



# 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:**  
**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2004**

## Coming Up

**Outing Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April:** Rats Castle , Mt Ferguson , Sow and Pigs or bird watching at Amiens led by Harslett Family (**Please Note change from Sunday to Monday because of Anzac Day.**)

**Next Meeting Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April.** Program by Kris Carnell *N.S.W. Mid North Coast*

**Camp Out 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> May:** Gibraltar Range National Park led by Ian Milinovich

**Friday Outing May 7<sup>th</sup> :** Donnelly's Castle – leader Dave Bright

## Outing Report Sunday March 21 Crooked Creek.

A fine sunny morning saw 11 people meet at Basket Swamp turn off. Desley had been a Good Samaritan and lent her jumper leads to a driver at Boonoo Boonoo. We drove to Basket Swamp through the greatly thinned forest, but after seeing the clear felling in Tasmania, it did not look too bad. All the trees with regrowth after the fires had been left, and the Forestry Dept says it will not be logged again for 20 years.

We had an enjoyable morning tea, and Desley had her faith in human nature rewarded with the return of her jumper leads. We were surprised to find the new bridge near Bark Hut Swamp, seen in January, had been removed. We all negotiated the gully OK. After a pleasant drive through Lindrook Road, we met up with Kris and family at Crooked Creek. We walked to the Endurance Riders Ground and the weir near the Bush Fire Brigade hut, finding a variety of flowers and fungi, returning to the Rest Area for lunch.

We drove through the rainforest on Bowerbird Road and found the track temporarily closed for logging. Unfortunately one of the cars got a puncture, but where we stopped for tyre changing some miniature frogs were spotted, and some interesting rocks. It was decided to return via the forest tracks instead of the Bruxner highway, and for those who had time, a visit to the Basket Swamp Falls for afternoon tea.

As first time trip leaders we have been so impressed with the help and encouragement we have received. We would like to thank the members who compiled the bird and plant lists, and all that attended for making it such an enjoyable outing.

*Terry and Margaret Tricker*

Item seen in the Tenterfield Star Thursday April 1, 2004

## ***Birdwatchers Flock to Town***

INTEREST in Tenterfield as a birdwatching region is growing following a visit from a Birds Australia group from Northern NSW at the weekend.

The newly formed “Tenterfield Naturalists” a group that encourages local birdwatchers, bushwalkers and anyone interested in the environment, hosted a group of 35 visitors from Armidale, Foster, Brisbane, Goondoowindi and Coonabarran.

(The spelling of place names as in the Star)

**Bird List 21<sup>st</sup> March – Outing to Crooked Creek**

**Compiled by Desley McDonagh**

Magpie	Kookaburra (laughing)	Willy wagtail
Welcome swallow	Restless flycatcher	Grey fantail (eight!)
Wood duck	White winged chough	Wedgetail eagle
Currawong	Grey shrike thrush	Bell miner (call)
Grey tree creeper	Whipbird (call)	

**Flower List 21<sup>st</sup> March – Outing to Crooked Creek**

**Compiled by Jean Harslett**

**1<sup>st</sup> Stop – Meeting Place**

Goodenia hederacea, Porathra microphylla (minute white flower), Pimelea pauciflora, Trachymene incisa (Wild Parsnip),

**Basket Swamp Picnic Area**

Banksia spinulosa var. neoanglica, helichrysum bracteatum, helipterum albicans

**Riding Camp (Track to it)**

Swainsonia (orange flowering species)	Glycina clandestina	Thysanotus tuberosus (Fringed Violet)
Murdannia graminea (Slug Herb)	Plectranthus (species) [wild thyme]	smaller species P. paviflorus
Pratia purpurascens (white root – purple underleaf)	Allocasurina torulosa (Forest Oak)	Oxylobium (was trilobium now illicifolium) [Native Holly – very fresh foliated specimens]
Pimelea collina – swamp – red stems	?Notolea sp – yellow berries	Kennedya rubricunda (bud not flower)
Stylidium graminifolium (trigger plant)	Hibbertia sp (Guinea Flower)	Ranunculus sp (Buttercup)

A variety of fungi were enjoyed as well as moss and lichen species in the New England Box forest tracks.

It was good to see Grevillea acanthifolia sub species stenomera (pink flowering) re-establishing at Basket Swamp after very hot swamp fires.

Three blue flower species were reported from the Basket Swamp Falls but were not identified.

**Outing to Donnelly’s Castle – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May**

**Leader Dave Bright**

Come to Donnelly's Castle for lunch on May 7<sup>th</sup> (bring your own). We will leave Weeroona Park at 11.00am and travel north along the highway, turning off towards Pozieres and Donnelly's Castle, where we will climb the rocks to admire the view over Bapaume Ridge and beyond. Anyone who does not wish to climb to the top, can check out the Yowie painted on the rock at ground level and browse and botanise around the bottom.

There is a picnic table, but you may like to bring your own chair.

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2004**

**Opening:** The meeting opened at 7.39pm with Kris Carnell welcoming members and visitors, Ron and Margaret Lawson.

**Attendance:** There were 19 present at the meeting and 11 apologies as per the attendance book.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 25 February were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Florence Smith, seconded by Rob McCosker. Carried.

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

1. Clean Up Australia Day – 14 March

Liz Bourne and Rob McCosker were the only club members who attended the club's clean up activities at the Texas Road Refuse Transfer Station.

#### **Correspondence:**

##### **Inwards:**

1. Brisbane Forest Park – *Bush Telegraph* – Autumn and information on the batty search on 3 and 4 April
2. Fassifern Field Naturalists – Newsletter – March
3. Chinchilla Field Nats – *Urimbirra* - March
4. Qld Naturalists Club – *QNC News* – March/April
5. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club – *Darling Downs Naturalist* – Feb
6. International Park Tours – *IPT Traveller* - March
7. Stanthorpe Camera Club – cheque for \$27.50 as half of post box rental renewal
8. Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Club – *Murrumbidgee Naturalist* – March
9. State Library of Qld – acknowledgement of receipt of newsletters

This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Liz Bourne, seconded by Dave Bright. Carried.

#### **Financial Statement for the period from 26/02/04 to 24/3/04:**

The treasurer noted that the previous month's financial statement had a discrepancy of \$100 less than the actual amount, due to an error in addition. The balance should have read as \$895.44.

Cash book balance as at 26/2/04	895.44
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##### Receipts:

Photocopying	6.00
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##### Expenditure:

Magazine postage	100.00
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Room rent	30.00
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Photocopying	25.00
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Aust Post – post office box rental	55.00
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Govt. tax	1.00
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	<u>211.00</u>
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Cash book balance as at 24/3/04 was \$690.44 which agrees with the cash book balance as at 24/3/04.

Less outstanding cash receipt of \$6.00, agrees with the bank balance as at 19/3/04 of \$684.44

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

#### **Outing Reports:**

1. Mt Banca Friday outing – 5 March

This outing was led by Joan and Harry Stevenson and went to the Mt Banca area to the west of Stanthorpe township. They requested that a letter of thanks be sent to John and Maurice Passmore for allowing access through their land for the walk.

Moved: Jean Harslett Seconded: Dave Bright. Carried.

2. Crooked Creek

Desley McDonagh reported to the meeting on this outing to Crooked Creek in the Boonoo Boonoo State Forest on Sunday 21 March. They went to Basket Swamp for smoko where 8 grey fantails and 1 restless flycatcher were seen. There had

## The Granite Belt Naturalist April 2004 Vol. 358

been a significant amount of recent logging in the forest, possibly as a result of the devastating bushfires through the area. The group went to Crooked Creek for lunch and then drove towards a lookout but were stopped by "Restricted Access" signs.

### **Pre-Outing Reports:**

1. April Friday outing will be to Mt Marley and will be organised by Millie Marsden. It will leave from the end of Greenup Street and go up to the towers and back via the road.
2. Rat's Castle on Harslett's property – 26 April This may be led by Alec Harslett.
3. April Programme  
Kris Carnell will show slides from two trips through New South Wales.
4. May campout to Gibraltar Range National Park  
Ian Milinovich provided details of this proposed campout from 1 – 3 May.
5. Dave Bright is down to organise the Friday outing for May. He had considered going to Horan's Gorge but access may be more difficult than he originally thought. Further details will be in the next newsletter.

### **Specimens:**

1. Jean Harslett had photos from the outing to Crooked Creek plus photos of a very large echidna rescued from the Texas Road at Broadwater
2. Margaret Carnell had a variety of rocks collected from the roadside on the way into the Crooked Creek walk. One appeared to be volcanic with embedded crystals.

### **General Business:**

1. Janet Hockings has just had an operation for breast cancer and Kris asked members to sign a get well card to be sent to her.
2. Kris was contacted by John Sommerlad who has formed a Tenterfield Naturalists group. He has asked Kris to come along to their next meeting on 1 April to discuss our club's structure and public liability issues.

The meeting closed at 8.12pm and was followed by a slide programme of the wildflowers of Western Australia by Ian Milinovich.

## **Outing to Harslett Farm on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2004.**

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am and travel to Amiens to Harslett Farm for morning tea. While we are gathered together we will decide where we will go. The outing to Rat's Castle is dependant on one of the Harslett family being available to lead it. The alternative will be a walk to the top of Mt Ferguson. For those who want an easier walk there will be the opportunity to go to the Sow and Pigs. There will also be birdwatching around the two dams, so bring binoculars if you have them.

For those who intend to walk bring lunch to carry and some water. At this stage there is no water running over Foxbar Falls, which was mentioned as an alternative.