



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	Col Hockings	46811978
	Mario Pennisi	46813750
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:
10th October 2005

Coming Up

Outing Sunday 25th September: South Bald Rock led by Jenny and Andrew Cameron

Next Meeting Wednesday 28th September: Program by Peter Andrewartha

Friday Outing 7th October: Undercliffe Falls led by Joan and Harry Stevenson

Outing Report – Jibbinbar 21st August, 2005

27 members and friends met at the Jibbinbar turnoff and then drove into Sundown National Park and along the dog fence to a suitable smoko spot. A southern section of Jibbinbar was climbed with good views across the park and to the south-west. The group returned to the cars for lunch.

After lunch we backtracked along the fence and then left the cars for a walk up the main section of Jibbinbar. Most of the party reached the top, an old trig survey site, to be rewarded by wonderful 360° views, including a most satisfying spectacular cloud of smoke from a fire somewhere near Tenterfield, with a cumulus cloud sitting on top of the updraught.

The party finally left after photographing the Jibbinbar Arsenic mine site. Unfortunately, very few wild flowers were recorded compared to last trip (2000?), possible due to an extremely dry autumn. Those seen flowering are listed below. The weather on the day was absolutely beautiful – a perfect winter’s day.

John Allison kindly kept the bird list.

Peter Haselgrove

<i>Olearia microphylla</i>	small leaved daisy
<i>Olearia ramosissima</i>	blue mountain daisy
<i>Homoranthus montanus</i>	mountain homoranthus
<i>Glossodia major</i>	waxlip orchid
<i>Drosera sp</i>	sundew
<i>Eucalyptus caleyi</i>	Caley’s ironbark
<i>Leucopogon sp.</i>	
<i>Cryptandra</i>	
<i>Caledonia carnea</i>	pink fingers

australian wood duck	white-necked heron	wedge-tailed eagle
common bronzewing	galah	red-winged parrot
(H) fan-tailed cuckoo	laughing kookaburra	white-throated treecreeper
superb fairy-wren	spotted pardalote	(H) striated pardalote
brown thornbill	buff-rumped thornbill	red wattlebird

little wattlebird	noisy friarbird	blue-faced honeyeater
noisy miner	yellow-faced honeyeater	grey shrike-thrush
restless flycatcher	grey fantail	willie wagtail
grey butcherbird	pied butcherbird	australian magpie
pied currawong	torresian crow	white-winged chough
welcome swallow	fairy martin	common starling

This is a small addition to Peter's report. When we were on top of the southern section of Jibbinbar, Peter pointed out the different watersheds for Tenterfield Creek, Mole River, Severn River and Pikes Creek, along with Mt Donaldson and The Brothers. We could also see Bald Rock and the Pyramids and Red Rock Gorge.



At lunch time Errol produced a map showing where different types of rock are found, which caused a good deal of interest and discussion.

Along the roadside on the way to Jibbinbar we noticed a Red Rock Gorge from Jibbinbar (wattle).

Margaret Carnell

Outing Report to Amiens State Forest – Thursday 1 September

Nine of us went on this walk to Amiens and were rewarded with a brilliant display of wildflowers. Two other club members (who shall remain nameless!) thought the walk started at 9am and tried to unsuccessfully find us in the forest. However, they did manage to find plenty of flowers so they were able to have a good morning anyway.

There were a number of wattles in bloom – *Acacia adunca*, *A. latisejala*, *A. granitica*, *A. venulosa* and *A. ulicifolia*, masses of the endangered *Boronia granitica*, and some very showy *Bossiaea rhombifolia*. The *Hovea purpurea* and *Mirbelia speciosa* were also spectacular and there were plenty of *Calytrix tetragona*, *Pimelia linifolia* and *Leionema rotundifolia* also in flower.

Lunch was had in perfect spring weather on an elevated sheet of granite with excellent views south to Bald Rock, Mt Norman and Mt Jibbinbar.

A short scramble back up the hill found us in a field of boronia and we slowly wandered back in amongst the boulders and heathlands, enjoying the natural wonders the forest had to offer us.

Liz Bourne

First Spring Wildflower Walk – Sunday 11th September

A reminder that the first of this spring's wildflower walks will be on this Sunday 11 September at the Amiens Forest, west of Stanthorpe.

These walks are being organized by the Stanthorpe Rare Wildflower Consortium as part of efforts to raise public awareness about significant plants in the Granite Belt region. This forest contains a number of rare and threatened species, including the granite boronia (*Boronia granitica*), *Acacia latisejala*, *Westringia amabilis* and *Allocasuarina rupicola*.

Following some good winter rain, the forest is a blaze of colour at present, with lots of different wildflowers in bloom. 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. People should bring along a hat, water and their smoko. 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.

For further information , please contact Liz Bourne on 4683 6374.

Proposed Outing - Lake Dyer, Laidley

Leaders- Errol & Annette Walker
Fri/Sat/Sun - 4/5/6 Nov 2005

We are seeking expressions of interest in attending a campout to Lake Dyer Caravan Park near Laidley.

The Laidley district has more than enough to keep us interested for the weekend and it will be possible to extend our stay at Lake Dyer or at other campgrounds in the area. Powered & unpowered sites are available with hot showers, BBQs etc. There will be no charge for the sites for the first two nights & we have secured powered & unpowered sites for the club. The bookings can be held for a month after which we have to confirm numbers. We have used the Park privately on many occasions and have enjoyed what the town & district has to offer. The campground is in an elevated rural setting with fine sunset views over the lake and valley views to the east.

Please contact us at your earliest convenience so that we may confirm the bookings and do any pre-outing work necessary. President Kris and ourselves will both be away at various times until the end of October so please ring any of the following numbers to express your interest or make enquiries regarding the outing.

More information will appear in the next magazine.

Errol & Annette 4681 2008 or 0428 154986. Kris & Margaret 4683 5268.

Outing to Caves at South Bald Rock – Girraween National Park 25.09.05

Andy & Jenny Cameron (P 07 46967177) and Col & Janet Hockings (46811978) are leading a group into South Bald Rock on Sunday the 25th September. We plan to meet at Weeroona Park at 8am – a little earlier than usual due to the amount of time required to complete this outing.

We will drive for approx 1 hour to the White Gate on the Mt Norman Rd in Girraween National Park. It is a very scenic drive, with wild flowers in abundance.

Here we will split into 2 groups –

Those spending the day at the base of South Bald Rock **10km round trip** (Scale of difficulty – 3, with some rock scrambling if so desired).

We will walk 2.5km before morning tea on a fire trail, mostly flat with some hills and then another 2.5km into the rock where we will have lunch and a look around before heading back to the cars for afternoon tea and the drive home.

Those going through the caves at South Bald Rock **11km round trip** (Scale of difficulty - up to 10 in places)

We will briskly walk **5km** (on a fire trail, mostly flat with some hills) into the rock where we will have a **substantial morning tea** at approx 10.30am and leave our packs before the steep climb over South Bald Rock. We intend to spend up to 3 & 1/2 hours working our way through the cave system before having a well-earned **late lunch (2.45pm)** back at our packs. We will arrive back at our cars by approximately 4.15pm for afternoon tea and the drive home.

The group going through the caves must be fit, flexible, strong, have climbing experience and no injuries. This cave system is strenuous on the body and not for the claustrophobic. It is quite cool, pitch black in some places, wet in others and very challenging.

As we write this, we are nursing sore muscles, grazes and bruising. We did our pre-outing yesterday (3rd September), with some work mates and Mario. However in saying all of this, it is an amazing experience - the incredible amount of life that we found in the caves surprised us - glow worms, crayfish, tree ferns, moss and king orchids, to name a few.

Those going through the caves need to wear long sleeves, long pants, an old cap and bring a **head lamp** (all old items – we will get quite dirty). If we can – we would like to leave our backpacks at the base of the rock (leaders will take first aid and water) – we found that the backpacks slowed us down too much in the cave system.

Some special requirements for this outing:

High clearance 4 wheel drive

Lots of drinking water

A packed lunch and morning tea to carry

Sturdy hiking shoes

Outing to Undercliffe Falls – Friday 7th October 2005.

Leaders: Joan and Harry Stevenson

Plans are at the moment to meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am and travel to the Undercliffe Falls where the first item on the agenda will be morning tea. We will then explore the area upstream of the falls and the energetic may decide to walk part or all the way to the bottom. The track is very steep, so a stick could be a good idea. Before returning we will have lunch.

Depending on the day, these plans may change as the mood takes us.

Phone 46811009.

Outing to Harsletts on Friday 5th August

Several cars travelled in convoy from Stanthorpe to *Mountain View* at Amiens where we were greeted by Jean and Bob. There had been a shower the night before, so we dried off the chairs and tables and had a leisurely morning tea in the garden, which included a visit from a friendly dog.

After morning tea we retired to the house where Jean had display boxes of minerals and insects on display. She recalled how the old miners could tell where tin came from by the colour and the texture (how water worn it was). We were very interested also in the quartz and topaz and other stones.

The trays of insects and butterflies were passed around so we could all have a good look. Some of the jewel butterflies were fascinating. I was particularly interested in one which is only known from a hill at Glen Aplin, which breeds on pomaderris.

Having looked our fill at the specimens, we hopped into vehicles and drove to Foxbar Falls where we walked onto the rock slabs at the top of the falls and saw phebalium rotondufolium in flower. This is a beautiful unspoiled area and Nats were free to explore the rock slabs at the top of the falls, and then walk to the bottom if they wished. There are some very colourful granite slabs in the area and cameras were busy.

On returning to the house we discovered Eva had made a quiche so a number of Nats stayed for a very pleasant lunch before returning home. It was a delightful, relaxed outing and we would like to thank Jean for sharing her collection with us.

Margaret Carnell

Friday Outings

We had a very poor response to suggestions for Friday outings. However, outings have been organized for October and November. We will discuss the issue at the September and October meetings, but if we have no further suggestions or volunteers to lead Friday outings, they will cease next year.

A friendly reminder that subs for 2005/2006 are now due. If subs are not paid by the October meeting, you will not receive any more magazines.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 24th August, 2005

Opening: The meeting opened at 8.10pm, following the Annual General Meeting.

Attendance: There were 21 present at the meeting and 7 apologies as per the attendance book.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 27th July were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Val Richardson, seconded by Patience James. Carried.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Chinchilla Field Nats. – *Urimbirra* – August
2. Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Club – *Murrumbidgee Naturalist* – August
3. Qld Naturalists Club – *The Queensland Naturalist* and *QNC News*
4. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club – *Darling Downs Naturalist* – July
5. Commonwealth Bank – statement for August

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6. Membership renewals – Steven Atkinson; Terry and Margaret Tricker; John and Audrey Ridge; Alec and Denise Harslett; Joan and Harry Stevenson; J.Deutscher; R. and M. Clarke
7. Samson Total Technology – invoice and statement for \$24.29; invoice for \$26.51
8. Office of Fair Trading – annual return for club

Outwards:

1. Samson Total Technology – payment of \$24.29
 2. Lawrence Springborg – privatisation of plantation forests
- This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Liz Bourne, seconded by Mario Pennisi. Carried.

Financial Statement for the period from 2/7/05 to 18/8/05 :

Cash book balance as at 2/7/05	400.49	<u>Expenditure:</u>	
<u>Receipts:</u>		Stamps for newsletter	100.00
Memberships	400.00	Photocopier - maintenance	46.02
Room rent collection	7.50	Paper for newsletter	43.85
Donation	5.00	Name tag holders	8.65
Sale of wildflower books	84.00	Wildflower books	69.60
	496.50	Auditor's fees	
		<u>139.00</u>	
Cash book balance as at 18/8/05		489.87	
Agrees with bank balance as at 18/8/05		489.87	
<u>Accounts for payment:</u>			
Office of Fair Trading	36.00		
Samson Total Technology	26.51		

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

Outing Reports:

1. Outing to Harsletts, Amiens – Friday 5 August
Jean reported that a good crowd of people turned up at her place. She showed them her rock, insect and plant collections and afterwards they went down to Foxbar Falls.
2. Sunday 21 August – Mt Jibbinbar, Sundown National Park
27 people attended this walk, organised by Peter Haselgrove. After meeting along Springdale Road, the group went in 4WD convoy along the rough road past the old arsenic mine site to the foot of the mountain where they stopped for smoko. A short distance further on, they left the cars and climbed a hill with excellent views in every direction, particularly to the south over the national park. There were a number of wildflowers and wattles out and some interesting plants on the slopes, including woolly oak trees and the rare *Homoranthus montanus*. David Wilson provided a lot of interesting information on the geology of the area.

After lunch, the energetic members of the party then climbed Mt Jibbinbar for some more great views before returning to the cars.

Pre-Outing Reports:

1. Thursday 1 September
Note that this outing will be on Thursday, not the usual Friday. Liz Bourne will be leading it to the Amiens Forest where there should be a good display of wildflowers out by now. Meet at Weeroona Park at 10am.
2. Sunday 24 September – South Bald Rock
Jenny and Andy Cameron will be leading this walk which will be fairly long and strenuous.

Next Programme:

Peter Andrewartha will be doing this.

Specimens:

1. Margaret Carnell – photos from the outing to Harslett's; rocks from Mt Jibbinbar which look sedimentary but may be weathered granite
2. Col Hockings – hovea from their place which he hasn't seen before. It's also been found at the base of Mt Marley and at Tully Park.
3. Michael Mueller had photos from the Mt Jibbinbar outing
4. Desley McDonagh had various photos from recent outings, including the Condamine Gorge

General Business:

1. Kris said the club had been invited to have a display in Warwick next week as part of Aged Care Week. He is providing laminated photos and handouts about the club.

2. Ian said he and Dell were hosting the Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club on their property on 3 and 4 Sept. and invited club members to attend a barbeque at 5pm on Saturday 3 September to meet with them.
3. The Chinchilla Field Naturalists Club will be visiting Girraween National Park from 14 – 16 October and invited our club members to join them.
4. Errol Walker asked why the club is not listed on Granite Net. Liz Bourne will investigate putting information about the club on this site.
5. John Allison said that Birds Queensland would be having an outing to Basket Swamp on 27/28 August to look for the Albert's lyrebird which has been reported from there. Members were invited to join them.
6. Kris said that the Amiens State School Environmental Education Centre was having a fundraising trivia night in the Civic Centre on Friday 27 August and members were invited to attend.
7. Liz reminded members that there would be community displays in the Civic Centre on Friday 2 September to celebrate Adult Learners' Week. The club would be having a display here.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm and was followed by a presentation of slides and digital photos taken by members over the last year.

<u>Proposed Programme 2005/2006</u>		
<i>FRIDAY</i>	<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>WEDNESDAY</i>
October 7 Undercliffe Falls Joan & Harry Stevenson	October 23 Bolivia Hill Margaret & Terry Tricker	October 26 Local Ground Orchids Ian Milinovich
November 4 Bald Rock N.P. Margaret Carnell	November 5 & 6 Campout at Lake Dyer Annette & Errol Walker November 20 Mt Cordoux Warwick Members	November 23 Walkers
	December 11th Break-Up At Col & Janet Hockings	
February 3	February 19 Mt Superbus Dave Bright & Peter Andrewartha(?)	February 22 Glenys Mathison
March 3	March 19 Our Back Paddock Kris & Margaret Carnell	March 22 Dave Bright
April 7	April 23 Kitchen Caves Kris Carnell & Col Hockings	April 26 First Aid
6 May – 8 May Campout Urbenville Area Col Hockings & Mario Pennisi		
May 5	May 21 Spirabo N.P. Joint with Tenterfield Field Nats	May 24 M. Mueller

June 2	June 18 Historic Outing Mark McNichol	June 21 E Walker
July 7	July 23 Blue Gorge P Haselgrove	July 26 Geology D Wilson
August 4	August 20 Rivertree –Camping Option I Milinivoch	August 23 Remember Last Year
September 1	September 24 The Signboard D Bright	September 27 Plant Propagation