



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 March 2005

Coming Up

Outing Sunday 20th February: Mt Carrington Gold Mine at Drake led by Rob McCosker

Next Meeting Wednesday 23rd February: Program by David Wilson

Friday Outing 4th March: Dr Robert's Waterhole led by Joan and Harry Stevenson

Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 24th November, 2004

Opening: The meeting opened at 7.40pm, with the President, Kris Carnell, welcoming members and visitors.

Attendance: There were 24 present at the meeting and 9 apologies as per the attendance book. Kris reported, with regret, that the operation on Bob Harslett's eye had not been successful and that he was likely to lose his sight.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 27th October 2004 were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Millie Marsden, seconded by Shirley Allum. Carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes:

1. Samples of the proposed name tags for members were displayed at the meeting with members invited to make comments on their preferred design.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Chinchilla Field Nats – *Urimbirra* - November
2. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club – *Darling Downs Naturalist* – November
3. Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Club – *Murrumbidgee Naturalist* – November
4. Samson Total Technology – invoice for \$17.05
5. Kris Carnell – invitation to club members to attend Margaret's 60th birthday party on 4 December
6. CGU Insurance – request for details about club's activities for public liability insurance
7. Warwick Branch of the SGAP – newsletter
8. International Parktours – 2005 trip catalogue
9. Stanthorpe Shire Council – invitation to president to attend their Christmas function
10. Fassifern Field Naturalists – newsletter
11. Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club – advertising book on the history of their club

Outwards:

1. Get well card to Frank Wilkinson

This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Liz Bourne, seconded by John Allison. Carried.

Business Arising from the Correspondence:

1. Trish and Rob McCosker will attend the Council's Christmas function on behalf of the club.

Financial Statement for the period from 27/10/04 to 24/11/04:

Cash book balance as at 27/10/04	1046.09	
<u>Receipts:</u>		
Subscriptions	175.00	175.00
<u>Expenditure:</u>		
Photocopier - maintenance	46.68	
Govt. tax	.30	46.98
Cash book balance as at 24/11/04		1174.11
This agrees with the bank balance as at 19/11/04.		
<u>Accounts for payment:</u>		
Samson Total Technology	17.05	
QCWA – room rent (3 months)	30.00	

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

Outing Reports:

1. Friday 5th November outing to Gasparin's

This outing was led by Millie Marsden and visited a rocky hill on the Gasparin's property, a short distance east of Stanthorpe. Ten people went along on this walk and were rewarded with a very good display of wildflowers and lots of interesting slabs and boulders. It was considered interesting enough for a full day's outing. Millie asked that a letter of thanks be sent to the landowners.

2. Sunday 21st November outing to Koreelah National Park

Fifteen people went on this outing. Although it rained on the way there, it had stopped by the time the park was reached. After smoko, people walked down the south side of the gorge to below the falls. The creek was then crossed and the group climbed up the other side and back to the cars for lunch.

Pre-Outing Reports:

1. The club Christmas party and break-up will be at the Hockings place, "Pinaster", on Sunday 11 December as per details in the newsletter.
2. The January 23rd outing will be to the 3rd crossing of the Severn River off Bents Road at Ballandean.
3. The Friday outing in February will be on the 4th and will be led by Dave Bright.

Specimens:

1. John Allison – a *Diuris* orchid. He also reported that 50 birdwatchers from Birds Queensland attended a recent camp at Girraween National Park. They recorded 93 birds, including 20 new records for the area.
2. Margaret Carnell – a small *Stylidium* orchid growing in shallow soil next to their creek
3. Dave Bright – reported that a photo on the front of the Stanthorpe Shire Council's rates notice appears to have been taken at Boonoo Boonoo.
4. Rob McCosker - a sample of rock that may be coal, collected on the outing to Koreelah National Park
 - photos from the original outing to Koreelah N.P
 - weed-like thistle collected from Girraween Environmental Lodge

General Business:

1. Club logo
There was some discussion about what the original club logo was and whether it was still relevant.
2. Wildflower Walk to Girraween Environmental Lodge
Liz Bourne reported that the last wildflower walk to Girraween Environmental Lodge on 14 November was very well attended. One of the highlights of the day was discovering *Callistemon pungens* (a vulnerable species) growing in a gully to the south of the lodge. It had not been recorded either here or in the adjacent national park before.

The meeting closed at 8.21pm and was followed by a slide programme from the Carnells on national parks within four hours of Stanthorpe.

Outing to Dr Robert's Waterhole – Friday 4th March 2005

Leaders: Joan and Harry Stevenson Phone 46811009

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am and travel to the parking area at Dr Robert's Waterhole where we will have morning tea. We will then decide whether to walk to the waterhole or Underground River.

If you wish, bring your lunch and be sure to bring water to carry.

February Outing Sunday 20th to Mt Carrington Gold Mine at Drake.

We will leave Weeroona Park at Stanthorpe at 8.00am to reach the Rotary Park at Tenterfield at about 8.30am, then drive down the Bruxner Hwy towards Drake. We will stop along the way for morning tea at the picnic area in the Girard State Forest, before continuing to Drake, where we turn left on Cheviot Hills Road and proceed to the mine office on Bunijah Road.

People wishing to look at the mine workings will need to wear sturdy (leather) boots and a hard hat, and travel in a high clearance vehicle. Please contact me if you have trouble getting a hard hat, I might be able to find some spares. Our contact at the mine is John Fitch, who will show us the mine workings and hopefully the work done by Virotec with their Bauxal product, to remedy toxic chemical problems in the tailings dam. (*Note re hard hats – Kris can supply 12*)

After leaving the mine we will return to Drake, continue east along the highway to turn right into Long Gully Road and proceed to the Long Gully Rest Area for lunch. We will then continue along the Rocky River Road and if weather and time permit we will stop for a swim in the river before returning to Tenterfield via the Billarimba Road.

Please note that a lot of this trip will be on narrow, winding gravel roads which are unfenced, so take care with wandering stock, keep a suitable distance behind the car in front to minimise dust and keep the car behind you in sight particularly at turn-offs. Total distance is about 280km.

Leader - Rob McCosker Phone 46835371

Outing to Gasparin's Hill on 5th November 2004

Ten folk gathered to explore Gasparin's Hill on 5-11-04. It was a dull morning with a promise of rain when we arrived at the Norcross property, which afforded us access to the mountain.

Mr Norcross told us that, as far as he could gather, there had not been a bush fire in the area for close to a hundred years. As we began the ascent, this was thought to be the case as the ground was fairly well covered with stick and leaf litter. From the very beginning of the climb, there was an excellent array of flowers. The climb was over and around boulders and fairly steep, so progress was fairly slow. A grove of flannel flowers delighted us.

Maps of the surrounding properties were pored over by the men in the group and we eventually made our way to wonderful slabs of granite. Flowers were many and much admired and the identification of these made our progress slow. (Actually it gave us time to catch our breath before the next obstacle course.)

Our morning tea stop was atop a wonderful granite slab running toward the west. From this vantage point we identified local homes and properties, various hills and mountains of the district, and viewed with joy the rain which was approaching from the west. As the granite slabs were steep and the ground cover deep, we decided we should get to level ground as quickly as possible. The rain did keep coming and we got slightly damp, but the rain was most welcome.

We did not get to the exact rock slab which was my original destination, but it was a most rewarding morning. This area is well worth closer scrutiny and we will do some more research and try again.

Mr Norcross was pleased we had chosen the area for our outing and I was impressed to see that he mows around some areas of native plants and has other small areas protected with rustic fencing. It is good to see that more people are appreciating the native vegetation.

Millie

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Plants in Flower at Gasparin's Hill, Reilly Road, East of Stanthorpe 5/11/2004
 Compiled by I Milinovich and D Wham

	Monocotyledons	
Family	Genera & species	Common Name
Orchidaceae (Orchids)	Diuris punctata Pterostylis rufa Calochilus robertsonii	Purple Donkey Orchid Ruddy Greenhood Purple Bearded Orchid
Anthericoaceae (Lilies)	Thysanotus tuberosus Tricoryne elatior Laxmania compacta	Fringed Lily Yellow Rush Lily Wire Lily
	Dicotyledons	
Apiaceae (Carrot Family)	Actinotus helianthi Platysace ericoides	Flannel Flower
Asteraceae (Daisies)	Bracteantha sp Brachyscome stuartii Ozothanmus diosmifolius Lagenifera stipitata Leucochrysum albicans	Everlasting Sago bush Hoary Sunray
Campanulaceae	Wahlenbergia sp	Bluebells
Lobeliaceae	Lobelia gracilis Pratia purpurascens	White Root
Dilleniaceae (Guinea Flowers)	Hibbertia aspera Hibbertia sp	Guinea Flower
Goodeniaceae	Goodenia glabra Goodenia bellidifolia	Daisy Goodenia
Portulacaceae	Calandrinia pickeringii	
Spigeliaceae	Mitrasame alsinoides	Mitrewort
Stackhousiaceae	Stackhousia viminea	Slender Stackhousia
Stylidiaceae (Trigger Plants)	Stylidium laricifolium Stylidium graminifolium	Tall Trigger plant Grass Trigger plant
Thymeleaceae (Riceflowers)	Pimelia linifolia	Queen of the bush
Lamiaceae (Mint Family)	Prosanthera nivea var. nivea Prosanthera sp	Snowy mintbush Purple
Rutaceae (Citrus Family)	Boronia ?polygalifolia (prostrate pink)	Dwarf boronia?
Epacridaceae (Heaths)	Brachyloma daphnoides var. daphnoides Leucopogon melaleucoides	 Snow bush
Fabaceae (Pea Family)	Jacksonia scoparia Dilwynia retorta var.? 2 other peas sp.	Dogwood Parrot Pea
Myrtaceae (Myrtle Family)	Calytrix tetragona Baekea densifolia Leptospermum polygalifolium Leptospermum sp. Eucalyptus blakelyi	Heath Myrtle Common tea Tree Blakely's Red Gum

PROGRAM 2004-2005

Friday	Sunday	Wednesday - Meeting
March 4 Stevensons	March 20 Condamine Gorge David Wilson	March 23 Millie and Dave
April 1 M McNichol	April 24 Braeside Gorge D Bright	April 27 J Harslett
Campout Ashford 30 April –2 May K & M Carnell		
May 6 A Cameron	May 22 Rivertree Ian and Dell	May 25 N Crawford
June 3 M Carnell	June 19 Sundown R McCosker	June 22 K Carnell
July 1 J Allison	July 24 Maryland L Bourne	July 27 Landcare
August 5 J Harslett	August 21 Jibbenbar P Haselgrove	August 24 A.G.M. Remember Last Year
September 2 L Bourne	September 25 South Bald Rock Hockings and Camerons	September 28 P Andrewartha