



# 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](mailto: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:  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2005**

## Coming Up

**Outing Sunday March 20<sup>th</sup>: Condamine Gorge led by David Wilson**

**Next Meeting Wednesday March 23<sup>rd</sup>: Program by Millie Marsden**

**Friday Outing April 1<sup>st</sup>: Led by Mark McNichol – 9a.m. start Historic sites and old roads.**

**More details at the meeting and in the Border Post**

### Outing Report - 3rd Crossing of the Severn River - 23rd January

Only myself and Glenn McRae went along for this trip as it was a steamy, hot day which was not conducive to much exertion.

The river level was much reduced from last year's outing although there was still water flowing over the 2nd and 3rd crossings. On the walk in, there was quite a variety of birds seen and heard in the understorey scrubs and trees, including brilliant flashes of colour from scarlet honeyeaters.

By the time we got to the swimming hole, the birds had also decided it was too hot and, apart from some cormorants, there was not a lot to see. Liz had a swim in the tepid water, which was only partially refreshing while Glenn added a few more birds to his list.

Just before midday, the skies darkened and the lightning started to crack so we decided to head back to the car before we got caught in a storm. With the promise of rain, the birds all decided to come out again so it was quite an interesting return trip. The storm did not eventuate over us but when I got home was lucky enough to get a downpour that delivered 27mm.

*Liz Bourne*

### February Outing Report

First my apologies for not being able to visit the Drake gold mine as published in the Newsletter. I heard only 5 days before the outing that the caretaker would not be available for the weekend. In spite of this setback 16 people turned up to investigate some of the features of the Girard State Forest.

After meeting at Tenterfield, and one vehicle being pulled over for a Breathalyser Test, we continued down the Bruxner Highway to the Crooked Creek Rest Area for morning tea. Col produced a pair of hand held radios for the lead and tail end cars to keep in contact, after I explained the concern of keeping the vehicle behind in sight while driving through the forestry, so we could then at least all get lost together. Which we did. Well I should say we were geographically embarrassed, as I set off to follow Bowerbird Road to McLeod's Creek Road then on to the Rhodes Flats falls. Unfortunately by taking a wrong turn we arrived back on the Highway a few k's west of where we started. We decided then to continue back along the highway to McLeod's Creek Road, and in doing so have the opportunity of seeing some of the lush pasture paddocks and the lonely grave beside the road, of young Joseph Barker of Norfolk England, dated 1864-1889.

When we reached the creek crossing where we hoped to park to walk to the falls we were met by a barking dog and bearded gent who refused to allow us through the private property to access the falls, as the owner was not home. After more map consultation we decided to turn around and attempt to locate the Fire Tower shown on the maps. The fire trail we followed was a little overgrown but passed through some lovely rainforest before rising to the cleared hilltop with the fire tower and a communications tower. Although the day was very hazy we could make out a peak to the north-east, which is Mt Warning according to the info on the Forestry Map. From here it was a short drive past the disused forestry headquarters building back to the Crooked Creek Rest Area where we stopped for lunch.



Back on the highway after lunch, we continued through Drake to turn into Long Gully Road. This road descends through a section of the Girard State Forest, which is also a delightful

palms and tree several times and grazing land, it distance, before valley. At one campsite on the and shady she-oak rubbish waterhole looked for swimming. It further on and we where the road



rain forest with many bangalow ferns, crosses Long Gully Creek then, as the country opens up to follows McLeod's Creek for some finally reaching the Rocky River point we pulled in to a popular Rocky River, with soft couch grass oaks, but were saddened by the sight recently left behind. The large inviting but too rocky and shallow was suggested there was a better spot stopped again at a creek crossing turns away from the river then

climbs up the hills to Tenterfield as the Billarimba Road. At the creek we paused for a cuppa in the shade of the she-oaks, then headed towards Tenterfield and home, although Trish and I went for a quick dip in the creek first, to freshen up. We also had another brief stop in Tenterfield for the breathalyser man, just to cap off an interesting and 'different' days outing. (Peter was pulled up AGAIN on his way home - seems the policeman was interested in his Troopy!)

*Rob McCosker*

### **Bird List February Outing – mostly seen from the vehicle**

Compiled by Margaret Carnell

Wood duck, magpie, white-faced heron, rainbow lorikeet, eastern rosella, crimson rosella, kookaburra, noisy miner, willy wagtail, bell bird (call), fire tailed finch, silveryeye, brown cuckoo dove, thornbill (yellow rumped?), bee eater, spurwing plover (masked lapwing), crested pigeon.

### **Outing to the Condamine Gorge**

The outing on Sunday 20 March will be a less strenuous day than some of the more traditional outings organised by we Warwick members. It provides an opportunity to enjoy some of the more civilized areas around the Warwick Shire.

Stanthorpe members will depart from Weeroona Park at 8:00 to meet up with the Warwick members at Jackie Howe Park. The park is located on the north side of Warwick just past the Mobil garage. We will depart from there at 9:00 for a leisurely drive to Killarney via the Freestone Valley and Yangan. The drive through the Condamine Gorge will require four-wheel drives to negotiate the eighteen or so river crossings.

We will travel back to Killarney along the Spring Creek Road. There are several points of interest along this road. The Moss Gardens is a 200m walk through rainforest veiled in lichen. Carr's Lookout is one of the best lookouts you will see in Southern Queensland with views into the Head Valley and across to Mt Superbus. Some people may like to lunch or snack at the Carr's Lookout Café.

The planned lunch spot will be Queen Mary Falls. After lunch, some may choose to do the circuit walk to the bottom of the falls. This is easily completed in around an hour.

From there, we will continue back towards Killarney, stopping at Daggs Falls and finally Browns Falls. There is a rough 15-20 min walk up the creek to the falls.

The success of this day will depend on the weather. If there is heavy rain, the gorge will not be attempted. On the other hand, the many falls are a spectacle after heavy rain.

David Wilson

4661 2839

0427 612839

volcanic.caldera@bigpond.com

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2005**

**Opening:** The meeting opened at 7.33pm, with the President, Kris Carnell, welcoming members and visitors.

**Attendance:** There were 23 present at the meeting and 9 apologies as per the attendance book.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2004 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 original club logo depicted a grass tree but many members felt that it would be more appropriate to have something more closely associated with the Granite Belt. Members were asked to bring suggestions to the next meeting.

**Correspondence:**

**Inwards:**

1. Chinchilla Field Nats – *Urimbirra* - Jan. and Feb. 05
2. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club – *Darling Downs Naturalist* – Nov. and Jan.
3. Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Club – *Murrumbidgee Naturalist* – Dec. / Feb.
4. Samson Total Technology – invoice for \$19.69; statement for \$22.82
5. Frank Wilkinson – thanks for get well card
6. Stanthorpe Shire Council – Clean Up Australia Day – 6 March
7. Fassifern Field Naturalists – newsletter
8. Qld Naturalists Club – *Qld Naturalist* - Dec 04
9. Dept. of Fair Trading – Good Business Guide
- 10 Binna Burra Mountain Lodge – information on lodge and Bird Watcher's Weekend
- 11 Field Nats Club of Victoria – Australian Natural History Medallion
- 12 Stanthorpe Shire Council – questionnaire on use of sport and recreation facilities in Stanthorpe

**Outwards:**

1. Information to CGU Insurance for public liability policy plus payment of \$

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

**Business Arising from the Correspondence:**

1. Clean Up Australia Day

No one from the club was interested in getting involved in this activity.

It was noted that the native gardens in Heritage Park needed some replanting and that the Ray Marsden memorial sign had been damaged again. Rob McCosker would investigate replacing this.

2. Stanthorpe Sport and Recreation Facilities Survey

Consultants have been engaged by the Council to investigate the use of the Shire's sporting facilities. This was not seen to be directly relevant to the club but the secretary will complete the questionnaire.

**Financial Statement for the period from 24/11/04 to 23/2.05:**

Cash book balance as at 24/11/04	1174.11	
<u>Receipts:</u>		
Memberships	25.00	25.00
<u>Expenditure:</u>		
Photocopier - maintenance	17.05	
Room rent	30.00	
CGU Insurance – public liability	413.88	
Govt. tax	1.30	
		462.23
Cash book balance as at 23/2/05		736.88
Less outstanding cash receipts		
Membership to be banked	25.00	
Agrees with bank balance as at 18/2/05		711.88
<u>Accounts for payment:</u>		
Samson Total Technology	22.82	
QCWA – room rent (3 months)	30.00	
Magazine postage	100.00	

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

**Outing Reports:**

1. January Outing to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Crossing

Only Liz Bourne and Glenn McCrae attended as it was a hot and steamy day.

2. February Friday Outing

No one except the leader, Dave Bright, attended.

3. Outing to Mt Carrington Gold Mine at Drake

The trip was unable to go to the mine, as planned. Instead, they went to the Girard State Forest.

**Pre-Outing Reports:**

1. Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March

This will be going to Dr Robert's Waterhole and will be led by the Stevenson's. It will have a 9am start.

2. Condamine Gorge – 20 March

David Wilson said he anticipated that the gorge road be open. Only short walks from the cars will be required. Meeting time will be 9am in Jacky Howe Park in Warwick.

**Specimens:**

1. Kris Carnell - a photo of an insect - maybe a catydid?; - photos from Sunday's outing

2. Rob McCosker – photos from pre-outing to Drake; maps of the forests visited last weekend

3. Liz Bourne – posters on some of the Shire's endangered plants

**General Business:**

1. Proposed Book on Wildflowers of the Granite Belt

The Stanthorpe Rare Wildflower Consortium (of which the club is a member), has been investigating the need for a book covering the flora of the Granite Belt. Paul Donatui from the World Wide Fund for Nature explained to the meeting about his involvement with the Queensland Museum's production of a book on the flora of South East Queensland. They could be interested in a similar book on the granite flora but would require some outside financial assistance before beginning production. It had been suggested that the Field Naturalist Club make an application from the Gaming Machine

The Granite Belt Naturalist March 2005 Vol. 366

Community Development Fund for this money. Paul was asked to provide further information and more detailed costings of what would be involved in the production of such a book and present this at a future meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.26pm and was followed by a slide programme from David Wilson of trips he had made to central Australia.