



The Granite Belt Naturalist



Mail Address: Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, Stanthorpe Qld. 4380

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



The Pyramids, Girraween National Park

The Club acknowledges the support of the Gambling Community Benefit Fund in the production of this Newsletter

- 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 (Friday outings as pre-arranged)
- Subs:** Single \$15.00, Family \$25.00 per annum, July to June

Mail contributions: The Newsletter Editor, PO Box 33, Severnlea Qld. 4352. **Email:** orana@halenet.com.au

CLUB OFFICE BEARERS - 2002/2003

President	Kris Carnell	46835268
Vice-presidents	Millie Marsden	46811593
	Mario Pennisi	46813750
Secretary	Liz Bourne	46836374
Treasurer	Dave Bright	46811034
Newsletter Editor	Margaret Carnell	46835268
Magazine Committee	Wendy & Neil Donges	46812913
Publicity Officer	Patience James	46811853
Librarian	Trish McCosker	46835371
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



**Outing to Coolmunda Conservation Park Sunday
24th August 2003**

***Deadline for next Newsletter:
9th September 2003***

Leaders: Peter & Lynette Haselgrove

The August outing will be to Coolmunda Conservation Park near Inglewood. The park covers approximately 89 ha of sandstone country adjacent to Coolmunda Dam and has a good variety of heath-type plants, which hopefully will be in flower. It also contains a rare ironbark, *Eucalyptus virens*.

It is suggested we meet at 10am at the Coolmunda Dam picnic area (tables and toilets) for smoko and then proceed to the park, about 5 minutes by car. Members may like to car pool from the dam in any 4WD vehicles, as the road verge is fairly steep to the parking area. After a walk around the area we can return to the dam picnic area for lunch and members can either look around that area or return to the park after lunch and then make their own way back to Stanthorpe.

Directions: - from Stanthorpe proceed along the Stanthorpe/Inglewood road (via Pikedale) to the junction with the Texas Road at Greenup. Turn left, proceed approximately 4 km and turn right into Tobacco Road. Go a further 4km along Tobacco Road until you pass the park and then turn right at a Coolmunda Dam picnic area sign. Cross the beginnings of the MacIntyre and turn right into the picnic ground near the dam wall. Distance from Stanthorpe is about 90km.

Peter Haselgrove

We will leave Weeroona Park at 8:30am to give us plenty of time to meet at the picnic area at 10:00am.

Peter was involved in the gazetting of the park and will explain the history and significance of the area while we are having smoko. While he was doing the pre-outing there was boronia in bloom, so hopefully there will be some good wildflowers.

Kris

Annual Meeting

**Wednesday 27th August 2003
At 7.30pm**

Please bring supper

**Program will be *Remember Last Year*
both slides & prints**

Please provide suggestions for next year

Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 23rd July, 2003

Opening: The meeting opened at 7.35pm, with President, Kris Carnell, welcoming members and visitors, Laurie and Colleen Jones, and new members, John and Vo Hall.

Attendance: There were 23 present at the meeting and 13 apologies as per the attendance book. The meeting was informed that Jean Harslett had been admitted to hospital that morning and a get well card was circulated for members to sign.

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

Business Arising from the Minutes:

1. New Cover for Newsletter

Vern and Cath Sullivan were thanked for their work in designing a new cover for the newsletter which has resulted in a more economical use of the pages and a more modern look. Kris asked for further suggestions about the general layout of the newsletter eg. changing the description for the "scale of difficulty" to describe walks. John Allison said it would be better not to use italics on the front cover as it made it more difficult to read.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Murrumbidgee Field Nats Club – *Murrumbidgee Naturalist* – July 03
2. Toowoomba Bushwalkers' Club – *Footprint* - July
3. Fassifern Field Naturalists – Newsletter – July
4. Chinchilla Field Nats – *Urimbirra* - July
5. Australian Naturalists Network – report on last get-together in Tasmania
6. Qld Naturalists Club – *QNC News* – July/August
7. Qld Naturalists Club – request for nominations for the Qld Natural History Award for 2004
8. Office of Fair Trading – annual return
9. Land for Wildlife – *Community Nature News* – July
10. Col and Janet Hockings; Diana Holley – membership renewals

Outwards:

1. Letter of thanks to the Potanins for guiding the walk on their land

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

Financial Statement for the period from 25/6/03 to 22/7/03:

Cash book balance as at 25/6/03 \$604.83

Receipts:

Photocopying (Severnlea School) \$21.00

Expenditure:

Photocopy paper 21.90

Govt. tax 0.90

Bank balance as at 22/7/03 is \$603.03 which agrees with the cash book balance as at 18/7/03.

Accounts for payment:

Samson Total Technology \$15.19

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

Outing Reports:

1. Storm King Dam

7 people went on this outing on Friday 4 July, led by Desley McDonagh. The numbers of birds seen was less than on past outings here but there were still quite a few species sighted.

2. Goomburra Valley

David Wilson reported on his outing to the Goomburra Valley on 20 July. 17 people went on the trip which involved a walk to Araucaria Falls before lunch followed by an afternoon walk to the escarpment lookouts.

3. Next Friday Outing – Nurdubbermere Falls

This will be on the 1 August and will be led by Dave Bright. He said they will go to the upper falls and he anticipated that it would be a maximum of 3km.

4. Friday Outing in September

This will be on the 5th September and will be to Tom Minch's mine at Dalveen and will be led by Archie Cameron. The meeting place will be Jim Mitchell Park at Dalveen.

5. Next Outing – 24th August

The proposed outing to the Herries Range requires further investigation so trip leader, Peter Hasegrove is proposing instead to go to the Coolmunda Conservation Park, on the shores of the Coolmunda Dam near Inglewood. This is a sandstone area and there

should be lots of wildflowers out by then. The proposed meeting place will be the Picnic Area at 10am and the Park is 5mins drive away.

6. Next Meeting

This will be on the 27 August and will be the Club's Annual General Meeting. Members are reminded to bring along slides from trips during the previous year and food to share for supper afterwards.

Specimens:

1. Ian Milincovich had the lower jaw of a wombat, found near Cooma in NSW and a sperm whale tooth from the west coast of Tasmania
2. Rob McCosker had *Hovea* and *Boronia* wildflowers from the bushland near the Girraween Environmental Lodge
3. Margaret Carnell had some books on fungi
4. Desley McDonagh had the latest edition of the Shire Council's booklet, *Stanthorpe – Interesting Facts*, which included a bird list compiled by her.

General Business:

1. Whale Watching Trip

Quart Pot Craft Shop and Crisp's Coaches are organising a whale watching trip to Hervey Bay from 28th September to 1st October at a cost of \$480.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm and was followed by a slide presentation by Narelle Crawford on the Karajini and Rudall River National Parks in Western Australia.

Outing Report to Goomburra State Forest – Sunday 20 July 2003

Under a partially cloudy sky, a small collection of cars departed Jackie Howe Park in Warwick for the outing to Goomburra State Forest. With more joining us at the state forest picnic ground, a total of 17 settled down to the customary cuppa before tackling the drive and walk to Araucaria Falls.

After driving up the mountain, all started the walk, no doubt contemplating how a 3km walk could take two hours return. The early part of the walk was through fairly dense rainforest, much of it regrowth from the past forestry days. As the track continued, the descent changed increasingly from the horizontal to the vertical. A few walkers started to drop off the end of the line as the somewhat precarious descent to the falls made discretion the wiser course.

Around a dozen made it to the end of the track where Araucaria Falls, drop into a small pool surrounded by cliffs. The small catchment means that the falls rarely have much flow, except after heavy rain. At these times, the descent would certainly be an adventure.

Shortly before returning to the cars, we paused to admire a pale mauve coral fungus growing on the track. Minutes later, we settled down to a relaxing lunch with magnificent rainforest giants standing guard.

Two short walks after lunch provided breathtaking views. The first was the short walk to the recently rebuilt Sylvester's Lookout. This walk through pristine rainforest gives meaning to the phrase, a living cathedral. At the lookout, we were greeted by the stunning panorama of the Fassifern Valley and the Moogerah Peaks. The wind whipping up from the valley floor reminded us that it was still winter.

The final walk of the day was to the Castle Rock Lookout. The afternoon sun made the imposing fortress of Mt Castle stand out proudly at the head of the Laidley Valley. The sun played hide-and-seek through the mosaic of gullies and ridges. In the far distance, the high-rise buildings of Brisbane could just be seen on the smoky horizon.

With the day growing short, we retraced our steps to the cars and returned to the picnic ground for a well-earned cuppa. The park was to provide one more surprise. Some observant Nats in Kris's party had noticed numerous orchids growing in and around the cuttings along the descent. A few of us returned to investigate further. In one tree, the leaves of a *Dendrobium aemulum* were located. Growing in the cuttings were

numerous greenhoods (*Pterostylis curta*). They were prolific, with one small patch of less than a square metre containing around thirty specimens in various states of growth.

With the sun by now low on the horizon, the last duty of the day was the drive home. All of us no doubt took memories of a pleasantly relaxing day in a wonderful corner of the Southern Downs.

David Wilson

Fungus on Goomburra Outing

We saw a number of different types of fungus on the Goomburra outing. The purple, branched fungus growing on the ground was probably *Ramaria fumigata*. Tony Young describes it in *Common Australian Fungi* as violet or purplish but sooty-brown with age, the tips remaining purple; extremely branched, crowded and compact; flesh white or creamy; may bruise reddish. Habitat: In dense clumps on soil amongst leaf litter.

The photo I took looks very much like the illustration in the book.

Margaret

Bird List Goomburra Area Sunday 20th July

Pied currawong	Bell birds (heard)	Laughing kookaburra
Crested pigeon	Unidentified thornbill	Satin bower bird (male & female)
Whip birds (heard)	Crimson rosella	Sulphur crested cockatoo
Red browed finch	Cat bird (pre outing)	

Outing Report 1st August to Nundubbermere

Seven braved the conditions for the Friday Nundubbermere upper falls trip. Welcome to John & Vo Hall on their first outing with us. Vehicles were parked at the lower falls rest area adjacent to Monday creek and from here we bush bashed along the high ground, finally dropping across a creek near an old camping area. Lunch was enjoyed on rocks in the river with a clear view of the lifeless falls. It was noted how stressed the trees and shrubs were due to the incredibly dry conditions. Bird life was fairly quiet and only 4 plants were seen in flower. On the return trip we followed the small creek upstream and tracked back along the dingo fence. The weather was glorious which complemented our “yellow” day.

Birds

Yellow robin, Yellow faced honeyeater, Yellow rumped thornbill, Double bar finch, Thornbill, Spotted pardolote, Tree creeper, Currawong, Eastern rosella, Grey shrike thrush, White plumed honeyeater, Fantail

Flowers: *Pittosporum phillyreoides*, *Melichrus urceolatus*, Acacia (2 species)

Pre-Outing Tom Minch’s Mine Friday 5th September

Leaders: Archie & Grace Cameron

We will meet at the Jim Mitchell Park at Dalveen at 9:00am and then drive fairly close to the mine. Tom Minch mined for gold for many years in a sandstone conglomerate but never found any gold. It is an interesting area. There is a pleasant creek on the property and also a stand of fern that appears to be unique to the area.

Be prepared to carry morning tea and lunch as we are trying to arrange other activities for the afternoon. Further details will be supplied at the meeting.