



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 - 2004/2005

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:
7th February 2005

Coming Up

Outing Sunday 21st November: Koreelah National Park

Next Meeting Wednesday 24th November: Program by Kris Carnell *National Parks Within 4 Hours of Stanthorpe*

Sunday 11th December: Break-up at “Pinaster”

Sunday 23rd January: Third Crossing

Outing to Koreelah National Park – Sunday 21st November

We have decided to return to Koreelah National Park, as we wanted to see what it would be like in the springtime. It is planned to leave Weeroona Park at 8.30am for a 10.00am smoko at the National Park. Warwick members can meet us there.

After smoko there are a number of activities. Some of us want to see if we can go further down the gorge below the twin falls; others want to explore the side gorge, which we were unable to do last time because of failing light. For those who do not want to go down into the gorge, there are easy walks along both sides of the gorge. If anybody is interested, there is a long walk up the fire trail to the Acacia Plateau, through rainforest. We haven't checked this out, but would suspect that it would be uphill all the way.

Beside the camping area is a waterhole that, if conditions are favourable, should be a good swimming hole. There is a good camping area, but no showers, if anyone wants to camp.

For further information contact Rob McCosker or Kris Carnell.

Pre-Outing January 23rd 2005 – Third Crossing

We will again be going to the swimming hole on the Severn River upstream from the Third Crossing at Ballandean. We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am and travel to the Ballandean School, and meet with any members who prefer to go directly there. The Third Crossing is a short drive west of Ballandean.

It will be a very relaxed outing. If we have had enough rain for a good flow in the river, bring a li-lo or rubber tube to float downstream. Bring smoko, lunch and water to carry. For more information contact Liz Bourne.

Outing Report – Back of Girraween – Sunday 24th October

Leaders: Kris & Margaret Carnell

We thought there was a chance of rain when 16 of us met at Weeroona Park and travelled to the back of Girraween, where we met up with Ian and two visitors from Wallangarra. On the way, we admired

the *Leptospermum* (tea tree) growing in the paddocks. While we were having our usual cuppa someone discovered a lovely spray of *Diuris* probably *aurea*, growing in the grass. This was the first of many we saw during the day.

Our walk was along the fire trail where we saw *Stylidium graminifolium* (trigger plant), *Helipterum albicans* (yellow paper daisy) and one of the creeping *Goodenias*. We were intrigued by some large rocks hanging from the star pickets in the fence to hold them into the ground. There were a number of violets, some of them purple and others with a distinctly pink tinge.

We made our way through the steep rocky section of the walk and Stephen found the old lyre bird's nest between the boulders. Meanwhile, Liz was exploring on the other side of the track and came across a wombat's burrow which was obviously in use. In this area we discovered several climbing orchids and almost walked on *Billarderia scandens* with its whitish bells. As we walked through the second gully, we made our way through extensive stands of *Rulingea hermanniifolia*, one of the district's endangered species, which appeared to have benefited by the fires of 2002. As we made our way up the slope, we came across *lyperanthus suaveolens* (brown beaks) growing in the shallow ground around the rocks, alongside more *Diuris*.

As well as flowers, there were kangaroo beetles flying and a crysomelid beetle on a shrub. All the way we could hear birds calling, especially whistlers, which proved very elusive. Under the fence we came across a *Gompholobium latifolium* (golden glory pea) with enormous flowers, and a small plant with a white flower that looked like a *Prosanthera*. It was only about 30cm high and we were baffled until we returned to the cars and found a description of a *Euphrasia* which seemed to fit.

By lunch time we had reached the ridge before Slip Rock, so we sat in the shade to eat, then walked out onto the exposed granite where Errol pointed out such landmarks as Bald Rock, Mt Norman, Castle Rock, South Bald Rock, Middle Bald Rock, West Bald Rock, Slip Rock mountain and the Signboard. To the NW, we could see Petzlers Hill and Mt Dillon. In this area, there were some beautiful *Eriostemon* in bloom and a *Cassinia* in bud, which we thought was a *Helichrysum*. The *Leptospermum* were particularly beautiful, and on the way back there was a different species in bloom.

We had a leisurely walk back – apart from Kris and Dave, who went back to the top of the ridge to collect my notebook that was sitting on a rock. We arrived back at the cars at about 3 o'clock, for a cuppa before heading for home.

Thank you to Glen McRae for the following lists of birds and other fauna.

Bird List – Back of Girraween

Satin Bowerbird (call)	Striped Honeyeater (call)	Great Cormorant flying over
White throated Gerygone	Rufous Whistler – juvenile seen many heard	Leaden Flycatcher – female
Superb Blue Wrens – females	Spotted Pardalote – many heard	Fan tailed Cuckoo (call)
Crimson Rosellas	Yellow faced Honeyeater	Red browed Firetails
Pied Currawong	Brown Thornbill – south eastern form	White throated Treecreeper
Striated Thornbills	Black faced Cuckoo-shrike	Grey Shrike-thrush (call)
Grey Fantail	Noisy Friarbird (call)	

Butterflies: Meadow argus, Common Jezebel, Orchard Swallowtail, Chequered Swallowtail, Australian Crow, Wanderer, Large Grass Yellow.

Beetles: Chrysomelid Beetle species unknown, Kangaroo Beetles

Spiders: Leaf curling Spider, Wolf Spider – species unknown, Jumping spiders – 2 species seen, Argiope species.

Reptiles: Cunningham’s Skink, Velvet Gecko – species unknown

Wildflower List – Back of Girraween compiled by Margaret Carnell

<i>Helichrysum diosmifolium</i> (Rice flower)	<i>Solanum sp.</i>	<i>Leptospermum sp</i>
<i>Clematis aristata</i>	<i>Whalenbergia sp</i> (Aust Blue Bell)	<i>Banksia integrifolia</i>
<i>Stylidium gramminifolium</i> (grass trigger plant)	<i>Stylidium laricifolium</i>	<i>Diuris aurea?</i> (Double Tail Orchid)
<i>Helipterum albicans</i> (yellow paper daisy)	<i>Goodenia sp</i>	<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>
<i>Dianella sp</i>	<i>Patersonia sp</i> (Native flag)	<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>
<i>Viola sp</i> (Purple violet)	<i>Craspedia uniflora</i> (Billy Button)	<i>Billarderia scandens</i> (vine, tubular flowers)
<i>Hibbertia spp</i> (2)	<i>Erythrorchis cassythoides</i> Climbing orchid	* <i>Senecio</i>
*Dandelion	<i>Eustrephus latifolius</i> (wombat vine)	<i>Lomandra leucocephala</i>
<i>Glycine clandestina</i>	<i>Rulingea hermanniifolia</i>	<i>Dilwynia retorta</i>
<i>Gompholobium latifolium</i> (Golden Glory Pea)	Small yellow pea	<i>Stackhousie viminea</i>
<i>Drosera auriculata?</i> (Sundew)	<i>Comesperma ericinum</i> (Matchsticks)	<i>Comesperma sp</i> (tiny pink flower)
<i>Brachycome sp</i> (mauve daisy)	<i>Anguillaria dioica</i> (Early Nancy)	<i>Geranium sp</i> (pink flower)
<i>Stenanthemum scortechinii</i>	<i>Dodonea sp</i> (2) Hop Bush	<i>Mirbelia speciosum</i>
<i>Actinotis hellanthi</i> (Flannel Flower)	<i>Lyperanthus suaveolens</i> (Brown Beaks)	<i>Leptospermum neoangliae</i> (Tea Tree)
<i>Leptospermum brevipes</i> (tea tree small flower)	<i>Hibbertia sp</i> (2)	<i>Petrophile linearis</i> (Cone Bush)
<i>Goodenia sp</i> (creeping)	<i>Goodenia sp</i> (upright small)	<i>Eriostemon sp</i>
<i>Stypandra sp</i>	<i>Keraudrenia hillii</i>	<i>Osothamnus diosmifolius</i> (Rice Flower)
<i>Calochilus robertsonii</i> (Bearded Orchid)	<i>Pimelea sp</i>	<i>Marianthus procumbens</i>
<i>Eustraphus latifolius</i> (Wombat Berry)	<i>Euphrasia sp</i>	<i>Indigofera australis</i> (in bud)

* Weeds

Wildflower Walk

Just a reminder that the next Wildflower Walk being organised by the Stanthorpe Rare Wildflower Consortium (of which the Field Nats are members) will be this Sunday 14 November at Girraween Environmental Lodge.

The walk will be from 10am to 1pm and will be guided by a number of flower experts to help with plant identification. Bring along some smoko, a hat, water and wear sturdy footwear.

Hopefully, after all the recent rain there will be a reasonable display of flowers still about. Everyone is welcome on these walks so come along and learn more about our rich wildflower heritage!

The Lodge is off Pyramids Road, just before you enter the national park. If anyone needs a lift from town or would like to share transport, please contact me to arrange this.

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 27th October, 2004

Opening: The meeting opened at 7.44pm, with the President, Kris Carnell, welcoming members and visitors, Brian Gibbens, Barbara Benham and Glenn McRae.

Attendance: There were 20 present at the meeting and 13 apologies as per the attendance book. Kris reported that Bob Harslett has a severe eye infection and the meeting passed on their best wishes to him. Dave said that Frank Wilkinson was recently in hospital and it was agreed to send him a card.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 22nd September 2004 were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Mavis Bott, seconded by Shirley Allum. Carried.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Chinchilla Field Nats – *Urimbirra* - October
2. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club – *Darling Downs Naturalist* – October
3. Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Club – *Murrumbidgee Naturalist* – October
4. Samson Total Technology – invoice for \$16.77
5. Heritage Building Society – information on interest rates
6. Membership renewals – Patience James; R & G Chapman; Irma Rickard
7. Ailsa Wilkinson – thanks for birthday card

This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Liz Bourne, seconded by Rob McCosker. Carried.

Financial Statements for the period from 25/8/04 to 27/10/04:

The financial statement covered the last two months as the books were away being audited prior to the last meeting.

Cash book balance as at 25/8/04	778.99	
<u>Receipts:</u>		
Subscriptions	510.00	
		510.00
<u>Expenditure:</u>		
Postage	142.50	
Room rent	45.00	
Photocopier - maintenance	17.70	
Office of Fair Trading	35.10	
Govt. tax	2.60	
		242.90
Cash book balance as at 27/10/04		1046.09
<u>Accounts for payment:</u>		
Samson Total Technology	46.68	

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

Outing Reports:

1. Friday 1st October outing to "Tully Park"

This was reported on in the latest newsletter.

2. Sunday 24th September outing to Girraween

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Nineteen people participated in this outing which visited the north-eastern section of the national park. They followed a fire trail along the northern boundary of the park. A fresh wombat burrow and an old lyrebird's nest was found in a boulder field. There were lots of wildflowers about with 30 species in flower recorded and 20 bird species. Lunch was had on top of a granite slab but the views were reduced due to smoke.

Pre-Outing Reports:

1. Friday 5th November Outing to Gasparin's

This will be to a rocky hill on the Gasparin's property, a short distance east of Stanthorpe, and will be led by Millie Marsden. Meeting time at Weeroona Park at 8.30am. Members should let others know about it. Kris will email members with the details.

2. Sunday 21st November Outing to Koreelah National Park

This outing will return to the national park that was also visited in June. There should still be plenty of wildflowers about and it is now warm enough to enjoy a swim. The park is about 100km from Stanthorpe. There are good but basic facilities at the park for those who want to camp there for the weekend.

Next Meeting:

Glen Costello from the Quoll Seekers Network is not available for the next meeting so Kris Carnell has offered to do a program on the national parks within 4 hours of Stanthorpe.

Specimens:

1. Rod Hutchin – 2 potted donkey orchids showing their variable colour
2. Dell Wham and Ian Milinovich – photos of orchids taken at Girraween
3. Kris Carnell – a large grub found on their property while clearing
4. Margaret Carnell – Various callistemons from their garden, most of which were grown from seed.

General Business:

1. Name tags

Various designs have been produced. The preferred one is to have the christian name in large letters, with the surname smaller. A Field Nats logo will also be included.

2. Next Wildflower Walk

The next wildflower walk will be held at Girraween Environmental Lodge on Sunday 14 November, starting at 10am.

3. Campout Next May

The Committee is proposing a campout for the long weekend next May.

On the first weekend of the September school holidays, the Carnells will be going to Mt Kaputar and they invited others to join them. More details in the newsletters next year.

4. Slides for Meetings

As more members are starting to use digital cameras for their photos, we will be able to copy these onto a CD so they can be shown at meetings.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm and was followed by a slide programme from the Walkers, highlighting their travels around Tasmania, including Flinders Island, South West Tasmania and the Cradle Mountain area.

CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP

WHEN : SUNDAY DECEMBER 12

WHERE: "PINASTER" – Home and garden of Colin and Janet Hockings



Bring your picnic tea, (B.B.Q. available) and chairs. Tea and coffee will be available.

For those wishing to have a short stroll around the bounds of "Pinaster" before tea, arrive about 4.00pm. or come and simply enjoy the garden and our birds.

DIRECTIONS: Travel approx. 9km. along SUGARLOAF RD. until you turn left into GILLBARD RD. (dirt). Our letterbox marked “Pinaster” is at the start of the road. “Pinaster” (No.96), is approx 1km. on the right hand side. Please drive in and park up near the house.
We are looking forward to your company at our final get-together for 2004.