



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.

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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:
1st February 2007**

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 19th November: Blue Gorge led by Peter Haselgrove

Next Meeting Wednesday 22nd November: Program by E. Walker *Iceland*

Wildflower Walk Sunday 12th November: Meet at Park Headquarters, Girraween National Park

Break-Up Sunday 10th December: At Mario Pennisi's place, 488 Sugarloaf Road, Stanthorpe

Next Friday Outing 9th February 2007: Kris and Margaret Carnell **Note change of date due to Show Holiday.**

Pre-Outing Report - Blue Gorge - Sunday 19th November

Leaders: Peter and Lynette Haselgrove

It should take about 1 hour from Stanthorpe to the top Farnbro turnoff. Kris will lead the group from Stanthorpe at about 8.00 am. There is no grid in the road there now, so we will meet you at the top of the hill, approximately 72km from town, hopefully about 9.00 am. People coming in ordinary vehicles can leave them just inside the gate, where we'll rationalize transport. The less vehicles the better as it cuts down travelling time. It is about 14km to Blue Gorge Creek and then a reasonable walk for fit people about 1 1/2 km to the head of Blue Gorge. Depending on time and inclination, we may also visit the southern side of The Brothers where a good view of Burrows Waterhole etc can be obtained.

We should have smoko about 1/2 hour after leaving the bitumen and lunch at Blue Gorge before or after walking to the head of the gorge depending on the time.

The track in the park is reasonable. I should be taking a dozer over it in the next few days and will keep the Nats trip in mind.

Outing Report "Unnamed Rock Lookout" Broadwater State Forest, 28th October

I was pleasantly surprised by the good turnout of 20 people including 5 children aged 7 – 12.

We parked the cars near Happy Valley Resort and headed westward into the forest. After following a wide ridge we reached a saddle which we followed halfway up and around a hill until we came to the two flat lookout rocks which together offer a 180 degree view from Mt Tully Plateau in the SE to the Passchendaele TV tower in the NW. There we had a long morning tea under a blue sky with a gusty wind. As the forest was very dry, there were hardly any wildflowers but at least a great amount of quite thirsty looking snowbushes, as well as many still very young looking grass trees and, to our surprise, an elkhorn fern. We made our way back past yet another balancing rock over the top of the hill and past large boulders with some partly obstructed views to other parts of the forest and Stanthorpe.



Feedback from one visitor indicates that there could be a number of people who would like to participate in club outings, but are busy on weekdays, and for various reasons, cannot attend on Sundays. This has encouraged me to organise a few more outings on a Saturday in the future.

Michael Mueller

Outing Report – Bald Rock – 22nd October 2006

Leader: Kris Carnell & Fassifern Nats

Only three people assembled at Weeroona Park to drive to Bald Rock to meet the Fassifern Nats, however Trish and Rob joined the convoy a little way out. We had just arrived when Jane drove in with 5 Korean and Chinese workers who were very keen to learn about the bush and to learn English as well.

We were pleased to meet the Fassifern Nats and set off on a walk to Little Bald Rock, bird watching and botanising as we went. A couple of the Fassifern Nats could easily recognise birds by their calls.

We heard a lyrebird, not far off in the bracken.



Hidden amongst the bracken were some orchid leaves, some were probably helmet orchids (*corybas*). There was a clump of king orchids (*Dendrobium speciosum*) blooming on a rock and in one spot we saw a *Caladenia carnea*, some helmet orchid leaves and another orchid, which had almost finished flowering and was setting seed. I thought at the time it was a mosquito orchid, but on consulting a book I found it to be a *Chiloglottis sp.*, possibly *reflecta* (Bird Orchid).

There were also clumps of double tails (*Diuris aurea*) growing beside the track.



There were numerous wildflowers in bloom, including a large yellow daisy, which looked to me like a senecio, whether native or exotic I don't know. There were masses of white everlastings beneath the trees and further on the track was bordered by *Pimelea linifolia*, two yellow peas and a couple of yellow and orange ones. The seed pods on the *Davesia latifolia* were very decorative. There was an orange pea with terminal heads of flowers on a slender plant, which I have not been able to

identify, as well as a few boronia plants just coming into flower.



We headed up through the rocks to the top of Little Bald Rock, crossing a fallen section of border fence, and found it was very windy on the exposed rock at the top, where we looked at the view. For lunch we sat in the shelter of a rock garden and looked at the diversity of plants growing there. There was a clump of *Acacia lasiopetalus* in front of us, which was not in flower. There were *Eriostemon*, *Leptospermum* and *Hakeas* brightening up the day, however. One of the *Hakeas* had veined leaves

and white flowers with pink shading in the centre. The seed pods were quite large and smooth. Rob found a white *Westringia amabilis* amongst the rocks.



When we had eaten, we headed back downhill, stopping now and then to look at birds or plants on the way. On arrival at the parking area, we showed our overseas visitors a large termite nest, said goodbye to our friends from Fassifern and headed home.

Margaret Carnell

Bird List – Bald Rock

King parrot	Eastern spinebill	Rufous fantail
Varied sitella leaden flycatcher	Yellow-faced honeyeater	Red wattlebird
Striated Thornbill	Brown thornbill	Scarlet robin
Fantailed cuckoo (call)	Lyrebird (call)	Satin bower bird
Currawong	Rufous whistler (call)	White-browed scrub wren
Yellow robin (call)	Grey shrike thrush	Crimson rosella
Grey fantail	White throated tree creeper	Spotted pardalote (call)
Shiny bronze cuckoo (call)	New Holland honeyeater	Yellow rumped thornbill

Flowering Plant List – Bald Rock – 22nd October 2006

Compiled by Margaret Carnell

Diuris aurea (yellow double tailed orchid)	Epacris microphylla (coral heath, white)	Pultenaea hartmannii (Stanthorpe Pea, yellow & orange)
Helichrysum boormanii (white everlasting)	Davesia latifolia (bitter hop pea, yellow & orange)	Kennedia rubiconda (running postman, red pea)
Smilax australis (barbed wire vine, flowers & berries)	Hardenbergia violacea (false sarsparilla, purple pea, climbing)	Viola sp (purple violet)
Viola hederacea (purple & white violet,)	Dianella sp. (blue flax lily)	Hibbertia aspera (guinea flower, yellow)
Pimelea linifolia (Queen of the bush, white or pale pink terminal heads)	Senecio sp (large heads of yellow daisies)	Solanum sp. (mauve flower like potato flower, thorny leaves & stems)
Glycine sp (small mauve pea, climbing)	Mauve daisy – small	Billardiera scandens (climber, greenish tubular bells)
Hakea 2 species	Callistemon (in bud)	Dendrobium speciosum (King Orchid, Rock Lily)
Oxylobium arborescens (tall shaggy pea, yellow)	Eriostemon myoporoides (white wax flower, 5 petals)	Stylidium laricifolium (trigger plant, pink flower)
Stylidium grammifolium (grass trigger plant, pink flower)	Stypandra sp (blue flax lily)	Ranunculus lappaceus (common buttercup, yellow)
Dilwynnia retorta (showy parrot pea, yellow & orange)	Acacia venulosa seeds	Orange pea, terminal clusters, slender plant
Leptospermum neoangliae (tea tree, white)	Pink herb	Boronia microphylla (pink flowers, 4 petals)
Comesperma retusum (matchsticks, purple/pink)	Goodenia sp (yellow flower, 5 petals)	Ozothamnus diosmifolius (sago bush, white or pink heads)
Leptospermum minutifolium (small-leaved tea tree, white)	Phebalium ambiens (fruit-salad plant, leaves scented)	Westringia amabilis (white flower, tubular, 5 petals)
Isotoma anethifolia (white, 5 petals, grows on rocks)	Caladenia carnea (pink orchid)	Orchid probably Chiloglottis reflexa (flower almost finished)

WILDFLOWER WALK

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Dr Roberts Waterhole, Girraween National Park

Sunday 12th November

Meet at Park Headquarters at 9.30am.

Wombat Day

Hello everybody,

Due to popular demand after May's very successful wombat day, we have decided to hold another Wombat search this year on the 9th December. To date we have close to 250 wombat burrows staked.

As some of you are already aware, we have ran two of these weekends so far over the last two years and they have been immensely helpful to Girraween management in locating wombats and their burrows. The reason we stake the burrows is so that we can continue to monitor the usage of that particular burrow twice yearly. Furthermore, in the next 12 months I am hoping to find a study site in a southern state (yeh I'll have to go down and set it up I'm thinking!!!) where the common wombats are common. That way we can compare the two different sites burrow density and other characteristics to give us a clearer understanding of our wombats and their behaviour in Girraween.

So basically we need a group of 'special' people, who, in groups, look for wombats in a day. The reason why I only invite special people is because I'm quite protective of the whereabouts of our wombies, so it's only people in the know that we really want coming to the weekend. Your partners or friends are welcome too...

The day consists of us breaking up into groups of four and looking for wombat 'left behinds' and burrows. You will be given a survey sheet to fill in at each burrow. Priority is to locate and record data for the already staked burrows, but you will find new ones along the way no doubt.

Please let me know if you would like to join us. Oh yeh, it's hard yakka - big hills, thick scrub and really not that rewarding (we never see wombats!). However we will provide you with free dinner, free camping and not too mention a free workout!

Saturday the 9th December is the big day, meeting at 8.30am at the Girraween park headquarters. We usually finish around 4.00pm, with a barbecue supplied by us afterwards. So could you please get back to me with names and also what equipment you can contribute such as GPS's, light-weight hammers and pliers, digital cameras, UHF hand held radios and first aid kits.

Cheers

Jolene McLellan

Public Contact Ranger, Girraween National Park

Break-up Sunday 10th December 2006

The Break-up this year will be at Mario Pennisi's place, 488 Sugarloaf Road, Stanthorpe.

Meet at 3.30pm to go for a walk with a very good view over Stanthorpe.

This will be followed by a barbeque.
Bring your own food, drink and a chair.



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc
held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 25th October, 2006**

Opening: The meeting opened at 7.37pm, with vice-president, Col Hockings, welcoming members and special guests, Neal Holmes and Sylvia Sharrodes.

Attendance: There were 13 present at the meeting and no apologies as per the attendance book.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 27th September 2006 were received and were accepted as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Rob McCosker, seconded by Michael Mueller. Carried.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Chinchilla Field Nats. – *Urimbirra* – October 06
2. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club – *Darling Downs Naturalist* – October 06
3. Total Technology Centre – monthly statement for \$48.10 and invoice for \$24.16 for photocopier
4. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club – *Darling Downs Naturalist* – October 06
5. Fassifern Field Naturalists – newsletter – October 06
6. Commonwealth Bank – statement for October
7. Taita Publications – invoice for 30 wildflower books for sale by club
8. Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Club – October newsletter
9. Warwick Society for Growing Australian Plants – newsletter
10. Joan and Harry Stevenson – thank you letter
11. Herb and Esme Colley – non-renewal of membership due to Herb's ill health preventing their participation in club activities
12. International Park Tours – 2007 trip catalogue

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

Financial Statement

The financial statement for September and October was tabled by the treasurer.

Financial Statement for the period from 24/8/06 to 25/10/06:

Cash book balance as at 24/8/06 754.56

Receipts:

Subscriptions	375.00	
Sale of wildflower book	7.00	
		382.00

Expenditure:

Room rent (3 months)	45.00	
Photocopier charges	30.14	
Office of Fair Trading – annual return	37.00	
		112.14

Cash book balance as at 25/10/06 1024.42

Bank reconcilliation:

Cash book balance at 19/10/06 1024.42

No outstanding cheques

No cash receipts

Accounts for payment

QCWA – room rent	\$30.00
Kris Carnell – stamps & paper	62.50
Total Technology Centre	59.19
Taita Publications	90.00

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

Outing Reports:

1. Friday outing – Mt Tully – 6 October

Michael reported that about 10 people attended this outing to Dell and Ian's place. Unfortunately, due to the continuing dry conditions, only a limited number of orchids were in flower.

2. Sunday walk – 22 October – Bald Rock National Park

About 8 club members attended this joint outing with 10 members of the Fassifern Field Naturalists Club, who were camped at the park for the weekend. There was a good display of wildflowers despite the dry weather.

3. Wildflower Walk to Girraween Environmental Lodge

Dry, hot weather limited numbers on the walk to about 30 people. They were divided into 2 groups with one party climbing up a spur and the other staying on the flatter ground near the creek. Although not as many flowers were observed as in previous years, the participants were still rewarded with enough to keep them interested, with Rob McCosker's group recording 50 species.

Pre-outing Reports:

1. Saturday outing – 28 October – Broadwater State Forest

Michael Mueller is organising this short outing on Saturday morning. It will leave from Weeroona Park at 9am and only a short walk is involved. It is intended to have smoko on a slab of granite which has good views.

2. Tenterfield Park Open Day – 28 October

A reminder that the Tenterfield Field Naturalists will be having an open day at Tenterfield Park between 9.30am and 4pm. Details as per the last newsletter.

3. Next Wildflower Walk

This will be on Sunday 12 November to the Dr Robert's Waterhole section of Girraween National Park, starting at 9.30am from the park headquarters.

4. Sunday 19 November – Blue Gorge Creek, Sundown National Park

Peter Haselgrove will be leading this outing and 4WD vehicles will definitely be required. Details will be in the next newsletter.

5. Saturday 9 December – Wombat Hunt at Girraween National Park

The Qld Parks and Wildlife Service will be conducting another wombat survey on 9 December and are looking for volunteers to assist with this work.

6. Sunday 10 December – Club Break-up and Christmas Party

This will be at Mario Pennisi's place at Sugarloaf. Details in the next newsletter.

Specimens:

1. Rob McCosker had a dead red-necked parrot found at his place. He also recently sighted a koala there.

2. Col Hockings reported his male bowerbird had demolished its bower and moved away. The McCoskers said their grey babblers had also moved on and reported that a white-cheeked honeyeater had demolished its own nest after its young were reared and then used the material to construct a new nest in another position.

The meeting closed at 7.59pm and was followed by a fascinating presentation by Neal Holmes on a trip taken by him and Sylvia to Bulgaria showing its cities and rural areas as well as a walk they did through one of its national parks.