



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 Qld. 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:
6th November 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 22nd October: Bald Rock – Meet the Fassifern Field Nats. Led by Kris Carnell

Next Meeting Wednesday 25th October: Program by Neal and Sylvie *Bulgaria*

Saturday Outing 28th October: Broadwater State Forest led by Michael Mueller

Saturday 28th October 2006: Tenterfield Park Open Day

Friday 10th to Sunday 12th October: Tenterfield Bird Weekend

News from Tenterfield Naturalist Club

Tenterfield Park Open Day Saturday 28th October, 2006, between the hours of 9.30am and 4pm. Entry from East Street, off the eastern end of Derby Street. (For those approaching Tenterfield from the north, drive down the highway through town and turn left into Derby Street which is almost opposite the large BP servo/Seven Knights Caravan Park. Proceed along Derby Street to the top and continue around to the right, taking care over the bump, and the park entrance is almost opposite the water tower). Entry is a gold coin donation, and bring a picnic lunch and a rug if you like!

The Sir Henry Parkes Memorial School students will show you their 'Special Forever' project at 10am. Tenterfield Naturalists will be on site to show you around the park and there will be a talk on the park fauna. It is anticipated the park will become the Regional Botanic Gardens for the Northern Tablelands in time.

The Bird Weekend is focussed on the Mole River Valley area west of Tenterfield. From 2pm Friday 10th to Sunday afternoon 12th November 2006 and beyond if people want to stay on and see more bird watching areas with Peter Sommerlad. There are several properties in the area providing accommodation. On the understanding they are busy with other preparations, please contact Peter Sommerlad (67362474, mob 0428511157) or John Sommerlad (67363273, mob 0409363275) for further details. The brochure is underway.

Pre-Outing Report – Broadwater State Forest – Saturday 28th October

Leader: Michael Mueller

The outing to Broadwater State Forest on 28th October will be a fairly short excursion. Please note this is a Saturday outing. We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am and travel to the state forest about 5 minutes from town, where we will leave the cars. The walk is about 1 kilometre to an unnamed rock lookout. Be prepared to carry morning tea to the top of the rock. For further information contact Michael on 46811421.

Pre-Outing Report – Bald Rock – Sunday 22nd October

Leader: Kris Carnell

This outing will give us an opportunity to meet with the Fassifern Field Nats who are camping at Bald Rock for the weekend.

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 8.00am and travel to Bald Rock where we plan to meet the Fassifern Nats at 9.00am for an early morning tea. The walk for the day will be decided after talking to them as

they will have done some walks on the Saturday. We will probably be either walking up and over Bald Rock using part of the South Bald Rock track, or walking northwards along the Border Track. We will need to carry lunch and water. For further information ring Kris on 46835268.

Don't forget the final **Wildflower Walk** for 2006
Sunday 12th November to Girraween National Park
A wander around Dr Roberts Waterhole and the underground creek with local Parks
Rangers.
Meet at the Park Headquarters at 9.30am.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc
held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 27th September, 2006**

Opening: The meeting opened at 7.56pm, with vice-president, Michael Mueller, welcoming members and special guests, David and Olive Hockings.

Attendance: There were 14 present at the meeting and 5 apologies as per the attendance book.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 23rd August 2006 were received and were accepted as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Ian Milinovich, seconded by Liz Bourne. Carried.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Chinchilla Field Nats. – *Urimbirra* – September 06
 2. Total Technology Centre – monthly statement for \$59.19 for photocopier
 3. Qld Naturalists Club – Queensland Natural History Awards 2007
 4. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club – *Darling Downs Naturalist* – September 06
 5. Terry and Margaret Tricker - membership renewal plus pamphlet on birdwatching in the South Burnett
 6. Fassifern Field Naturalists – newsletter – September 06
 7. Commonwealth Bank – statement for September
 8. Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Club – September newsletter
 9. Warwick Society for Growing Australian Plants - newsletter
- This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Liz Bourne. Carried.

Financial Statement

In the absence of the treasurer, no financial statement was available.

Outing Reports:

1. Wildflower Walk – 10 September

Ian Milinovich reported that the first in a series of wildflower walks organised by the Stanthorpe Rare Wildflower Consortium in the Amiens State Forest attracted about 25 people. Despite the overcast and rainy conditions, a lot of wildflowers were seen and the plant list developed by Ian and Paula Coutts proved very useful for newcomers but was difficult to use in the rain.

2. Sunday walk – 24 September

Dave Bright's walk to The Signboard in Girraween National Park had about 20 people attending. They had lunch at the Underground River before a group climbed up to The Signboard. *Boronia amabilis* were observed in flower plus one of the *Boronia inflexa* sub-species. Jean reported that she had observed a pair of black snakes mating and had photos of this.

Pre-outing Reports:

1. Friday outing – 6 October - Tully Park

Details for this are in the newsletter. The property is usually good for orchids but the dry weather may limit them this year.

2. Next Wildflower Walk

This will be on Sunday 15 October and will be at the Girraween Environmental Lodge, starting at 9.30am.

3. Next mid-week outing

This will be on a Saturday and will be led by Michael Mueller to the Broadwater State Forest. There is a good lookout only a short distance away from where the cars will be parked.

General Business:

1. Proposed Road Closure in Sundown National Park

Michael said he had read a notice about a proposal to close a gazetted road within Sundown National Park but was uncertain exactly where this was and whether we should be concerned. Liz also raised the issue about what had happened to the draft management plan for Sundown and Girraween National Parks since public comments were called for in July 2005. It was resolved to follow this up with the Minister.

The meeting closed at 8.24pm and was followed by a very interesting presentation by David Hockings on plant propagation from cuttings.

OUTING REPORT THE SIGNBOARD, 24TH SEPTEMBER



Twenty assembled at the locked gate on Mt Norman Road. After smoko all detoured to see a beautiful display of a orchid in flower. Three then took a short course whilst 17 walked the 3km fire trail, crossing Bald Rock Creek and bushbashed up the hill to the Aztec Temple. Time was spent here viewing the various rock formations. Many orchids in profuse flower were seen. We then descended and headed north to the Underground River where lunch was taken. We then followed open slab rock as we started the climb of The Signboard. The scrub became denser and we then entered rain forest and followed the small creek, emerging at the southern end of the hill with beaut views

of The Sphinx, Turtle Rock and Mt Norman. Following the western escarpment, we viewed the Pyramids and Slip Rock. Veering east brought us to the top of the signboard with views to Bald Rock. We headed west through scrub to the western node of the hill. The main party headed north following open slab rock down to the cars. Two other groups found their way back by other routes.

Dave Bright

