellbirds, pied currawong, silvereyes, crows, white-naped honeyeaters, white-winged choughs, noisy miner.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 25th June, 2003

Opening: The meeting opened at 7.35pm, with President, Kris Carnell, welcoming members and visitor, David Christian.

Attendance: There were 23 present at the meeting and 13 apologies as per the attendance book.

Minutes of the previous meeting: Dave Bright pointed out that the donation to the Stanthorpe and District Historical Society was actually \$800.50, not the \$800 as stated in the minutes. Noting this correction, the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 28th May were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Rob McCosker, seconded by Desley McDonagh. Carried.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Murrumbidgee Field Nats Club – *Murrumbidgee Naturalist* – June 03

2. Toowoomba Bushwalkers' Club – *Footprint* - June

Fassifern Field Naturalists – Newsletter – June

Chinchilla Field Nats – *Urimbirra* - June

Binna Burra Lodge – Alternative Energy Workshop – 13/14 June

Stanthorpe and District Historical Society – letter of thanks for donation from Club

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

Cash book balance as at June/03	\$ 643.85
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Receipts:Expenditure:

Bank balance as at 19/6/2003 is \$604.83 which agrees with the cash book balance as at.

Income received at meeting: Photocopying for Severnlea Uniting Church	\$21.00
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Outing Reports:

29 people attended this outing which was led by Grace and Archie Cameron. The first stop was the site of the first commercial brickworks at Dalveen. Then the group headed down the old Stanthorpe – Warwick Road to the Aspinall's property where the cars were left for a walk along the railway line through the Big Tunnel. After smoko, most of the group continued on down the line to look at the dam in a side gorge and an old water tank, before returning to the tunnel for lunch. After returning to the cars, the group then travelled further towards Warwick to visit the site of the former Gap Hotel, where only the original cellar now remains. Following this inspection, they then returned to Dalveen to walk through the brick lined tunnel there. All agreed it had been a most enjoyable and informative outing.

Col Hockings presented a report on this outing which was organised by Glenn and Jenny Crossman and led by Con Potanin. 18 went on this trip to Cliff Mountain which went out past the Plumbago graphite mine. It was agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent to Con and Annie Potanin for leading the trip. Moved: Millie Marsden Seconded: Archie Cameron. Carried.

Desley McDonagh will lead a birdwatching trip to Storm King Dam which will leave Weeroona Park at 11.30am.

This trip will leave from Jackie Howe Park in Warwick at 9am

This will be presented by Narelle Crawford and will be a slide presentation about Karajini and Rundle River National Parks in Western Australia.

Patience James had some mussel shells from Boonoo Boonoo.

The Carnells had the body of a black-shouldered kite, found on their property.
Desley, Millie and Archie had prints taken on the Dalveen railway outing.
Col had photos from the trip to Cliff Mountain.

General Business:

Membership Fees

As a renewal notice needs to go in the next newsletter, we need to decide the membership fees for next year.

Motion: "That the membership fees for 2003/4 remain the same as for this year".

Moved: John Allison Seconded: Jean Harslett Carried.

Newsletter

Ways of reducing the cost of production of the monthly newsletter were discussed. The coloured paper used for the front cover costs twice as much as white paper but most members thought it was distinctive and preferred not to change it. Some re-design of the front cover may enable us to reduce the amount of space taken up by standard notices. The Committee will look at options for the next meeting.

Australian Naturalists Network next get-together

This is scheduled for Western Australia for next year but no exact date has been given yet. Desley thought it might be in September to coincide with the wildflower season.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm and was followed by an interesting slide presentation by Jean Harslett on some of the local flora and fauna of the Granite Belt, including many of the rare and endangered plants.

New Cover for Newsletter

Many thanks to Vern and Cath Sullivan for designing the new cover, which is used for the first time this month. The word which is out of line on this month's cover will be where it should be in future. This was an editorial error

Australian Naturalists' Network

For those who are interested the host for the 2004 ANN Get Together is the Darling Range Branch of WA naturalist Club Inc., PO Box 348, Kalamunda WA 6926. The co-ordinators are Joy and Eddie Dell. So far the date for this event has not been set.

Arrangements for outing to Goomburra 20th July

We will be meeting at the Jackie Howe Park just over the bridge in Warwick at 9.00am on Sunday 20th July. Smoko will be at the main picnic area at Goomburra. The plan is then to drive to where we can walk to the falls. This is dependant on the state of the forestry road. Be prepared to carry lunch. The Warwick members will obviously have an alternative if we are lucky and it continues raining. David is in North Queensland so if you have any questions please phone Kris on 46835268

Pre Outing – Friday Outing – August 8th

The outing will be led by Dave Bright and will be to the top falls at Nundubbermere. We will leave Weerona Park at 11am and travel about 30 km to an area where we can leave the cars.

Conventional cars are OK. The falls are about 1.5km mainly along a station track There is plenty to do and see at the falls. Bring stout shoes, lunch to carry and water. Further details from Dave ph 46811034. **Management Matters**

As subscriptions are now due for the next 12 months, at the next two meetings 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 2003/2004 : 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.

As quite a few of our members have Email we would like to have your email address if you are agreeable. Sometimes it is convenient to contact as many members as possible about a change in arrangements, and this could be a convenient way to do it. If you would prefer to receive your Newsletter by Email could you please indicate below.

Email address _____

Club Program Suggestions – 2003/2004

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:

Outings	Camp-Outs	Programs

Comments:

Weekday Outings

At present the weekday outings are held on the first Friday of the month from February to November. There has been a suggestion that Friday does not suit some people. Could you please indicate below if the first Friday of the month suits you, and if not please suggest another regular day for the weekday outings.

The first Friday of the month suits me Yes No

If "No", what other day do you suggest?