

CLUB OFFICE BEARERS 2002 - 2003

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Deadline for Newsletter:.

SCALE OF DIFFICULTY FOR WALKS ON NATS OUTINGS

1. Flat walking, road or track.
2. Road or track, gentle hills.
sections.
Track, some steep sections.
Cross country, easy open forest, gentle slopes.
Track, steep sections common, with steps.
Cross country, some hills, some thick undergrowth.
Cross country, steep sections with scrambles over rocks etc., and some thick undergrowth.
Cross country, steep, hilly, rough, thick undergrowth.
Mountain climbing, hard going, higher level of fitness or plenty of time required.
3. Track, some hilly

Outing to Woolool Wooloolini (Wellington Rock) 23rd March 2003

Leaders Kris & Margaret Carnell

Whilst some members of the Nats will be camping at Woolli for the March outing, those of us who are unable to camp will be going to Woolool Wooloolini instead. It is quite some time since the Nats have been there and it shows a good example of the regeneration of the bush after fire.

We will leave Stanthorpe at 9.00am and travel to Tenterfield to meet any members from there at the park with the hanging rock at about 9.45am. From there we will go to Woolool Wooloolini for morning tea. The shelter shed and a picnic table are still intact and the toilet is usable, although the seat and lid have been melted by fire.

**Outing Report – Billabongs near Glenalla Woolshed
Friday 7th February 2003**

Fortunately the weather was not too hot and after the end of year break, all 21 of us were looking forward to some time in the bush. The drive seemed to go on forever, into dry traprock country, but when we reached our destination we were pleased to see reasonable water in the billabongs.

We were happy to have in our group a couple of visitors from Crows Nest, who willingly compiled our wildlife and bird list, many thanks to Geoff and Laraine Lawson.

As expected, there were very few flowers to be observed. We walked along the billabongs to the end of the reserve, those with binoculars trying to escape the not so endangered humanus chatterii. As we set off, to our surprise we disturbed a male nankeen heron. We walked to the boundary fence, and as it was nearing lunchtime, we returned to the cars for a BBQ under the welcome shade of the gracious gums.

After lunch we inspected the woolshed, with much discussion about shearing practices and noted some well-worn jute moccasins obviously used in past times. A part of the early shearing methods, we think.

Onwards along the billabongs in the other direction, we came across a pair of tawny frogmouths each trying to look like tree limbs. We noted fallen eucalypt limbs which had been severed by cockatoos seeking grubs from within, and John was fortunate enough to site a reasonable size lace monitor pretending he wasn't.

Back to base for afternoon tea, and I think most of us headed home via the rabbit fence.

Many thanks for your company, fellow Field Nats, and for sharing one of our special places, and our appreciation to Glenalla Station managers for allowing us access.

Sue & John

Bird List 7/2/2003 Glenalla Woolshed

11.45am – 3.00pm cloudy with intermittent sun, very warm.

Peaceful dove	Superb blue wren	Kookaburra	Noisy friarbird
Nankeen night heron	Little friarbird	Plumheaded finch	Pied cormorant
Tawny frogmouth	Magpie	Red rumped parrot	Pied currawong
Willy wagtail	Azure kingfisher	Crested shriketit	Brown treecreeper
Grey crowned babbler	Bronzewing	Black cormorant	Apostle bird
Peewee	Wood duck	Blue-faced honeyeater	

Other: lace monitor

Enroute to G.W.: masked lapwing, straw-necked ibis, peewee, magpie, pied butcherbird

Return trip: crow, noisy miner, magpie, crimson rosella, kookaburra, rainbow lorikeet, masked lapwing, pied cormorant.

Thanks to Geoff and Laraine Lawson (friends from Crow's Nest) for assistance in the compilation of this list.

Desley McDonagh

Outing to Sugarloaf Tin Mine “Red Hill”

27 people met at Weeroona Park. We made our start at 9.30am and headed out along Sugarloaf Road where we had 2 more vehicles and 5 more people join up with our convoy.

On reaching the Sugarloaf area we took a left into Lodecreek Road, and followed it till the end where we entered Helen Cowie’s property. A short drive through her place took us to the entrance to my father’s property. Here we stopped for morning tea before heading off on foot.

We walked about 200 metres through natural bushland, before taking a hard left and headed up towards the Qld/ NSW border fence. Following the fence line for a while we came across some mining activity which I have found out since, may date back to the late 1800s.

In this area we heard and saw many birds including three red tailed black cockatoos. We headed off again towards the main mine and went off track slightly and missed the mine, so had to back track.

By this time it was midday and quite warm, so we looked for a large shady tree to accommodate all the Nats for lunch. The perfect spot was found on a large sand dune. After lunch a few Nats stayed in the shade while the rest of us headed off.

First stop was where I had once found a blue crystal like mineral and I was anxious to find out what it was. Fortunately we had the knowledge of David Wilson with us, and he told us (rather excitedly) that it was a stone known as Beryl. After much digging, scratching and washing, most Nats had some samples to take home. We then followed the mine down to the area which was last mined back in the early 90s. Here lay a huge tumbler made on-site on the chassis of a large truck, which was partly buried in rubble. This created much interest as did all the other rusty relics laying around.

We then headed back to the vehicles for afternoon tea and a chat. I think most would agree it was an interesting day.

I would like to thank Col and Janet for the bird list, Rob and Trish for the plant list, Ron Benjamin for info about the mine and miners, and a big thank you to Jean Harslett for the information she supplied to me of the mining in that area.

Mario Pennisi

Bird List supplied by Col & Janet Hockings

Grey fantail	Eastern yellow robin	Rufous whistler	Crimson rosella
Red-tailed black cockatoo	White-throated warbler	Willy wagtail	Kookaburra
Pacific heron	Grebe	Eastern rosella	Sulphur-crested cockatoo
White-throated treecreeper			