



# 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](mailto: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:**  
**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April (Please note date)**

## 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 25<sup>th</sup> March:** The Desert and Basket Swamp Falls led by Kris & Margaret Carnell

**Next Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> March:** Program by Rob McCosker *To and From Cania Gorge*

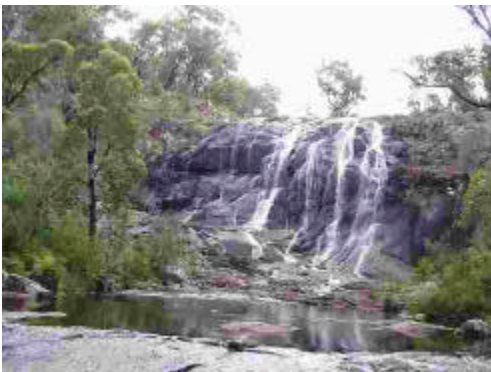
**Friday Outing:** Starwatching with Michael Mueller

### Pre Outing Report – the Desert and Basket Swamp Falls – 25<sup>th</sup> March

Leaders: Kris & Margaret Carnell

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am as usual. We will try to use all 4WDs for the outing, if not, conventional cars can be used and the outing will be modified slightly. We will travel along Sugarloaf Road until we reach Mt Lindesay Road, then we will travel along Mt Lindesay Road to the turnoff to Basket Swamp at Lindrook Road and travel along it to the Bark Hut Rest Area where we will have morning tea.

There is a steep gravel creek crossing at Bark Hut that could cause problems for conventional vehicles. We will turn into Wellington Road and then stop at the creek crossing on the southern side of The Desert area to explore. Along the creek there are some giant ferns as well as several other varieties. In The Desert area the normal forest abruptly changes to stunted mallee growth of about three metres high. The mallee is interspersed with banksia, boronia and cone bush and other wildflowers and the soil changes to white granite sand. At the moment there are very few flowers in bloom.



We will then travel further along the fire trail until just before the track meets Basket Swamp creek. The vehicles will be left here and we will walk across the creek and then upstream for about 15 minutes to the base of Basket Swamp Falls. We will carry lunch with us and we'll explore the area around the falls. There is a short steep climb up the fire trail to the top of the falls. On the pre-outing (11<sup>th</sup> March) there was a good flow in the creek and there should still be plenty of water to swim. We then intend to retrace our route back to the vehicles.

If time permits we will return via the Basket Swamp rest area and we may even have time to go along the road to the top of the falls and look at the cascades above the falls. Don't be put off if by any chance there is good rain beforehand or if you haven't got a 4wd as we will arrange the outing to suit whoever turns up on the day. For further information contact Kris or Margaret Carnell on 46835268.

### February Outing Report – Girraween Lodge to the Junction.

Our first Sunday outing for 2007 attracted about 16 people. We proceeded to the tin shack dubbed the "Girraween Hilton", for a brief morning tea before setting off on one of the Lodge tracks and then heading east over a low saddle to Pyramids Road. After crossing the road we looked at the remains of several fireplaces used by campers who often used this area before the campsite was set up at the Girraween National Park. The land was previously owned by my parents and the campsite was the venue of several



Field Nats Christmas breakups in the 1970's. Some members from those days will remember being introduced to the delicacy of bananas, fried on the BBQ plate, by Dorothy Wiseman!

The walk along Ramsay Creek to the Junction was rather unremarkable, except for the exceptionally dry condition of the bush, with many of the smaller plants and shrubs obviously suffering from the drought. The Junction was little more than a string of waterholes. At least here there was sufficient moisture on the verges to support some flowering plants. As we emerged from the bush track onto the open granite we saw *Plectranthus* and *Isotoma* and in the moist sand next to waterholes were Sundews *Drosera*, Bladderwort *Utricularia*, Small St John's Wort *Hypericum graminium* and Waterlily *Nymphoides geminata*. Along the track we also noticed some Lobelia, Cassinia and Stenanthemum in bloom and a few tough Angophoras putting on a show. We spent some time wandering along the creek and one member was enticed to take a dip in the clear pool below what is normally a pretty cascade. We then walked back to the cars for lunch, taking a different track, which offered less bush and less uphill going.



After lunch, several members were keen to see more of the tracks on the Lodge property, so we set off to the Rock Pools on Ramsay Creek. Here again of course there was just a string of waterholes but still a pleasant spot to pause and explore. We returned to the cars by about 3.00pm for a cuppa and some members lingered to absorb the ambience of the tin shelter for a time as a light shower passed over, before heading for home.

*Rob McCosker Leader.*

### Bird List compiled by Glen Holmes

Masked Lapwing	White-browed Scrubwren	Crimson Rosella	Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo
Variiegated Fairywren	Weebill	Wonga Pigeon	Brown Thornbill
Buff-rumped Thornbill	Striated Thornbill	Spotted Pardolate	Red Wattlebird
White-throated treecreeper	White-eared Honeyeater	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	White-naped Honeyeater
Eastern Spinebill	Varied Sittella	Noisy miner	Eastern Yellow Robin
Grey Shrike-thrush	Grey fantail	Willy wagtail	Torresian Crow
Pied Butcherbird	Grey Butcherbird	Australian Magpie	Pied Currawong
Dusky Woodswallow	Welcome Swallow	Red-browed Finch	

### OUTING REPORT FRIDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH

It was a very pleasant day when 8 Nats members and visitors left Stanthorpe en-route to the Tank Traps on the Mt Lindesay Road. As we crossed over Jenners Ck, we noticed that there had recently been a "gully rusher" down the creek. Unfortunately the next two major creeks showed no sign of major flows. We stopped just before the Tank Traps for morning tea. Around us there were lots of everlastings, both white and yellow and also a feral gladioli.

The walk from the Tank Traps to the track to Thunderbolts Lookout is a very gentle stroll along a creek for most of the way. We noticed where the side of the mountain had been blasted down to compliment the wooden poles used as Tank Traps. Lots of Fungi were seen along the way, but unfortunately the moisture that brought the Fungi also brought the leeches. I



think that only one of us escaped unscathed. In contrast the walk up to the lookout was dry, almost dusty. Most of us climbed right to the top of the rocks before we returned to the road. Dave and I then walked back up the road to get the cars while the rest waited in the shade.



We then travelled to Tenterfield Park where the Tenterfield Nats are rehabilitating a large area of what used to be “rubbish” land. Lunch was had in the shade of one of the large gum trees close to the entrance. After a leisurely lunch, we walked around the circuit path. It was interesting for those of us who have been there before to see how the park is progressing. That ended our day so we then made our way home up the highway.

*Kris Carnell*

### **Weekday outing in April**

The weekday outing in April will not be on the 6<sup>th</sup> as that is Good Friday. Michael is overseas at the moment and when he returns and has had time to organize a Starwatching night, we will let members know the details by phone and email.

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2007**

**Opening:** The meeting opened at 7.36 pm, with president, Kris Carnell, welcoming new member, Helina Kruger, and visitors, Glen Holmes, Wendy Lileith and Nanette Jurd.

**Attendance:** There were 23 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 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2006 were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Shirley Allum, seconded by Michael Jefferies. Carried.

#### **Correspondence:**

##### **Inwards:**

1. Commonwealth Bank – statements for December, January and February
2. Chinchilla Field Nats. – *Urimbirra* – December 06; Feb 07
3. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club – *Darling Downs Naturalist* – Dec. 06; Feb 07; March 07
4. CGU Insurance – public liability payment for 2007 - \$372.49
5. Qld.Field Naturalists Club – December Journal
6. Qld.Field Naturalists Club – QNC News – Jan/Feb 07
7. Fassifern Field Naturalists – newsletter – Jan 07
8. Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Club – newsletter – Dec 06
9. Canon Total Technology – statement for \$11.44; invoice for \$2.60; statement for \$2.60; invoice for \$1.19; statement for \$3.79; invoice for \$15.53
10. Stanthorpe Shire Council – information on local law in relation to the operation of the Stanthorpe Aerodrome
11. Field Naturalists of Victoria – seeking nominations for the Australian Natural History medallion
12. State Library of Qld – acknowledging receipt of newsletters
13. International Park Tours – *IPT Traveller* – Feb 07
14. Australia Post – invoice for post office box rental
15. Warwick Daily News – invitation to contribute information to community news page
16. Qld Parks and Wildlife Service – *Bush Telegraph* – Summer 07

##### **Outwards:**

1. CGU Insurance – public liability payment - \$372.49

This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Liz Bourne, seconded by Rob McCosker. Carried.

#### **Business Arising from the Minutes:**

1. Local law in relation to the operation of the Stanthorpe Aerodrome

This proposed local law has also been advertised for public comment, due by 8<sup>th</sup> March. Kris advised that it had no direct relevance to the club's interests.

Financial Statement

The financial statement since November was tabled by the treasurer. He noted that November's statement contained an error of 50c.

**Financial Statement for the period from 27/11/06 to 28/2/07:**

Cash book balance as at 27/11/06		969.66
<u>Receipts:</u>		
Subscriptions	15.00	
Photocopying	1.40	
Sale of wildflower books	37.00	
		53.40
<u>Expenditure:</u>		
Photocopier charges	11.44	
Purchase of wildflower books	90.00	
Public liability insurance	372.49	
		473.93
Cash book balance as at 28/2/07		549.13
Less outstanding cash receipts		
Sale of wildflower books	37.00	
		512.13
Accounts for payment:		
Total Technology Centre	15.53	
Australia Post	65.00	

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

**Outing Reports:**

1. February Friday Outing

Kris apologised for having to cancel this outing at late notice, due to him having to have a leg operation.

2. Sunday 25 February – Girraween Environmental Lodge

Rob McCosker reported that 19 people participated in the outing, which went west from the lodge and followed an old road to The Junction. There was little water in Bald Rock Creek. Lunch was had at the national park campground before returning to the lodge.

**Pre-outing Reports:**

1. Friday Outing – 2 March

Kris suggested that it should go to the old tank traps and Thunderbolt's Lookout, off the Mt Lindesay Highway. People should meet at 9am at Weeroona Park and bring smoko and lunch.

2. Sunday 25 March outing

The leader, Ian Milinovich, has had difficulty in contacting the landowners of the area proposed to be visited. Kris suggested it should go instead to The Desert in Boonoo State Forest and walk through to the Basket Swamp Falls. A car shuffle will be required. Details will be in the newsletter.

3. March meeting

The presentation was to be given by Martin Ions but he is unavailable. Rob McCosker will therefore give a presentation on a trip they did to Cania Gorge. Martin's talk will be re-scheduled to June.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm and was followed by a presentation Michael Jefferies on the use of "Flicka", a web based public photo library.