



# 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 7<sup>th</sup> November**

## Coming Up

**Outing Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October:** Bolivia Hill Nature Reserve led by Terry and Margaret Tricker

**Next Meeting Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October:** Program by Errol Walker *Easter Island*

**Friday Outing 4<sup>th</sup> November:** Bald Rock National Park led by Margaret Carnell **(9a.m. start)**

**Camp-Out 4/5/6 November:** Lake Dyer Laidley led by Errol and Annette Walker

**Visit by Chinchilla Field Nats:** Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October at Girraween

### LAKE DYER - LAIDLEY OUTING 4/5/6 Nov 2005

Leaders - Errol & Annette Walker

We have sufficient numbers to run the outing and the camp sites have been booked. If further people wish to attend it should be OK but a powered site may not be available. Remember, the first 2 nights are free.

We suggest you travel from Stanthorpe north through Warwick turning right onto the Clifton - Gatton road until you meet the Gatton - Helidon road where you turn right towards Gatton. After passing through Gatton heading towards Brisbane take a right turn on to the Gatton - Laidley road and follow this road through Forest Hill and just before Laidley you will see a turnoff to the right into the Lake Dyer camp ground. If you get lost just ask anyone in Laidley where Lake Dyer is. It is only a couple of Km from the town. When you arrive it is necessary to see the caretaker telling him or her you are with the Nats and leave a refundable \$10 deposit for a key to the amenities. The drive to Laidley should take 2-3 hours covering 175Km.

A fairly full programme of activities has been planned but if the weather is hot it will be Ok to just veg. out and enjoy the birdlife and the breeze over the water. Most of the activities planned will involve short drives and little walking. We have a supply of detailed maps of the area for distribution at the October meeting or from us prior to the outing. If anyone wants to extend their holiday we can recommend other campgrounds nearby which are also free for the first couple of nights.

We should be on site by mid-day on the Friday to discuss the outing activities.

Errol & Annette Walker [ Ph 4681 2008 or 0428 154 986 ]

### Outing to Bolivia Hill Nature Reserve – Sunday 23 October 2005

**Leaders Terry and Margaret Tricker**

Bolivia Hill Nature Reserve is 40km south of Tenterfield. It was purchased by NPWS in 1999. It is within the boundary of the original Bolivia Station and has mainly been used for fine wool Merino sheep pasture. Bolivia Hill is 1225m and the granite spurs are quite impressive. I became interested in the area while doing research for the CWA on the velvet wattle, and found this area had so many plants called “Bolivia Hill” Boronias, Pimelea, Homoranthus and Wattle (which are recorded on GPS). On the pre-outing on 23 Sept, the



wattle was in bloom. The Border Thick-tailed Gecko lives in the granite outcrops.

We would like to start from Rotary Park in Tenterfield, (at the Weather Rock) at 9am and drive to the reserve, and have morning tea at the old shearing shed site. (Stanthorpe Nats can meet at Weeroona Park at 8.15am) NPWS have developed the Chile and Peru Trail a 3.5 km walk to the top of the Angoperran Ridge. The gullies have their own microclimate and flora. There is a good view from the top and may be a good spot for lunch. The base of the granite area is easily accessible, for anyone not wishing to do the longer walk. Depending on the time we leave Bolivia, we may return to Tenterfield via the Spirabo Way through the new section of Washpool NP. It is very scenic and we could have afternoon tea at Billyrimba lookout, 8k off the main track. Lots of white paper daisies and hardenbergia in flower last week. This route is advised as 4WD. For anyone wishing to return to Tenterfield via the New England Highway, there is an Historic Site at Sandy Flat, that has pictures of "How We Were" with all the names of original settlers to the area.

For more information phone 02 67361985

### **Chinchilla Field Nats Camp-out 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> October.**

Ten or twelve Chinchilla Field Nats will be camping at Girraween National park in the Bald Rock Camping Area on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October. They will arrive at approximately 10.00am on Saturday, and have invited us to join them for as much of the weekend as we wish. They intend to do a good deal of bird watching.

### **Outing to Bald Rock National Park – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2005**

Leader: Margaret Carnell

We will meet at Weeroona Park as usual and travel to Bald Rock National Park where we will have smoko before walking at a leisurely pace, up the rock via the walking track (not the face of the rock). Please make sure you carry water. There are excellent views from the top of the rock and I'm hoping there will still be wildflowers in bloom. I have not actually done a pre-outing at the time of going to press, as I have not been home enough at weekends recently.

I understand there is a day use fee at the National Park, but I have a yearly pass and seats for four passengers. Some other Nats may also have one and be willing to take passengers.

If you wish to have lunch at Bald Rock before returning just take it with you.

### **OUTING REPORT – THE CAVES AT SOUTH BALD ROCK – 25.09.05**

12 eager members and friends met at the white gate on Mt Norman Rd before we walked into the base of Bald Rock for morning tea. Along the way there were a number of dingo tracks spotted and some of the plants blooming included:

Wild Iris, Long-Leaf Wax Flower, Boronia, Tall Sundew, Mountain Violet, Wattle, Banksia, Hardenbergia, King Orchid.

After our climb to the top of South Bald Rock we were rewarded with a fantastic view, before descending into the cave's entrance.

As we rock hopped, army crawled and wormed our way through the caves, most were amazed at the lush oasis of tree ferns and moss.

Exhausted, we welcomed a late lunch before heading back to the cars ahead of schedule.

*Jenny & Andy Cameron* (Toowoomba Sub Branch)

### PLANT LIST BALD ROCK OUTING 25/9/2005

Many thanks to Ian Milinovich for providing this comprehensive plant list for the outing.

#### Plants in Flower to and from/on South Bald Rock

Ozothamnus sp.	Brachyscombe stuartii	Epacris microphylla (Coral Heath)
Leucopogon melaleuroides (snowbush)	Melicurus urceolata (ten corners)	Daviesia latifolia (Hop Bitter Pea)
Oxylobium arborescens (tall shaggy pea) [yellow]	Acacia granitica	Acacia ulicifolia (Prickly Moses)
Kunzea obovata (pink kunzea)	Banksia spinulosa var neoanglica (New England Banksia)	Hakea dactyloides (finger hakea)
Boronia microphylla	Leonema (prev Phebalium) ambiens	Solanum elegans (spiny kangaroo apple)
<b>Plants in Crevice</b> (Closed Scrub mainly Rainforest spp of very restricted vegetation community*)		
Asplenium australasicum (bird's nest fern)	Blechnum nudum (Gristle fern)	Cyathea australis (rough tree fern)
Davallia pyxidata (hare's foot fern)	Sticherus flabellatus (umbrella fern)	Hymenophyllum cupressiforme (common filmy fern)
Todea barbara (king fern)	Microsorium scandens (fragrant fern)	Pyrosia confluens (felt fern)
Bulbophyllum elisae	Dendrobium speciosum (rock orchid) [coming into flower]	Elaeocarpus reticulatus (blueberry ash)
Quintinia sieberi (red possumwood)	Rapanea spp (variabilis &/or howittiana) [muttonwood]	Leptospermum polygalifolium subsp montanum (mountain tea tree)
Tasmania glaucifolia (pepper bush)	Leucopogon lanceolatus	

\*Refer to 'Community 10' from *The vegetation of granitic outcrop communities on the New England Batholith of Eastern Australia* by John T Hunter & Peter J Clarke pub July 1998 – Cunninghamia Journal



### CHANGES TO YEARLY PROGRAM

February 19<sup>th</sup> 2006 is now the joint outing with Tenterfield Field Nats to Spirabo National Park, and May 21<sup>st</sup> 2006 will be the outing to Mt Superbus led by Dave Bright and Peter Andrewartha.

**Please Note that the wrong dates were printed for the May Camp-out to the Urbenville area. The correct dates are 29<sup>th</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> May.**

**The outing to Bald Rock on 4<sup>th</sup> November will leave Weeroona Park at 9.00am**

#### **Minutes of Meeting of Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. held in the QCWA Hall, Victoria Street Stanthorpe on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2005.**

**Opening:** The meeting opened at 7.45pm with President, Kris Carnell welcoming members.

**Attendance:** There were 16 people in attendance with 9 apologies as per the attendance book.

**Minutes of the previous meeting** were received as a correct record on the motion of Kath Sullivan, seconded Rod Hutchin. Carried

#### **Correspondence:**

##### **Inwards:**

1. Murrumbidgee Field Naturalist Club – *Newsletter September 05*
  2. Lawrence Springborg – acknowledgement of letter re entry to National Parks
  3. Toowoomba Field Naturalist Club – *Darling Downs Naturalist*
  4. Chinchilla Field Naturalist Club – *Urimbirra September*
  5. Archie Cameron – membership renewal
  6. Tenterfield Field Naturalist Club – details of bird outing
  7. Severnlea State School – invoice for hire of data projector
  8. Samson Total Technology – invoice for photocopying.
- M. Carnell moved and S Allum seconded that the inwards correspondence be receive. Carried

#### **Business Arising from Correspondence:**

A message was received from Liz Bourne that the Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation has put a submission to Cabinet regarding access to State Forests, and is monitoring the situation. Lawrence Springborg has referred our letter to the Minister for Primary Industries.

Peter Summerlad provided brochures regarding a Guided Weekend of Birdwatching at Boonoo Plateau from Friday 25 to Sunday 27 November.

#### **Financial Statement for the period 19 August 2005 to 28 September 2005.**

Cash Book Balance as at 18/8/2005 489.87

##### Receipts:

Subscriptions	440.00	
Donations	55.00	
Wildflower Books	129.00	624.00

##### **Expenditure**

Magazine Production	26.41
---------------------	-------

Qld Govt Office Fair Trading 36.00

Wildflower books production 80.40                      142.81

Cash Book Balance as at 28/9/2005-10-04                      971.06

Plus outstanding cheques – Taita Wildflower Books                      80.40

Agrees with bank balance as at 19/9/2005.

### **Accounts for Payment**

QCWA \$45.00 Room rent.

The financial report was received on the motion of Dave Bright, seconded Errol Walker.

Discussion on the hire of the projector followed. It was decided we could hire it five times a year.

Kris reported a quote for a projector and computer at 7 September was \$2982.00 for both. The form to apply for a Jupiters Grant wouldn't download.

### **Outing Reports:**

**South Bald Rock.** Kris reported that 12 people walked to the rock for morning tea, then climbed over the rock and into a crevasse between the rocks. They walked and crawled through noticing micro-environments where moss and lichen were growing and there were glow worms. There were pea flowers, hardenbergia, king orchids and boronia in bloom. It was an excellent outing.

**Pre-Outing to Undercliffe.** Harry and Joan Stevenson will leading the outing on the 7<sup>th</sup> October. We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am and travel to Undercliffe.

**Bolivia Nature Reserve.** Margaret and Terry Tricker will lead the outing to Bolivia Nature Reserve on 23<sup>rd</sup> October. The outing will start at 9.00am in Tenterfield. There is a 3.5km walk to a granite area with gullies from the top where rare plants grow and geckos are found. There are shearing sheds on the property left as they were when they were no longer used, so anyone who does not want to go on the walk can amuse themselves in that area. If time permits we will return by Spirabo Way or come out at Sandy Flat.

**Program.** Errol is unable to provide the program in November, but is willing to swap with Ian and do it in October instead.

As February will be too hot for an outing to Mt Superbus we will try to swap with the Spirabo outing in May.

**Camp Out – Laidley Area.** Errol Walker gave a pre-outing report on the camp out on 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> November. The camp will be at Lake Dyer which has free camping for 2 nights. There is plenty of birdlife and lookouts around the town, as well as a drive up Rocky Creek. The Das Neuman Haus museum is interesting, and there is a pond, a rail museum and any historical museum. Nats who are attending need to let Errol know, so that he can confirm the booking.

**Friday Outings.** President Kris reported that we need more suggestions and leaders for Friday Outings. Members are asked to bring suggestions to the next meeting. The November meeting is arranged and we will start again in March, if we have some suggestions.

**Specimens.** Ian had brought photos of the outing to South Bald Rock.

Dave Bright reported that he has the forms to apply to the Office of Fair Trading to have Lyn Collins appointed as auditor.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Peter Andrewatha provided an excellent program on Western Australia.

**Discover the birds of Boonoo Boonoo Plateau**

**A weekend hosted by The Tenterfield Naturalists**

Main bird watch Friday 25 to Sunday 27 November 2005

A payment of \$70.00 per person includes registration, Saturday and Sunday morning teas and lunches, Saturday evening dinner, and the Friday afternoon meet and greet.

For further information phone The Tenterfield Visitor Information Centre 0267361082 during business hours. After hours contact Peter Sommerlad 0267362574 or 0428511157

Registrations close Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November  
Kris has registration forms phone 46835268s