



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 – 2007/2008

President	Kris Carnell	46835268
Vice-presidents	Michael Mueller	46811421
	Archie Cameron	46852347
Secretary	Liz Bourne	46836374
Assistant Secretary	Halina 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	

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



**Deadline for next Newsletter:
Monday 12th November**

Coming Up

Outing Sunday 21st October: Mt Prentice led by Liz Bourne

Next Meeting Wednesday 24th October: Stuart Watt *Royal Geographical Society expedition to Craven's Peak 200Km south-west of Boulia*

Friday Outing 2nd November: Upper Leslie Dam led by Archie and Grace Cameron

Pre-Outing Report – Sunday 21 October – Mt Prentice

This outing will see a return to the Mt Prentice area of the Boonoo Boonoo National Park, south east of Stanthorpe. On the club outing there in May, a small gorge was discovered to the north of Mt Prentice which was covered in moss and rock orchids and we are hopeful these will now be in flower.

We will meet, as usual, at 9am on the Marsh Street side of Weeroona Park to car pool and then travel out to the Mt Lindesay Highway and south for 15km to the turn-off to the Gasparin's property. We will then follow farm tracks for a few kilometres to the edge of the park. From here, it should be less than 1km of reasonably easy walking (Scale 5) to get to the gorge. The tracks through the Gasparin's property are suitable for conventional vehicles but in the event of rain prior to the outing, 4WD's may be required. This will be assessed closer to the day.

Those that are feeling energetic may then like to travel cross country south to Mt Prentice where there should be plenty of wildflowers in bloom amongst the rock slabs, particularly the threatened *Mirbelia confertiflora* which seems to be prolific here. This walk will be a fairly strenuous, cross country hike (Scale 8) of about 1km with some thicker vegetation in the gullies before reaching the base of the mountain and climbing up the bare rock slabs. For those people wanting something less strenuous, there is the option of returning to the cars and driving further south to be closer to the foot of the mountain. From here, it is about 20 mins to reach the first rock slabs and a further half hour to reach the summit via these bare rocks.

We will aim to be back at the cars by 3pm and if there is time on the way back to Stanthorpe, we might stop off at a reserve along the Border Road where there is a major population of the endangered *Boronia repanda* which should be in flower.

Liz Bourne
Ph 4683 6374
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Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 26th September, 2007

Opening: The meeting opened at 7.41pm.

Attendance: There were 14 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 22 August 07 were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Millie Marsden, seconded by Patience James. Carried.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Chinchilla Field Nats. – *Urimbirra* – Sept 07
2. Total Technology Centre – statement for \$62.39
3. Fassifern Field Naturalists – Aug newsletter

4. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club – *Darling Downs Naturalist*- Sept
5. Commonwealth Bank – statement for Sept
6. Qld Nats Club – *QNC News*- Sept/Oct
7. Society for Growing Aust Plants – Sept newsletter
8. Membership renewals – Jane Johnson; L.Fulton; Neil Donges
9. Murrumbidgee Field Nats - newsletter

This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Liz Bourne, seconded by Margaret Carnell. Carried.

Financial Statement from 18/8/07 to 25/9/07:

Cash book balance as at 22/8/07 \$1,046.90

Receipts:

Membership renewals	151.00	
Sale of wildflower books	14.00	
Postage	6.00	
		171.00

Expenditure:

Stamps	100.00	
Petty cash	50.00	
Office of Fair Trading – annual return	38.10	
		188.10

Cash book balance as at 25/9/07 \$1,029.80

Outstanding cheque 38.10

Agrees with bank balance as at 25/9/07 \$1067.90

Accounts for payment:

Total Technology Centre 62.39

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

Outing Reports:

1. Friday walk – Sept

This was held along the parks beside the Condamine River in Warwick, with Lorna Church acting as guide.

2. Sunday 23 Sept outing to Mt Greville

Rob McCosker led this outing and 23 attended. The group climbed the peak via Palm Gorge where there were some rock orchids flowering. *Grevillea lynsmithii* and *Bossiea rupicola* were observed growing on the summit and good views were had over Moogerah Dam and the peaks of the Scenic Rim. 19 bird species were seen on the walk.

Pre-Outing Reports:

1. Saturday outing – 29 September

This will be to Ian and Dell's property, *Tully Park*, to look at ground orchids. It is hoped that at least 10 species will be in flower. The walk will start about 2pm and members were invited to stay on for a BBQ afterwards.

2. Sunday 21 October

This outing will return to the Mt Prentice area of the Boonoo Boonoo National Park to revisit a small gorge to the north of the mountain where there should be a lot of rock orchids flowering.

Next Meeting – Wed. 24th October

Stuart Watt from Warwick will be giving a presentation on a Royal Geographical Society expedition earlier this year to the Craven's Peak property, 200 km south west of Boulia.

Specimens:

1. Rob McCosker had a fungi found on their property.
2. Margaret Carnell had samples of *Bossiea rupicola* and a wattle found on the peak of Mt Greville

General Business:

1. Reminder letters will be sent out next month to those people who have yet to renew their membership.

2. Rob McCosker said that the Girraween Environmental Lodge will be holding a plant identification workshop on 23/24 November with Dr Bill Macdonald from the Queensland Herbarium. Field Nats members who wished to attend on one of the days could do so for free if they provided their own lunch. Kris pointed out that there was a proposed club campout to Torrington that weekend but that the trip to Bismuth Falls would be held on the Sunday in case anyone wanted to go to the plant workshop on the Saturday.

3. Liz showed the new brochure on wildflowers of the Granite Belt which has just been published by the Stanthorpe Rare Wildflower Consortium. It will be available for a gold coin donation.

4. Errol Walker asked whether the club was still required to have its books audited, following the recent changes to the *Associations Incorporation Act*. Kris said that it is no longer a requirement but that we had decided that as Lyn Collins was doing it for free, we would continue to get her to audit our books as long as she was willing.

5. Michael Mueller said that Mercury would be very visible for the next week, just above the western horizon from 6.30 – 7pm each evening.

The meeting closed at 8.21pm and was followed by a digital presentation of photos taken by the Carnells on a trip to the North Island of New Zealand in April.

New Wildflower Brochure

A new colour brochure, featuring photos of 180 of the Granite Belt's unique wildflowers has just been published by the Stanthorpe Rare Wildflower Consortium.

The Consortium was formed some years ago by a number of local groups with a mutual interest in conserving threatened plants on the Granite Belt. They include the Stanthorpe Field Naturalists Club, the Granite Borders Landcare Committee, the Stanthorpe Shire Council, the Queensland Murray Darling Committee and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

The brochure was produced as part of the group's activities to raise public awareness about the Granite Belt's local flora and to assist local landowners learn more about the plants that might occur on their land. It is not intended as a comprehensive guide but covers those species of wildflowers most likely to be seen in the district during spring and summer. The plants are grouped by the most common families and the brochure also includes photos of some of the trees, herbs, monocots, parasitic, aquatic and climbing plants found on the Granite Belt.

Copies of the brochure can be obtained from me at meetings for \$2 or posted for \$3.

Liz Bourne
Ph 4683 6374
batmaps@halenet.com.au

Mt Greville Outing Report 23/9/07

We had a chilly start to the day but clear skies for the outing that had been scheduled for the previous month, but postponed due to rain. We had about 25 people attending from Stanthorpe, Warwick, Toowoomba and Brisbane with ages ranging from 5 to I daren't ask! (The McCosker and Hockings tribes made up one half of our group)

We set off after morning tea at about 10.30am to make our way to the top via Palm Gorge. As we made our way up the gorge through a forest of palm trees there were pink Rock orchids, clinging to the sheer rock walls and on emerging from the gorge we were met by a profusion of Pommaderis, Acacia, Plectranthus and a showy red Pea bush. To add a little more colour we also saw a red Grevillea, purple Hardenbergia, a mauve Westringia, white Leptospermum and Olearia. Although the trees at the top

restricted the view we appreciated the shade they provided for our lunch spot. The day had warmed up, and according to Kris's GPS we had climbed 600m from the car park.

After lunch and taking in the views from the two outlooks to the north and east we returned to where the Waterfall Gorge track meets and headed across the open rocky area to the start of this gorge. Most of us took a short diversion to view the two towers of volcanic rhyolite which are seen from the highway as the grazing kangaroos' ears. We then made our way slowly down the gorge, which had as good a stand of palms as Palm Gorge as well as more rock orchids, including king orchids in bloom. Below where the track climbed out of the gorge there was a trickle of water over the falls into a couple of waterholes.



Below is a list of some of the flowering plants seen on the outing. It was fitting to see in flower a Grevillea on Mt Greville both of which were named after Charles Francis Greville, one of the founders of the Royal Horticultural Society. The Grevillea we saw was *G. linsmithii* after Lindsay Smith and is a rare species endemic to the Boonah area.

Plant List – Mt Greville

Asteraceae <i>Olearia nernstii</i>	Dilleniaceae <i>Hibbertia hexandra</i>	Epacridaceae <i>Leucopogon neoanglicus</i> <i>Woolsia pungens</i>
Lamiaceae <i>Plectranthus sp</i> <i>Westringia sericea</i>	Fabaceae <i>Bossiaea rupicola</i> (Red pea) <i>Daviesia acicularis?</i> <i>Glycine</i> <i>Hardenbergia violacea</i> <i>Jacksonia scoparia</i>	Gleicheniaceae <i>Sticherus flabellatus clandestine</i> (Umbrella fern)
Myrtaceae <i>Leptospermum polygalifolium</i>		
Orchidaceae <i>Caladenia fuscata</i> <i>Docrillia kingianum</i> (Pink rock orchid) <i>Docrillia gracicaule</i> (Cream rock orchid) <i>Dendrobium speciosum</i> (King Orchid) <i>Diuri sulphurea</i>	Protaceae <i>Grevillea linsmithii</i>	Psilotaceae <i>Psilotum nudum</i> (Fork fern)
		Rhamnaceae <i>Pomaderris argyrophylla</i>
Rutaceae <i>Phebalium gracile</i>	Smilacaceae <i>Smilax australis</i>	Stylidiaceae <i>Stylidium laricifolium</i>
Thymelaeaceae <i>Pimelea linifolia subsp. linifolia</i>		

Thanks to Kris and Ian and the Plant List of the Scenic Rim, SE Queensland, for help in compiling the plant list names.

Rob McCosker

Bird List Mt Greville Outing : scaly-breasted lorikeet, black-faced cuckoo shrike, peaceful dove (call), sitella, white-naped honeyeater, rufous fantail, female rifle bird, thornbill, grey thrush, grey fantail, black-faced monarch, ship bird, spangled drongo, leaden or satin flycatcher, currawong, red-backed wren, magpie, noisy miner, kookaburra.

Also seen: little greasy butterfly, orchard butterfly, wanderer butterfly.

Compiled by Margaret Carnell

Pre-Outing Report - Friday Outing 2nd November

A walk through granite boulders and various paddling areas above Leslie Dam. Take smoko, you may choose to take lunch if you wish to stay around the dam or whatever. Meet at the Pikedale Road turnoff from New England Highway, 45kms from Stanthorpe and 15kms from Warwick at 9.30am, Friday November 2nd. (Those who are looking for a ride please meet at Weeroona Park at 8.45am - *Kris*)

Archie Cameron.

Outing Report Warwick Riverside Park – 6th September 2007

Twelve people attended the hastily arranged walk to view the Warwick Riverside Park complex. We gathered at the Otto Madsen Bridge where we met our guide and indulged in the morning tea ritual.

Mrs Lorna Church had graciously given up her morning to meet with us and acquaint us with the details of how the Riverside Park came into being. The work was carried out by those on “Work fo the Dole”, thus enabling them to gain meaningful employment. The Green belt includes space for recreation, flood management, helps to control river bank erosion, has much information signage and has received funding from both State and Federal Governments.

The tree plantings and garden areas are maintained by Warwick City Council and the area is complimentary to the Rose City. From the Tiddlalik area the green belt extends to Hamilton Street and the Railway Precinct; and in the other direction to the Mill Hill Weir. The walking track runs adjacent to the river and also to the driving track, it includes Churchill Drive Avenue, National Fitness activities, Tribute to Dungarees who marched to Brisbane to join the forces in 1915, the fountain established in 1998 and complete signage. We also viewed the remains of the pumping station, which supplied Warwick with water from 1887. The river in this area was 20feet deep.

The river gums are majestic and many people enjoy the river walk and take the opportunity to picnic beneath their shade. Tiddlalik in Rotary Park was sculpted by Vernon Foss, assisted by Suzan Stratford-Pearn and Jim Roberts and positioned in 1996. Tiddlalik now has a companion of a platypus which has been positioned this year.



Tiddlalik

This is such an interesting area and there is much information – the Railway Precinct could perhaps be the venue for a future outing.

Bird List for the outing: darter, black duck, wood duck, willy wagtail, water hen, noisy miner, reed warbler, scaly-breasted lorikeet, little pied cormorant, crested pigeon, sulphur crested cockatoo, pale headed rosella, starling Indian mynah, magpie lark, kingfisher? Australian grebe, black cormorant and one lone domestic duck.

Also seen were the water dragon, skink and a hive of native bees.

Millie Marsden