



# 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,<br>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 5<sup>th</sup> September 2005**

## Coming Up

**Outing Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August:** Jibbinbar led by Peter Haselgrove

**Next Meeting Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August:** AGM. Program *Remember Last Year*

**Weekday Outing Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September:** Liz Bourne (*Please note change of date*)

### Pre-Outing Report – Jibbinbar 21<sup>st</sup> August

**Leader:** Peter Haselgrove

Meet at Weeroona Park at 8.30am. Proceed along Texas Road to Springdale Rd turnoff. Go along Springdale Road, past Peak Vale Station. Cross old pipe grid in road and go a further 4km approx. where we will meet you at the Jibbinbar turnoff at about 9.30am. We then drive in for about 1km to a locked gate. This might be the place to have morning tea and organise everyone into 4WD vehicles for the remaining 5km into the park. If the weather is good we can have lunch on top of Jibbinbar. Bring lunch and water.

Jibbinbar is a granite intrusion with heath vegetation and hopefully with the rain and warm weather there should be some interesting things flowering. Of special interest are *Homoranthus montanus* and *Macrozamia occidua*, species with very restricted distribution.

### Outing to Amiens Forest – Thursday 1 September (*please note the change of date from the usual Friday*)

The outing will leave from Weeroona Park in Marsh Street at 10.00am and travel out to the Amiens Forest (approx. 20 mins west of Stanthorpe). The outing will be through the eucalypt and heathland section of this forest where there is usually a good diversity of plant and birdlife to be seen. There should be a profusion of wildflowers out after the winter rain, so bring along your cameras and plant books.

After having smoko at the cars, we will walk through the bush onto some rock slabs, which have good views to the south, and follow these through some heath areas where some of the best wildflowers occur. This will be reasonably easy, off-track walking, with a gentle climb to start us off. We'll aim to have lunch somewhere with a view. Depending on the interests and fitness level of those in attendance, we can either return to the cars via a track or go cross country through the boulders. We should be back at the cars by 2.00pm.

Bring along your smoko, lunch, water, camera and binoculars. If it happens to be rainy, call me by 9.00am to confirm whether the walk will still be on.

*Liz Bourne*

Ph 4683 6374

### Report on July Outing to Sundown – McAllister Creek

Fine weather greeted the 18 members who met for the outing, which was postponed from last month because of rain. We left Stanthorpe at 9.00 and arrived at the Broadwater Camping area soon after 10.00am for morning tea and a chat with Park Ranger Peter and wife Lynette.



We set off to cross the Severn River and concerns of having to wade through icy water were unfounded as, although there was a flow, it disappeared into the gravelly river bed below the waterhole. Controlled burns in this area made walking much more pleasant than our pre-outing in early May, and the recent rain had promoted fresh green growth which was being enjoyed by the numerous kangaroos and wallabies. A couple of deer were seen as we started up McAllister Creek and feral pig diggings were seen along the creek bank. On the pre-outing there were only about three waterholes in the creek but on this trip we followed a babbling brook with several pretty waterfalls, which cascaded into large clear pools. The amount of water made the going much slower than I had anticipated, as we had to negotiate pools that weren't there previously. As we neared Split Rock falls, three (more energetic) souls went on ahead with the aim of reaching Twin Falls further upstream, a couple of (less energetic) people decided to wait there, while the rest of us continued to the falls.

The last climb to the bottom of Split Rock falls took a little gentle coaxing around some interesting narrow ledges to test our nerves, but those who made it thought the experience was worth while.

We had lunch downstream a little from the falls and were joined by the others who had made it to Double Falls. They were suitably impressed and had the proof on their digital camera. We returned down the creek to the river but this time had to negotiate the stepping stones above the waterhole at the Broadwater to reach the cars at about 3.00pm for afternoon tea.

I would like to say that that was the end of an enjoyable and incident free day but unfortunately that was not the case, as we left two people behind, who became quite lost for some considerable time. Mario and Linda were a little behind the group as we reached the clearing near the Broadwater and were seen walking in a northerly direction. At this time they were quite disoriented and they continued in this direction, following the River upstream for about an hour before realising they were alone, and returned to the clearing to wait for someone to find them. Unfortunately, we presumed that they had gone off to look at the Permanents Waterhole and would return in their own time, so after a cuppa we all headed for home. Fortunately Mario and Linda eventually found there way back to their vehicle, after a lengthy distressing time in unfamiliar territory and the possibility of having to spend a cold night in the bush. I am very sorry for the distress they have suffered and take full responsibility as leader.

This incident highlights the need for outing leaders to be aware of the whereabouts of all members of their group, and never presume where they are. At the end of the day we must be certain to leave with the same number of people we started with.

*Rob McCosker*

### **Bird List**

Turquoise parrot, Noisy miner, Wedge-tail eagle, Superb blue wren, Scrub wren, Willie wagtail, Yellow-faced honeyeater, Leatherhead, Yellow robin, Wood duck.

### **Adult Learners' Week**

The club will be having a stall at the "Learning Festival" in Stanthorpe's Civic Centre on Friday 2 September, which is being organised by the Granite Belt Learning Community Co-operative to help celebrate Adult Learner's Week.

The festival will feature information displays, demonstrations, interactive activities and entertainment from local community organisations and clubs. Last year, the club's display attracted a lot of interest and inquiries so if you are able to assist with looking after it, please contact Liz Bourne on 4683 6374.

Members are encouraged to come along to the Festival and learn more about what the local community has to offer. It will be open from 10.00am to 4.00pm.

### **First Spring Wildflower Walk – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September**

Members of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club have been working with the World Wide Fund for Nature, the Stanthorpe Shire Council and the Granite Borders Landcare Committee over the last couple of years on a project to help protect the rare wildflower heritage of the Granite Belt.

This region contains some unique flora and every spring, displays an incredible array of native wildflowers, providing an important attraction for tourists and nature lovers. Some of these wildflowers are found in very few other locations, many are rare and some are threatened by land clearing, grazing impacts, altered fire regimes and invasive weeds. While some of these plants are conserved in local national parks, many are found outside these areas and have little or no protection.

As part of efforts to raise public awareness about these plants, the group will be hosting a wildflower walk to Amiens State Forest on Sunday 11 September. This is aimed at showing interested local residents and visitors some of the rarer plants in the district. This forest contains a number of rare and threatened species, including the granite boronia (*Boronia granitica*), *Acacia latisepala*, *Westringia amabilis* and *Allocasuarina rupicola*.

All club members, families and friends with an interest in learning more about our local flora are most welcome to come along. The meeting place will be in Weeroona Park in Marsh Street, Stanthorpe at 9.30am where will try and organise some car pooling. From here, it is about a 20 minute drive to the forest west of Stanthorpe. People should bring along a hat, water and their lunch. There will be some off-track walking and scrambling amongst boulders and slabs to get to the best wildflower areas, although there may also be some track options available. We will finish about 1pm unless some wish to continue on for a longer period.

There will be two further walks being organized by the group. On 9 October, the walk will be to the Harslett's property at Amiens and on 13 November it will go to Girraween National Park.

As we were overwhelmed by numbers on these wildflower walks last year, you will need to indicate your interest in attending this year's walks by phoning Kate Steel on 4671 7900 to book a place. For further information, please contact Liz Bourne on 4683 6374.

### CHINCHILLA FIELD NATS

Frank Truscott from the Chinchilla Field Nats rang to advise that they will be visiting the district on the weekend of 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> October. They will be spending most of their time at Girraween and would like us to join with them. More details will be available prior to the outing. Keep the date in mind.

### TOOWOOMBA FIELD NATS

The Toowoomba Field Naturalist Club will be having a camp out at Tully Park, Dell and Ian's property, on the weekend of **September 3rd**. Stanthorpe Field Nats are invited to join them for a barbeque at 5 pm on **Saturday 3rd**. You are also invited to join them on a walk "up the back paddock" in the early afternoon. More information from Dell or Ian on 46810680

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2005**

**Opening:** The meeting opened at 7.43pm, with the President, Kris Carnell, welcoming members and special guest, Samantha Williams, from Landcare.

**Attendance:** There were 20 present at the meeting and 10 apologies as per the attendance book.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Shirlie Allum, seconded by Peter Andrewartha. Carried.

#### **Correspondence:**

##### **Inwards:**

1. Chinchilla Field Nats. – *Urimbirra* – July
2. Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Club – *Murrumbidgee Naturalist* – July
3. Qld Naturalists Club – *QNC News* – July/August
4. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club – *Darling Downs Naturalist* – July
5. Commonwealth Bank – statement for July
6. Adrian and Daphne Neil – membership renewal
7. Save the Bilby Fund – National Bilby Day
8. Qld Naturalists Club – Qld Natural History Award
9. Peter and Lyn Haselgrove – membership renewal

This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Liz Bourne, seconded by Col Hockings. Carried.

#### **Financial Statement:**

As the treasurer, Dave Bright, is still away overseas, no report was presented to the meeting.

Kris said the books were currently with the auditor and that the club was likely to run at a deficit for the second year in a row. Last year, it was \$35 and this year it is likely to be more than this.

The accounts for payment were:

Kris Carnell- \$100 for stamps; \$23.90 for white copy paper and \$19.90 for yellow copy paper

Moved: Rob McCosker      Seconded: Peter Kerr that these accounts for payment be approved.  
Carried.

#### **Outing Reports:**

1. Outing to Swiper's Gully, Amiens – Friday 1 July

The Allison's report of this outing was in the last newsletter.

2. Sunday 24 July – Sundown National Park

This walk, originally planned for June, unfortunately had to be cancelled last month due to rain. Eighteen people came along for the rescheduled walk and experienced some great weather and water in the river and side creeks.

**Pre-Outing Reports:**

1. Friday 5 August

This will be to the Harslett's property at Amiens where Jean will show people her butterfly collection and then maybe lead a short walk on their land. Details as per the newsletter.

2. Sunday 21 August – Mt Jibbenbar, Sundown National Park

The Haselgroves will lead this trip to Mt Jibbenbar via Peak Vale Station, off the Springdale Road. There will be an earlier meeting time of 8.30am at Weeroona Park. High clearance 4WDs will be needed to access the track through the property to get to the start of the walk. There should be a lot of wattles out by then and, hopefully, some wildflowers as well.

**Next Programme:**

The next meeting will be the club's Annual General Meeting and members were encouraged to give Kris any digital photos for a presentation on "Remember Last Year". Those without digital photos will be able to get their slides and prints scanned for inclusion in the presentation.

Kris reminded members that all committee positions would be declared vacant at the meeting and nominations for new office bearers called for. Millie gave her apologies for being unable to attend the meeting and said she did not wish to stand for the position of Vice-President again.

**Specimens:**

1. Col Hockings had photos from the Sundown outing
2. Desley McDonagh had a book on the birds of Ireland
3. Ian Milinovich had a map and photos from the Sundown outing

**General Business:**

1. Liz had copies of the new book *Common Wildflowers of Girraween and Bald Rock National Parks* by Peter and Leith Woodall available for sale for \$7.

2. Kris said that the new club name tags were available for those members who had yet to collect them

3. Ian said he and Dell were hosting the Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club on their property and invited club members to attend a barbeque to meet with them. Details would be in the next newsletter.

4. Michael Muller expressed his concern about a proposal by the Department of Primary Industries to privatise plantation forests and the impact this might have on their continued use for recreation. It was agreed to write to the local member, Laurence Springborg, seeking further information about this proposal. Moved: Peter Andrewartha Seconded: Col Hockings. Carried.

The meeting closed at 8.17pm and was followed by a very interesting and informative presentation from Samantha Williams of the Granite Borders Landcare Group about the work of Landcare and some of the projects they are currently involved with in the local area.

**Please Note**

**We urgently need suggestions for outings and programs for the next 12 months, as the response so far has been disappointing.**

**Also Note: The deadline for the next magazine is 5<sup>th</sup> September as the magazine will have to be produced before the school holidays.**

The Granite Belt Naturalist August 2005 Vol. 371  
**Management Matters**

As subscriptions are now due for the next 12 months, at the next two meetings there will be some time allotted for the treasurer to write receipts between the end of the meeting and the beginning of the program.

If paying by **cash** at the meeting please put your **money in an envelope with your name on the outside** to make it easier for the treasurer.

**Subscriptions for 2005/2006 : Family \$25.00 – Single \$15.00**

*Please complete your correct name and address details below and present with your subs. to the meeting in an envelope with your name on the outside, or post to:*

Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, STANTHORPE Q 4380.

Name (including title please) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Payment enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please note – Receipts not collected at the meeting will be enclosed with your Newsletter.

|   |
|---|
| <i>Names and addresses are only used for posting the magazine and are not passed on to anyone else.<br/>If anyone does not want their name mentioned in outing reports could they please advise the editor.</i> |
|---|

As quite a few of our members have Email we would like to have your email address if you are agreeable. Sometimes it is convenient to contact as many members as possible about a change in arrangements, and this could be a convenient way to do it.

Email address \_\_\_\_\_



The Granite Belt Naturalist August 2005 Vol. 371  
**Club Program Suggestions – 2005/2006**

The committee once again asks for your assistance to provide a wide range of outing activities and meeting programs for the coming twelve months. Please **jot down your suggestions below**, and indicate if you would be prepared to lead an outing or provide a meeting program. All suggestions will be considered at a special committee meeting to be held shortly after the AGM.

Name: .....

| Outings | Camp-Outs | Programs |
|---------|-----------|----------|
|         |           |          |
|         |           |          |
|         |           |          |
|         |           |          |
|         |           |          |
|         |           |          |
|         |           |          |
|         |           |          |
|         |           |          |
|         |           |          |
|         |           |          |

**Comments:** .....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....