



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 August 2004

Coming Up

Outing Sunday 25th July: Valley of the Winds led by John Allison

Next Meeting Wednesday 28th July: Program by Millie Marsden & Rob McCosker

Friday Outing 6th August: Thunderbolt's Caves led by Tom Archer

Annual General Meeting Wednesday 25th August: Program *Remember Last Year*. Supper

Outing to Mallee Ridge Sunday 25th July

The outing will be an all day walk to the Mallee Ridge south of Mt Norman. We will meet at the Mt Norman day use area at 9am, for those who don't know, travel to this area via Wallangarra, conventional vehicles OK.

This is a tough walk, Grade 9. We will head towards Mt Norman and up to the Mallee Ridge, then on to The Valley of The Winds, a special and remote area generally unknown, with ancient plantforms and spectacular views. Bring plenty of water, morning tea, lunch and lots of energy.

There will be an alternative to walk to the base of Mt Norman and environs. The wattle is in bloom and quite spectacular. This would be a Grade 4 on track.

John Allison
4681 3227

Outing to Koreelah National Park 20th June 2004

Twenty Nats braved a chilly morning to meet at Queen Mary Falls for smoko. From there we drove through the majestic gums of Carbeen Nature Reserve, past Carrs Lookout, The Head, and the abandoned Condamine Tick Gate to White Swamp Road, which parallels Koreelah National Park. There is a small, pleasant camp ground beside a large waterhole on Koreelah Creek, "dammed" by a small waterfall, just trickling. Crossing this, we followed the cliff tops for some distance, with views into a surprisingly deep gorge, and glimpses of another waterfall.

After a cold lunch break back near the cars, following the creek bed downstream (with some scrambling in two or three places) rewarded us with views of 30m high vertical cliffs. The double potholed waterfalls (one pothole in the process of breaking out on its lower side) stopped all but three people, who scrambled to the bottom for photos.

A short detour up a side gorge revealed two delightful spa-sized potholes, which evoked cries of "we will return" (in warmer weather). After a quick smoko, we headed homewards by different routes (two cars having left earlier), after a pleasant day.

Peter Kerr

I would like to add a few observations to the plant and bird lists for this outing.

One interesting thing we saw was a meat ants' nest with dark pieces of stick and charcoal covering it to keep the nest warm for the winter. The ants were fairly sluggish but quite a number came out to investigate us.

While walking back along the cliff top we were spellbound, watching at least six grey fantails hovering in the air feeding on insects. They flew around our heads almost within touching distance, while a pair of willy wagtails fed on the ground nearby. In the same area we found evidence of Black Cockatoos which had been feasting on grubs, that they had removed from the trunks and branches of the trees, in some cases "chopping" the tree right off. Some of the holes left by the grubs were as thick as a man's thumb.

We saw a wanderer butterfly and a termite nest in the branches of a tree.

Margaret Carnell

Plant List Outing to Koreelah Gorge on 20th June 2004

Sennecio (Fire Weed)	Pimelea	Leucopogon sp
Wild Hops	Acacia sp	Boronia sp (tiny pink with rounded petals)
Trachymene incisor (yam)	Whalenbergia	Casuarina
Ajuga?	Cassinia (dead finish)	Brachyscombe (mauve daisy)
Viola betonicifolia (Purple Violet)	Rulingia? Or Keraudrenia hilli (belong to Sterculiaceae family)	Hardenbergia
Callistemon sp (cream bottlebrush)		

Bird List Outing to Koreelah Gorge

Brown thornbill	Noisy miner	Grey fantail
Yellow robin	Grey shrike thrush	Dusky moorhen
Fire tailed finch	Superb blue wren	Lewins honeyeater
Kookaburra	Willy wagtail	Tree creeper (call)
Birds seen on way home via Legume		
Peewee	Magpie	Richards pippit
Welcome swallow	Crow	Ibis
Wood duck	White cockatoo	Plover
Grebe	Pigeon	Brown falcon
Eastern rosella	Crimson rosella	galah



Book Review – *Spiders of Australia*

Did you know there are about 2000 species of spider in Australia? I found that out by

reading *green guide to Spiders of Australia* by Terence Lindsey which was given to us. We have found it to be a very interesting and useful book. The photos are very clear and the text easy to read, which makes it easy to identify the spider you've found, or at least its family. I was able to identify the one that bit me on the finger a few years ago as a badge spider, which is thought to have a dangerous bite. I know that it was weeks before my finger returned to its normal size although that was the only symptom I had.

The book is divided into sections such as *Ancient Spiders* (this includes the funnelweb), Roving Hunters, Sit-and Wait Spiders, Snare Makers and Web-weavers. There is also a checklist of Australian spiders. Altogether a book worth having. - *Margaret Carnell*

Outing Report to Amiens State Forest – Friday 2 July

A small group of 5 of us had a very pleasant ramble along a track through the eucalypt section of Amiens State Forest, west of Stanthorpe. We experienced perfect winter weather and were rewarded with a number of early wildflowers – *Olearia microphylla*, *Leucopogon sp.*, *Acacia adunca* and even a few early flowers of the endangered *Boronia granitica*. We also saw a pair of spotted pardalotes and brown treecreepers. Lunch was had on some elevated granite slabs with great views to the south as far as Bald Rock and west to Mt Jibbinbar.

Liz Bourne

Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 23rd June, 2004

Opening: The meeting opened at 7. 50pm with Kris Carnell welcoming members.

Attendance: There were 16 present at the meeting and 10 apologies as per the attendance book.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 26 May were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Rod Hutchin, seconded by Shirley Allom. Carried.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Blue Care – request for donation
2. Chinchilla Field Nats – *Urimbirra* - May
3. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club – *Darling Downs Naturalist* – May
4. Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Club – *Murrumbidgee Naturalist* – June
5. Samson Total Technology – invoice for \$17.30
6. Environmental Protection Agency – *Bush Telegraph*
7. Qld Naturalist Club – *QNC News* – July / Aug
8. QCWA – Invitation to luncheon on 8 July

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

Financial Statement for the period from 26/5/04 to 23/6/04:

Cash book balance as at 26/5/04		\$702.95
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Receipts:

Subscriptions	25.00	
Saving account interest	2.35	\$27.35

Expenditure:

Magazine postage	100.00	
Room rent	45.00	
Photocopying	19.22	
Govt. tax	1.60	\$165.82

Cash book balance as at 23/6/04 was \$564.48. Less outstanding cash receipts of \$25 agrees with the bank balance as at 18/6/04 of \$539.48.

Accounts for payment:

Samson Total Technology	17.30
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The Granite Belt Naturalist July 2004 Vol 360

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

Business Arising From Financial Statement

Kris said we needed to make a decision about the membership fees for the coming year as a subscription renewal form needed to be put in the next newsletter. Motion: "That the membership fees for 2004/2005 remain as \$15 for a single person and \$25 for a family". Moved: Millie Marsden Seconded: John Hall. Carried.

Outing Reports:

Friday outing to Girraween

This report was in the last newsletter.

Koreelah National Park

Peter Kerr provided a written report for the meeting. 20 people attended on a cold but pleasant day. Kris spoke to a National Parks ranger about what other walks were available from the campground. There was a 6.5km walk to Acacia Plateau.

Pre-Outing Reports:

Friday outing to Amiens – 2nd July

Details as per the newsletter.

July Outing

To be led by John Allison. Details in the next newsletter.

Friday outing – 6th August

Tom Archer will take a walk to Thunderbolt's Cave off Old Caves Road.

Next Meeting:

Rob McCosker has offered to do a presentation..

Specimens:

1. Margaret Carnell had leaves from a velvety shrub seen on the Koreelah outing which had shiny black berries and bell-shaped, mauve flowers. Jean Harslett thought it might be *Keraudrenia integrifolia*. Margaret also reported that 16 flower and 13 bird species were seen on the outing. 15 bird species were seen on the way home via Legume, including 6 grey fantails feeding in the air above some cliffs.
2. Jean Harslett had a dead Indian mynah bird from Ross McCorquadale's property at Crystal Mountain. She also reported that the lizards she had brought to the last meeting had been identified by the Museum as the western form of the skink, *Ergenia cunninghamii*. She also had photos from the outing to the Dalveen tunnels.

General Business:

1. A postcard had been received from the Andrewarthas who were holidaying in the Bungle Bungles in the Kimberly region of Western Australia.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm and was followed by a slide programme from David Wilson on Kakadu and Litchfield National Parks.

Friday outing to Thunderbolts caves led by Tom Archer - 6th August

The caves are a short walk from the north-western corner of Caves Road and are really just on the outskirts of town. We will meet at Weeroona Park at 11am and travel to Caves Road. There is a track from where we leave the cars up to the caves. It is a little rough underfoot in some places but we should all be able to get there without too much bother. To get into the caves you have to be fairly energetic so it will be a case of enjoying the general area. Bring lunch to have on the way and bring water. The whole trip should take 2 to 3 hours.

Management Matters

As subscriptions are now due for the next 12 months, at the next two meetings there will be some time allotted for the treasurer to write receipts between the end of the meeting and the beginning of the program.

If paying by **cash** at the meeting please put your **money in an envelope with your name on the outside** to make it easier for the treasurer.

Subscriptions for 2004/2005 : Family \$25.00 – Single \$15.00

Please complete your correct name and address details below and present with your subs. to the meeting in an envelope with your name on the outside, or post to:

Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, STANTHORPE Q 4380.

Name (including title please) _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

Payment enclosed \$ _____

Please note – Receipts not collected at the meeting will be enclosed with your Newsletter.

<i>Names and addresses are only used for posting the magazine and are not passed on to anyone else. If anyone does not want their name mentioned in outing reports could they please advise the editor.</i>

As quite a few of our members have Email we would like to have your email address if you are agreeable. Sometimes it is convenient to contact as many members as possible about a change in arrangements, and this could be a convenient way to do it.

Email address _____

Club Program Suggestions – 2004/2005

The committee once again asks for your assistance to provide a wide range of outing activities and meeting programs for the coming twelve months. Please **jot down your suggestions below**, and indicate if you would be prepared to lead an outing or provide a meeting program. All suggestions will be considered at a special committee meeting to be held shortly after the AGM.

Name:

Outings	Camp-Outs	Programs

Comments:

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