



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 and the purchase of a data projector.

- 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, 374 Back Creek Road, Severnlea Q 4352

Email: orana@halenet.com.au

CLUB OFFICE BEARERS – 2006/2007

President	Kris Carnell	46835268
Vice-presidents	Michael Mueller	46811421
	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	Robin McCosker	46835371
Management Committee:	President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer	

Deadline for next Newsletter:
9th October 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 24th September: The Signboard in Girraween N.P. led by Dave Bright

Next Meeting Wednesday 27th September: Program by David Hockings – A practical demonstration of native plant propagation

Friday Outing October 6th: Tully Park led by Ian Milinovich and Dell Wham

Wildflower Walk October 15th: Girraween Environmental Lodge

Pre-Outing Report – The Signboard – 24th September

Leader: Dave Bright

September 24th outing will be to the “signboard”, Girraween.

We will meet at Weerona Park at 9am, proceeding via Eukey, Pyramids Road turning left into Mt Norman Road and drive 1 km to the locked gate. (conventional cars ok). Smoko can be taken here.

Carrying lunch we will head south along the kept fire trail, crossing Bald Rock Creek and soon after some easy bush bashing to the “Aztec Temple”. Time to explore before returning to Bald Rock Creek and possibly the Underground River, where lunch could be taken. The ascent of the Signboard will be cross country up a gentle grade (1 in 10) to the summit, with an easy descent back to the vehicles by about 2pm. Total trip would be 6 km with 120m of climb, mainly grade 2 up to a small amount of grade 8 on the climb. Those wishing not to scale the hill can return via the fire trail.

Congratulations to the Camerons

We would like to congratulate Jenny and Andy Cameron on the birth of their son Curtis, on Sunday 19th August. Here are some photos sent by the proud dad. We look forward to meeting Curtis and having him join our outings.



Curtis Cameron



Wildflower Walk 15th October – Girraween Environmental Lodge

We return to the beautiful rocky outcrops of this Land for Wildlife property, where there was so much excitement over finding the rare *Callistemon pungens* in 2004. Two tracks provide a choice of moderate and difficult walking.

49 Wren Lane (off Pyramids Road), Wyberba. Please assemble at GEL carpark at 9.30am.

Outing to Tully Park – Friday 6th October 2006

Leaders: Ian Milinovich and Dell Wham

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am and travel to Tully Park to look for orchids. Bring morning tea.

Report on Outing to Rivertree Sunday 20th August 2006

As promised at last year's May outing, we took up Mac and Gilruth Rees' offer to explore their property to the east above Koreelah Creek. A similar sized but different group (Total 22 =17 SFN and 5 visitors) fronted a still-frosty Stanthorpe morning. In all, 8 or 9 mainly high clearance 4wd's convoyed east along Amosfield Rd, over the border and down the Rivertree Road to its end. On meeting our hosts, we moved along 'the M1' to stop at Koreelah Creek for smoko and introductions.

The creek banks are lined heavily with flood shaped Water Gums and Bottlebrush, and despite similar waterhole levels last time, no platypii seen in this section.

Moving on, we chose to ascend Mac's M3, which climbs the side of Rivertree Peak to the East. Partway up we paused at the 'grasstree forest', where early flowering stalks were attracting native and honey bees. This section is typical of the more open north and west facing slopes, dominated by Apple, Ironbark and Kangaroo grass, in contrast to the steeper or Southern facing slopes we could see across the gully. These tend to support taller 'wet' scherophyll forest with a larger variety of gums including some Bloodwoods, Tallowwoods, and many Brush Boxes.

Geology (and subsequent soil) also has a big influence on vegetation variation. Granite on the lower slopes (edge of batholith) gives way to sedimentary layers, capped with volcanic soil. Further up, outcrops of volcanic basalts are evident in a rock scree.

Rounding a spur, we continued along a ridge to the N.E. where Mac has recently refenced a section dividing the upper 'plateau' like hilltops. At the cattleyard we turned S.E. following his new fence, where Rees' ute was bailed up by a large (2.5m) Carpet Python. With a line of eight 4wds not everyone got to see it before it disappeared into the long kangaroo grass. Where this spur terminates (drivable) we stopped for lunch. Around us several pea bushes and creepers and one logania became obvious. A short walk down slope to the south led to a knoll/cliff-top overlooking Cullens Creek and the Upper Clarence beyond.

This outcrop seems to be composed of a lighter (scoria-like) fine-grained volcanic rock, which features some unusual vegetation :- leafless(deciduous) Coral trees, Fig, Correa, Plectranthus, Acacia Granitica?, Waxflower(Hoya) and Wonga vines.

Returning to the cars we backtracked to the cattleyard, briefly sidescurting to the N.E. corner with abundant pea (pultenea) and Sago bushes beginning to flower. From here our Brisbane visitors were able to take a short cut (through Tooloom) home.

The rest of us returned along the 'M3', Gilruth offering some the option via cyanide rock and down Koreelah Ck. Thanks go to Mac and Gilruth for another excellent day on the property and special thanks to those providing seats in their 4WD's.

Ian Milinovich

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR THE EDITOR

**New address
374 BACK CREEK ROAD
SEVERNLEA Q 4352**

**OWING TO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES WE ARE UNABLE TO PRINT THE MINUTES
IN THE MAGAZINE.
THEY WILL BE READ AT THE MEETING**

Stanthorpe Field Nats Outing
Sunday 20th August 2006, Mac and Gilruths property Rivertree

Ian provided a map and a full page plant list which we are unable to provide to our email members as the scanned images are too large to include in the magazine. If you would like a hard copy let me know and I'll arrange to get them to you.

Kris

Proposed Programme 2006/2007

FRIDAY	SUNDAY	WEDNESDAY
October 6 Ian Milinovich TULLY PARK	October 22 Bald Rock Meet Fassifern Field Nats	October 25 Neal & Sylvie (R McCosker) BULGARIA
October 28 M Mueller BROADWATER S F	November 19 P Haselgrove BLUE GORGE	November 22 E Walker ICELAND
	December Break-Up M PENNISI	
February 2 K & M Carnell	February 25 R McCosker GIRRAWEEN LODGE	February 28 M Jeffries Flickr@C.W.A.
March 2 D Bright	March 25 I Milinovich TWIN PEAKS OR TULLY RIDGE	March 21 M Ions GEOLOGY
April M Mueller STARWATCH	April 22 M Mueller RED ROCK GORGE	April 25 M Mueller ORKNEY ISLANDS
May 5-7 Campout BORDER RANGES NATIONAL PARK		
May 11 L Bourne	May 20 D Bright MT PRENTICE	May 23 I. Milinovich PLANTS OF THE DISTRICT
June 1 C & J Hockings	June 24 K & M Carnell BILLYRIMBA FALLS AND GORGE	June 27 R McCosker CANIA GORGE
July 6 I Milinovich	July 22 P Kerr SWAN CREEK	July 25 P Andrewartha CHINA
August 3 K& M Carnell	August 19 R McCosker MT GREVILLE	August 22 AGM Remember Last Year
September 7 M Mueller STARWATCH	September 23 TANKTRAPS	September 26 D Bright

Program subject to change if leaders are unavailable.

Spare Outings: Walk from The Desert to Basket Swamp Falls, Kitchen Caves and Roman Road

Spare Programs: Kris Carnell and David Wilson