



The Granite Belt Naturalist



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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, Victoria Street, Stanthorpe, at 7.30pm
Outings: The Sunday preceding the 4th Wednesday of each month (Saturday outings as pre-arranged)
Subs: Single \$20.00, Family \$30.00 per annum, July to June

CLUB OFFICE BEARERS - 2013/2014

President	Rob McCosker	46835371
Vice-presidents	Kris Carnell	46835268
	Jeff Campbell	46811420
Secretary	Halina Kruger	46835206
Treasurer	Leslie Saunders	
Newsletter Editor	K & M. Carnell	46835268
Publicity Officer	Errol Walker	46812008
Librarian	Trish McCosker	46835371

The Club thanks the Queensland Country Credit Union for their donation that enabled us to buy a printer.

The Club acknowledges the support of the Gambling Community Benefit Fund in the purchase of a data projector.

Stanthorpe Field Naturalists is a group member of Granite Borders Landcare.

*Management Committee: President, Vice-Presidents,
Secretary, Treasurer*



**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

Sunday 16th October: Girraween Lodge with Rare Wildflower Consortium and exploration of rock slab with Kris Carnell. N.B. this is a week early
Wednesday 26th October
Photographing Birds with Gloria Lancaster Kelly

**Deadline for next newsletter
9th November 2016**

Pre-Outing Report – Girraween Lodge and Girraween National Park – 16th October 2016

Leaders: Kris and Margaret Carnell

Please note this outing is a week earlier than usual. We will meet at Girraween Park at 9.00am and travel to Girraween Lodge where we will meet with the people from the Wildflower Consortium for a 10.00am start to the walk. We will have morning tea at the cars when we arrive at Girraween Lodge.

After the guided walk we will travel to the picnic area at Girraween where we will have lunch, before continuing along the road to a rock slab on the corner of Mt Norman Road and Pyramids Road. There are some interesting rock gardens around the rocks.

Outing Report – Torrington – 23rd to 26th October 2016

The weather was kind on Friday when we set off for Torrington. As there has been quite a lot of rain, the grass was green and there were flocks of freshly shorn sheep around Deepwater, as well as some young lambs. Kris had to clear a fallen casuarina from the road on the way to the national park, but the road in was okay.



Rupps Wattle – *acacia ruppia*

We noticed a form of *Acacia ruppia* (Rupp's wattle) growing abundantly in the national park. It seems to grow taller than the local one. There was also quite a lot of *Leucopogon melaleucoides*. In the campground there were white-throated tree creepers calling and hopping up the trees. There were seven of us camped and we sat around the fire chatting until bedtime.

Saturday morning dawned cold but bright and sunny. Most of us went for a walk down the road while waiting for any day visitors to arrive. We investigated the site of an old hut where people have been fossicking. There was a granite slab a bit further down with couple of large *persoonia* plants with fruit on them which had us puzzled for a while.



Aki and Marg with Conservation Area sign

Our day visitors and Marg and Aki turned up in time for smoko, before Marg and Aki guided us to Glen Eden where we were to walk. On the way we stopped to look for some dotted sun orchids (*Thelymitra ixioides*), which Rob had seen closed the day before. They had opened fully by the time we got there.

Aki told us about the vegetation on their property. Of special interest are the mound springs in the swamp. We set off up the road past some magnificent specimens of *Eucalyptus brunnea* (closely related to *E. deanii*.) We crossed the creek and headed across a swamp where there were

Caladenia carnea and *Wurmbea biglandulosa* Early Nancy blooming and arrived at to a very pretty section of the creek where there were a couple of tree ferns. They are recovering from the drought last summer.

After a fairly steep walk we arrived at a rocky area with a pillar of granite called *The Finger* to admire and lovely views. In amongst the rocks *Prosanthers teretifolia* was in bloom. We sat for a while catching our breath, before heading to the site of an old mine. There were the remains of an old shaft, a few pieces of old metal, and at the bottom of a terraced slope, a round cement block with a hole in the middle. Kris thought it was the remains of a buddle. Continuing uphill, we arrived at another rocky place where we had a leisurely lunch.



Prosanthera staurophylla



Nats on mound spring

The walk back was much easier as it was downhill. As we arrived at the cars we saw a swamp wallaby, which looked at us for a bit, then hopped a few metres behind some vegetation and stopped again. Our next point of interest was the mound springs, which we reached after a short walk. The swamp is called Three Sugarloaf Swamp and there are three large mounds. Aki said there are some smaller humps appearing. There were masses of boronia just coming into flower on and



Torrington Pea
Alambe cambagei

around the mounds and we saw the Torrington pea, *Almabe cambagei* growing amongst it. It has terminal clusters of orange flowers. When people were on the top of the second mound all we could see were their hats amongst the vegetation. The mounds were quite spongy underfoot. We saw a couple more swamp wallabies here, which seemed quite appropriate.

We would like to thank Aki and Marg for a very interesting, enjoyable day.

In the evening we sat around the campfire waiting for damper to cook. It was worth the wait as it turned out well.

Sunday 25th September

We woke to rain at 4.15 and it was still raining at 6.00am, so we thought the day would be a washout. However, the sun came out so we went back to the rock slab we visited yesterday to look for male flowers on *Dondonea hirsutus*, without success. We browsed around the area for a while until a shower came in and we hurried back to the one vehicle in the car park and drove back to camp. A leisurely morning tea followed while we discussed our next move. As it had stopped raining, we decided to drive to the start of the track and walk to Ugly Corner Falls. Near a stream crossing we passed through masses of *boronia* with a few bloom out and saw more of the Torrington pea. Kris went to get a closer look and suddenly disappeared like Alice down the rabbit hole. Fortunately he had not gone down a mine shaft, but had put his foot in a hole and slipped over. He emerged grinning and quite unhurt.

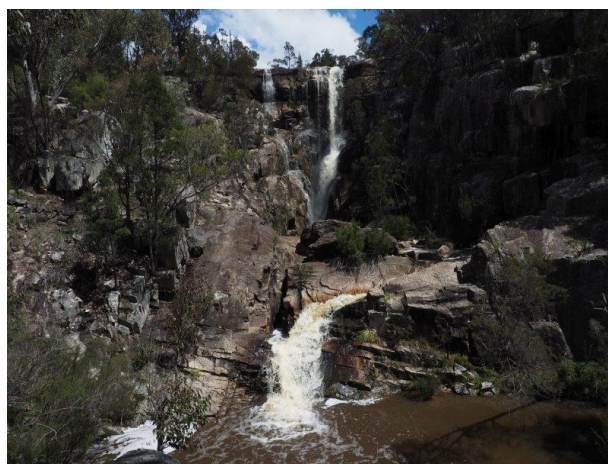


Asterolasia asteriscophora

We continued downhill until we reached a picnic table at the site of an old hut – the remains of the fireplace could be seen. Continuing on we paused many times to botanise. There were large *styphelia* plants with fruit on them, an unusual greenish flowered *grevillea*, a couple of wattles and two different *hakeas*. Across the creek were masses of golden flowers on *Pomaderris lanigera* and beside the track *Leucopogon biflorus* was in full bloom. We were excited by the blooms on *Phebalium squamulosa* and what we thought was another *Phebalium* at first, but it had spatulate leaves that were a duller green and not shiny. It turned out to be *Asterolasia asteriscophora*, which is found only in the Torrington district.

Because of the rain, the creek was in full spate and the waterfall impressive, as far as we could see through the trees. The path crossed the creek and only three of our members took up the challenge to wade across and go closer to the waterfall. We had to rely on Rob for good photos.

The area at the bottom of the falls has rock ledges just the right height for seats and there was a skink living under one of them. He was very timid, disappearing under the rock at the slightest movement.



Ugly Corner Falls



Crossing the Creek below falls

As two couples were leaving in the afternoon, we decided there was not time to go to Old Mystery Face as planned. It would be a good walk a month later when more flowers would be out. It showered in the afternoon anyhow so we lazed in camp. The three of us who stayed Sunday night woke to bright sunshine on Monday morning, so we travelled home in near perfect weather.

Margaret Carnell

Thank you to Rob, Peter and anyone else who helped with the flower and animal lists.



Thelymitra ixiooides

Flower List: *Acacia ruppia* Rupps wattle, *Acacia filicofolia*, *Acacia ulicifolia* Prickly Moses, *Acacia buxifolia*, *Acacia decora*, *Almaleea cambagei* Torrington Pea, *Asteolasia asteriscophora* (yellow flowers similar to Phebalium), *Banksia spinulosa*, *Banksia integrifolia*, *Boronia amabilis*, *Boronia granitica*, *Bossiaea rhombifolia*, *Brachyscome stuartii*, *Caladenia carnea* Pinkies, *Correa sp.* (red), *Dampiera sp.*, *Daviesia latifolia*, *Diurus sp.*, *Dodonea hirsuta*, *Epacris microphylla* Coral Heath, *Epacris Microphylla*, *Glycine clandestina*, *Grevillea viridiflava*, *Hakea dactaloides*, *Hakea macrorrhyncha*, *Hardenbergia violacea* sarsaparilla, *Hybanthus monopetalus*, *Leucopogon lanceolatus*, *Leucopogon melaleucoides* Snowbush, *Leucopogon muticus*, *Leucopogon biflorus* Twin-flowered beard heath, *Leucopogon neoanglicus*, *Leucopogon sp.*, *Melichrus procumbens* jam tarts, *Melichrus urceolatus* Urn Heath, *Mirbelia speciosa*, *Micromyrtus sessilis*, *Notolaea linearis*, *Patersonia sericea*, *Persoonia cornifolia* Broad-leaved geebung, *Persoonia tenuifolia* Fine-leaved geebung, *Persoonia sp.* fruit, *Phebalium squamulosa*, *Phebalium sp.*, *Pomaderris lanigera*, *Poranthers corymbosa*, *Prostanthera staurophylla* Torrington Mint bush (formerly *Prostanthera teretifolia*), *Oxalis sp.*, *Patersonia glabrata*, *Solanum sp.*, *Thelymitra ixiooides* Dotted Sun Orchid, *Viola betonicifolia*, *Wurmbea biglandulosa* Early Nancy, White flower along creek,

Also of interest: Tree fern, elkhorn, *Eucalyptus brunnea*.

Bird List:

On the way to Torrington: wood duck, black-shouldered kite, black-faced cuckoo shrike, jacky winter, willy wagtail, superb blue wren, magpie, currawong, rainbow bee-eaters, tree creeper, golden whistler, red-rumped parrot, welcome swallow.

At Torrington: rainbow lorikeet, white-fronted tree creeper, crested shrike-tit (call), eastern rosella, crimson rosella, rainbow bee-eater, Lewin's honeyeater, Eastern spinebill, white-eared honeyeater, kookaburra, grey fantail, fantailed cuckoo, noisy friar bird, olive oriole, superb blue wren, currawong

On the way home: sulphur-crested cockatoo, bronze wing pigeon, wood swallow, blue-faced honeyeater, masked lapwing, red wattlebird, galah.

Other wildlife: brown snake (at Deepwater railway station), skink, swamp wallaby, other wallaby, echidna.

The cement dome of a buddle



The Buddle

This photo shows the cement dome which was part of a buddle. When the heavy mineral has been collected after going through the stamper the remainder (as sand) runs onto blanket strips to go through the buddle. The strips are placed in the head of a launder and the sand is washed to the centre distributor with a small flow of water, drops onto the dome from which it spreads evenly out across the lower surface while the brooms (jute hanging on arms fitted to the distributor) revolve, settling the heavier minerals closest to the dome while the lighter railings flow to the outside. In the early days a horse was used to turn the buddle; later it was engine driven.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalists Club Inc.
Held in QCWA Rooms ,Victoria Street Stanthorpe Wednesday 28th September 2016**

Meeting opened : 7.30pm

Attendance: 13 as per attendance sheet Apologies: 5 as per attendance sheet

Minutes of previous meeting moved by L.Saunders, seconded by P McCosker carried

Business arising from minutes nil

Correspondence: Inward Newsletters from Murrumbidgee FN, Fassifern FN, Toowoomba FN and Subs from M. Compton. Emails to GBLC re Attendance Sheets and Questionnaire, and to K Carnell re Newsletters. Moved that the Correspondence be accepted R McCosker seconded K Carnell carried.

Financial report: L. Saunders moved the financial report showing a balance of \$1209.85 be accepted, seconded by A. Walker carried

Outing Reports: M.Carnell gave a report on the Campout to Torrington.

Pre-outing Report: K Carnell advised the joint Wildflower Walk outing with the Rare Wildflower Consortium will be held on 16th October at the Girraween Lodge. Members to meet at Weeroona Park for a 9.00am start.

General Business: E Walker advised there will be an exhibition in the Art Gallery in November of photographs by Jean Harslett and paintings by Frank Arcidiacono.

Anyone interested in taking part in the Aussie Backyard Bird Count on October 17th to 23rd can find information at www.aussiebirdcount.org.au

Specimens / Items of Interest: M Carnell showed maps and brochures of the Torrington area, some rocks from the Torrington Outing and some fossil and rock samples from their Dinosaur Trail.

R McCosker also showed rocks from the mine at Torrington and hakea seeds.

Next Outing: October 16th Note earlier date Girraween Lodge Leader K & M Carnell

Next Meeting: 26th October. Presentation on Bird Photos by Gloria Lancaster-Kelly

Meeting closed 8.00pm

Evening Program: Kris and Margaret Carnell showed their trip in central Queensland following the Dinosaur Trail including work at the Australian Age of Dinosaurs excavating fossils.

					\$1,229.84	Balance as per 16/08/2016
Sep-16						
D Wilson		\$20.00				
N Crawford		\$20.00				
Bank Interest			\$0.01		\$40.01	
					\$1,269.85	
CWA Rent					\$60.00	
					\$1,209.85	Balance as per statement 26/09/2016