



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:
Monday 11th July**

Coming Up

Outing Sunday 19th June: McAlister Creek in Sundown N.P. led by Rob McCosker

Next Meeting Wednesday: 22nd June. Program by Col Hockings

Friday Outing July 1st: Swipers Gully led by John Allison

Preouting Report Swipers Gully Friday 1st July

Leader: John Allison 4681 3227

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.30am. We will be going to Swiper's Gully Fossicking Area in the Passchendaele State Forest, near Amiens. Topaz and other gems have been found in this area. We will be looking at the impact on the area from fossicking, past and present, and the flora and fauna, the gully regions are interesting walking. Bring morning tea and a picnic lunch, road OK for 2WD.

Outing Report Wallangarra 3rd June 2005

Seven Nats left Weeroona Park at about 9.00am to travel to Wallangarra and reassemble at the Lions Park, with Millie to catch up with us. We arrived at the Lions Park and were about to depart for the St Martin de Porres Community when Millie arrived, coming from the wrong direction. She had beaten us.



Dave Perritt welcomed us to the community and gave us a brief history of it, before proceeding to the compost heap. While we were listening to Dave a pair of Crimson Wings flew into one of the lovely big gum trees overhead, followed by King Parrots. On the way Dave pointed out a 35,000 gallon tank which was erected by his predecessor, Sister Pat, to collect the rain water from the roofs to use on the garden. There are four compost bins, with four bins for various types of manure on the other side, so that it is just a matter of shovelling the one you want in with the lawn clippings and other organic matter. Some of us put our hands in to feel the warmth of the decomposing

compost, then washed our hands in the bucket of warm water provided. Sister Pat joined us at this juncture. We thought Harry might spend the rest of the morning admiring the compost but he was dragged away to the vegetable patch, where Dave is growing a variety of vegetables, including garlic, onions, celery, silver beet, snow peas, broad beans, sugarsnap peas and parsley. He has trouble with fruit fly in his citrus fruit. We said hello to the goats, cow and chooks and disturbed a flock of Red-

backed Parrots in the chook run. The worms were next on the list. They are fed on vegetable peelings and newspaper and are thriving.

Our hosts had arranged a table for us to have morning tea outside the church, followed by a look inside, guided by Sister Pat. We had a lovely morning and would like to thank Dave and Sister Pat very much for their hospitality.

The original Border Survey Tree was next on the list. The carving is still quite readable on the NSW side, but not on the Queensland side. From there we proceed to the CED ponds, stopping off at the Union Church to admire the memorial trees and collect some acorns from the oak. We have been unable to identify the oak, which is an evergreen. At the ponds, Kris gave us a history of the scheme and explained how the seven ponds work to treat the sewage, which passes through a septic tank at each household before gravity feeding to the ponds. A flock of Black Ducks were swimming or basking on the banks, and a Willy Wagtail greeted us from the fence.

On the way to the Railway, we stopped to look at an old barbed wire entanglement around the army reserve, then drove to the triangle where the trains used to turn around. There is a double line with 3'6" and 4'8" gauge, so the Queensland and New South Wales trains could go up on their own single track, then back onto the double line and turn around. It was then a very short drive to the Railway Museum, where we admired a beautiful grevillia growing at the entrance to the platform, before viewing the display, then stopping for lunch at *Journeys and Junctions* in the old Refreshment Rooms.

All in all it was a very satisfactory outing, although we ran out of time to visit the Beehive Dam.

Margaret Carnell

Bird List Outing to Wallangarra 3rd June 2005

Crimson Wing, King parrot, Red-rumped Parrot, Galah, Willy Wagtail, Black Duck, Noisy Miner, Pee Wee, Magpie, SBB (sitting on fence, may have been a Robin of some sort)

Other: worms, wood slaters, chooks, goats, cow, Bongo the dog.

Outing to Sundown National Park - June 19th 2005

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am as usual then drive out along the Texas Road to the National Park camp ground at the Broadwater. On the pre-outing trip it was anything but a broadwater, more a rocky depression in the river bed. One consolation of this is that we will not have to remove our shoes to cross to McAlister Creek as I remember having to do on a previous trip.

After morning tea at the camp ground we will walk up the creek to Split Rock falls for lunch. The walk is not difficult but requires us to 'rock hop' for about 3km to the falls. On our pre-outing trip Trish and I climbed around these falls and continued on to Double Falls and that could be an option if anyone is keen to do this, time permitting. Don't expect to see any running water unless there is a miraculous downpour the day before, so carry plenty of drinking water. There are a couple of water holes in the creek, which are havens for wildlife, including the feral goats.

We should be back at the cars for afternoon tea by about 3.00pm.
Leader Rob McCosker Phone 4683 5371.

The Mystery Of The Glitch In The South Australian Border
by Errol Walker.

Last Feb. Annette & I took advantage of an "off season" package cruise on the Murray river. The cruise went from Murray Bridge to Blanchetown & return, a distance of 200 river miles. It was very much an ecologically based cruise with plenty of stops highlighting land based points of interest.

One of the intriguing observations I made was the alignment of the NSW-VIC-SA state borders where they meet at the Murray River. I'll pause while you get your atlas out to verify what I am talking about. Now, if you look closely you will notice that the SA-VIC border is offset about 10 km to the west from the 141st meridian compared to the border above the Murray which follows that meridian.

I asked just about everyone I thought might have the answer to this anomaly including Murray River lock keepers, the local M.P., old timers on park benches & paddleboat captains. They all had theories but when pressed they didn't really know. One of the favourite theories was the shifting of the course of the Murray during flood times.

We had to get to the bottom of this so when we got home I rang a government body in Canberra who put me in touch with a surveying authority in Adelaide who were most helpful and emailed straight back with what is a fairly obvious answer.

"The reason for the step in the eastern border of SA at the Murray is because when they surveyed 141°E in 1847 starting from the Southern Ocean they couldn't determine longitude very accurately. By the time they came to survey the border north of the Murray some 20 years later they had significantly improved their methods, however this line is still about 100m off the true position of 141°E. When this error south of the Murray was revealed SA & Victoria went to the High Court over the disputed strip with Victoria winning. A recent book, *The Disputed Country*, by Bob Dunn deals with this border and all the issues relating to its survey and dispute."

Isn't that interesting?

Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc
held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 25th May, 2005

Opening: The meeting opened at 7.43pm, with the President, Kris Carnell, welcoming members.

Attendance: There were 17 present at the meeting and 8 apologies as per the attendance book.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 27th April were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Narelle Crawford, seconded by Millie Marsden. Carried.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club – *Darling Downs Naturalist* – May
2. Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Club – *Murrumbidgee Naturalist* – May
3. Aust. Naturalists Network – request for update of directory information
4. Aon's Association Liability Insurance – offer of professional indemnity insurance
5. Stanthorpe Community Development Service – invitation to club to have display during Adult Learner's Week in September
6. International Park Tours – *IPT Traveller* – May/June 05
7. Chinchilla Field Nats. – *Urimbirra* – May
8. Samson Total Technology – invoice for \$42.66
9. Stanthorpe Camera Club – cheque for \$28 for half of post office box rental

This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Liz Bourne, seconded by Margaret Carnell. Carried.

Business Arising from Correspondence:

1. Display at Adult Learner's Week

Liz said that this had proved very successful last year and that she was willing to organise it again.

Financial Statement for the period from 27/4/05 to 25/5/05:

As the treasurer, Dave Bright, is away overseas for 3 months, no report was presented to the meeting. Since the last meeting, expenditure has been \$100 for stamps for sending out the newsletter and \$13 for photocopy paper donated to Mark McNichol. The accounts for payment were \$42.88 for Samson Total Technology for the photocopier and \$45 to the QCWA for room rent.

Outing Reports:

1. Outing to Turner's Creek, Dalveen – Friday 6 May

This was reported on in the last newsletter.

2. Campout – 30 April – 2 May to Kwiambal National Park

A report of this very enjoyable campout was in the last newsletter.

3. Rivertree – Sunday 22 May

30 people attended this outing which was organised by Dell Wham and Ian Milinovich and went to the property of Mac and Gilruth Rees at Rivertree. The group first visited the site of the old Rivertree township and racecourse. Platypus were sighted in Koreelah Creek and greenhood orchids, callistemons, water gums and 25 bird species were also seen. As only a small portion of the property was visited, a more extensive trip should be organised there in the future.

Pre-Outing Reports:

1. Friday 3 June

This will be going to the Tenterfield area and will involve mostly driving, rather than walking. It will visit an organic farm, the survey tree on the border, possibly the Beehive Dam and the Wallangarra railway museum.

2. Friday 1 July

This will be to Swiper's Gully in the Passchendaele State Forest and will be led by John Allison. Details in the newsletter.

3. Sunday 19 June – Sundown National Park

Rob McCosker will be leading this walk to Split Rock Falls on McAlister Creek which are about 3km from the Broadwater Camping Ground. It will be mainly level but rocky walking up the creek. Keen walkers may like to go on to Double Falls.

Next meeting:

The presentation at the next meeting on 22 June will now be from Col Hockings.

Specimens:

1. Ian Milinovich had photos from the Rivertree outing and also from Mt Kaputar National Park
2. Rob McCosker had photos of Split Rock Falls and reported that the koala found near his home had died.
3. Millie had photos from the Turner's Creek outing
4. The Carnells had a rock from the Rivertree outing which looked like granite but may be diorite

General Business:

1. Quoll Seeker's Network Workshop

Liz reminded members that this workshop was on Sat 28 May at Dalveen and all members had been invited to attend.

2. Club Name Badges

Errol Walker asked about progress with the name badges. Kris reported that this has been held up while we develop a more "granite specific" logo. Millie suggested that in the interim, visitors be given a name tag on outings.

The Granite Belt Naturalist June 2005 Vol 369

The meeting closed at 8.20pm and was followed by a very interesting slide programme from Narelle Crawford of a trip taken down the Canning Stock Route in Western Australia.

Bird List Outing to Rivertree 22nd May

Magpie, Currawong, Thornbill, Pee Wee, Leewins Honeyeater, Black Cormorant, Crimson Rosella, Eastern Rosella, Masked Lapwing (Spurwing Plover), Wedgetail Eagle, Kookaburra, Azure Kingfisher, Pied Cormorant, Little Grebe, Noisy Miner, Willy Wagtail, Grey Butcher Bird, Noisy Friar Bird, Black Duck, White-eared Honeyeater, Grey Fantail, White Faced Heron, Rose Robin.

Other Wildlife: Platypus, Wallaby, Wanderer butterfly, Lesser Wanderer butterfly, Greasy butterfly.

Compiled by Margaret Carnell with help from others.