



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.

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CLUB OFFICE BEARERS - 2007/2008

President	Kris Carnell	46835268
Vice-presidents	Michael Mueller	46811421
	Archie Cameron	46852347
Secretary	Liz Bourne	46836374
Assistant Secretary	Helena Kruger	46835206
Treasurer	Nanette Jurd	46837119
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:
8th October 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 23rd September: Mt Greville led by Rob McCosker

Next Meeting Wednesday 26th September: Program *New Zealand* by Kris Carnell

Weekday Outing Saturday 29th September: Looking at orchids at “Tully Park” led by Dell Wham and Ian Milinovich.

Outing to Mt Greville 21st September 2007

As the August outing was cancelled due to rain, we will be going to Mt Greville this month instead. The Pre-outing is reprinted below. Editor

Mt Greville is one of the volcanic plug peaks of the Moogerah Peaks National Park, usually identified as the “grazing kangaroo” on the right as you descend the Great Dividing Range from Cunningham’s Gap, heading towards Brisbane. It was named by Allan Cunningham in 1828 after a Scottish botanist and its Aboriginal name is *Mebatboogan*.

The following description, from the book *Take A Walk*, by John and Lyn Daly, was made in 1910 by teachers from the Summer School of Geology and is still relevant today *“From a tourists point of view the feature of the mountain is a magnificent fissure on the eastern slope, abounding in palm trees and huge tree-ferns. This cleft in the mountainside is about a mile long. It narrows to only a few yards in some places and the greatest width is not more than 10 or 12 yards. There are precipitous – almost perpendicular – rocks on each side, the height of which must be well over 200ft (60 m). One palm tree that had been cut down measured 99ft (30m) from the root to the first leaf. These palm trees grow in great profusion in the rocky cleft, but are to be seen nowhere else on the mountain. The excursionists were in raptures about its picturesqueness and beauty and it is certainly worth going a long way to see.”*

And if that is not enough enticement to come on the outing, there is also the chance of a remarkable display of wildflowers in the late winter to reward those who have troubled to climb through the palm filled gorge to the top of Mt Greville.

The walk is rated Grade 8 on the Nats scale as there is some scrambling over rocks in the gorge and some steep sections, about 12km return, so allow at least 4hrs. Carry lunch and water.

We will meet at the Mt Greville car park at 10.00am, rather than travel in convoy from Stanthorpe, so allow 2hrs driving time.

To access Mt Greville, turn right, 15km after the top of Cunningham’s Gap, into Moogerah Dam Road – sign posted Lake Moogerah 22km

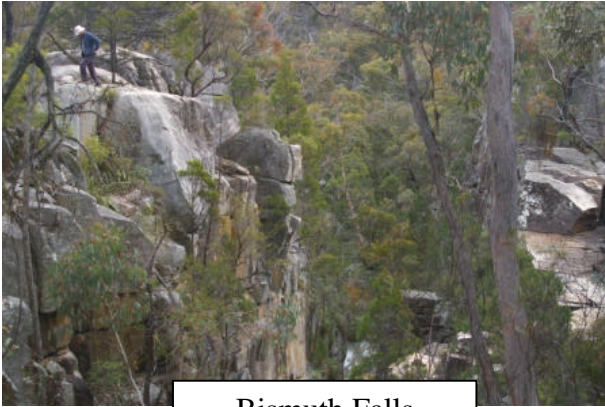
At 11.3km turn right into Mt Greville Road. The Mt Greville National Park sign and car park are about another 1km.

Please call me if you need more info, and to let me know if you plan to attend the outing.

Rob McCosker
46835371 robinmcc@halenet.com.au

Outing to Torrington with Tenterfield Nats

On Saturday 25th August four Stanthorpe Nats members joined the Tenterfield Nats on an outing to the Bismuth Falls at Torrington. We met Martin Ions at Tenterfield and travelled to Mole River Station where we met our leader, Sarah Caldwell. We then travelled via Silent Grove Road to the Torrington State Recreation Area. As we were meeting visitors at Torrington there wasn't time to stop and look at the many wildflowers as we were going along. We did however, stop to look at a *Leucopogon* sp.



Bismuth Falls

At the junction of Butler's Road we met visitors who had come from Armidale and it was decided to go to the Bismuth Mine for morning tea. Nats members who were on the campout a few years ago, would have recognized this as the place where there was a huge expanse of white silexite and the remains of the crushing plant.

After smoko, we walked down around a quite large dam, then made our way in the general direction of the Bismuth Falls. The walk should only be 20 minutes to half an hour, but with walkers in front and

botanists at the rear and only a general idea of where the falls were, it took considerably longer. The falls are in an extremely rugged gorge but it is quite easy walking to get to the top. It would take considerable time and energy to get to the base of the falls.

The focus of the exercise especially for the Armidale visitors, who were from the Herbarium and University, was to collect samples of the more unusual plants of the area. There was great excitement when the director of the herbarium found some *Dodonea* plants. In this particular species the male and female flowers are on different plants and are minute. Whereas the females are easy to collect, samples of the male flower had not been collected since the early 1900s. Two male plants and a number of female plants were found all in flower. The flowers and plants were photographed to within an inch of their life! And then scientific samples were taken. Samples of quite a few other plant species were taken for the herbarium.



Correa sp.

We then returned to the cars by a more direct route and moved to the edge of the dam for a late lunch. The botanists showed us how they went about pressing samples for the Herbarium and were happy to answer any questions we had on the plants we had seen on the outing. As some of us had to leave early, the outing broke up and we made our own way home. It was a very interesting outing and we are planning to take the Stanthorpe Nats there in November.

Kris Carnell

Pre-Outing Report – Tully Park – 29th September 2007

Leaders: Dell Wham & Ian Milinovich

The outing on Saturday 29th September will start at 2.00pm at Ian and Dell's property *Tully Park*. It is situated 4kms from the junction of Sugarloaf Road and Mt Tully Road, on the left-hand side of Mt Tully Road.

The afternoon will be spent looking at native orchids and there will be a BBQ from 5.00pm for anyone who wishes to stay. Please bring your own food.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc
held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 22nd August, 2007**

Opening: The meeting opened at 8.05 pm.

Attendance: There were 21 present at the meeting and 6 apologies as per the attendance book.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 25 July 07 were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Millie Marsden, seconded by Helena Kruger. Carried.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Minister for Fair Trading - changes to the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981*
2. Tourism Top End – Northern Territory Guide
3. Community Development Services – launch of Granite Net DVD on 31 August
4. Total Technology Centre – invoice for \$62.39
5. Fassifern Field Naturalists – July newsletter
6. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club – August newsletter
7. Commonwealth Bank – statement for August and new bank book
8. Chinchilla Field Nats. – *Urimbirra* – August 07
9. Society for Growing Aust Plants – August newsletter
- 10 Membership renewals – Wendy Lileith; Dell Wham and Ian Milinovich; Margaret Compton; Tom Archer

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

Business Arising from the Minutes:

1. Changes to the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981*

These changes have been made to simplify the annual financial reporting and public liability insurance requirements for smaller organisations. Those with total revenue and assets of less than \$20,000 will no longer require audited statements. Incorporated associations are now not required to have personal injury public liability insurance. It will be up to the management committee to determine if it is required.

As the auditing of our club accounts is done free of charge, it was agreed we will continue with an annual audit. It was also agreed that we would continue with our public liability policy, although it was far from clear what exactly was covered by our current policy. It is not personal accident insurance for our members but covers claims against the club arising from third party actions. This will be discussed further at the next committee meeting.

Financial Statement :

In the absence of a treasurer, Kris Carnell summarised the club's financial transactions over the last month.

Receipts:

Membership renewals	385.00
Room rent	5.00
Projector hire	25.00

Expenditure:

Bank fee	2.50
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Cash book balance \$1,046.90

Accounts for payment:

Kris Carnell – postage of newsletter	100.00
- account and receipt books	7.90
Total Technology Centre	62.39

Millie Marsden said that the rent for the QCWA room was \$20 for August and Kris said he would check to see whether this had been included in the last rental payment by Dave.

This financial report was received on the motion of Kris Carnell, seconded by Grace Cameron. Carried

Outing Reports:

1. Friday walk –7 August – A report on this outing was in the last newsletter.
2. Sunday outing to Mt Greville
This was cancelled due to rain.
3. Outing to Torrington

A number of club members went on an outing to the Torrington Reserve, SW of Tenterfield, with the Tenterfield Naturalists Club and two botanists from the University of New England.

Pre-Outing Reports:

1. Friday outing – September

This may be on either the 12th or 13th and will involve a walk along the Condamine River in Warwick.

2. Mt Greville – Sunday 23 September

This re-scheduled trip is being led by Rob McCosker, with details in the next newsletter.

Next Meeting – Wed. 26th September

Kris will be giving a presentation on New Zealand.

Specimens:

1. Kris Carnell had a map of Torrington published by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service; a mud map of the mines there and some books on plant propagation donated to the club library.

General Business:

1. Errol Walker said they Stanthorpe library was intending to put on an exhibition and wanted slide mounts. He asked if any members could donate these.

2. Rob McCosker said he would like to make the club library more accessible to members. It was suggested that he put a list of items in the next newsletter.

3. Memorial plaque in Heritage Park

Rob suggested that the replacement plaque be an anodised one that would make it last longer and be less easy to be vandalised. He will investigate the costings for this.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm and was followed by a digital presentation of photos taken on club outings over the past year.

A Weekend at Yuraygir National Park

In the middle of August, Kris and I spent a few days camped at the Lake Aragon/Red Cliffs area of the Yuraygir National Park. We were lucky to find a secluded campsite in the Red Cliffs section, and disturbed a covey of quail as we drove in. There were honeyeaters feeding in the banksias as well.

As we were eating our tea around the campfire the first evening, there was a rustling in the undergrowth and a bandicoot appeared. It was obviously used to people, and licked fat from the cooking utensils that were on the ground. Its mate also appeared and they were quite entertaining to watch, jumping suddenly and scuttling off into the undergrowth, to reappear in a few minutes.

During the weekend we saw over 60 species of birds, including a white-breasted sea eagle, Brahminy kite and an Australian Hobby. The white cheeked honeyeaters, little wattle birds, noisy friar birds and red wattle birds were feasting in the banksias all around the camp ground. When we were walking along the beach to Brooms Head we saw red-capped plovers, seagulls, terns, spurwing plovers and oyster catchers, and when we arrived there were pelicans in the lagoon.

The most exciting thing was seeing a whale, as we walked back along the beach after walking inland to Plumbago Point. We saw gannets and cormorants fishing from the beach. Kris saw a big splash in the water, amongst the white caps, so we headed for the headland. It was so windy we couldn't hold the binoculars still, so we hopped in the vehicle and drove to the lookout at Brooms Head and watched from the comfort of the front seat. There were two more whales playing much further out.

We love going to this area as there are so many wildflowers and birds and a variety of places to walk, or you can just sit on the headland and look for whales and dolphins or stay in camp and wait for the birds to come to you. - *Margaret Carnell*