



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 |

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



Librarian Trish McCosker 46835371
Management Committee: President, Vice-Presidents,
Secretary, Treasurer

**Deadline for next Newsletter:
Monday 10th April**

Coming Up

Outing Sunday 19th March: Our Back Paddock led by Kris & Margaret Carnell

Next Meeting Wednesday 22nd March: Program by Dave Bright *Alaska and parts of Europe*

Mt Superbus Outing

This outing is scheduled for 20th May. I am asking for expressions of interest as this will be a very difficult climb, (I would guess at least 8). From the best information I have obtained it will be on an overgrown and probably unmarked track and a pre-outing will probably not be done. It may be necessary to camp in the region on the night before and after the climb (we only have 10 hours of daylight at this time of year).

Please advise me ASAP if you think you might want to participate otherwise I will arrange a different venue. Dave Bright 46811034

Outing Report Billyrimba Falls and 4 Bull Creek 19th February 2006

Leaders: Kris & Margaret Carnell

An enthusiastic group left Weeroona Park at 8.00am to travel to Tenterfield where we met up with some more of our members and a few people from Tenterfield Field Nats. We travelled past the Tenterfield water supply and were amazed at the number of black swans and other birds on the water. We didn't have time to stop to birdwatch on the way to Billyrimba Falls, and it was too late when we returned. Further along the road we saw a kingfisher, rosellas, a kestrel, a black-faced cuckoo shrike, as well as a flock of Richard's pipits.

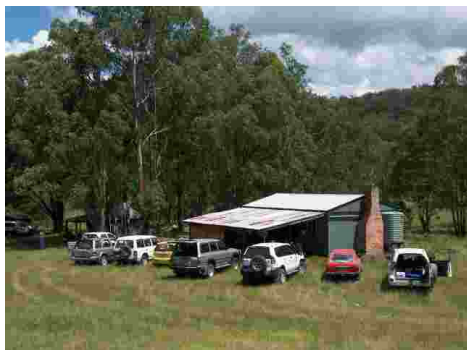


We all successfully negotiated the track to the falls, passing some large specimens of Solanum (Kangaroo Apple) beside the track and admiring a staghorn or elkhorn. Our first task on arriving at the end of the track, and top of the falls, was to have morning tea, then scramble down to look over the top of the falls, or explore upstream and cool our feet in the creek, as we felt inclined. Col and Andrew went to the bottom of the falls where they took photos of the drop. They were rather hot and bothered by the time they climbed back up.

There was a large tree of *Banksia integrifolia* growing across the creek, and a small much-photographed one on the side on which we arrived. While looking at a rainforest type of tree, we noticed a fine specimen of a caterpillar, perhaps of a hawk moth. He was a very handsome fellow, with a spike on his tail, and he kept the photographers busy for a while. On the rocks in this area we found *Dendrobium speciosum*, *Dendrobium pugioniforme* (Dagger Orchids) and *Dendrobium kingianum* (Pink Rock-orchid), along with two species of *Bulbophyllum* (Pineapple orchids). There were trigger plants in bloom and a few flowers on the hibbertias.

On the way back from the falls we disturbed a wallaby and saw podolepsis and grass trees from the vehicle. After turning back onto the road we noticed a number of feral lilies growing beside the road. We passed through some patches of rainforest and saw some beautiful Sydney Blue Gums. On arrival at 4 Bull Hut we had lunch and explored the new and old huts and commented on the purple loosestrife growing in the creek. We saw choughs on the ground and wedgetail eagles circling overhead. There were Spiranthese in bloom in front of the hut where we parked.

After lunch the Tenterfield people and Dell and Ian left us, and the rest of us drove a short distance to a creek crossing where we left the cars and admired a lovely stand of tree ferns across the creek from where we parked. We walked and scrambled over a wallaby



track to a hole in the creek where some of us stopped to cool our feet, while others continued on to the waterfall and a large swimming hole. Andrew braved the cold water to go for a swim and had a shower under the waterfall, but didn't stay in for long. He said it was "invigorating".



Storm clouds were gathering and thunder was rumbling by this time, so we set off back to the vehicles and headed for home. We thought the 4 Bull Hut area would be an ideal place for a camp-out at some time.

Bird List Billyrimba Falls & 4 Bull Hut

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| On way to falls: | Black swan | Coot | Various ducks |
| Cormorant | Kingfisher | Eastern rosella | Crimson rosella |
| Pee wee | Magpie | Black-faced cuckoo shrike | Nankeen kestrel |
| Richard's pipit | Noisy miner | | |
| At 4 Bull Hut | White-winged chough | Wedgetail eagle | |

Stanthorpe Bushcare Volunteers

Granite Belt Landcare coordinator Samantha Williams encourages people to go for a walk to Red Bridge because a few things are missing.

Stanthorpe Bushcare Volunteers, a keen group of locals, have been busy removing honeysuckle, blackberry, coreopsis and other weeds from the Red Bridge area.

The volunteers aim to improve natural bush areas throughout the Stanthorpe shire through weed and rubbish removal, as well as revegetation and rehabilitation work.

Ms Williams said with the Red Bridge area now starting to shape up, the group would soon be moving on to Mt Marlay.

“This is a great opportunity for people to get outside, get your hands dirty, have some fun and do something positive for your local environment”, she said. “With the mornings being as beautiful as they have been, now is a great time to get out and join the other keen volunteers.”

“It’s very easy to join in – just meet the other volunteers at 8.30am any Monday morning in the Red Bridge area. You can stay for half an hour, an hour or as long as you like”

Volunteers are actively supported by Stanthorpe Shire Council in their endeavours and have also been assisted by the current Green Corps Team as it has been tackling some of the larger infestations in the district.

For further information ring Sarah Hamlyn-Harris on 46812962.

Pre-Outing Report – Our Back Paddock 19th March 2006

Leaders: Kris & Margaret Carnell

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am and travel to *Orana*, 374 Back Creek Road Severnlea, then we will don backpacks and walk across the creek to a slab of granite where we will have morning tea. If we are fortunate we may see variegated fairy wrens at the creek crossing.

From there we will travel in a southerly direction up through a saddle in the hills and follow the fire trail to our southern boundary behind the mountain. At this point we leave the fire trail to climb up the back of the eastern peak. Just over the crest there are granite slabs with views to Dalveen and west to the top of the Thorndale ridge. We will then walk a few hundred metres onto the western peak, up to some rocks, which are the highest point on our property. From there on a good day, we can see a peak in the Main Range, which we think is Wilson’s Peak. A few hundred metres further on we will reach a point where we have views down Sundown Valley.

We will have lunch on the mountain at a suitable place and time. The trek home will be down the front of the mountain, looking at rock formations on the way, meeting up with the fire trails again about half way down. It is then a reasonably easy walk back to the house.

On the pre-outing there were a lot of grass seeds in the off track areas. While some of it is reasonably rough we will be taking it slowly and most Nats should be able to cope. The off track areas are rated at about 7 on the scale of difficulty. Anyone who does not want to do the rough part can amble back along the track to the house and make themselves at home. The trail will be clearly marked. You will need to carry morning tea, lunch and water.

Any queries? Phone Kris or Margaret on 46835268.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 22nd February, 2006

Opening: The meeting opened at 7.38pm, with Kris welcoming members.

Attendance: There were 13 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 23rd November 2005 were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Peter Kerr, seconded by Shirley Allum. Carried.

Business Arising from Minutes:

1. Grant for Data Projector

An application for a grant of \$1,698 from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund for the purchase of a data projector was prepared by the secretary, Liz Bourne, and submitted last December. An acknowledgement for this application has been

received. We should hear in early April if our application has been successful. Dave Bright raised the issue of the rapid change in technology and the need to try and purchase the most up-to-date model available.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Field Naturalists Club of Victoria – Australian Natural History medallion
 2. Qld Naturalists Club – December Journal
 3. Commonwealth Bank – statements for December, January and February
 4. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club – *Darling Downs Naturalist* –Dec 05; Jan 06
 5. Chinchilla Field Nats. – *Urimbirra* – Jan. 06; Feb 06
 6. Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Club – *Murrumbidgee Naturalist* – Nov 05
 7. Samson Total Technology – statement for \$19.31; invoice for \$6.18
 8. International Park Tours – *IPT Traveller* – Feb. 06
 9. Directory of Australian Associations – club listing
 - 10 State Library of Queensland – asking for December and January newsletters
 - 11 Gambling Community Benefit Fund – acknowledgement of grant application
 - 12 QCWA – invitation to a cookery and floral art afternoon on Friday 24 February at 1.30pm
- This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Liz Bourne, seconded by Millie Marsden. Carried.

Business Arising from the Correspondence:

1. Mistletoe book
The Chinchilla Field Nats newsletter included an ad for a new book on mistletoes produced by one of their members. Details about this will be included in our next newsletter.
2. Australian Natural History medallion
The Committee will consider whether anyone should be nominated for this award.

Financial Statement for the period from 24/11/05 to 22/2/06:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|---------|
| Cash book balance as at 23/11/05 | | 1073.72 |
| <u>Receipts:</u> | | |
| Memberships | 30.00 | |
| | | 30.00 |
| <u>Expenditure:</u> | | |
| Room rent | 30.00 | |
| Photocopier - maintenance | 44.75 | |
| Purchase of wildflower books | 30.00 | |
| Projector hire | 10.00 | |
| Public liability insurance | 372.49 | |
| | | 487.24 |
| Cash book balance as at 22/02/06 | | 616.48 |
| Plus outstanding cheques | nil | |
| Less outstanding cash receipts | nil | |
| Agrees with bank balance | | |
| <u>Accounts for payment:</u> | | |
| Total Technology P/L | 19.21 | |
| QCWA – room rent (Feb - April) | 30.00 | |
| Hire of data projector | 10.00 | |
| Stamps for newsletter | 100.00 | |

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

Outing Reports:

1. Tenterfield Outing – 19 February
After meeting up with some members of the Tenterfield Nats in Tenterfield, the Stanthorpe members travelled on the Spirabo Forest Way to the Billyrimba Falls for smoko. A list of plants seen in this area was made to pass on to the national parks ranger and Col and Andrew climbed down to the bottom of the falls. A lot of *Banksia integrifolia* were growing in the area and plenty of trigger plants were in flower. A large caterpillar (possibly a hawkmoth) was seen. The group then travelled to visit the 4 Bull Hut for lunch and some later had a swim in nearby pools. A purple flowering plant (*Lythrum salicaria*) was growing here and lots of feral lilies were noticed growing beside the roadsides on the return trip.
2. Friday outings

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There have been none this year, so far, and none planned for March due to a lack of volunteer leaders. The Tenterfield Nats. have invited us to visit the park which they are revegetating and constructing tracks in. This could be a possible venue for a Friday outing. Kris noted that there is now a 1.1km track to Thunderbolt's Cave off the Mt Lindesay Highway and there could be an outing to there in April.

3. 19 March outing – Carnell's place – Back Creek Road

The walk will be through the Carnell's property with smoko about 1km from the house. The walk will then ascend a hill via a fire trail and there may be views to Wilson's Peak from the top.

Next Meeting Program:

Dave Bright will give a presentation on his overseas trip to Alaska and parts of Europe.

Specimens:

1. Margaret Carnell had a sample of the purple flowering loose strife *Lythrum salicaria* seen on the weekend outing; and photos of an imperial blue butterfly and a moth found in a strawberry tree which had greenish, transparent wings.

2. Col Hockings had photos from the weekend's outing

General Business:

1. Kris said that, in future, the newsletter would be emailed to those who requested it.

2. Col said that the *Border Post* had not published the last Field Nats article submitted by them which meant that other people did not know about the outing and meeting.

3. Dave Bright said that the gardens established by the Field Nats. in Heritage Park were looking very unkempt with a lot of the original trees and shrubs having died. It was agreed that we should replant it in spring and also mulch it to try and prevent weed growth. Liz, Del and Ian will assess what species need to be replaced.

The Bushcare group working upstream on weed control and revegetation may be able to assist with the maintenance of this part of Heritage Park. Kris suggested they put an article in the next newsletter calling for volunteers to help them with their work.

4. The planned May outing to Mt Superbus to be led by Dave Bright was discussed. As the trip is likely to be long and strenuous, Dave suggested camping on the Saturday at the old sawmill site in the upper valley of Emu Creek so there could be an early start. Dave will put an article in the next newsletter to gauge the interest of members in this outing.

5. Liz reminded members that there was a meeting about the distribution of Albert's lyrebirds that was to be held in the QCWA rooms the following night.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm and was followed by a very interesting (and historic) presentation from Glenys Mathison on her early days on Fraser Island.

Interesting Web Site

The Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc. produce a very interesting magazine which we receive every month. They now have a web site which has the magazines, places to visit in the area, links to other sites and other good stuff. I haven't had time to fully explore it yet. The address is www.mfn.org.au It's well worth a visit.

Kris