



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:
6th June 2005

Coming Up

Outing Sunday 22nd May Rivertree led by Dell Wham & Ian Milinovich

Next Meeting Wednesday 25th May: Program by Narelle Crawford *The Canning Stock Route*

Friday Outing 3rd June: My Home Town led by Margaret Carnell

Braeside Gorge Outing Sunday 24th April 2005

17 members and 8 guests assembled at Braeside for this outing. We met the 'Crystal Mountain' property owner, Ross McCorquodale at the homestead and after smoko headed 8 km north on farm tracks. We all found the good vantage points to view the gorge. Some were quite happy to enjoy the view whilst the majority descended into the gorge carrying lunch. From here nine ventured further on to the junction of 'middle' and an unnamed creek where the gorge heads north. We enjoyed lunch with two wedgetailed eagles circling overhead. After lunch we headed some 500m north and then returned. There were deep waterholes in the gorge but of course, no water flowing.

Our only encounter with wildlife was a goanna, 2 wedgetails and quoting Liz "some other twitty things".

Dave Bright

Pre Outing Report Rivertree 22nd May

Leaders Ian & Dell

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am and travel to Rivertree for smoko. The outing will be on the property of Mac and Gilruth Rees, which has an 18 kilometre frontage to Koreelah Creek. The remains of the Rivertree settlement and the racecourse are on the property.

The pools of Koreelah Creek have lots of platypus in them and there are lots of river gums lining the creek. Potoroos and rock wallabies also inhabit the area, but are a bit shy.

If you intend walking far along the creek bring lunch to carry. For further information contact Ian or Dell on 46810680.

Outing Report Camp-Out to Kwiambal National Park 30th April – 2nd May

Friday 29th April dawned fine as usual as we packed to travel to Kwiambal National Park. We stopped beside the road to have morning tea and Erin announced she has seen 243 cacti (prickly pear). I'm not sure what the final count was. As I had never been to Texas, we decided to travel that way and came across the old Silver Spur Mine, where there was a fairly new looking poppet head above a mine shaft and evidence of drilling for samples. We spent some time here looking at the old traction engine, crusher, slag heaps and other bits and pieces.

When we arrived Lyn and John had already set up camp at Lemon Tree Flat, so we parked near the water where we could watch the birds come to drink. Three dusky moor hens were feeding amongst the duck weed. There was a fallen tree in the water, which provided shelter for the birds as they drank and two of the first to fly down were rosellas of some sort. We know that they weren't pale headed rosellas, eastern rosellas or crimson rosellas, and they certainly weren't king parrots. Their heads were mottled yellow and red, their backs were greenish and they were yellow to orange underneath. The closest we could see in the field guide was the Adelaide rosella, but its back was yellow not green.

Just on dark Lyn, John and Erin saw what they took to be a cat walking under Lyn and John's caravan. They said it was spotted, and white underneath, which made us wonder if it was in fact, a quoll. They are found in the area, but this animal ambled beneath the van, not apparently concerned by having people about. We also saw a tiny insectivorous bat flying about.

On Saturday Dave, Peter, Mario, Grace and Archie arrived. Mario took a detour by mistake and saw hundreds of ostriches at an ostrich farm. Unfortunately, just after he arrived, one of the tyres on his vehicle went down. After lunch when everyone had set up camp we drove to McIntyre Falls and admired the view and commented on the small amount of water in the river, before most of us set off down to The Beach. The track was mostly by steps, with a section of ramp, before a few metres of rock-hopping at the bottom. Here Erin was able to have a "swim" in the relatively clean water at the edge of the river – most of it was full of green slime. We heard quite a few "rock fish" plopping, but Kris was the only one able to find a pebble flat enough to skip across the water.

In the evening we lit a fire to cook dinner and sat around it afterwards, toasting marshmallows, while waiting for the damper to cook. We also did a spot of spotlighting, seeing two possums (or one possum twice) and a tawny frogmouth sitting on a branch just above head height.

Our walk on Sunday to The Junction was much longer than Saturday's effort. It was marked as an easy grade, but there were some steep sections. When we arrived at the side-track to The Dungeon, some of us sat on a log to contemplate, and saw a skink with an iridescent blue back. Beside the track there was an acacia with lanceolate leaves, on which the young branches were triangular. We also saw cymbidium caniculatum in two places.

The Dungeon was quite spectacular, with huge boulders strewn along the bottom of the gorge and lots of potholes. We had morning tea at the lookout and watched white-eared honeyeaters in the trees.

As we continued towards The Junction, we saw animal droppings on the road, one of which may have been an emu's. There is a picnic table in the shade of trees at the end of the road, so we dropped our packs and went exploring. We all poked around along the river and amongst the rocks and Erin had the usual paddle/swim in a rock pool and later the sandy part of the river, where she found a very large mussel shell. We headed back after lunch and spent a lazy afternoon bird watching and drinking tea.

Monday morning was quite cold as we had breakfast and started to pack up before heading to the limestone caves at Ashford. On the way we saw two emus, who didn't want their photo taken, and a flock of turquoise parrots near the caves. We spent quite a while exploring the caves and still missed part of them. We did find the large fig tree with another entrance this time, and most of the group went back down that way to have another look. We noticed sedimentary rock above the limestone around this entrance.

After smoko we all went to Ashford via the mailbox route, then John, Lyn and Mario headed home, while the rest of us went on to Pindari Dam. We walked across the wall to the spillway and saw five pelicans flying over and landing in the trees on a point. By this time, it was time for lunch, so we stopped at the picnic area before heading home. Dave returned via Ashford and looked in at Sundown National Park, but it was so dry he decided not to stay. The rest of us returned via Deepwater. After leaving the dam we noticed outcrops of basalt and one of the creeks has a basalt bed. Then we were back in granite country. Seeing we were running out of time, we left the Emmaville Museum and the Ottery Mine to a later date.

Margaret Carnell

Bird List Camp Out to Kwiambal National Park 30th April – 2nd May

Fairy wren, willy wagtail, kookaburra, currawong, magpie, dusky moorhen, pale-headed rosella, white-plumed honeyeater, azure kingfisher, white-browed scrub wren, sulphur-crested white cockatoo, tawny frogmouth, galah, pee wee, cormorant, welcome swallow, duck, rainbow lorikeet, noisy friar bird, eastern yellow robin, king parrot, emu, noisy miner, pied butcher bird, crow, spiny-cheeked honey eater, white-throated tree creeper, black-faced cuckoo shrike, grey shrike thrush, chough, white-eared honey eater, babbler, yellow-faced honey eater, striated thornbill, wedgetail eagle, blue-faced honey eater, eastern spinebill (call), turquoise parrot, wood swallow, richards pippit, pelican, mistletoe bird, peaceful dove, ibis.

Margaret Carnell

Camp-Outs

At the campout at Kiwambal on the May long weekend the suggestion was again raised that we have more campouts, perhaps on a more informal basis. For instance Margaret and I plan to be camping at Mt Kaputar between the 10th and the 17th September this year. If any Nats would like to join us you would be very welcome. If any other members are planning a camp and would like us to publicise it, let Margaret know and she can put the details in the magazine.

Outing Report Turners Creek on 6th May

Seventeen Nats met at Jim Mitchell Park for our excursion to Turners Creek led by Archie Cameron. We turned off the highway and followed dirt roads for a while before entering Archie's property where we passed a couple of water holes before pulling up at the fence which is still being erected.

While Archie waited for Jean, who had been held up by road works, the rest of us made our way upstream. Although the creek was very low, there were some very pretty waterholes and some of us saw a red-bellied black snake. John was busy with his binoculars watching birds.

On returning to the cars we had the inevitable cuppa before meandering downstream where there was even less water. Our first stop was to admire some catfish nests in the dry creek bed. One of them was very large. Further downstream we found a white-winged chough's mud nest with a "window" in it, and over the fence there were two babbler's roosts in small trees.

One of the most interesting waterholes was a "tank" beside the watercourse, which rises and falls to the same level as the creek. Beyond this were more holes in the creek and we turned back towards the cars at a waterhole surrounded by reeds and other vegetation. On the way back we disturbed a flock of

apostle birds which flew noisily away. We all enjoyed our outing to the Dalveen area. Thank you Archie for leading us.

Margaret Carnell

Bird List Turners Creek – many thanks to John Allison for providing the list

Pacific Black Duck, Hardhead, Australasian Grebe, Little Pied Cormorant, White Faced Heron, Intermediate Egret, Australian White Ibis, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Purple Swamphen, Dusky Moorhen, Eurasian Coot, Masked Lapwing, Crested Pigeon, Galah, Little Lorikeet (H), Eastern Rosella, Laughing Kookaburra, White-throated Treecreeper, Superb Fairy-wren, Spotted Pardalote, Striated Pardalote, Weebill, Brown Gerygone, White-throated Gerygone, Yellow Thornbill, Little Wattlebird, Noisy Friarbird, Noisy Miner, Lewin's Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, White-naped Honeyeater, Golden Whistler, Willie Wagtail, Grey Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Pied Currawong, Torresian Crow, Double-barred Finch, Red-browed Finch, Silvereye, Apostle Bird

Pre-Outing to My Home Town Friday 3rd June

Leader: Margaret Carnell

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am and drive to the Lions Park at Wallangarra, where we will meet with anyone who has gone direct. Our first stop will be at St Martin de Porres Community in Rayleigh Street, where Dave will show us his organic garden and worm farm. He produces organic vegetables for sale in Wallangarra and Tenterfield.

Smoko will be back at the Lions Park, then we will visit the original border survey tree, the Union Church with its memorial trees, the Railway Museum and the CED ponds on the outskirts of town. There are a number of other things we may be able to see, depending on the time.

The outing should be finished by lunchtime, but you may decide to have coffee at the Railway Museum

Quoll Seekers

The Quoll Seekers Network Inc. will be holding a Quoll Discovery Day at Dalveen on Saturday 28th May starting at 9am. Items include a talk by Dr Scott Burnett on Quolls and conservation, a workshop on Quoll-Proof poultry pens and free BBQ lunch. If you are interested in participating, please phone Glenn Costello on 07 38710509 or Mobile 04390724270; or email glenn55@eqconnect.net. They need an RSVP by 23rd May for catering purposes.

Digital Photos

If you intend to have digital photos for *Remember Last Year* could you please advise Kris now, so that we can start to make arrangements to collate them for an audio-visual presentation. We will need at least two weeks before the August meeting.

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc
held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 27th April, 2005

Opening: The meeting opened at 7.37pm, with the President, Kris Carnell, welcoming members and visitors, Charmaine Kaiser and Susan Orkild. He also gave a special welcome to Jean Harslett who has been unable to attend meetings recently.

Attendance: There were 19 present at the meeting and 13 apologies as per the attendance book.

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

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Directory of Aust. Associations – request for information for directory
2. Chinchilla Field Nats – *Urimbirra* - April 05
3. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club – *Darling Downs Naturalist* – April
4. Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Club – *Murrumbidgee Naturalist* – April
5. Diane Holley – membership renewal
6. Fassifern Field Naturalists – newsletter
7. Qld Naturalists Club – *QNC News* – May/June

Outwards:

1. Letter of thanks to Graham Greenup for allowing club to visit Maryland Station
 2. Letter of thanks to Mark McNicol for leading the outing to the Maryland area
- This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Liz Bourne, seconded by Rob McCosker. Carried.

Financial Statement for the period from 23/3/05 to 27/4/05:

Cash book balance as at 23/3/05	582.76	
<u>Receipts:</u>		
Memberships	15.00	
Room rent collection	12.50	
		27.50
<u>Expenditure:</u>		
Photocopier - maintenance	11.60	
Aust. Post – PO Box rental	56.00	
Govt. tax	.60	
		68.20
Cash book balance as at 27/4/05		542.06
Agrees with bank balance as at 19/4/05		
<u>Accounts for payment:</u>		
Kris Carnell (magazine postage)	100.00	

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

Dave mentioned that people from time to time made small donations to help off-set the cost of hiring the QCWA room for our meetings.

Kris said that he had recently reviewed the number of newsletters being distributed. There were 61 sent to members, 5 to other clubs and 5 to various people who had made inquiries about the club's activities. Some newsletters were also hand delivered.

Outing Reports:

1. Maryland outing – Friday 1 April

This was reported on fully in the last newsletter.

2. Braeside Gorge – Sunday 24 April

Dave Bright led this outing to Ross McCorquodale's property. 26 people went along but only about 10 climbed down into the bottom of the gorge.

Pre-Outing Reports:

1. Friday 6th May

This will be going to a couple of fossicking areas close to Dalveen and will be led by Archie Cameron. It will meet at Jim Mitchell Park at Dalveen.

2. Rivertree – 22 May

Dell Wham and Ian Milinovich will be leading this outing. Further details will be in the newsletter.

3. Campout on May long weekend (30 April to 2 May) to Kwiambal National Park via Ashford, NSW

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Details as per newsletter. Kris said as it was likely to be dry, participants should bring plenty of water.

4. The program at the next meeting on 25 May will be presented by Narelle Crawford.

Specimens:

1. Vern Sullivan – photos from Marylands outing
2. Margaret Carnell – the distinctive fruit of an osage orange tree which was growing at Marylands Homestead. The fruit is non-edible and very sticky. Apparently the timber from the tree is very good for bow making.
3. Col Hockings – specimen of the native olive – *Notolea sp.*
4. Rob McCosker reported that he had found a sick koala on the road near his place and had ended up taking it to the vet.

General Business:

1. Mark McNicol went to a lot of trouble to photocopy material for those that attended his outing to Marylands. It was resolved to donate 2 reams of paper to Mark to help repay him for this expense.

Moved: Lyn Marriott Seconded: Col Hockings Carried.

The meeting closed at 8.19pm and was followed by a very interesting slide programme from Jean Harslett of a trekking trip she and Bob had made to the Himalayas some years ago. Jean also showed us a wonderful collection of alpine butterflies.