



# 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 – 2003/2004

President	Kris Carnell	46835268
Vice-presidents	Millie Marsden	46811593
	Col Hockings	46811978
Secretary	Liz Bourne	46836374
Treasurer	Dave Bright	46811034
Newsletter Editor	Margaret Carnell	46835268
Magazine Committee	Wendy & Neil Donges	46812913
Publicity Officer	Janet Hockings	46811978
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



**Coming Up**

**Deadline for next Newsletter:  
10<sup>th</sup> November 2003**

**Outing Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October:** Girraween National

Park with Rob McCosker

**Next Meeting Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October:** Program on the Cactoblastus moth presented by Jack and May Bennie from Dalby

**Friday Outing: 7<sup>th</sup> November:** Boonoo Boonoo led by Margaret Carnell

**Outing Report Tom Minch's Mine and Connolly Dam**  
**Led by Arch and Grace Cameron**

Twelve people met at Jim Mitchell Park on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September and proceeded along Old Stanthorpe Road to the old Dalveen School site (1878) from where 2 head stones on graves were visible on a nearby hill. Next stop was to view a patch of wire fern (?), rare in this district. The next attraction of the day, Tom Minch's mine caused some curiosity. Bats and cave flies populated the mine, no valuable metals. Some rock orchids, ferns and hardy moss have so far survived the drought and were clinging to the sandstone conglomerate from which the mine was excavated. The mine is known as Tom Minch's mine because he was the miner who excavated this mine some 65 years ago.

Morning tea was enjoyed amid an area of paper bark trees along with the company of a black snake and an echidna. Our lunch stop was on the top of a hill where, although smoky, good views could be seen of the main range and back to where the rabbit fence crosses the highway near Cottonvale.

Ten minutes drive from our lunch area we met Chris Downing, the owner of Glencoe. Chris took us to see corrugated iron hut containing the remains of bare essentials of camping, with a corrugation iron fire place, then on to see a substantial waterfall formation, dry at the moment. By now, we had learnt the steepness and roughness of this property and from the top of the falls we had our first glimpse of the hills south of Warwick, where the railway runs below the "Big Tunnel" and just down from where we walked from the tunnel on the previous trip to this area.

The next point of interest was an eagle's nest, complete with young eagle, across the valley below the waterfall, then on to the Rosenthal Creek Gorge, viewed from the natural lookout of jutting rocks. Directly below this lookout is the waterhole known as "The Goathole", so named because only goats can get in there. The eagles seen from here were most likely the same eagles viewed from the Tunnel area some months earlier as the railway line is just over the hill (well, across the gorge over one hill and over the next hill). On our way into a limestone quarry we passed one of the original lime kilns in the area. Its later use has been for storing explosives for quarrying limestone. This was last worked until 1980, when the limestone was treated at the smelter south of Warwick. This quarry also produced minute amounts of gold, copper and zinc. We did see good samples of iron pyrites. This is now a beautiful peaceful spot with very quiet wallabies abounding. Here we said goodbye to Chris and proceeded to Connolly Dam where a much-needed afternoon tea overlooking the dam was had before our trip home.

*Grace.*



### Birds

### Wildlife & Plant List compiled by Millie Marsden

Wedge Tailed Eagles	Noisy Miner	White winged Chough
Crimson Rosella		
Spotted Pardalote	Scaly Breasted Lorikeet	Crow
Kookaburra (at Connelly Dam)	Great Cormorant	Black Swan
Little black Cormorant	Dusky Moor Hen	Cootes
White Eyed Duck		
Superb Blue Wren		
Welcome Swallow		
Australasian Grebe		

Many kangaroos (I am adding wallabies), right of way given to an echidna, close viewing of a red bellied black snake, bearded dragon.

**Flora:** Acacia species (5 including nerifol), Leptrospernum, Hardenbergia, Goodenia glabra, Swainsona sp, Debdrobium linguifolium (in bud).

## Nats Outing for October 19<sup>th</sup> – Girraween National Park

Meet at Weeroona Park to depart at 9.00am, travelling via Sugarloaf Road and Eukey Road to the junction with Mt Norman Road. We will drive up Mt Norman Road a little then climb the small granite hill to the South for some views of the Pyramids etc, then return to the cars for morning tea. We will then continue to the Dr Roberts Waterhole parking area and spend the rest of the day exploring the area downstream of the waterholes.

Lunch will have to be carried, to have at the waterfall, which hopefully will have more flow than the trickle seen on the pre-outing. Some wildflowers were also seen and hopefully there will still be some on the outing. The area has plenty of scope for bird watching, we saw Striated thornbills and Grey fantails with nests, so bring binoculars.

Parts of the outing will have no made tracks so I rate it at 7, though the walks are not very long, and I think we should be back to the cars at about 4.00pm.

Leader Rob McCosker Phone 4683 5371

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2003

**Opening:** The meeting opened at 7.31pm with the Vice-President, Col Hockings, welcoming members and visitor, Geraldine Gahn from Ireland, the cousin of Desley McDonagh.

**Attendance:** There were 15 present at the meeting and 5 apologies as per the attendance book.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 27 August were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Tom Archer, seconded by Patience James. Carried.

### Correspondence:

#### Inwards:

1. Murrumbidgee Field Nats Club – *Murrumbidgee Naturalist* – September
2. Toowoomba Bushwalkers' Club – *Footprint* - September
3. Fassifern Field Naturalists – Newsletter – September

4. Chinchilla Field Nats – *Urimbirra* -
5. Qld Naturalists Club – *QNC News* – Sept/Oct
6. Samson Total Technology – invoice - \$38.50
7. Membership renewals – Jenny and Andrew Cameron; Val White; J. Deutscher; Harry and Joan Stevenson
8. International Parktours – *IPT Traveller* - September
9. Australian Naturalists Network – information on their 2004 gathering

This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Liz Bourne, seconded by Desley McDonagh. Carried.

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

1. Australian Naturalists Network

Desley, Peter Kerr and the Allison's are likely to be attending this gathering in Western Australia next year.

#### **Financial Statement:**

In the absence of the treasurer, no financial statement was available.

#### **Outing Reports:**

1. Friday outing – 5 September to Tom Minch's mine near Dalveen

No report was available on this outing as no one at the meeting went on it.

2. Broadwater State Forest – Sunday 21 September

Liz Bourne reported on this outing which was attended by 12 people.

3. The next Friday outing will be to Mt Norman

4. The October outing will be led by Rob McCosker.

5. The next meeting will be presented by the Hockings and will either be about the Undara lava tubes or Mt Moffatt.

#### **Specimens:**

No specimens were presented.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm and was followed by some videos provided by Col Hockings of a Qld Naturalist Club trip to Hinchinbrook Island in 1975 and one of a trip along the Overland Track in central Tasmania.

### ***Outing Report to Broadwater State Forest – Sunday 21 September***

A small group of 10 participated in this outing which visited the Broadwater State Forest, north west of Stanthorpe. After leaving the cars at the end of Plant Lane, we followed a track through the southern section of the forest until we reached the boundary with private property owned by the Plant family. There was a mass profusion of pink kunzea along this section of the track but few other flowers about.

Taking a short cut through here, we passed by the Plant's hut and arrived at Broadwater Creek in time for smoko on a grassy bank under the trees. Although the dry conditions had reduced the creek to just a few waterholes, there were a few birds about and we were lucky enough to find the nest of a grey fantail just above us. Patience and Desley remained here for some birdwatching while the rest of the party continued on down the creek to the northern section of the State Forest until stopping for lunch at a couple of the larger waterholes. The impact of the prolonged drought was certainly noticeable here with the "Broadwater" reduced to the "narrow puddles". After lunch, we continued along the track beside the creek for a short distance before taking another track which slowly climbed upwards in an easterly direction. We passed quite

a variety of vegetation types, including some good heathy (but dry) swamps but unfortunately few flowers were seen.

Having reached the eastern boundary of the forest, close to its junction with Ellwood Road, we then headed south again passing through some drier areas of eucalypt forest. In a small gully between granite slabs, we discovered what appeared to be *Mirbelia confertiflora* which is listed as a rare species on the Granite Belt. This has been recorded previously at Jolly's Falls.

We arrived back at the cars at about 3pm after a pleasant stroll through the forest wishing the prevailing weather conditions had been more conducive to a better wildflower display. Our thanks to the Plant family for allowing us the traverse their land.

Liz Bourne

### **Bird List**

crested pigeon	starling	pied currawong
(?) tree creeper	crow	butcher bird
crimson rosella	eastern rosella	red browed finch
eastern spinebill	wattle bird	white eared honeyeater
yellow tailed black cockatoo	grey fantail	white throated honeyeater

### **Plant List**

Kunzea oborata	Stenanthemum scortechinii	<i>Leucopogon sp.</i>	Waxed lipped orchid
A mauve violet	<i>Mirbelia confertiflora</i>		

## **Outing to Boonoo Boonoo Area – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November**

**Leader:** Margaret Carnell

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am and travel to Boonoo Boonoo. Because we have been on holiday we have not had time to do the pre-outing yet. (Hope to do it on Sunday). We won't need to carry lunch or morning tea and all the walking is easy.

There is plenty to see in the Morgan's Gully area, the Cypress Rest Area and of course the Boonoo Boonoo Falls from the lookout. Bring binoculars as there are always birds to be seen in this area. I'm hoping there will still be wildflowers in bloom as well. There may be a day use charge of \$6.00 per vehicle for those who do not have a pass.

### **Nats Rules for Travelling in Convoy**

When travelling in convoy make sure the car **behind** is in view. If not, please stop and wait for it to catch up. This means that if anyone breaks down everyone stops. It also means that no one misses a turn in unfamiliar territory.