



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



Deadline for next Newsletter:
9th February 2004

Coming Up

Outing Sunday 23rd November: Glen Lyon Dam led by Peter Haselgrove

Next Meeting Wednesday 26th November: Program *Mt Moffatt* by Col Hockings

Sunday Outing Break-up: 7th December at Tully Park

Sunday Outing January 18th 2004: Third Crossing led by Liz Bourne

Outing Report 19th October - Girraween National Park

The perfect Spring morning attracted 14 people to the monthly outing. We parked along Mt. Norman Road a short distance from Pyramids Road and from the first few metres up the granite slope the effects of the recent drought and more recent good rain were obvious. In the small pockets of rock gardens many plants were quite dead, but in some spots there were magnificent specimens of *Phebalium ambiens* and *Eriostemon myoporoides* in full bloom. The view from the top of this rock towards the Pyramids included the severely damaged slopes of the Sliprocks, which showed how little that area had recovered in the 12 months since the bushfires. Fortunately the fires did not cross the road at this point and I was able to find a flowering plant which I had seen here on a previous trip, but haven't seen anywhere else in the National Park. I was most grateful to be told, by those ardent amateur botanists in our group, that it is called *Keraudrenia hillii* var. *hillii*, and I have since learnt that is not that uncommon. We returned to the cars for morning tea, then made our way to the Dr Roberts Waterhole carpark where some keen eyes found a couple of Duck orchids and as we started down the track we also saw Double tail orchids, Bearded orchids and Sun orchids. Upon reaching the Waterhole and enjoying the sight of the extensive expanses of water both up and down stream from the conveniently placed seats we were saddened to see that the 'orange thing' floating in the reeds was in fact a large Goldfish.

We continued downstream a short distance, following a rough track which was once the vehicle access to a popular camping spot. The edges of the granite slab which dams Bald Rock Creek, creating the waterholes, supports a wealth of plants and the Calytrix and Cryptandra were putting on a wonderful floral display for us. One member disturbed what was first thought to be a small snake, but proved to be a Burton's legless lizard. It's coppery colour is usually a good camouflage amongst fallen gum leaves but it was very visible on the sandy track and granite, until it wriggled into a Cryptandra bush where it's colour mingled with the red of the flowers and it almost disappeared. Our keen eyed orchid enthusiast discovered a 'flock' of Flying Duck orchids nearby, with some very nice specimens for the photographers.

A short bush bash brought us to the top of the cascades with its spectacular view over the waterfall to the Pyramids in the distance. Our path down to the water's edge was steep through low scrub with Boronia in full bloom. We had lunch in the shade of the rock wall with a view of the waterfall then spent some time investigating the rocks dislodged a few years ago, possibly by a lightning strike. The recent rain had the creek running well and it was a pleasant spot to linger. A few of the members decided to return via the creek bank, and were rewarded with the sighting of a Rufous fantail and its lovely wineglass shaped nest and also a clump of flowering Tongue orchids on the edge of a small rock

pool, which was rather unusual. The remainder of the group returned over the hill to the track then back to the cars by about 3.00pm.

Rob McCosker.

Bird List - Girraween National Park 19th October

Superb Fairy-wren	Variegated Fairy-wren	Grey Fantail	Rufous Fantail
Grey Shrike-thrush	White-throated Gerygone	Rufous Whistler	Eastern Spinebill
Striated Thornbill	Yellow Robin	Scarlet Robin	Spotted Pardalote
White-browed Scrubwren	Currawong	Dollarbird	Crow
Kookaburra	Magpie	Crimson Rosella	Little
Eagle			

Reptiles seen included - Cunningham's Skink, Dragon Lizard and Burton's Legless Lizard.

Plant List

Ozothamnus obcordatus subsp. major, Hibbertia obtusifolia, H. acicularis, H. riparia, (Guinea flowers) Leucopogon muticus L. biflorus, (Beard heath) L. melaleucoides, (Snowbush) Lissanthe strigosa, (Peach heath), Epacris microphylla, (Coral heath) Bertya sp. aff. B. gummifera, Bossiaea sp., Daviesia latifolia, (Hop bitter pea) Dillwynia retorta var. phyllicoides, (Showy parrot pea) Mirbelia speciosa subsp. speciosa, (Showy mirbelia) Hardenbergia violacea, (False sarsaparilla) Dampiera stricta, (Blue dampiera) Goodenia sp., Prostanthera nivea, (Showy mintbush) Calytrix tetragona, (Heath myrtle) Leptospermum polygalifolium, (Common tea tree) L. novaeangliae, (New England tea tree) L. minutifolium, (Small-leaved tea tree) Melaleuca alternifolia, (Narrow-leaved paperbark) Micromyrtus sessilis, Kunzea obovata, (Pink kunzea) Callistemon ptyoides (Alpine bottlebrush - formally C. sieberi) Comesperma retusum, (Match heads) Calandrinia eremaea, Conospermum burgessiorum, C. taxifolium, Grevillea linearifolium, (Narrow-leaved spider flower) Hakea dactyloides, (Finger hakea) Persoonia cornifolia, (Broad-leaf geebung) Cryptandra amara var. floribunda, Pamaderris queenslandica, Stenanthemum schortechinii, Boronia amabilis, B. sp. aff. B. bipinnata, Philotheca myoporoides subsp. epilosus, (Formally Eriostemon) Leonema rotundifolium, (Formally Phebalium) L. ambiens, (Fruit salad plant - Formally Phebalium) Zieria laevigata subsp. laevigata, (Twiggy midge bush) Choretrum candolli, (Broom bush) Dodonea hirsuta, (Hop bush) Pimelea linifolia subsp. lilifolia, (Queen of the bush) P. linifolia subsp. collina, Keraudrenia hillii var. hillii, Stackhousia viminea, Stylidium laricifolium, (Tall trigger plant) S. graminifolium, (Grass trigger plant) Viola hederacea, (Ivy-leaved violet) V. betonicifolia, (Mountain violet) Haemadorum planifolium, (Blood-root lily) Patersonia glabrata, (Wild iris) Dianella sp., (Flax lily) Bulbine bulbosa, Lomandra longifolia, (Matrush) Xanthorrhoea johnsonii, (Grasstree) Caleana major, (Flying duck orchid) Calochilus robertsonii, (Purple bearded orchid) Diuris abbreviata, (Donkey orchid) Orthoceras strictum, (Horned orchid) Thelymitra ixiodes, (Spotted sun orchid) Dendrobium linguiforme, (Tongue orchid) Lyperanthus suaveolens, (Brown beak orchid).

May I extend a special thankyou to all who helped with these lists, particularly Narelle, Dell, Ian, Janet and Colin.

Rob McCosker

Mount Norman Friday outing

Six Souls met at Wallangarra at 900am and progressed to the Mt. Norman car park and had morning tea. We followed the fire trail to the exposed slabs beneath Mt. Norman and were pleased to see water streaming over the slabs and into the creek. The curtain of water over one slab was very interesting. The frogs were in great voice. Drizzle came in and some sought to return home. Two of us scaled the slabs to enjoy the views from the base of the Mountain. Increasing rain forced to return to the car park.

Trees and shrubs were flowering but had not yet benefited from the rain that had fallen in the previous days.

Dave Bright

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Plants in Flower Mt Norman Area Friday 3rd October 2003
 Compiled by Ian Milinovich

Plant Family	Species	Common Name
Apiaceae	<i>Platysace ericaides</i>	
Epacridaceae	<i>Epacris microphylla</i>	Coral Heath
Fabaceae	<i>Pultenaea flexilis</i> <i>Daviesia latifolia</i> <i>Dilwynia retorta</i>	Hop bitter pea Showy parrot pea
Goodeniaceae	<i>Dampiera stricta</i>	
Lamianeae	<i>Prostanthera phyllicifolia</i> <i>Prostanthera sp (Boonoo-Boonoo)</i>	
Myrtaceae	<i>Calytrix tetragona</i> <i>Homoranthus papillatus</i> <i>Kunzea obvata</i> <i>Leptospermum polygalifolium</i>	Heath myrtle Mouse bush Pink Kunzea
Proteaceae	<i>Conospermum taxifolium</i>	
Rutaceae	<i>Boronia amabilis</i> <i>Boronia microphylla</i> <i>Phebalium ambiens</i>	Small-leaved boronia Fruit-salad plant
Stackhousiaceae	<i>Stackhousia viminea</i>	
Stylidiaceae	<i>Stylidium graminifolium</i>	Grass trigger plant
Steruliaceae	<i>Rulingia hermorniifolia</i>	Wrinkled kerrawang
Thymelaceae	<i>Pimelia linifolia</i>	
Orchidaceae	<i>Dendrobium speciosum</i>	King orchid



Break-up December 7th at Tully Park

Dell Whan and Ian Milinovich have again offered their property, Tully Park, 397 Mt Tully Road, for our break-up on 7th December. Nats may arrive at any time from 3:00pm onwards and may laze about the garden or go for a wander up the back if they prefer.

Please bring your own food and drink. A barbeque will be supplied and we will start cooking shortly after 5:00pm so that we can cook in daylight.

Outing 18th January 2004 – Leader Liz Bourne

The outing on 18th January next year will be to the Third Crossing at Ballandean where we went in January this year. There is always water for swimming in that particular hole even if the weather is very dry. More information at the November meeting and the Break-up.

Outing Report Friday 7th November – Boonoo Boonoo

The outing to Boonoo Boonoo was a very enjoyable few hours, botanising in very pleasant weather. Twelve of us met at Weeroona Park and proceeded out to the Morgan's Gully area of the Boonoo Boonoo National Park. When we arrived, we were met by Dell and Ian, and Margaret Tricker from Tenterfield arrived soon after.

After our cuppa we started to walk up to the area where the trench has been blasted through the rocks in Morgan's Gully. There appeared to be moisture on some leaves under the trees, but on closer

investigation it turned out to be honeydew excreted by scale insects in the tree above. The scale was in plague proportions over a reasonable area and some of the cars had a light film of the sticky substance over them by the time we left.

After looking at the trench we walked back down the gully to the junction with the river. There were lots of birds heard but most stayed hidden. The botanists were busy finding different species and we stayed for about two hours. We then drove back up to the Morgan's Gully Road turnoff to look at the different forms of boronia growing there.

Our next stop was the picnic area at the falls. After lunch in the shelter shed we walked down to the falls lookout and added more plants to our list.

We then made our own way home and arrived in Stanthorpe about 3:00pm. It was especially pleasing that Jean was able to join us for most of the day and was able to help us identify some of the plants.

Kris Carnell

Bird List

Golden Whistler, Rufous Whistler (m&f), Fire tail Finch, Friar Bird, White Throated Warbler (call), Easter Rosella, Crimson Rosella, Robin, Superb Blue Wren, New Holland Honeyeater, Grey Shrike Thrush, Ibis, Starling, Pardolate & nest.

Road Kills: possum, kangaroo

Plant List

Hibbertia, *Bossia scortechinii*, *Viola betonicifolia*, *Boronia* sp, *Boronia anemonifolia*? (small white flower), *Dianella*, *Haemodorum planifolium* (Bloodroot), *Pultenaea*, *Kunzea*, prostrate pea, *Calytrix*, *Prostanthera nivea* (white mint bush), *Eriostemon*, *Leptospermum* (3 species), *Brachyscome*, *Stypandra grandis*, *Drosera* (sundew), *Bauera rubioides*, *Hybanthus monopetalus*, Chocolate flower, *Daviesia Illicifolia*, *Callistemon viminalis*, *Callistemon* (yellow), *Pomaderris*, *Leucopogon*, *Jacksonia* (dogwood), *Ozothamnus diosimifolius*, *Logania*?, *Plectranthus*, *Hakea microcarpa*, *Ranunculus* sp, *Bracteantha*, Paper Daisy, *Homoranthus* (mouse plant), *Melichrus procumbens*, *Actinotus* (flannel flower) *Whalemburgia* (bluebell), *Mirbelia confertiflora*, *Chelymitra pauciflora* (sun orchid), *Dipodium variegatum* (hyacinth orchid), *Stylidium* (trigger plant) *Patersonia* (native flag), *Comesperma retsum* (matchsticks), *Stenanthemum scortechinii*, *Pimelia*, *Sphaerolobium viminaria* (yellow or orange pea – both seen), *Theionema grande* formerly *Stypandra grandis*, *Diuris punctata* (mauve donkey orchid).

Insect Identified

Jean has identified an insect which Joan had found in her garden in larvae form.

It is one of the “Stink” Bug Family – that is if you touch it, it has an unpleasant smell in adult form (a protective device). Despite its “stink” common name its scientific specific name is more complimentary *Cummius elegans*. (One of the most attractive looking in the *Cummius* family!) They are seed feeders and frequent seed heads and pods of living plants, and also leaf litter. Like many things it casts its skin when it gets too tight for it and continues to do so until adult hood.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 22nd October, 2003

Opening: The meeting opened at 7. 38pm with the President, Kris Carnell, welcoming members and visitors, Jack and May Bennie from Lake Broadwater and Judy James and new members, Sue and Peter Ingall.

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Attendance: There were 29 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 24 September were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Desley McDonagh, seconded by Patience James. Carried.

Business Arising:

1. Photocopier - Samson Total Technology have now given us credit for our last two invoices which should not have been issued to us. It is hoped that future invoices will now be correct.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Murrumbidgee Field Nats Club – *Murrumbidgee Naturalist* – October
2. Toowoomba Bushwalkers' Club – *Footprint* - October
3. Chinchilla Field Nats – *Urimbirra* - October
4. Qld Naturalists Club – *QNC News* – Nov/Dec
5. Toowoomba Field Nats Club – *Darling Downs Naturalist* - October
6. Samson Total Technology – adjustment note and statement for \$0
7. Membership renewals – Bob and Mary Clarke; Roger Logan

This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Liz Bourne, seconded by Val Richardson. Carried.

Financial Statement for the period from 27/8/03 to 22/10/03:

Cash book balance as at 27/8/03 892.54

Receipts:

Subscriptions 580.00

Expenditure:

Magazine postage 150.00

Room rent 45.00

Audit of books 121.00

Office of Fair Trading – annual return 34.20

Govt. tax 2.30

350.20

Cash book balance as at 22/10/03 was \$1120.04 which agrees with the bank balance as at 22/10/03.

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

Outing Reports:

1. Friday Outing to Mt Norman

6 people went along on this outing led by Dave Bright, including Margaret Compton from Rockhampton. There were quite a few flowers about but they were not particularly good specimens because of the drought.

2. Girraween National Park – 19 October

14 people went along on this walk which was conducted by Rob McCosker. They recorded 53 plants in flower and the impact of last year's bush fires was still quite noticeable.

Pre-Outing Reports:

1. Friday Outing on 7 November

This outing will now be led by Kris Carnell and will go to the Morgan's Gully area of Boonoo Boonoo National Park.

2. 23 rd November Outing – Texas Caves

Peter Haselgrove has offered to lead a trip to explore the Texas Caves that were flooded by the construction of the Glen Lyon Dam. As the water level in the dam is currently very low, some of these caves are again accessible. The outing will leave Stanthorpe at 8am. It is hoped to be able to organise a boat to ferry people to the caves.

Specimens:

1. Col Hockings had photos from the Girraween outing last Sunday and reported that they also saw a rufous fantail on a nest and a legless lizard on the trip.

General Business:

1. Next Year's Program

The management committee has met and developed a draft program for the outings and meetings for the next year. There were more suggestions from members about camp outs than there were people prepared to lead them and Kris asked that more members volunteer to lead day trips as well.

2. Endangered Plants of the Granite Belt

Rob McCosker attended a meeting with the Stanthorpe Shire Council as a representative of the Granite Organic Land Care Group to prepare an application for funding for a project to help publicise the endangered plants of the Shire. Liz Bourne mentioned that she had also recently attended a meeting with Council officers and Paul Donatui from the World Wide Fund for Nature to discuss this project that WWF are seeking funding for.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm and was followed by a very interesting and informative presentation by Jack and May Bennie of Lake Broadwater about the *Cactoblastus* moth and how it stopped the spread of prickly pear.

Program 2003-2004

Date	Outing/Meeting	Leader/Speaker
Friday October 3	Mt Norman	Dave Bright
Sunday October 19	Girraween	Rob McCosker
Wednesday Oct 22	Cactoblastus Moth	Jack & May Bennie
Friday November 7	Boonoo Boonoo	Margaret Carnell
Sunday Nov 23	Glen Lyon	P. Haselgrove, Col Hockings
Wednesday Nov 26	Mt Moffatt	Col Hockings
Sunday December 7	Break Up	D Wham
January 18	3 rd Crossing	L Bourne
Friday Feb 6		Desley McDonagh
Sunday Feb 22	Goat Hill etc	Col Hockings
Wednesday Feb 25		Desley McDonagh
Friday March 5		Joan & Harry Stevenson
Sunday March 21	Crooked Creek	Trickers
Wednesday Mar 24		I Milinovich
Friday April 2		M. Marsden
Monday April 26	Rats Castle, Amiens, Mt Ferguson	Harsletts
Wednesday April 28		K Carnell
1-3 May	Camp Out – Gibraltar Range	I Milinovich
Friday May 7		D. Bright
Sunday May 23	Dalveen Tunnel	A. Cameron
Wednesday May 26		D Wilson
Friday June 4		J. Allison
Sunday June 20		Warwick Members
Wednesday June 23		E. Walker
Friday July 2		L Bourne
Sunday July 25	Girraween	J Allison
Wednesday July 28		M. Marsden
Friday August 6		T. Archer
Sunday August 22	Mt Bullaganang	P Haselgrove
Wednesday Aug 25	Annual Meeting Remember Last Year	Various Members
Friday Sept 3		M Carnell
Sunday Sept 19	Progressive Garden Tour	C & J. Hockings
Wednesday Sept 22	To be announced	

Sunday Spare – Bluff Rock – Glen Rock , Horan's Gorge

Friday Spare Liz Bourne