



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 6th September**

Coming Up

Outing Sunday 22nd August: Mt Bullaganang led by Peter & Lynette Haselgrove.

Next Meeting Wednesday 25th August: AGM - Program *Remember Last Year*. Supper – bring a plate.

Friday Outing September 3rd: Orana led by Margaret Carnell

Outing to Mt. Bullaganang Sunday 22nd August

Leaders: Peter & Lynette Haselgrove

The August outing will be to Mt. Bullaganang, a granite hill intruded into traprock near Coolmunda Dam. We will meet at Glen Rosa Station and proceed in vehicles to the north-eastern side of the mountain and then walk approximately 3 km of reasonably easy grade to the top. The return trip will be a shorter, steeper more direct rout. Whilst the top is timbered, views can be obtained of Coolmunda Dam, Fishhole Mountain and country in between. Scale of difficulty for the day is 7-8. Leave Weeroona Park at 8.30 am, getting to Glen Rosa by about 9.30am. We will have smoko either at Glen Rosa homestead or the car parking area and be prepared for lunch on top of Bullaganang. The whole walk should take about 3-4 hours. As there is quite a bit of Melichris about it would be advisable to wear long trousers.

Road directions:- travel along Texas Road to Pikedale. Take the Inglewood road and after 25km turn left into Soldier Settlement Road. Glen Rosa is approx. 6 km down this road, on the right. Turn in over the grid to the house.

Hopefully Rod Cameron of Glen Rosa will be able to join us on the walk.

Outing to Orana Friday 3rd September

Leader: Margaret Carnell

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9:00am and travel about 12 kilometres to our property at 374 Back Creek Road, Severnlea. We will carry smoko and walk along fire trails, over the creek and up the side of the mountain to a stand of *Eucalyptus caleyii* (Cayley's Ironbark). There are a few steep parts, but we can take it slowly so it should not be too difficult. After inspecting the *E. caleyii* we will cross to an outcrop of granite where we will get good views of the valley, and hopefully see some wildflowers. The track to this outcrop is just a track, not a mowed fire trail. We will stop for smoko here.

After smoko we will continue uphill for a distance and then turn off to a very pretty waterhole (supposing there is some water). We have seen rufous fantails in this area. We will return along the same track to the creek, and then take a short diversion along the side of the creek before returning to the house, where we will have lunch in the garden. The area along the creek is protected because of the

Eucalyptus blakleyi and associated understory. There are Happy Valley Bottlebrush and *Senna odorata* growing along the creek (not in bloom at present). I would rate the outing at about 4 on the scale of difficulty.

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday August 25th 2004

If you have any slides or photos of outings from the past year, please bring them along.

Please bring a plate for supper.

Outing Report to Mallee Ridge Sunday 25th July

Nine people braved the elements for the day's outing to Mallee Ridge and Mt Norman environs. The wind was strong and very cold. Four of the most adventurous headed up on the Mallee Ridge and on to the "Valley of the Winds", with only two achieving the goal. The wind was so cold that some of us decided to retreat to the lower areas on the approaches to Mt Norman and then head back to the cars. The Mallee Ridge has interesting dyke formation and large boulders, well worth another visit.

The botanically inspired group had a very fulfilling day with a number of species recorded from the various islands of vegetation crisscrossing the approaches to Mt Norman. Interesting to note was the Dwarf Cypress Pine or *Callistris monticola*, the pink tinged Mousebush, and the Rock She-oak or *Allocasurina rupicola*. On the ridge was *Eucalyptus condonocarpa* or Bell-fruited Mallee, hence the name Mallee Ridge. Jean also pointed out a rare Stringybark. Other eucalypts noted were *E. scoparia* or Wallangarra White Gum, *E. prava* (or *Bancroftii*), *E. andrewsii* or Western New England Blackbutt. On the Wallangarra side of the gate, there was a *Eucalyptus bridgiesiana* on which was growing a mistletoe *Noeothixos sub aureus* on a *pendulata* mistletoe.

Thanks to all who came on the day.

John Allison

Bird List

New Holland Honeyeater, Varied Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Mistletoe Bird, White browed Scrub Wren, Chestnut Rumped Scrub Wren, Grey Shrike Thrush, Weebill, Brown Thornbill, Torresian Crow, Pied Butcherbird, Grey Butcherbird, Woodswallow, Eastern Yellow Ribin, Stirated Pardalote.

Plant List

Banksia spinulosa var *Neo Anglica*, *Acacia adunca* or Wallangarra Wattle, *Acacia ulicifolia* var *ulicifolia* or Prickly Moses, *Acacia latisepala*, Blue Mountain Daisy, *Leucopogon juniperinus*, *Pimelia linifolia* or Queen of the Bush, *Cassinia quinquefaria* or Dead Finish, *Mirbelia speciosa* and the valley *Prostanthera saxicola*. Also seen in bud were *Phebalium ambiens* or Fruit Salad Plant, *Acacia venulosa* or Woolly Wattle, *Prostanthera lasianthos*, *Hovea*, *Melichrus*, *Homeranthus papillatus* or Mouse Bush, *Kennediana*.

Wildflower Walk – 12th September

Members of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club have been working with the World Wide Fund for Nature, the Stanthorpe Shire Council and the Granite Borders Landcare Committee on a project to help protect the rare wildflower heritage of the Granite Belt.

This region contains some unique flora and every spring displays an incredible array of native wildflowers, providing an important attraction for tourists and nature lovers. Some of these wildflowers are found in very few other locations, many are rare and some are threatened by land clearing, grazing impacts, altered fire regimes and invasive weeds. While some of these plants are conserved in local national parks, many are found outside these areas and have little or no protection.

As part of efforts to raise public awareness about these plants, the Club and the Granite Borders Landcare Committee will be hosting a field day to Amiens State Forest on Sunday 12 September. This is aimed at showing interested local residents and visitors some of the rarer plants in the district.

All Club members with an interest in learning more about our local flora are most welcome to come along. The meeting place will be in Weeroona Park in Marsh Street, Stanthorpe at 10.00am where we will try and organise some car pooling. From here, it is about a 20 minute drive to the forest west of Stanthorpe. People should bring along a hat, water and their lunch. There will be some off-track walking and scrambling amongst boulders and slabs to get to the best wildflower areas, although there may also be some track options available. We will finish about 1.00pm unless some wish to continue on for a longer period.

For further information, please contact Liz Bourne on 4683 6374.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 28th July, 2004

Opening: The meeting opened at 7. 40pm with Kris Carnell welcoming members and visitors, Joe Stratman and Rose Bock, and welcoming back Diane Gain from New Zealand.

Attendance: There were 22 present at the meeting and 7 apologies as per the attendance book.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 23rd June were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Col Hockings, seconded by Val Richardson. Carried.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Community Development Services – invitation to participate in Adult Learner's Week display
2. Senator John Cherry – update on Democrats Telstra campaign
3. Chinchilla Field Nats – *Urimbirra* - June and July
4. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club – *Darling Downs Naturalist* – July
5. Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Club – *Murrumbidgee Naturalist* – July
6. Samson Total Technology – invoice for \$14.48
7. Australian Naturalist's Network – register of Field Naturalists Clubs
8. Pro Bono Australia – update on listing
9. Dept. of Fair Trading – annual return
- 10 Society for Growing Aust Plants – newsletter

11 International Parktours – newsletter

12 Membership renewals – Mrs A. Ridge; Bob and Mary Clarke; Irma Rickard; Alex and Denise Harslett

13 Inquiry from Canberra Field Naturalists' Club re public liability insurance

Outwards:

1. Response to Canberra Field Naturalists' Club re insurance

This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Millie Marsden, seconded by Jean Harslett.

Carried.

Business Arising from Minutes:

1. Public Liability Insurance

The President and Secretary provided a response back to the Canberra Field Naturalists Club about their concerns about getting suitable and affordable public liability insurance. Some responses to them from other clubs have suggested that they should try and get state or national coverage. Desley commented that in Western Australia, they have a state Field Naturalists Club with branches in various towns.

2. Adult Learning Week

The invitation to participate in the Community Showcase on 2 September will be responded to and the Committee will organise suitable display material.

Financial Report

As all of the club's current financial records are with the auditor, the treasurer was not able to provide a report for the meeting. The latest bank statement says our current financial position remains static.

Outing Reports:

Friday 2nd July outing to Amiens

This report was in the last newsletter.

Sunday 25th July outing to Girraween

Trip leader, John Allison, reported that it was a fine but cold and windy day and that only 4 people ventured out on the Mallee Ridge. A larger group explored around the Mt Norman area.

Pre-Outing Reports:

Friday outing to Thunderbolt's Cave – 6th August

Tom Archer will be leading this outing and suggested those wishing to explore the cave may need a torch and ladder.

August 22nd Outing to Mt Bullaganang

To be led by Peter Haselgrove who advises that it will be a 3 – 4 hour trip of grade 7 – 8 and that long pants are advised due to the prickly vegetation. Details in the next newsletter.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting on 25th August will be the Annual General Meeting. All committee positions will be declared vacant and nominations called for. The program afterwards will be *Remember Last Year* and members should bring along slides taken on outings during the year. Members were asked to remember to bring along some supper to share afterwards.

Specimens:

1. Jean Harslett reported she had received a phone call from a Stanthorpe Shire Council officer concerning roadworks at the corner of Barker's and Cannon Creek roads where a small population of *Acacia glaucocarpa* existed. Only a few examples of this species are found in the district. Jean visited the site and, as a result, the Council subsequently identified the remaining plants and marked them off to protect them from the roadworks.
2. Jean also had photos from the outing to Girraween.
3. Col Hockings had some photos of *Acacia adunca* in flower from Sunday's outing.
4. Liz Bourne reported she had seen a rufous bettong (rat kangaroo) that day in an open forest area west of Ipswich. This species was generally confined to the coastal areas although she had heard of a report of one being seen near Dalveen.
5. Rob McCosker had various pamphlets and posters on native and introduced freshwater fish that he would put in the club library.

The meeting closed at 8.12pm and was followed by a slide programme from Rob McCosker on highlights of a trip to Perth as well as central coastal New South Wales.

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.

*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.*

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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