



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, 364 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:
Monday 11 June**

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 20th May: *Mt Prentice* led by Dave Bright

Star Watch 22nd May: *The Moon and Saturn* with Michael Mueller

Next Meeting Wednesday 23rd May: Program *Flowering Plants of the Stanthorpe Shire* with Ian Milinovich

Saturday Outing 2nd June: *Birdwatching at Pinaster* led by Col and Janet Hockings

Pre-Outing Report May 20th – Mt Prentice

Leader: Dave Bright

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9 am. Proceed along Sugarloaf and south on Mt. Lindsay road. Travel approx 15 km and turn left into Joe Gasparin's property. Proceed 3km on farm tracks, most vehicles should be ok if dry but 4wd advisable, especially if wet. Smoko will be taken at the cars. It is only an easy, short walk to Mt. Prentice from here. After exploring the Mount we return to the vehicles for a 2km drive to another unnamed rock formation. Lunch can be left at the vehicles. From here we can return home, or if time allows pop into Boonoo Boonoo falls.

Pre-Outing Report – Birdwatching at Pinaster

Leaders: Col & Janet Hockings

We will meet at 9.00am at Weeroona Park and travel along Sugarloaf Road and turn into Gillbard Road. *Pinaster* (No.96) is approximately 1km on the right hand side. We will spend a quiet morning watching birds in the garden and along the creek. Bring morning tea.

Outing Report Red Rock Gorge -April 22nd



Fourteen Nats, including a visitor turned up for this outing which took us into Sundown National Park. After morning tea on the lookout platform, from where we were able to see the first quarter of the walk, ten of us clambered down to the rock pool, from where the waterfall (dry at present) normally drops down over the ninety metre high cliff. We continued along the top, keeping well clear of the often very crumbly edge, and enjoyed the view into the deep valley, with Mt Jibbinbar and The Brothers in the background.

On the far side, we were able to go down the rock faces of the dry Shepherd's Creek Cascades. We had lunch above the three small, muddy rock pools, which were all that was left of the water. Several granite dykes can be seen throughout the whole of the Red Rock Gorge area. After lunch we came upon what little is left of the old hut erected during the time when mining was done sporadically in the area. A wash-out nearby is visited regularly by goats who like to lick the walls, perhaps for salt.



I could hardly believe it but, as we went a little further upstream, we nearly walked into the very same big and beautiful spider web that I'd seen the previous week on the pre-outing trip with David Bright. We admired the colourful occupant – the interesting looking spiky spider! Driving into the park and on the walk we saw around one dozen deer.

We walked back over the ridge that runs in a northerly direction, east of the valley. We descended down to the edge of the escarpment again and made our way back up the steep and rocky slope towards the car park, where Millie and Dulcie had been waiting patiently for us for the past five hours. On the way back we briefly stopped where the track descends down the main ridge and spotted Mt Marley and the outskirts of Stanthorpe, lit up by the setting sun.

On the pre-outing I'd had to hit the brakes suddenly to avoid driving over a medium sized carpet snake, lying half across the track. All efforts to get her to move off the track were to no avail, so with my left wheels in the gutter I managed to just get past, with my right wheels only 10cm from her. Even then, the snake continued to lift her head, hissing and pointing her tongue at me, and then she reluctantly backed off. So when you read about the behaviour of snakes, remember that not all snakes will have read that book as well!

Star Watch with Michael Mueller

The last Star Watch on the 24th April unfortunately had to be cancelled due to cloudy conditions. We will try again on Tuesday 22nd May at 7 p.m., when we will look at the moon and Saturn.

The venue is the Stanthorpe State Primary School oval with the entrance via the two little gates on Connor Street. Come and go as you please and bring a chair and a drink.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 25th April, 2007

Opening: The meeting opened at 7.35 pm, with vice president, Col Hockings, welcoming members and visitors, Vic Hush and Nanette Jurd.

Attendance: There were 17 present at the meeting and 3 apologies as per the attendance book.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 28 March 07 were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Millie Marsden, seconded by Rob McCosker. Carried.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Steven Atkinson - membership
 2. Commonwealth Bank – statement for April
 3. Chinchilla Field Nats. – *Urimbirra* – April 07
 4. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club – *Darling Downs Naturalist*
 5. Fassifern Field Naturalists – newsletter – April 07
 6. South East Australian Naturalists' Association – Spring Camp at Mt Martha in Victoria from 5 – 7 October
- This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Liz Bourne, seconded by Patience James. Carried.

Financial Statement for the period from 28/3/07 to 25/4/07:

Cash book balance as at 28/3/07 479.81

Receipts:

Subscriptions	25.00	
Half of post box rental	37.50	
Hire of projector	20.00	
		82.50

Expenditure:

Postage of magazine	100.00	
		100.00

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Cash book balance as at 25/4/07	462.31
Less outstanding cash receipts:	
Hire of projector	20.00
Agrees with bank balance	442.31
<u>Accounts for payment:</u>	
QCWA – room rent for Feb to June	75.00

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

Outing Reports:

1. Star Watch – Tuesday 24 April

Unfortunately this had to be cancelled due to cloudy weather. Michael will reschedule it to another night.

2. Sunday 22 April outing – Red Rock Gorge, Sundown National Park

14 people attended this walk with 4 remaining near the cars while the others walked down towards the gorge, returning via a ridge. There were few flowers seen except for some grey guinea flowers. Millie saw a deer drinking at the dam.

Pre-Outing Reports:

1. Friday walk – 11 May

Liz Bourne will be leading this walk to the eastern section of Amiens Forest. Meet at Weeroona Park at 9am.

2. Camp Out on May long weekend

It will be held in the Sheepstation Creek camping area, off the Lions Road in the Border Ranges National Park. Rob McCosker asked for those who were going to contact him so that he could book enough campsites.

3. Sunday 20 May – Mt Prentice in Boonoo Boonoo National Park

Dave Bright will be leading a trip to Mt Prentice from a private property on the western side. He estimates it will be about 3km of walking to get to the mountain.

Next Meeting:

Ian Milinovich will be talking on “Plants of the Stanthorpe Shire”

Specimens:

1. Patience had a collection of postcards from the Orkney Islands and photos of some blue faced honeyeaters outside the 14th floor of an apartment on the Gold Coast.

General Business:

1. Liz mentioned some proposed changes to the Associations Incorporation Act that would remove the need for audited statements for groups with assets and turnover of less than \$20,000 per year.

The meeting closed at 7.51pm and was followed by a presentation from Michael Meuller about a bicycle trip he made around the Orkney Islands, off the coast of Scotland.

TENTERFIELD FIELD NATS PROGRAMME

We have received a copy of the Tenterfield Nats programme for the rest of the year. If anyone is interested in attending any of their outings please contact the organizers as listed.

May 19th Saturday - McIntyre Falls. Meet 0830 Tenterfield Visitors' Centre. Organisers Sarah and David Caldwell, ph: 67375429.

June 16th Saturday - Mt Spirabo. 4WD necessary. Meet 0830 TVC. Organiser Alannah Dickenson, NPWS, ph: 67364298.

July 15th Sunday - Emmaville. Meet 0830 TVC. Organiser Jenni Coldham, Landcare, ph:67363500.

August 18th Saturday - Bismuth Falls. Meet 0830 TVC. Organisers S. & D. Caldwell, ph: 67375429.

September 23rd Sunday - Mt Norman. Meet 0900 TVC. Organisers Jane and Martin l'Ons, ph: 67364964.

October 20th Saturday - Basket Swamp and The Desert. Meet 0830 TVC. Organisers Noelle and Jim Wyndham, ph: 67362435.

(November 9/10/11 - Bird Weekend).

Bring lunch and appropriate walking for all the above.

MANAGING FIRE AND NATIVE VEGETATION ON YOUR PROPERTY

***This 1 day workshop hosted by the
Rare Wildlife Consortium***

offers you the opportunity to hear from

***Cuong Tran, Environmental Biologist from South East
Qld Fire & Biodiversity Consortium***

***Cuong will discuss the importance of managing fire and
native vegetation on your property in the Stanthorpe
Shire.***

Topics will include:

- How to identify fire risks***
- How to protect assets while also conserving biodiversity***
- The need for biodiversity conservation***

DATE: 23rd June 2007 & 24th June 2007

VENUE: local venue to be confirmed

***COST: \$20 per person (includes workbook,
morning tea, lunch & afternoon tea)***

***Places are limited, so please register with Kristy Harvey
by phoning 02 6736 3500 mob 0400900220 email***

landcare@halenet.com.au

