

## CLUB OFFICE BEARERS 2002 - 2003

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**Deadline for Newsletter: 12<sup>th</sup> May**

*The club acknowledges the support of the Gambling Community Benefit Fund in the production of this newsletter.*

### **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.
- 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.

### **Quote for the Month:**

What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson* **Outing to Woolool Wooloolin (Wellington Rock) 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2003**

On a glorious autumn morning 11 people in four cars set out from Weeroona Park to travel via Tenterfield to Woolool Wooloolin. We stopped at the park in Tenterfield but as there were no more people going on the outing we headed out along the Mt Lindesay Highway to Thunderbolt's Hideout where we had morning tea.

While we were having morning tea David found a sample of pegmatite – a coarse granite with smoky quartz crystals, orthoclase and feldspar, and some of us saw a striped skink. There were several flowers in bloom including mistletoe, lobelia, ajuga (mint plant), white everlastings, whalenbergia (bluebell) and dandelions. The most interesting growing things were the fungi. On and around one of the steps there were six different ones, including honey fungus and a sulphur-yellow toadstool. We later found some tiny reddish brown ones growing in the moss beside the track. Kath found masses of slimy, bright yellow eggs on a gum leaf, and we watched a pair of white browed scrub wrens in the undergrowth.

When we turned off the Mt Lindesay Road we admired the balancing rocks which have been exposed by the bushfires which burnt out the area in October. The leptospermum trunks were festooned with delicate greenery and the eucalypts were covered in shoots all the way up the trunks. Some of them had quite bright green leaves, while others were greyish green. A wallaby bounded away from the road as we passed.

We poked around until lunch time and found orange coral fungus and fringed lilies near the shelter shed. A wedgetail obligingly flew fairly close while we were eating so that we had a good view of it, and a few caper white butterflies fluttered by.

We set out around the base of the rock through the bracken which was only as high as our knees and disturbed a pheasant coucal which flew towards Little Wellington Rock. We all climbed up this outcrop where we had an excellent view of the rock and could look down over the green countryside and the highway below. On the way back we paused to look at the peaks of the Main Range. We could see Mt Barney, the South Obelisk, Edinburgh Castle, Mt Lindesay and probably the North Obelisk. David explained that most of these are trachyte plugs which are intrusions within a Focal Peak Volcano complex about 22 million years old. The exception is the North Obelisk which is rhyolite. The granite which we were standing on, is about 200 to 250 million years old.

We meandered back towards Woolool Wooloolin pausing to look at a waterfall across the valley. Kris and I saw this some years ago and had not been able to locate it again until this trip when it was exposed because of the lack of foliage. Some of us sat to have a rest while others looked for orchids on the rocks. They found *Bulbophyllum exiguum* on the rocks, and a couple of us saw a beautiful spotted skink which was quite large. We were about to move off when Narelle saw copper coloured reptile, which we thought at first, was a snake. After much discussion we decided it was a legless lizard because of its pointed nose and ear holes. Even when it was lifted with a stick we couldn't see its legs. A second specimen slithered between two rocks a few metres further on. The following day I was cataloguing a past copy of the *Australian Geographic* in the school library and saw a picture of Burton's Legless Lizard, which looked just like the one we saw.

After returning to the cars we drove to Basket Swamp Picnic Area for afternoon tea. There were *Spiranthes* and parsons bands growing right near the cars, and *Phrasophyllum* near the path to

the water there was also a tiny boronia – maybe b. polygalifolia. We saw two types of Drosera (sundews), the common one with a small rosette of red leaves, and a larger, branching one, Drosera binata (forked sundew), which had tall stems carrying white flowers. There was also a grey fungus on the ground that looked like a bracket fungus. While we were looking at these, we were entertained by grey fantails and a golden whistler, while a king parrot and two crimson rosellas flew overhead. There was also a family of superb blue wrens.

We made our way home separately from here. All in all it was a lovely day and very interesting to see the area regenerating after a fire.

*Margaret Carnell*

#### **Flower List – Outing to Woolool Wooloolin & Basket Swamp**

Mistletoe	Lobelia sp	Yellow everlasting	Ajuga australis
White everlasting	Whalenbergia (blue-bell)	Dandelion	Billy Buttons
Wild Carrot	Daisy burr	Bladderwort	Podolepsis jaceoides
Stylidium (trigger plant)	Thysanotus sp (Fringed Lily)	Liparis reflexa (yellow rock orchid)	Acianthus (in bud)
Lomandra sp	Bulbophyllum exiguum	Hybranthus (monopetalum?)	Goodenia (2)
Spiranthes sinensis (Ladies Tresses)	Eriochilus cucullatus (Parsons Bands)	Banksia integrifolia	Drosera binata
Boronia sp	Hydroxys (golden weather glass)	Pimelia sp	Phrasophyllum
Grevellia sp	Bulbophyllum elisae		

#### **Bird List – Outing to Woolool Wooloolin & Basket Swamp**

Currawong	White browed scrub wren	Wedgetail eagle	Pheasant coucal
Superb blue wren	Grey fantail	King parrot	Golden whistler
Crimson rosella			

**Other:** 2 skinks, Burton's legless lizard, wallaby, caper white butterflies.

**April Outing 13.04.03**

**NOTE CHANGE OF DATE DUE TO EASTER**

**WHERE :** An un-named rock outcrop 700m NNE of Middle Bald Rock. The walk of approx. 8km (grade 5/7) will be mostly along National Park fire trail but also includes cross-country walking and some rough scrambling up and across granite outcrops. We plan to have morning tea

at the cars by the locked, white gate on the Mt. Norman road and lunch on top of the outcrop where you can enjoy the views of the surrounding landmarks.

**DEPARTURE : 9.00am** at Weeroona Park. As the back road to Mt. Norman requires high clearance 4WD vehicles, please arrange your transport **BEFORE** the outing.

**WHAT TO BRING:** Morning and afternoon tea will be at the cars, but you will need to carry your lunch and drinking water. Remember your hat and wear sturdy walking shoes. Don't forget your camera and binoculars.

Col & Janet Hockings Ph: 46811978

### **Scorpion Tailed Spider**

Some of the children at the Severnlea school were sitting in the pergola having their morning tea on April 1<sup>st</sup>, when one of them noticed a spider's web above his head. It was a symmetrical web with a line of "bundles" hanging down from the top. When I had a closer look I saw that the bottom "bundle" was, in fact, the spider, which blended in perfectly with the bundles of web and had a long tail held up against the web. I think the children thought it was an April Fool's joke for a start.

I took some photos and rang Jean. She very kindly arrived at the school later with information about the spider – Arachnura, known as the tailed spider or scorpion tailed spider. The bundles are egg sacs covered with web. According to the book the web is greyish green but this one was brown. They are one of the orb weaving spiders. Several species of this genus are found in Eastern Australia. The female is easy to recognise as her abdomen is drawn out into a slender, tapering "tail", with a peculiar star-shaped end.

Thank you very much Jean for going to the trouble of looking up the information and bringing it out to me. The children were fascinated by it.

Margaret

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 26 March, 2003**

**Opening:** The meeting opened at 7.35pm, with President, Kris Carnell, welcoming members.

**Attendance:** There were 24 present at the meeting and 6 apologies as per the attendance book.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> February were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Rob McCosker, seconded by Millie Marsden. Carried.

#### **Business Arising from the Minutes:**

Club First Aid Kit

This has now been purchased from the Queensland Ambulance Service and trip leaders will need to ensure it is taken on all future outings. It may be collected at club meetings or from Millie Marsden's house.

Clean Up Australia Day

Club members cleaned up the area around the Texas Road Refuse Transfer Station on Sunday 2 March, including the garden bed of native plants that the Club constructed some years ago. Thanks were given to all of the volunteers who helped on the day.

### **Correspondence:**

#### **Inwards:**

1. Murrumbidgee Field Nats Club – *Murrumbidgee Naturalist* – March 03
  2. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club - *Darling Downs Naturalist* – March 03
  3. Oreilly's Rainforest Guesthouse – conference facilities
  4. Qld Naturalists Club – *QNC News* – March/April 03
  5. Fassifern Field Naturalists – Newsletter – March 03
- Chinchilla Field Nats – *Urimbirra* - March 03  
Stanthorpe Camera Club – payment for half of post office box rental  
Samson Total Technology – receipt for photocopier and meter card

#### **Outwards:**

1. Permit application to Qld Parks and Wildlife Service for outing to Passchendaele State Forest
- This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Liz Bourne, seconded by Margaret Carnell. Carried.

### **Financial Statement for the period from 26/2/03 to 26/3/03:**

Cash book balance as at 26/2/03                 \$ 869.40

#### Receipts:

Stanthorpe Camera Club	26.00
Stanthorpe Art Group (photocopying)	<u>1.50</u>
	27.50

#### Expenditure:

Room rent for Feb. and March	30.00
Australia Post (box rental)	52.00
Qld Ambulance Service –first aid kit	47.85
Govt. tax	<u>0.30</u>
	130.15

Balance as at 26/3/03 is \$766.75 which agrees with the cash book balance as at 26/3//03.

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

### **Outing Reports:**

#### **Sugarloaf**

Millie reported on the very interesting historical outing led by Jean Harslett to the Sugarloaf area, which was attended by 15 people. They went to the blazed tree on the border at Sugarloaf and also saw a boundary rider's message hole in a tree at Dalcouth. The group also visited the Wilson's Downfall area where they were joined by Dore McCosker, a former resident.

#### **Woolool Wooloolini (Wellington Rock)**

11 people attended this outing on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, led by the Carnells. Smoko was had at Thunderbolt's hideout off the Mt Lindesay Highway where some interesting fungi were observed. The Wellington Rock picnic area was reached by 11.30am and most of the group explored this area until lunchtime. An orange coral fungus and fringed lily were observed as well as a wedgetailed eagle and a Burton's legless lizard. The group walked around the Rock after lunch and then moved on to Basket Swamp for afternoon tea. There were a number of frogs found here, a flowering grevillea and lots of biting flies. The area had been severely burnt in the fires last year but there was prolific epicormic growth on the eucalypts.

#### **Pre-outings:**

Sunday 13 April

Col Hockings will be leading this to a rock north-east of Middle Bald Rock. There will be a 9am start and \$WD vehicles will be needed to access the road to the gate.

May long weekend – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> May

At least 12 people look likely to be going on this outing to "The Gorge" area on the Clarence River, off the Gwydir Highway.

**Specimens:**

David Wilson had a piece of granite pegmatite showing large quartz crystals and feldspar

Col Hockings had a body of an antechinus as well as another unidentified mammal that may have been a planigale.

Margaret Carnell had photos of the Clean Up Day and the Tenterfield Railway Station plus an article in the *Australian Geographic* about legless lizards

Millie had photos from recent outings – Errol's walk at Girraween; swimming in the Severn River at the third crossing; Bolivia and Wellington Rock

Narelle had a book showing some of the orchids seen on the trip to Wellington Rock

**General Business:**

Fund raising for the Jean Harslett historical collection

As discussed at the last meeting, the club will conduct a raffle and street stall to raise funds to assist the Historical Society build an extension to house Jean's photos and other records. The raffle will be a wooden tray made by Mario Pennisi filled with local, home made food. The dates suggested for selling raffle tickets are 3, 4, 5, 10 and 11 April.

Raffle tickets will be \$1 each. On Friday 11 April, there will also be a street stall and members were urged to provide goods for sale. Members at the meeting were also asked to help sell raffle tickets. Kris will organise the roster.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm and was followed by a slide presentation by Rob McCosker of scenes from around Stanthorpe.

**STREET STALL & RAFFLE**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April

From 8.30am

Outside the Independent Grocer

Donations of cooking, produce etc appreciated

Also help with manning stall

As our volunteer for Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April is unavailable, we need someone to sell raffle tickets that day. If you can help please ring Kris on 46835268