



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	Mario Pennisi	46813750
	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:
1st February 2006***

Coming Up

Outing Sunday 20th November: Mt Cordeaux led by David Wilson

Next Meeting Wednesday 23rd November: Program *Local Ground Orchids* by Ian Milinovich

Christmas Break-Up Sunday December 11th: At *Pinaster* Col & Janet Hockings' place

Outing Sunday 19th February: Mt Spirabo joint outing with Tenterfield Field Nats

Outing Report – Undercliffe Falls

Despite the prospect of a very hot day we were happy to have a party of six to enjoy the surroundings of the Undercliffe Falls. After the customary cuppa we went part way along the track to view the falls as no one wanted to go to the base. Nearby were some clematis in full flower and a wonga vine just finished flowering.

We then drove upstream to a lovely grassed and shady area to be able to cross to the south side, to walk along the top of the gorge. On return the top of the falls took our time in watching the water flow through the rock crevices, over small falls and to try to see where it does the big drop. We weren't venturesome enough to go too close to the edge for a full view.

Time declared it was lunch, which was enjoyed just chatting in the shade of a big gum tree. As no one wanted to explore more, and the heat of the day had increased, we parted after a very pleasant time together.

Joan and Harry Stevenson

Outing Report Bolivia Hill Nature Reserve- Sunday 23 October 2005

Sunday morning was sunny and fresh after the previous day's rain, and 15 members and four guests assembled at The Weather Rock. We picked up 3 Tenterfield Naturalist members at the visitor centre, and drove to Bolivia, with only minor delay at the road works. We had morning tea at the cars and then entered the reserve and crossed the creek and 17 of us set off along the Chile Trail. Some members were a bit weary after a very busy week and found the climb quite a challenge. At the end of the Peru trail we were rewarded with a wonderful view, beautiful Boronias

flowering amongst the granite boulders and heard a lyrebird mimicking other birds of the area. After lunch we split into 3 three groups, some returning via the Ridge, some via the gully and the remainder going back on the trails.

We explored the old hut, machinery, dam and shearing shed, and



found one black snake in residence. We checked plants we had seen with the NPWS book and had afternoon tea by the cars.

The Tenterfield Naturalists went on to Deepwater to visit an Open Garden, and we returned via the Spirabo Way to Tenterfield. We saw kangaroos, long neck turtle, 2 bearded dragons, a swamp wallaby and coucal pheasant. Some of us stopped at the town water supply dam to view the water birds.

I would like to thank all the people who attended the trip for their wonderful enthusiasm for this new area, It made the day really special for me. Thank you also to the compilers of the plant and bird lists.

Margaret Tricker

Bird List Outing to Bolivia Nature Reserve

Compiled by Kris & Margaret Carnell & Col Hockings

Striated pardalote	Grey shrike thrush	Superb blue wren
Honeyeater (maybe white naped)	Willie wagtail	Noisy friar bird
Red wattlebird	Yellow-faced honeyeater	Eastern rosella
Welcome swallow	Crimson rosella	Pacific Black duck
Pied Currawong	Black cormorant	Masked lapwing (spurwing plover)
Reed warbler (in Tenterfield)	Grey fantail	Rainbow lorikeet
Crow noisy miner	Fairy martin (and nests)	Scarlet robin
Thornbill	Lyre bird (call, very close)	

Plant List – Outing to Bolivia Nature Reserve

Compiled by Ian Milinovich

Patersonia sp (native flag)	Lomandra longifolia (long-leaved matrush)	Lomandra sp
Xanthorrhoea johnsonii (grasstree)	Brachyscome stuartii (Granite Daisy)	Cassinia leptcephala
Chrysocephalum apiculatum (yellow buttons)	Wahlenbergia sp (Aust. bluebell)	Hibbertia linearis (guinea flower)
Hibbertia obtusifolia (guinea flower)	Leucopogon muticus (beard heath)	Melichrus urceolatus (urn heath)
Beyeria viscosa (sticky bryeria)	Dillwynia sp (parrot pea)	Jacksonia scoparia (dogwood)
Goodenia hederacea (trailing goodenia)	Scaevola humilis	Calytrix tetragona (fringe myrtle)
Kunzea obvata	Leptospermum minutifolium (small-leaved tea tree)	Leptospermum polygalifolium (tea tree)
Hakea microcarpa (swamp hakea)	Boronia boliviensis	Zieria frazeri
Solanum cinereum (narrawa burr)		

Correction: In the October issue of the magazine, in the plant list for South Bald Rock *Pultenea flexilis* was incorrectly listed as *Oxylobium arborescens* (Tall Shaggy Pea)

CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP

WHEN : SUNDAY DECEMBER 11

WHERE : “PINASTER” - Home and garden of Colin and Janet Hockings

Bring your picnic tea, (B.B.Q. available) and **CHAIRS**/picnic tables. Tea and coffee will be available. Arrive from 4.30pm onwards to enjoy the company of friends in the surrounds of our garden.

DIRECTIONS : Travel approx. 9km. along SUGARLOAF RD. until you turn left into GILLBARD RD. (dirt). "Pinaster" (No.96), is approx 1km. on the right hand side. Please drive in and park up near the house.

We are looking forward to your company at our final get-together for 2005

Pre-Outing Report - November 20th– Mt Cordeaux

The November outing will be to Mt Cordeaux at Cunningham's Gap. Mt Cordeaux is the northern peak that guards the pass to the Darling Downs from Brisbane. Our walk will take us through rainforest to the grassy flank of the summit. It is hoped that the walk will coincide with the flowering of the giant spear lilies that grow around the steep scarps of the summit. Lunch will be below the summit of Mt Cordeaux with panoramic views across the Scenic Rim and the surrounding peaks of the Fassifern Valley.

The summit trail is a very gentle up hill grade on a well formed track. The return distance is around 8km, but this may be extended if members are keen to extend the walk to Bare Rock and Morgan's Lookout.

Departure Time from Weeroona Park is at 8:00am on Sunday 20 November. Warwick and Stanthorpe members will then meet at Jackie Howe Park, Warwick, for a 9:00am departure.

We will have morning tea at the National Park's picnic area, 1.5km past the garage at Fischer Park. From there, we will drive to the car park at the top of the Gap to commence the walk to the summit.

David Wilson
4661 2839
lava56@bigpond.net.au

Last Wildflower Walk – Sunday 13th November

The last in a series of wildflower walks being organized by the Stanthorpe Rare Wildflower Consortium will be on Sunday 13 November at Girraween National Park. After all the recent rain, there should still be a very good display of flowers and there will be park rangers and other members of the consortium available to help with plant identification.

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 we will try and organise some car pooling. For those who live closer to the park, we will meet at the Park Headquarters at about 10.00am. We will finish about 1.00pm unless some wish to continue on for a longer period. Bring along some smoko and lunch plus your flower books. There will be some of the new wildflower books available for purchase for \$7.

Liz Bourne – Ph 4683 6374

Outing Report – Bald Rock National Park – 4th November 2005

Leader: Margaret Carnell

Five intrepid Nats met at Weeroona Park at 9.00am, and wondered how those people who were camping at Lake Dyer were enjoying a perfect day for an outing. We travelled via Sugarloaf Road to Bald Rock, appreciating the length of the bitumen road these days, and were met by Margaret from Tenterfield. We enjoyed the inevitable cuppa as soon as we arrived, watched closely by a male satin bower bird and several currawongs.

We set off along the track, which was bordered by broad-leaved hickory, and stopped to admire a dark grey termite's nest that looked for all the world like a rock. We tried to see whether the whistlers we heard were rufous or golden but they were too lively for us to tell. Further along the track there was another termite's nest; this time red in colour with evidence of recent construction. There were quite extensive stands of white everlastings along the track, and these became thicker and more extensive as we neared the top of the rock. We saw two species of *hibbertia* in the first kilometre, and a third, *Hibbertia aspera*, as we neared the granite arch, which the track goes through. None of us could remember walking through the arch previously and wondered if the track had been realigned. It is in excellent condition. There were large patches of dagger orchids growing on some large boulders beside the track and one clump had several flower spikes, which were too high to photograph, unfortunately.



When we arrived at the first rock slab we discovered a cream flowered callistemon blooming profusely. I thought it was *C seberii* at first, as it had relatively small brushes, but it had much broader leaves, more like *C. pungens*. We found *Kunzea bracteolata*, *Stypandra*, *Stylidium laricifolium* (trigger plant) and sago bush in bloom, as well as large areas of everlastings.



According to one of the interpretative signs Bald Rock consists of Stanthorpe Ademetite and Bald Rock is the largest 'inselberg' in Australia and the Southern Hemisphere. We admired the colours as we walked around the steep drop and continued to the top. There was a lot of kunzea growing at the top, but not much in flower. We saw tadpoles in a rock hole and spent some time admiring the view and taking photos.

Our walk back was much quicker as we were hungry, so we didn't keep stopping to look at plants and such. The hares foot fern on the rocks was a lovely fresh shade of green, as it had obviously grown since the rain. We had lunch in the picnic area and watched a kookaburra digging for a grub and a magpie eating his freshly-caught lunch. Margaret left a little before the rest of us so that she would be home in time for afternoon tea, then the rest of us returned to Stanthorpe. We all had a most enjoyable day.

Bird List: currawong, satin bower bird (m & f), crimson rosella, magpie, crow, whistler, grey shrike thrush (call), friar bird, thornbill (unidentified), blue wren (call).

Plant List – Outing to Bald Rock

Although there are quite a lot of flowers on the list, apart from the everlastings, there were not large quantities of any one flower.

Callistemon sp	White everlasting	Hardenbergia (sarsparilla)
Golden weather glass	Birds nest fern	Hibbertia (3 species)
Solanum	Glycine	Dianella
Geranium (2)	Daisy	Violet
Dandelion	Goodenia	Maytenus
Jacksonia (dogwood)	Leucopogon albicans	Isotoma (in bud)
Wombat berry (in bud)	Wahlenbergia (bluebell)	Pimelea
Billardiera	Eristemon	Matchsticks
Ink weed	Trigger flower	Kunzea sago bush
Stypantra	Dagger orchid	Lomandra longifolia
Leptospermum	Eucalypt	Hares foot fern
Pink flowered herb		

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc
held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 26th October, 2005**

Opening: The meeting opened at 7.41pm, with Kris welcoming members, especially Rob McCosker after his recent eye surgery.

Attendance: There were 19 present at the meeting and 6 apologies as per the attendance book.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 28th September were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Millie Marsden, seconded by Errol Walker. Carried.

Business Arising from Minutes:

1. Grant for Data Projector

There was some discussion on the best technology to use to show digital photos at future club meetings ie. whether to use a computer and data projector or a DVD player. This will be investigated further and an application made to the Gambling Community Benefit Fund by 31 December for funding to purchase the equipment.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Chinchilla Field Nats. – *Urimbirra* – Oct. 05
2. Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Club – *Murrumbidgee Naturalist* – Oct 05
3. Qld Naturalists Club – *QNC News* – Nov/Dec 05
4. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club – *Darling Downs Naturalist* – Oct 05
5. Commonwealth Bank – statement for October
6. Tom Archer - membership renewal
7. Samson Total Technology – statement for \$11.49; invoice for \$37.95
8. Office of Fair Trading – approval for Lyn Collins to be the club's auditor
9. Lawrence Springborg – response to letter regarding corporatisation of plantation forests

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

Financial Statement for the period from 28/9/05 to 26/10/05 :

Cash book balance as at 28/9/05	971.06
---------------------------------	--------

Receipts:

Memberships	95.00	
Room rent collection	4.00	
Sale of wildflower books	<u>48.00</u>	
		147.00

Expenditure:

Projector hire	45.00	
Photocopier - maintenance	11.39	
Room rent	<u>10.00</u>	
		66.39

Cash book balance as at 26/10/05	1051.67
----------------------------------	---------

Less outstanding cash receipts	25.00
--------------------------------	-------

Agrees with bank balance as at 19/10/05	1026.67
---	---------

Accounts for payment:

Kris Carnell – stamps for newsletter 100.00

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

Business Arising from Financial Report:

The Office of Fair Trading has agreed to allow Lyn Collins to audit the club's books. This will save the club the \$139 it currently spends on audit fees.

Outing Reports:

1. Friday 7 October outing to Undercliffe Falls

Six people went on this walk. There was quite a good water flow over the falls.

2. Outing to the Bolivia Nature Reserve – 23 October

There were 22 people on this outing, including members of the Tenterfield Field Nats. There were quite a few wildflowers seen including the local boronia species. A lyrebird was heard imitating various other birds. No ground orchids were seen, possibly as a result of the previous sheep grazing of the property. The group explored a number of historic sites on the old Bolivia Station, including an old "thunder box" and a brick dam. Some people returned home via the Mt Spirabo 4WD track.

Pre-Outing Reports:

1. Friday 4 November

This outing will be to the Bald Rock National Park and will be led by Margaret Carnell.

2. Sunday 20 November – Mt. Cordeaux

The Warwick members will be organising this outing.

Next Programme:

Ian Milinovich will be presenting the next programme and it will be on the ground orchids of the Stanthorpe area.

Specimens:

1. Errol Walker had a model of an Easter Island statue
2. Rob McCosker had eggshells found dug up in his dam wall. They were probably from a tortoise.
3. Ian Milinovich had photos from the outing to the Bolivia Nature Reserve.
4. Kris had a photo of a very interesting ground orchid – *Pterostylis woolsii*

General Business:

1. Errol Walker outlined details about his proposed camping trip to Lake Dyer near Laidley on 4 – 6 November.
2. It was suggested that we advertise our trips and meetings in the “What’s On” free listings in the “Southern Free Times”. Liz Bourne will follow this up.
3. The future of the Friday outings was discussed. There has been varying attendances at these during the year and although some people enjoy going on them, there is currently not enough leaders to conduct them every month next year. Ian Milinovich suggested that we should have a flexible approach to them – if there is a leader willing to take a trip, then it should be advertised. We have someone willing to lead a Friday outing in March and April next year but will have to wait for volunteers for the other months.

The meeting closed at 8.21pm and was followed by a presentation of fascinating slides and commentary from Errol Walker about his trip to Easter Island.