



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:
Tuesday 5th October

Coming Up

Outing Sunday 19th September: Bunch of Big Boulders beyond Billy Goat Hill leaders

Col & Janet Hockings

Next Meeting Wednesday 22nd September: Programme by Jean Harslett

Friday Outing Friday 1st October: Tully Park – Dell Wham & Ian Milinovich

The September outing is the outing that was cancelled in February because of the extreme heat. Below is the preouting report provided by Col then.

Pre-Outing September 19th '04 Bunch of Big Boulders beyond Billy Goat Hill

Leaders: Col & Janet Hockings

Meet at Weeroona Park at 9:00am.

High clearance Four Wheel Drive vehicles are required to reach the start of the walk.
It would be advisable to arrange a lift before hand if possible.

Depending upon the weather, it could be hot and as parts of the walk are over bare rock outcrops it is necessary to carry **PLENTY OF DRINKING WATER**.

Lunch will be carried and eaten at the boulders where we will spend time exploring. If the weather is cool the walk may be extended to include an unusual waterfall.

On the pre-outing we were “attacked” by a pair of Rufous Fantails when we inadvertently ventured too close to their nest. A few years ago we found a working wombat burrow amongst the boulders however there was no sign of it during our brief visit on the pre-outing.

Return to the vehicles will take us across the Racecourse Creek swamp, providing we don't have much more rain. If so, we will retrace our steps over Billy Goat Hill.

Scale of difficulty: 7 to 8. Distance: approx 5km. May be extended to about 7km weather permitting.

Girraween Weekend Camp 12-14 November

John Allison Ph 0428529089

On this weekend I will be leading a camp for Birds Qld at Girraween National Park, camping at the Castle Rock Campground. The Stanthorpe Field Nats are very welcome to come and join us for the whole weekend or just a day. For day trippers, be there and ready at 8am. The group of people are very knowledgeable and helpful for anyone who would like to enjoy and learn about the birds in the area. You would be amazed at their ability to identify birds by sight and voice. So, if you're interested just

look for the Red and White Birds Qld signs at the campground, and introduce yourself to someone or find me.

Report on outing to Mt Bullaganang, 22 August, 04

Leaders Peter and Lynette Haselgrove

19 Nats and Rod and Gina from Santa Rosa attended the outing. The weather could not have been better, with warm sun and clear skies. The group drove to the northwestern side of the hill and walked up a gradual, stony, timbered slope to the top near the old trig point (now no longer used) where we had lunch.

Rod and Gina had missed out on most of the rain and there was very little flowering, even the hibbertias that were starting to flower on the pre-outing trip had given up. The whole area was fairly quiet, with few birds being seen.

Mt. Bullaganang is an exposed granite outcrop and we walked over broken granite rocks to the top through vegetation that was reminiscent of the western granite belt. Some of the Caley's ironbark was in flower and the tumbledown gum on Bullaganang and the Blakely's red gums on Perry Creek adjacent to Santa Rosa were heavily in bud and just breaking into flower. Despite the dry weather, the Melichrus in the understorey still had copious quantities of nectar in it.

Various people contributed to the plant and bird lists.

Plant list:

<i>Leptospermum brevipes</i>	<i>L. parvifolium</i>	<i>Astrotricha longiflora</i>
<i>Acacia neriifolia</i>	<i>A. buxifolia</i>	peach bush
dead finish	<i>Hibbertia cistoidea</i>	<i>Santalum lanceolatum</i> , sandlewood
<i>Eucalyptus caleyi</i> , Caley's ironbark	<i>E. albens</i> , White box	<i>E. dealbata</i> , tumbledown gum
<i>Exocarpus</i> sp., native cherry	<i>Hovea</i> sp. (lanceolatum?)	<i>Lomandra</i> sp.
Black cypress	White cypress	<i>Melichrus urceolatus</i>
<i>Leucopogon (muticus?)</i>	<i>Angophora costata</i> , smooth- barked apple	<i>Brachychiton populneus</i> , kurrajong
<i>Canthium odoratum</i>	<i>Capparis mitchellii</i>	<i>C. lasianthus</i>
<u>Bird List:</u>		
Yellow-faced honeyeater	Grey fantail	Striated Pardalote
Spotted pardalote	Weebill	Little thornbill
Grey thrush	Emu – droppings seen	Yellow Robin –Jean Harslett found one nesting.

Leader: Margaret Carnell

On a beautiful Spring morning we met at Weeroona Park and travelled to Severnlea via Whiskey Gully Road, where a number of different wattles are in bloom.

Eleven of us plus Dita the dog, set out, carrying morning tea. We paused just before crossing the creek to admire *Acacia pruinosa*, just coming into bloom, its large golden balls glowing in the sunlight. There were a couple of Happy Valley Bottlebrush growing quite well after the fire almost two years ago, as well as a stand of *Senna odorata* which have come up since the fire.

As we started up the steep part of the track, a flock of thornbills gave us an excuse to pause. We were unable to identify them, but this morning there were striated thornbills in the garden, and a yellow thornbill, I think. Ian asked what a plant near the track was called, and Jean identified it as *Pimelia pauciflora*. We understand that the Aborigines used the very tough bark of the plant to make string.

It did not take long to reach the first of the *Eucalyptus caleyi* (Caley's Ironbark). From here, we went up onto the granite slab, passing a stand of very healthy looking *Notolea linarius* in full bud and some lovely *Mirbelia speciosa*. There were two species of *Leucopogon* in bloom in the rock gardens, some *Stypandra* and a *Calendenia carnea* which I nearly stepped on.

We ate smoko sitting on the rock and admiring the view. Dita took a fancy to Harry and Joan. I suspect it was because they had ham sandwiches, which they were persuaded to share. We walked up the rock past a *E. caleyi* in heavy bloom and were able to find a small spray of buds with one or two rather faded flowers to photograph. A little further up the track, Ian spotted a plant with purple flowers, which turned out to be a *Solanum sp.* A few of us detoured here to look at a dyke in a rock, which had been exposed by a fig tree's roots causing a piece of the rock to break away.

The waterhole we were aiming for was almost dry, with just a couple of rock holes containing water. There were three juvenile Kurrajongs close together with very different leaves, and a few very dry looking *Dampiera* plants. We did a circuit back to the house and arrived a few minutes before Kris came home for lunch, which we ate under the Irish Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus*). A pair of Eastern Spinebills entertained us by playing catch-me-if-you-can.

After lunch we went to look at a red-flowered West Australian *Hakea* with red flowers, growing in the garden, as well as *Hakea sericia* which provides shelter for Double Bar's nests. Someone noticed a very small neat nest with a dome and a side opening, in the Yellow Jacket tree. I later identified it as a Mistletoe Bird's nest. That brought a very pleasant outing to a close.

Bird List: Thornbill, Grey Fantail, Kookaburra, Eastern Spinebill, White-browed Scrubwren, Red Wattle Bird.

Flower List

<i>Acacia pruinosa</i>	<i>Acacia nerifolia</i>	<i>Acacia adunca</i> (Wallangarra wattle)
Glyhcine	<i>Melichrus urceolatus</i>	<i>Luecochrysum albicans</i>
<i>Pimelia pauciflora</i>	Mauve Daisy	<i>Mirbelia speciosa</i>
<i>Notolea linarus</i>	<i>Stypandra</i> (glauca?)	<i>Calendenia carnea</i>

Leucopogon sp	Trachymene (wild carrot)	Leucopogon melaleucaoides
Eucalyptus caleyii (Caley's Iron Bark)	Eucalyptus melliodora (Yellow Jacket)	Leptospermum brevis
Solanum sp	H a r d e n b e r g i a violacea(Sarsparilla)	Indigofera
Hovea linearis	Helichrysum apiculatum	Maytenis silvestris (not in bloom, but identified)
Senecio (fireweed?)	Leucopogon ericifolia	

FRIDAY OUTING 1st October: Leaders Dell Wham and Ian Milinivoch ph 46810680

This outing will be at Tully Park ,397 Mt Tully Road Stanthorpe. Meet at Weeroona Park at 9am and we will travel to Tully Park for morning tea. The outing will take the form of a ramble through the back paddock of the property looking for orchids and other wildflowers. It should take about two hours and lunch will be back at the house. There will then be time to look around the garden which includes some interesting native plants.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 25th August, 2004

Opening: The meeting opened at 8.04pm, following the Annual General Meeting.

Attendance: There were 25 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 28th July 2004 were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Shirley Allum, seconded by Trish McCosker. Carried.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Chinchilla Field Nats – *Urimbirra* - August
2. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club – *Darling Downs Naturalist* – August
3. Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Club – *Murrumbidgee Naturalist* – August
4. Samson Total Technology – statement for \$49.69, invoice for \$17.70
5. SE Australian Naturalist's Assoc. – information on 4th Aust. Naturalists Network Get-together in Feb '06 in Australian Alps
6. Society for Growing Aust Plants – Warwick – newsletter
7. Qld Naturalists Club – *Qld Naturalist* – June 04; *QNC News* – Sept/Oct; invitation to nominate someone for Qld Natural History Award
8. Membership renewals – Andrew and Jenny Cameron; Margaret Compton; Laurie and Colleen Jones; Terry and Margaret Tricker
9. Blue Care – request for donation
10. Directory of Australian Associations – request for updated information for listing

This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Liz Bourne, seconded by Desley McDonagh. Carried.

Business Arising from Minutes:

1. Australian Naturalists Network Get-together

Information about the next get together in February 2006 will be included in the magazine.

Financial Statement for the period from 23/6/04 to 25/8/04:

Cash book balance as at 23/6/04	564.48	
<u>Receipts:</u>		
Subscriptions	385.00	
Room rent collection	8.00	393.00
<u>Expenditure:</u>		
Photocopier - maintenance	49.69	
Audit fee – United Tax & Accounting	126.00	
Statement copy fee	2.50	
Govt. tax	.30	178.49
Cash book balance as at 25/8/04		778.99
Less outstanding cash receipts- memberships		55.00

723.99

Accounts for payment:

Kris Carnell (postage)	142.50
Samson Total Technology	17.70

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

Outing Reports:

1. Friday 6th August outing to The Caves

Dave Bright reported that 11 attended but that the leader, Tom Archer, was unable to accompany the group. However, they eventually found the cave.

2. Sunday 22nd August outing to Mt Bullaganang

Kris reported that 21 people started out on the walk. It was rather different country from the granite areas around Stanthorpe. The climb up the mountain was fairly scrubby and views were limited from the summit. A fruit pod of a capertree was collected on the walk and brought to the meeting by Margaret Carnell. This tree was 15 feet high with a corky bark. Jean Harslett thought it might have been *Capparis mitchellii*. Desley reported that she'd seen a similar tree on Arcot Station, to the south.

Pre-Outing Reports:

1. Friday 3rd September

This will be to the Carnell's property on Back Creek Road. The meeting time will be 9am at Weeroona Park and they will then go out to the property for a short walk. Margaret estimates the round trip will be about 2.5km.

2. Sunday 19th September

Col Hockings will be leading the trip he originally planned for February which had to be cancelled because of the heat. It will go beyond Billy Goat Hill in Girraween National Park. He estimates the trip will be about 5km.

Next Meeting:

Kris and Margaret will be away so Millie will chair the meeting. Jean Harslett offered to prepare a slide programme.

Specimens:

1. Liz Bourne had the body of a brush-tailed phascogale, found on a property outside Grandchester. They occur on the Granite Belt but are not often seen.
2. Margaret Carnell had a bag full of insects found in their hundreds in her house. They were like a harlequin beetle.

General Business:

1. Millie Marsden mentioned that Ailsa Wilkinson had just turned 90 and that we should send her a belated birthday card. We also need to congratulate Jean Harslett for the recent award given to the Stanthorpe Museum for housing her historical collection.

2. Margaret Carnell suggested that members should wear name tags on outings to help everyone get to know one another. The Committee will investigate a design for these.

3. Adult Learner's Week display – Thursday 2 September

The Club will be having a display here and volunteers need to be there to answer any queries. Liz Bourne, Dell Wham and Ian Milinovich will be able to help in the morning and Margaret Carnell in the late afternoon.

4. Wildflower Walk – Amiens Forest

Liz reminded members that a special walk in Amiens Forest was being organised on 12th September to show people some of the endangered plants that occur in the district. The meeting place will be in Weeroona Park at 10am.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm and was followed by a slide programme from various people taken on club outings over the past year.