



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:
5th June 2006

Coming Up

Outing Sunday May 21st : *Red Hill*, Sugarloaf led by Mario Pennisi and Dave Bright

Next Meeting May 24th : Program by Michael Mueller – *Six Months by Bike through Japan and South Korea*. (See separate article)

Friday Outing June 2nd: Tenterfield Park and Thunderbolt's Hideout led by Kris Carnell

Six months by bicycle through Japan and South Korea

Mostly unable to read signposts and other important information, 18kg of baggage distributed over front and rear wheels and completely on my own, but often surprised by the helpfulness and generosity of the people, it was the most adventurous of my long distance bicycle tours. So one more reason not to miss the next meeting! - *Michael*

PLEASE NOTE

The Meeting and Sunday Outing in June will be held a week early to avoid school holidays.

The meeting will be on Wednesday June 21st and the outing on Sunday June 18th

Minutes of Meeting of Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. held on 26th April 2006 in QCWA Rooms, Victoria Street, Stanthorpe.

Opening: The meeting opened at 7.35pm

Welcome: President Kris Carnell welcomed members to the meeting and visitors Bruce & Ingrid Munday, Rose Bock, Barbara Nicholls and Michael Jefferies.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd March were received as a correct record on the motion of Peter Kerr, seconded Shirly Allum. Carried.

Business arising from minutes:

1. **Data Projector:** The executive is to look at information on a Data Projector and decide which one to purchase.
2. **Specimen:** Dave Bright reported that the specimen, which couldn't be identified, that he had brought to the previous meeting, was a bromeliad root which hadn't grown leaves and had stones attached to it.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Australian Naturalist Network – *Australian Naturalists Network Register*
2. Crown Content – *Entry in Directory of Australian Associations*
3. Toowoomba Field Naturalist Club – *Darling Downs Naturalist* April 06
4. Commonwealth Bank – Bank Statement
5. Chinchilla field Naturalists Club – *Urimburra* April 06
6. Total Technology Centre – Invoice for photocopy cost
7. Stanthorpe Camera Club – cheque for half P.O. Box rental

Outwards:

1. Form returned to Crown Content

Margaret Carnell moved and Lyn Marriott seconded that the inwards correspondence be received and the outwards adopted. Carried.

Financial Statement for the period 22/3/2006 to 26/4/2006

Cash Book balance as at 22/3/06			457.27
<u>Receipts</u>			
Subscriptions	15.00		
Room Rent collection	5.50		
Qld Govt grant (projector)	1698.00	1718.50	
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Aust Post PO Box rental	60.00		
Magazine production	28.63		
Projector hire	10.00	98.63	
Cash Book Balance as at 26/4/2006			2077.14
Agrees with bank balance			2077.14

Accounts for payment – Photocopying magazine \$21.53

The financial report was received on the motion of Dave Bright, seconded Grace Cameron. Carried.

Outing Reports

Kitchen Caves. Kris reported that 16 people attended. The walk was rated at 7, but was quite rugged in places, especially the return down a rock slope. We scrub bashed through vegetation at the base of a ridge behind the Pyramids onto an open slab, where we had good views of the Pyramids. We lunched at the caves, which are a conglomeration of huge rocks and spent about one and a half hours there. Errol showed the way to Slip Rock where a section of ridge slipped away 100 to 150 years ago. Our return was down a steep open expanse of rock. We returned to the cars at about 4.00pm. The views were spectacular on the outing and the Autumn air gave as special quality to the light. Thanks to Col and Errol for their assistance. Shirlie thanked all for their helping hands.

Pre-Outing Reports

Friday May 12th to the **Amiens State Forest** led by Liz Bourne. We will leave Weeroona Park at 9.30am and have morning tea when we arrive. The walk will be tailored to the abilities of those attending. The outing will finish early in the afternoon. Lunch will be carried. Ring Liz Bourne for further details.

Outing May 21st

Leader: Dave Bright. We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am and travel to Penwarrn Drive. This will be a Discovery Trip east of Eukey, through private property, coming out onto Mt Lindesay Road. It will be 4WD only – high clearance is required. We will carry lunch and morning tea.

Outing June 18th Historical Outing.

This outing will be held on 18th June, so that it does not clash with school holidays.

Meeting June 21st

This meeting is a week earlier than usual, to avoid a clash with school holidays. As Errol Walker will be away, Kris Carnell will provide a program on an area south of Sydney.

Outing Cancelled: The Stargazing outing for 20th April was cancelled because of rain. Michael hopes to do another during the winter when skies should be clear.

Next Meeting:

Michael Mueller will provide the program in May – *Bike to Japan, South Korea*.

Specimens:

1. Rod Hutchin brought a white *Cattleya* orchid in bloom. He started growing orchids in 1956.
2. Photos of outing to Kitchen Caves provided by Kris Carnell.

General Business

1. Errol commented that the name tags were very good and suggested everyone should wear them on outings and at meetings.

2. Col Hockings gave a brief pre-outing report on the Camp Out to Toonumbah N.P. which is in rainforest.

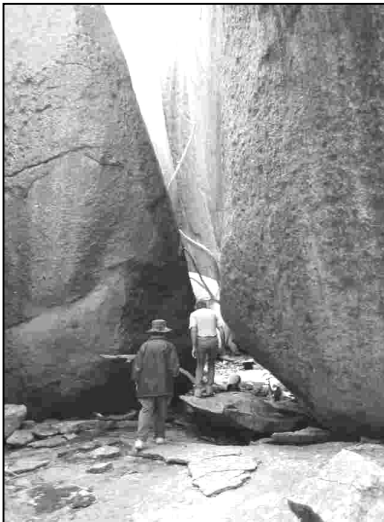
The meeting closed at 8.00pm, and was followed by an interesting and informative program on First Aid by Gail Smail.

Outing Report Kitchen Caves 23rd April 2006

Leaders: Kris Carnell and Col Hockings

It was a glorious autumn morning, although a little chilly, when a group of Nats met at the picnic area at Girraween National Park for morning tea, before proceeding to Kitchen Caves. Sandra, a German visitor who had joined us, saw her first kangaroo at the picnic area and we watched a family of wood ducks busily feeding. We travelled a little way along the road to the “Kangaroo Paddock” where we met Ian.

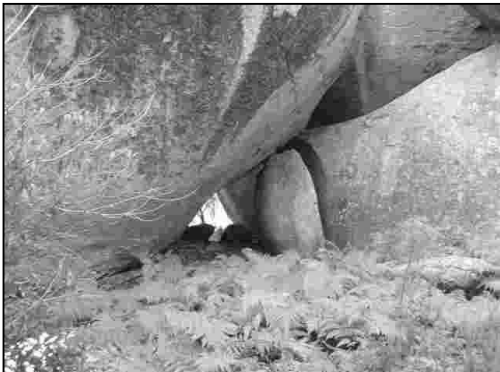
After crossing the paddock we scrub bashed up the slope until we reached a slab, from which we had excellent views of the pyramids. The photographers among us were kept busy looking for different angles. After a short break, we proceeded around the back of the ridge to another rock slab dotted with boulders, some of which looked like creatures. The view from here was breathtaking, with huge numbers of granite boulders showing through the vegetation before us, the pyramid on our left, and views stretching far down the valley.



As we tramped through the undergrowth we saw a few flowers in bloom and what we think was an *Olearia gravis*, which is endangered. We also saw plants of another endangered species, *Rulingea hermanifolia* (not in bloom). An acacia caused a lot of interest with its almost white blooms, sickle shaped alternate leaves, with prickles on the back of the sickle. There were a few facetious remarks made involving words such as “tickle, sickle and prickle”. I don’t recall anyone mentioning “fickle”.

By this time some of us were getting hungry, so we walked across to the next peak to the Kitchen Caves. Most of us sat beside some of the huge boulders to eat our lunch, but a few people went a little further to make the most of the view while they dined. We spent about 1½ hours exploring the caves, which consist of enormous boulders sitting one on top of the other forming the caves underneath. In one part there was a rock with stress fractures radiating from the top, caused by the weight of the rock above. The cameras were kept busy once more.

On leaving the caves, we headed for Slip Rock, guided by Errol. We crossed beautiful slabs of granite, dotted with boulders to the area where sections of rock “slipped” down hill in the last 150 years, giving



the rock its name. The way back was across amazing expanses of rock, which we zig-zagged down. Then we had to head for the bottom. We went down a very steep rock slope, some of us accepting a helping hand from our sure-footed male members. Michael’s method of proceeding on hands and feet was one of the most effective ways to get safely to the bottom.



Once we traversed the rock, we had to walk through some very thick acacias and other vegetation. We found *Banksia integrifolia* and *Banksia spinulosa* in bloom side by side in one spot. When we reached flat ground, we followed a track through an old clearing where dozens of *Banksia integrifolia* were in bloom and red wattle birds and other honeyeaters were feasting.

A cuppa was very welcome when we arrived back at the cars feeling very weary. In spite of a few falls and scrapes, and aching muscles the next day, everyone agreed it was an excellent outing.

Margaret Carnell

Bird List – Kitchen Caves- 23rd April 2006

Wood duck	Crimson rosella	Red wattlebird
Magpie	Currawong	Grey butcherbird
Lorikeet (probably rainbow)	Nankeen kestrel	Wedge-tailed eagle
Peregrine falcon	White-fronted tree creeper (call)	Yellow tailed black cockatoo
Chestnut-breasted quail thrush	Cuckoo (unidentified)	Silvereye
Grey shrike thrush	Scrub wren	

Plant List

Olearia gravis (not in bloom), *Banksia integrifolia*, *Banksia spinulosa*, *Correa reflexa*, *Rulingea hermanifolia* (not in bloom), Orange coral fungus *Hardenbergia*, *Acacia* sp (sickle leaves), *Isotoma anethifolia*, *Lobelia* sp, *Brachyscombe* sp, *Leucopogon* sp, *Cassinia*, *Acacia* (prickly moses), *Cryptandra scortechinii*, *Whalenbergia* sp(bluebell), *Petrophile canescens*, *Isopogon petiolaris*(drumsticks)

Pre-Outing Report -Tenterfield Park & Thunderbolt's Hideout Friday June 2nd

The major project of the Tenterfield Field Naturalists is the rehabilitation of the area they call Tenterfield Park. The area the Nats are looking after is about 3.8ha and they have been working on it for about two years. It was a degraded area, used as a horse paddock, golf course, rubbish dump and army depot. Reports are that they have been doing a marvellous job and on Friday 2nd June, John Sommerlad and some other members of their club will show us over the park.

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am and travel to the Tenterfield water supply where a shelter shed is being built. We will have morning tea there, but you will need to provide your own seat, as at present there is only a roof. Hopefully there will be as many birds to view as there were last time we went past. Then we will be shown over the park about 5 minutes away.

Next we will travel down Mt Lindesay Road to Thunderbolt's Hideout where there is a new track from there to the Tank Traps. This track crosses the little creek a number of times and is about a kilometre long. (Should be good orchid country). We will have lunch somewhere in this area and then make our way home either back through Tenterfield or via Wilson's Downfall.

Kris Carnell

Pre-Outing Report –Red Hill, Sugarloaf- 21st May 2006

Leaders: Mario Pennisi & Dave Bright



As we were unable to go on the outing outlined in the minutes, we are taking advantage of Mario's offer to visit his parent's property on Lode Creek Road, Sugarloaf. The area was mined in the late 1800s, the 1950s and most recently in the early 1990s.

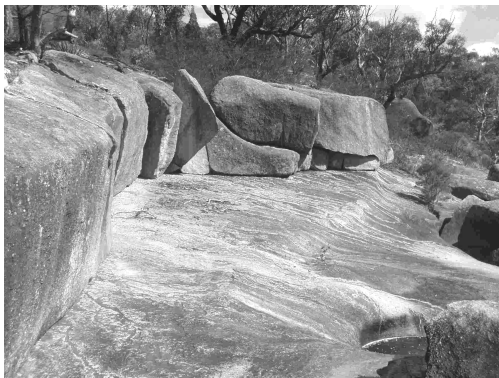
We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am and travel along Sugarloaf Road, turn into Lode Creek Road and drive to the mine site. Smoko and lunch will be at the cars. It is intended that the day will consist of exploring the mine site and there is evidence of previous mining, as well as the exploration that has been happening over the last few years. This site was the subject of an extensive article in the *Southern Free Times* recently.

You are welcome to bring a pick and sieve, or whatever fossicking equipment you have, to see if you can find a fortune. If you would like any further information ring Mario on 46813750.

Walking in Girraween

I have never really camped in Girraween before and over the Anzac Day weekend, Margaret and I spent four days exploring what is on our back doorstep. The autumn weather was perfect for walking and photography.

Firstly, we walked again, The Junction and Granite Arch tracks, not seeing many wildflowers and spending more time looking at rock colours and shapes. There were quite a few Yellow Tufted Honeyeaters on the Junction walk and around the campground. Following good rains earlier in the summer, there is the prospect of a good showing of wildflowers in the spring.



After the outing to Kitchen Caves, we decided to have a leisurely day on Monday and we walked to The Cascades, downstream from Dr Roberts' Waterhole. To get to the top of the cascades area is a very easy walk and a possibility for a Friday outing in Spring. We walked further down through the boulders until we found a suitable spot for lunch.

On Anzac Day we got up in time to attend the Dawn Service at Wallangarra.

Venus was in the cradle of the moon just before dawn and added to the atmosphere at the service. After breakfast we packed up and drove to the Castle Rock camping area where we left the vehicle and embarked on the most strenuous walk of our stay, apart from the Kitchen Caves outing. The views from the top of Castle Rock were fantastic. To add to the pleasure, we had the company of a White Browed Scrub Wren, which came almost to Margaret's feet. While we were having smoko, a honeybee decided she wanted some of my muesli bar and crawled over my hand for quite a while, then followed me when I moved away.



It was then time to make tracks, so we had a pleasant walk back to the car. Unfortunately, it was time to return to the real world.

Kris Carnell