



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 12th July**

Coming Up

Outing Sunday 20th June: Koreelah National Park led by David Wilson

Next Meeting Wednesday 23rd June: Program by David Wilson –*The Glories of the Top End – Kakadu, Lichfield National Park etc.*

Friday Outing 2nd July: Amiens State Forest led by Liz Bourne

Annual Meeting: Wednesday 25th August at 7.30pm. Please put on your thinking caps for suggestions for outings and meeting programs.

Report on Trip to Dalveen Tunnels 23/05/04

Twenty-four people went on the trip. We met the Stanthorpe group at the Jim Mitchell Park, Dalveen and travelled down the New England Highway to the Connerley Dam turn in near Warwick, where we met up with the Warwick group. Travelling on to “Oaklands”, the conventional vehicles were left behind, and over the paddocks we went in 4 wheel drives. Parked near the railway line, and went into the Overend Tunnel, then on to the Gorge Dam and Rail tank.

Back to the cars for lunch, then on to the Old Stanthorpe Road via Blakes Road, viewing Silverwood siding on the way. A halt at the site of the Gap Hotel, then on to Cameron’s for a view of the old brickworks and a walk along the railway line to the Dalveen tunnel finishing with a view of a bower bird’s bower. Many eagles seen, some kangaroos and wallabies, but not much other wildlife.

Thanks go to Angus Gross, of “Oaklands”, Don White of “Rokeby” and Chris Stewart for allowing the party to enter their property. Historical information was supplied on places visited.

Archie and Grace Cameron

Bird List Outing to Dalveen Tunnels

Sulphur crested cockatoo	Black faced cuckoo shrike	Wedge tailed eagle
Wood duck	Galah	Magpie
Currawong	Superb fairy wren	Eastern rosella
Crimson rosella	King parrot	Kookaburra
Grey crowned babbler	Noisy miner	Crow

Note: these were mainly larger birds.

Roger Logan

Outing to Castle Rock, Girraween Friday 4th June

Eleven of us, including some new faces, which was great to see, set off from Weeroona Park at 11am to Castle Rock Camp Ground, where we were joined by Margaret and Terry from Tenterfield. At the

campground we noted an unusual Australian Magpie which had a completely black back with no white wing coverts. There had been some light rain earlier, but the area was looking great as a result of better rains this year, and the Acacias and Hardenbergia were all budding up ready to burst into blossom. Some eucalypts were in full bloom.

After a warming cup of tea, we set off on the formed track. It was steeper than some of us had anticipated but we all enjoyed the challenge. When we reached the rock, some dropped off at the base, some reached mid level and others reached the summit, at which points we had lunch. At the top Margaret spotted some early flowering Phebalium rotundifolium. Birding was very good considering the time of day, with 25 birds in all identified. If you ever meet Moses and he is a bit prickly, just talk to Shirley. We retraced our steps back to the cars, and had a natter and another cuppa, some set off for home, others stopped off for coffee and goodies (the goodies were the best part, according to Lorraine) at Codys coffee shop. It is difficult being a Field Nat member!

Thanks to all for your contributions.

John and Sue Allison

Bird List

Currawong, Magpie, White-winged chough, Superb Fairy wren, Crimson Rosella, Mistletoe Bird, Yellow tailed black Cockatoo, Golden Whistler, White throated Tree Creeper, Brown Thornbill, Yellow Thornbill, Striated Thornbill, Buff Rumped Thornbill, White-naped Honeyeater, White-eared Honeyeater, Striated Pardalote, Eastern Spinebill, Grey Shrike-thrush, Torresian Crow, White-browed Babbler, Red Wattlebird, Pied Butcherbird, Magpie Lark, White-browed Scrubwren, Chesnut Rumped Heathwren.

Plant List (thanks for Joan for assistance)

Melichrus Urceolatus (Urn Heath or Ten Corners)
 Cassinia Quinquefaria (Dead Finish)
 Bracteantha Bracteata (Golden Everlasting)
 Phebalium Rotundifolium
 Wallenbergia Granitica (Granite Bluebell)
 Chrysocephalum Apiculatam (Yellow Buttons)
 Epachris Microphylla (Coral Heath)
 Eucalyptus Caliginosa (Broad-leaved Stringybark)
 and an unidentified soft yellow daisy

**Bird List – Campout to Gibraltar Range 1st – 3rd May
 Compiled by Desley McDonagh**

Grey fantail	Eastern yellow robin	New Holland honeyeater
Pied currawong	?Tree creeper	Little wattle bird
Shrike thrush	Eastern spinebill	Whipbird (call)
Male satin bower bird	White browed scrub wren	Noisy miner (call)
?Thornbill	Crimson rosella (call)	Rainbow lorikeets (call)
Superb fairy wren	White's thrush	Wood swallow
Welcome swallow		

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

A small space in the newsletter for a BIG THANK YOU, please.

I enjoyed the Gibraltar Range Campout greatly and want to record my appreciation of the help from the other Nats. Thank you for helping hands on rugged tracks, waiting for slow walkers, and help with the tent. You are all greatly appreciated as you enabled me to be there.

Desley
(The Last Gazelle)

Outing to Koreelah National Park

The outing on Sunday 20 June will be to Koreelah National Park. The National Park extends across the Acacia Scrub Plateau on the Queensland-New South Wales border, and down into the Koreelah Valley. The area of the national park that we will be accessing is contained within the Koreelah Valley.

From the car park, we plan to follow Koreelah Creek downstream along its eastern bank. The creek plunges into a deeply cut gorge. Good views can be had into the gorge from a variety of viewing points. Most of this walk of 2 to 3 km return is probably grade 5 to 6.

After lunch back at the vehicles, we will make a descent into the gorge. This is difficult in places, and any rain before the outing will probably make this unviable. Some sections of this walk are on flat bedrock (much like The Junction area at Girraween). Some sections though involve some tricky rock scrambling that may occasionally earn the honour of a Grade 10.

For those who prefer to avoid the challenge, there is a pleasant area upstream from the start of the gorge that can be explored at your leisure. (Grade 1 to 3) It is a delightful area that is lightly timbered, and would no doubt offer some good bird watching.

We will be meeting at the Queen Mary Falls car park from 9:30am, and having morning tea. We will then be departing soon after 10:00am to travel in convoy through The Head Valley to White Swamp. The scenery along this entire road is remarkable. 4WD vehicles will not be required.

Options for getting there are varied.

- Stanthorpe members will need to depart Stanthorpe at around 8:00am, and travel via Warwick and Killarney to Queen Mary Falls.
- An alternative route can be made from Amosfield to Legume. You can choose to cross the border near Killarney and continue on to Queen Mary Falls.
- Another alternative is to continue on from Legume towards Woodenbong. A turnoff to the left 13km from Legume enters the Koreelah Valley. After about 10km (not measured) the turnoff into the National Park is clearly marked. Note the “bitumen” road from Legume to the turnoff is a shocker! The road in the valley has been mostly sealed and is a pleasant contrast to the main road. Those of us coming from Queen Mary Falls will arrive around 11:00am.

- The National Park offers a very pleasant camping area for \$3.00 a night. A composting toilet has been constructed. Some members may like to take this option for Saturday night. Self-registration can be done, or you can contact the Kyogle National Parks Office on 02 6632 0000.

David Wilson

Outing to Amiens Forest – Friday 2 July

The outing will leave from Weeroona Park in Marsh Street at 11.00am and travel out to the Amiens Forest (approx. 20 mins west of Stanthorpe). The outing will be through the eucalypt and heathland section of this forest and there is usually a good diversity of plant and birdlife to be seen. After leaving the cars, we will walk for about 30 mins along a track to a lunch spot with good views to the south. There may be a few wildflowers about. Depending on the interests and fitness level of those in attendance, we can either return to the cars via a track or go cross country via some interesting rock slabs. We should be back to the cars by 2pm. Bring along your lunch, water, camera and binoculars.

Liz Bourne

Ph 4683 6374

Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 26th May, 2004

Opening: The meeting opened at 7.42pm with Kris Carnell welcoming members, especially Dore McCosker and new member, Glenys Mathison, who has just moved to Stanthorpe.

Attendance: There were 25 present at the meeting and 13 apologies as per the attendance book.

Kris said that there would be a change of plan to the night's program as David Wilson was unable to attend due to his father's illness. In his place, Narelle Crawford had offered to show slides on the Snowy Mountains.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 28 April were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Millie Marsden, seconded by Rob McCosker. Carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes:

1. The Wildflower project display that was to be on at the Plaza on Thursday 27 May has been postponed.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

- 1 Chinchilla Field Nats – *Urimbirra* - May
- 2 Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club – *Darling Downs Naturalist* – April
- 3 Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Club – *Murrumbidgee Naturalist* – May
- 4 Samson Total Technology – invoice for \$19.22
- 5 Fassifern Field Naturalists Club – Newsletter - May

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

Financial Statement for the period from 29/4/04 to 26/5/04:

Cash book balance as at 28/4/04 724.84

Receipts:

Subscriptions	30.00	30.00
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Expenditure:

Photocopier - paper	28.71	
Photocopier – maintenance	22.88	
Govt. tax	.30	51.89

Cash book balance as at 26/5/04 was \$702.95 which agrees with the cash book and bank balance as at 28/4/04.

Accounts for payment:

QCWA room rent (Apr – June)	45.00
Kris Carnell (stamps)	100.00
Samson Total Technology	19.22

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

Outing Reports:

1. Donnelly's Castle – Friday 7 May

Dave Bright reported that six people went on this outing which climbed around the boulders and went up to the lookout.

2. Dalveen Tunnels – Sun 23 May

Roger Logan reported on this outing led by Archie Cameron. They went down towards Connelly Dam and travelled into "Oaklands" from where they travelled to the first tunnel and gorge dam as well as a water tank beside the railway track. Then they travelled via Silverwood Siding to the Old Stanthorpe Road and visited the upper tunnel just outside Dalveen.

3. Campout to Gibraltar Range National Park – 1 – 3 May

Ian Milinovich provided details of this campout in the last newsletter. A bird list will be in the next issue. The park seems to be recovering well from the bushfires and there should be a good wildflower display in spring.

Pre-Outing Report:

1. Friday outing – 4 June

John Allison will be leading this outing to Castle Rock. It is about 5km return and will be fairly easy.

2. June 20 outing will be to Koreelah National Park

Next Meeting

As Errol Walker will be absent and therefore unable to do the presentation as scheduled, it is hoped that David Wilson may be able to do a slide program in his place.

Specimens:

1. Millie Marsden had a miniature floral display she had prepared for a recent QCWA floral art display
2. Col Hockings had photos from the Dalveen tunnels outing
3. Desley McDonagh had photos from the Gibraltar Range campout
4. Roger Logan had a photo of a lizard taken on the Dalveen tunnel outing
5. Archie Cameron had supplied historical notes on the Dalveen tunnels

The meeting closed at 8.05pm and was followed by a slide programme from Narelle Crawford of a summer trip to the Kosciusko National Park.