



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:
7th August 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 22nd July: Top of Swan Creek led by Peter Kerr

Next Meeting Wednesday 25th July: Program *Hawaii* by David Wilson

Wednesday 18th July: Public Venus Watch at Weeroona Park near the playground at 5.30pm. Contact Michael Mueller for more information, or just turn up

Annual General Meeting: Wednesday 22nd August 2007

Pre-Outing Report – Top of Swan Creek – 22/7/2007

Leader: Peter Kerr

41km east of Warwick, on a track suitable for 2WD, but **strictly** dry weather, we have about a 3 hour walk east to a saddle giving a different perspective of the Main Range. There's a 400m steep section up a vehicle track, and a couple of other steep but shorter sections; grade 7.

We will need to leave the Jackie Howe Park in Warwick at 9.00am, to have time for the walk – carry lunch, smoko at the cars. For the less energetic, the track is level where it follows the creek from the “carpark”, and wrens, finches and bellbirds call the area home (if there's any water left.)

Let Kris know if you're coming (phone 46835268), or me on 46611818.

Peter Kerr

Outing Report Billyrimba Falls 24th April 2007

Leaders: Kris & Margaret Carnell

Thirteen Nats set out on a crisp, clear morning to travel to Billyrima Falls via Tenterfield. We were a little late setting out, so we had a brief stop in Tenterfield, then proceeded past the water supply dam, where we saw quite a number of black swans and coots and ducks. On the way home, two pelicans had joined the clan.

As we travelled along Spirabo Forest Way we noticed a large flock of ibis in a paddock, along with eastern rosellas and what we thought was a brown falcon. A couple of wallabies crossed the road ahead of us at high speed.



When we arrived at the top of the falls we were all ready for smoko before venturing to the bottom of the gorge. We crossed the creek and headed across a ridge where we saw quite a few settler's flax plants, some with seeds. Most of the group decided to go to the bottom of the gorge, but three of us went part way and then took a leisurely walk back to the cars. We could see orange flowers or berries on creepers or trees across the gorge when we stopped to admire the view. We couldn't decide which they were and wondered if they were native or not.

Those of us who walked/scrambled down to the bottom of the gorge passed by a very interesting rock outcrop. On it were numerous orchids and ferns. There were king orchids (*Dendrobium speciosum*), *Dendrobium*

The falls we didn't see

kingianum, pineapple orchid (*bulbophyllum elisae*) pencil orchid (*Dendrobium fairfaxii*), and *Liparis* sp. On the rock there was also a very primitive fern (flannel fern?) and some fleshy-leaved creeping plants that we couldn't identify.

Once into the gorge, we explored down stream to a small waterfall. We were unable to go up to the base of the main falls, as the rocks were too slippery. Further down again there was another waterfall which we viewed from the top and we then made our way back up the spur to where the other three were. Experience told us that this is probably the easiest way to get into the gorge.

After lunch we all crossed back over the creek to explore an outcrop of rocks. There was a nice clump of grass trees on the way, and we could see other outcrops of rock across the gorge. We walked through bracken and blady grass (*Garnia*) to the outcrop which consisted of large granite boulders. There were some orchid leaves amongst the bracken, but no flowers. We did see black-eyed Susan (*Tetratheca* sp) We didn't have a long time to explore the rocks so we only saw a small section of them. We left at about three o'clock and made our way home.



Correction

When typing the report on the Starwatch in the June magazine, I made an error in the diameter of the rim of the crater Theophilus. It should have been 100km across, not 700km. Sorry Michael and other members.

Birds Queensland Camp Out

Birds Qld are holding a campout at Harsletts from Friday 20 July to Sunday 22 July. If anyone would like to attend, Jean has kindly given them the use of a cosy house to shelter from the cold in the evenings. Also, if members would like to day visit and join in, they should be there and ready to go, with morning tea and probably lunch, by 8.30 a.m. Should be an interesting weekend, the last time we were out there, there was a comb-crested jacana on one of the dams!

John Allison

Annual General Meeting Wednesday 22nd August at 7.30pm

Program: *Remember Last Year*
Followed by Supper – please bring a plate

If you have any digital photos of last year's outings to include in the program,
please give them to Kris by 15th August
You can also bring prints to put on display.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc
held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 27th June, 2007**

Opening: The meeting opened at 7.42 pm, with vice-president, Michael Mueller, welcoming members and visitor, Carol Smallwood.

Attendance: There were 13 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 23 May 07 were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Mario Pennisi, seconded by Helena Kruger. Carried.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Toowoomba Field Nats Club – *Darling Downs Naturalist* - June
2. Chinchilla Field Nats. – *Urimbirra* – June 07
3. Qld Naturalists Club – *QNC News* – July - August
4. Fassifern Field Naturalists – May newsletter
5. Commonwealth Bank – statement for June
6. Canon Total Technology – invoice for \$52.65
8. Membership renewals – Mary Clarke; Neville and Joyce Bryant; Sue Frances
9. Qld Young Achievers' Award – call for nominations

Financial Statement for the period from 25/5/07 to 27/6/07:

Cash book balance as at 29/5/07 507.31

Receipts:

Subscriptions	25.00	
Sale of wildflower books	7.00	
Bank interest	2.74	
		34.74

Expenditure:

Photocopier	52.65	
		52.65
Cash book balance		489.40
Bank balance		486.66

Accounts for payment:

nil

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

Outing Reports:

1. Saturday walk – 2 June – Hocking's place

Col reported that only 21 species of birds were seen on the day which was a bit disappointing. However, the following weekend, 4 different honeyeater species were seen in the garden.

2. Sunday 24 June – Billyrimba Falls

13 members attended this walk, with most walking down into the gorge via a steep descent. Four different species of orchids were seen, although not in flower. After lunch, the group explored some other rock formations to the east. Lyrebirds were seen but there were few other birds about. Rob McCosker saw an echidna.

Pre-Outing Reports:

1. Friday 6 July

This will be to Wallangarra Ridge in Girraween National Park. It will leave from Weerona Park at 8.30am. The track to The Sphinx and Turtle Rock will be followed further south out onto a slab rock which has a good view from the end. It should be a 12 – 13km round trip.

2. Sunday 15 July

The Tenterfield Nats will be having an outing to Emmaville. Details will be in the next newsletter.

3. Sunday 22 July 07

This will be to Swan Creek, east of Warwick, and will be led by Peter Kerr.

Next Meeting – Wed. 25 July

The presentation will, hopefully, be Martin Ions from Tenterfield, talking about geology.

General Business:

1. Membership

Michael reminded members that membership renewal was due on 1 July. The QCWA had foreshadowed that they would be increasing their room rental to \$15.

2. Memorial Plaque in Heritage Park

Michael said that Millie had informed him that the memorial plaque on a seat in Heritage Park had been removed by vandals. Millie indicated that she and her family were willing to pay for its replacement but it needs to be made more vandal proof. Rob McCosker offered to liaise with the Shire Council about this.

3. Outings for 2007/08

Michael asked members for their suggestions for outings and meetings for the coming year. He indicated an interest in arranging some longer walks with an overnight camp if enough members would like this.

4. 17th July (**please note this has been changed to 18th – Editor**)

Michael said that Venus, the moon and Saturn would be close together on this night and that he would be willing to arrange a viewing with his telescope in Weeroona Park that evening and invited members along.

5. Departure of the treasurer

Dave Bright said that he and Lorna would be leaving Stanthorpe in mid-July to go and live in Scarborough. In view of his departure, he said he would try and get the books ready for auditing by Lyn Collins before he left. Michael thanked Dave for his contribution to the club over the years he had been treasurer. Dave indicated that he might still be able to come on some of the club's outings and camp-outs.

6. Rob McCosker reported he saw a lyrebird on a recent trip to Bald Rock.

The meeting closed at 8.08pm and was followed by a very interesting presentation from Peter Andrewartha on a trip he took to China that followed the silk route westwards through Asia.

FRIDAY OUTING AUGUST 3rd *Leaders Kris and Margaret Carnell*

The outing on August 3rd will be to the Mt Norman day use area. The activity for the day will be a gentle stroll along the track towards Mt Norman and back. Banksias should be out and there are generally birds to be seen along the track. We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9am and travel via Wallangarra to the day use area. We will have smoko before the walk and it is planned to finish the outing by about 1 pm.

Management Matters

As subscriptions are due on the first of July for the next 12 months, at the next two meetings there will be some time allotted for the treasurer to write receipts between the end of the meeting and the beginning of the program.

If paying by **cash** at the meeting please put your **money in an envelope with your name on the outside** to make it easier for the treasurer.

Subscriptions for 2007/2008 : Family \$25.00 – Single \$15.00

Please complete your correct name and address details below and present with your subs. to the meeting in an envelope with your name on the outside, or post to:

Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, STANTHORPE Q 4380.

Name (including title please) _____
Address _____ Postcode _____

Payment enclosed \$ _____

Please note – Receipts not collected at the meeting will be enclosed with your Newsletter.

Names and addresses are only used for posting the magazine and are not passed on to anyone else. If anyone does not want their name mentioned in outing reports could they please advise the editor.

As quite a few of our members have Email we would like to have your email address if you are agreeable. Sometimes it is convenient to contact as many members as possible about a change in arrangements, and this could be a convenient way to do it.

Email address _____

If you would prefer to have your magazine emailed to you please tick the box

