



# 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](mailto: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	

**Deadline for next Newsletter:**  
**7<sup>th</sup> August 2006**

## 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



## Coming Up

**Outing Sunday July 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Wellington Rock led by Kris Carnell in conjunction with John Sommerlad

**Next Meeting Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July:** Program by David Wilson on geology

**Friday Outing 4<sup>th</sup> August:** No suggestions – if you have an idea please bring it to the meeting.

**Annual General Meeting:** Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August. Program *Remember Last Year*. Supper

## Report on Outing to Girraween June 18, 2006

After a misty start to the morning twelve people ventured out to the Girraween Environmental Lodge and after a cuppa and brief look at maps to see where we were going, we set off. We followed a track to the rock pools in Ramsay Creek, which wasn't running, although the pools were full and we saw a small fish in one clear pool. Just before reaching the creek we detoured through some large boulders to see an old Lyrebird's nest built high up in a crevice. Being in the coldest and driest part of the year there were few plants in flower, however the mistletoe provided splashes of colour. We found one small, green mistletoe growing at the end of a low branch of a cypress tree and interestingly, the mistletoe was severely infected with a showy white scale, but there was no scale on the cypress (*Callitris endlicheri*).



Geckos and skinks were observed under many of the flat rocks where we paused to take in the view as we headed along a rocky ridge running to the west of the creek. The going was slow as there was no track and there was plenty of undergrowth to contend with, until we finally reached the open granite at the top of the ridge, where we stopped for lunch. From here we had a view to the Pyramids to the north and the Sphinx and Turtle Rock to the east. A group of rock climbers on Turtle Rock kept our attention for some time as we watched to see if they were climbing up or down the sheer west face of the rock, and we were periodically heralded with the songs and mimicry of a Lyrebird away in the distance. One of the calls heard was of a Whipbird, which makes one wonder does our Lyrebird travel far enough east to hear a Whipbird or is he mimicking the call of another Lyrebird?



We returned the way we came and enjoyed a cuppa back at the "Girraween Hilton" in the company of a friendly butcherbird, before heading home.

*Rob McCosker*



**Plant List Outing June 18<sup>th</sup> 2006**  
**Walk from Girraween Environmental Lodge up Ridge SE Girraween N.P.**

Compiled by Ian Milinovich

<b>Family</b>	<b>In Bud, or Fruit/Seed</b>	<b>In Flower</b>
Asteraceae (Daisies)		Olearia ramosissima Chrysocephalum apiculatum (Yellow Buttons)
Epacridaceae (Southern Heaths)		Melichrus urceolatus (Ten Corners)
Rhamnaceae (Buckthorn)	Pomaderris sp.	
Rutaceae (Citrus)	Leipnema ambiens (fruit-salad plant) Zieria frazeri subsp compacta Boronia amabilis (many old 'crusty' plants mistaken for B granitica)	
Dilleniaceae	Hibbertia aciculair (prickly Guinea Flower) 1 flower open	
Sapindaceae	Dodonaea falcata	
Mimosaceae (Wattle)	Acacia ruppii Acacia adunca (Wallangarra Wattle)	
Fabaceae	Bossiaea rhombifolia (in seed)	
Lobeliaceae		Isotoma onethifolia (last flower)
Euphorbiaceae	Bertya glandulosa (in fruit) Bertya recurvata (in seed)	Phyllanthus gasstroemii
Proteaceae	Hakea sp (in seed) Petrophile canescens (seed cone)	Banksia integrifolia var compar Banksia spinulosa var neoanglica
Loranthaceae (Mistletoes)		Ameyema miquelii (Bronze mistletoe) on Eucalyptus prava

Also seen: Scale on mistletoe on a Black Cypress Pine

**Photographs and the SFNC.**

This article is a bit of a liberty but please bear with me for a moment. I have recently moved to Stanthorpe and, even more recently, joined the SFNC. So far I have been able to attend two meetings and participate in two walks. Apart from the enjoyment of the company I have met so far I am struck by two things in particular. These are the collective depth of knowledge in the group and the second is the photographic enthusiasms of many members (like myself I will admit).

It led me to think that the group seems to have no easy way of showing other members and the community at large the 'delights' seen and experienced by the walkers on each expedition, the depth of expertise available in the group, nor a way of building up a record of the things seen for future reference (like the plants, animals and scenery).

In this Internet and digital age there are now ways of displaying photos on the Internet in a way that is controllable (you can restrict viewing or not), free (with limits of course!) and searchable (you can attach labels to make sure those interested can find specific things). As a long time photographer and Internet user, I have tried some of these tools and think that we (the group) could set up a system for displaying the photos that members might want to display. We can do this in a way which would show

other members and the general public what we, collectively, have to offer and what we have that might be of interest and even use to others. In addition it could be a resource for reference. Of course this can be done by setting up a web site for the group, but it has significant ongoing costs in hosting and administration.

The tool I have used most is called Flickr at [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com). This is open to anyone to join for free at which time you get a certain ability to upload digital pictures, label, describe and tag them for anyone to see. Flickr also allows a member to join a group, which is basically a group of people with a common interest. Flickr does not control these groups and anyone can set one up, the person who sets it up can control who can join and what is added to the group. I have nearly 400 photos arranged in 19 sets, everything from Chinese statues, steam engines, Australian lizards to African wildlife and some taken during the last walk in Girraween.

If any of this sounds interesting I would be happy to show a meeting how this all works and what SFNC could do with something similar.

Michael Jefferies  
[m.jefferies@gmail.com](mailto:m.jefferies@gmail.com)

### **Pre-Outing Report 23<sup>rd</sup> July to Woolloomoolloo (Wellington Rock)**

Leaders Kris Carnell and John Sommerlad

John Sommerlad of the Tenterfield Naturalist Association has offered to guide us to Woolloomoolloo, or Wellington Rock to give it its English name on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. John started organized tours to the area with local aboriginal guides a few years ago. Woolloomoolloo was the name of a man, and Woolloomoolloo means Woolloomoolloo's place. John has a recording made by Woolloomoolloo's son in 1965, which he will play for us.

We will leave Weeroona Park at 9.00am on 23<sup>rd</sup> July to travel via Mt Lindesay Highway to the turnoff to Basket Swamp where we will meet John at 9.45am. Please make sure you are at Weeroona Park on time. Morning tea will be at the shelter shed at the rock. We will then play the recording and John will explain the aboriginal significance of the area. After morning tea we will walk up to and around the rock. Be prepared to carry lunch as there is a lot to see.

The Nats have visited the rock several times before. There are lyrebirds in the area and a number of different orchid species growing amongst the bracken.

For further information contact Kris Carnell on 46835268.

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2006**

**Opening:** The meeting opened at 7.39pm, with Kris welcoming members.

**Attendance:** There were 13 present at the meeting and 4 apologies as per the attendance book.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2006 were received and were accepted as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Rod Hutchin, seconded by Rob McCosker. Carried.

#### **Correspondence:**

##### **Inwards:**

- 1 Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club – *Darling Downs Naturalist* – June 06
- 2 Commonwealth Bank – statement for June
- 3 Chinchilla Field Nats. – *Urimbirra* – June 06
- 4 Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Club – *Murrumbidgee Naturalist* – June
- 5 Canon Total Technology – statement for \$27.52 for photocopier

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6. Fassifern Field Naturalists – newsletter – May/June
7. State Library of Qld – receipt of newsletters
8. Alex and Denise Harslett – membership renewal

This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Liz Bourne, seconded by Col Hockings. Carried.

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

The account for the photocopier charges needs to be reconciled.

### **Financial Statement for the period from 24/5/06 to 21/6/06:**

Cash book balance as at 24/5/06	319.14
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#### Receipts:

Camera Club – half PO box rental	30.00	
Interest	3.40	33.40

#### Expenditure:

Nil

Cash book balance as at 20/5/06	352.54
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Agrees with bank balance as at 20/5/06	352.54
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### **Accounts for payment**

QCWA – 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter rent of room	45.00
Paper for newsletter	47.45
Total Technology Centre	27.52

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

### **Specimens:**

1. Bruce Mundy – a circular rock like an emu egg from the highlands of New Guinea
2. Joan Bourne – a strange, rock like deposit (white in colour) possibly from a bird found in a water pot
3. Rob McCosker – photos from the outing to Girraween Lodge
4. Margaret said that a lyrebird's nest had been reported only a short distance off the track below Bald Rock
5. Col Hockings reported they heard a whipbird on their property

### **Outing Reports:**

1. Tenterfield

A very enjoyable outing as reported in the last newsletter. The Tenterfield Nats are having an open day at their park on 28 October and the club should consider going along.

2. Girraween Environmental Lodge – 18 June

Rob McCosker reported on the outing he led to the lodge. They climbed a ridge to the south of the lodge and had lunch at the top. There were lots of geckoes and other lizards amongst the rocks. A lyrebird was heard calling.

### **Pre-outing Reports:**

There have been no suggestions or leaders for a mid-week outing in July.

The walk on 16 July was to be to Blue Gorge in Sundown National Park but Peter Haselgrove is now unable to lead this. John Sumerland had offered to lead a walk to Wellington Rock, beyond Basket Swamp in Boonoo Boonoo State Forest, and he will be asked if he is able to do this walk instead of the one proposed. Alternatively, Dave Bright said he could lead a walk along Wallangarra Ridge.

### **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will feature David Wilson talking about geology.

### **General Business:**

1. Data projector

It has been suggested that we hire out the projector for \$10, plus a certain amount per hour to help cover the cost of replacing the bulb. The committee will discuss this and come up with a recommendation.

Now that we have purchased the projector, we need to submit a report to the Gambling Community Benefit Fund.

Dave asked whether we should take out some insurance on it and Kris will investigate whether it may be covered under his house and contents insurance policy.

2. Future outings

Kris asked members for suggestions about places for outings for next year and volunteers to lead them.

3. Photo Library

Michael said we could make our photos more accessible to others by members putting them on a public web site. He said a site, "Flicker" which is owned by Yahoo, allowed people a free service to store their photos. He offered to investigate this further and report back.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm and was followed by a presentation from Kris Carnell on a trip they took last June through the eastern part of NSW to Kiama.

**Annual General Meeting**  
**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August**  
**7.30pm**  
**QCWA Rooms, Victoria Street, Stanthorpe**  
**Followed by supper**

At our Annual Meeting the program will be ***Remember Last year.***

As it appears that nobody is taking slides any more, could those of you who have digital images, please get them to Kris as soon as possible, so that he can organize a program.

If anyone has slides, please let Kris know and arrangements will be made to show them as well.

Phone 46835268 or email [orana@halenet.com.au](mailto:orana@halenet.com.au)

## Management Matters

As subscriptions are due on the first of July for the next 12 months, at the next two meetings there will be some time allotted for the treasurer to write receipts between the end of the meeting and the beginning of the program.

If paying by **cash** at the meeting please put your **money in an envelope with your name on the outside** to make it easier for the treasurer.

### Subscriptions for 2006/2007 : Family \$25.00 – Single \$15.00

*Please complete your correct name and address details below and present with your subs. to the meeting in an envelope with your name on the outside, or post to:*

Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, STANTHORPE Q 4380.

Name (including title please) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Payment enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please note – Receipts not collected at the meeting will be enclosed with your Newsletter.

<i>Names and addresses are only used for posting the magazine and are not passed on to anyone else. If anyone does not want their name mentioned in outing reports could they please advise the editor.</i>
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As quite a few of our members have Email we would like to have your email address if you are agreeable. Sometimes it is convenient to contact as many members as possible about a change in arrangements, and this could be a convenient way to do it.

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

If you would prefer to have your magazine emailed to you please tick the box

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**Club Program Suggestions – 2006/2007**

The committee once again asks for your assistance to provide a wide range of outing activities and meeting programs for the coming twelve months. Please **jot down your suggestions below**, and indicate if you would be prepared to lead an outing or provide a meeting program. All suggestions will be considered at a special committee meeting to be held shortly after the AGM.

Name: .....

Outings	Camp-Outs	Programs

**Comments:** .....

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