



# 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](mailto: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
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:  
1<sup>st</sup> February 2008**

## Coming Up

**Camp-Out Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November: Torrington leaders Kris & Margaret Carnell**

**Next Meeting: Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November. Program *Japan Spring Journey* by Errol Walker**

**Break-up: Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December: *Dilga Mt Tully Road***



Mt Fuji by Errol Walker

### Program 28<sup>th</sup> November

Errol will be showing a program of a trip to Japan with International Park Tours in April.

This Japanese Spring Journey was a mixture of cultural immersion and "walking in wild places".

### Outing Report Sandy Creek

Thirteen met at the junction of Pikedale road and the New England Highway and continued through to Sandy Creek bridge, where we enjoyed morning tea beside the creek in the reserve. Two weeks before, on the pre-outing walk, the creek was just trickling over the rocks, but storms in the range country at Dalveen and the Goldfields area had turned this into a mighty torrent.



travelled through grass tree country to reach the creek. A ramble up the creek, enjoying the novelty of running water, then back to the cars. The Warwick trio decided to return home direct, but the rest of the party travelled on to Leslie Dam picnic area below the wall for lunch, followed by an inspection of the Leslie sculptures and a look from the dam wall, butterflies in migration on the lower side and tortoises floating on the dam side. This was a leisurely day.



We had

*Arch Cameron*

**Bird List:** (Compiled by Margaret Carnell) yellow-faced honeyeater, pied currawong, crow, square tailed kite, dollar bird, black faced cuckoo shrike, pee wee, white winged triller, red winged parrot,

willie wagtail, cormorant (black), scissor grinder, noisy friarbird, little friarbird, olive backed oriole, kingfisher, king parrot, galah, kookaburra, grey shrike thrush, magpie, wood swallow, sulphur crested cockatoo, duck, eastern rosella kestrel, apostle bird, noisy miner.

Also seen: skinks, turtles, caper white butterflies

### Pre-Outing Report – Torrington 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> November



Margaret on edge of Gorge

Leaders Kris & Margaret Carnell

The camp-out will be at the Blatherarm Camping Area which is about 10kms north of Torrington on the Silent Grove Road. There are three separate drive-in camping areas with toilet facilities, but no drinking water. Water for washing is available from the creek. The cost is \$5.00 per person per night. The brochure says there is a small amount of fire wood supplied, but it might be an idea to take some.

The program is:

Set up Friday and explore Blather Creek in the afternoon. There are mining remains close to the camp site.

Saturday morning we will walk to Ugly Corner (Blatherarm) Falls. We hope there has been some rain since the pre-outing. The walk to the top of the falls is about 1.5 kms.

In the afternoon we will drive to Butler Road and then walk to Mystery Face which is a 3.5km loop walk. Also on the walk are Winchester Rocks

On Sunday we will walk to Bismuth Falls. We will meet with any day-trippers at the corner of Duck Creek Fire Trail and Silent Grove Road at 9.30am and drive for about 20 minutes to the Bismuth Mine for morning tea. It is then about a 20 minute walk to the first gorge and another 300 metres to the second gorge, which is much deeper, wider and more spectacular.

We will carry lunch and explore the area. The walk to the top of the gorge is quite easy, firstly along a track and then through open bush. For the more energetic there is the option of going down into the gorge. The amount of time we spend here will depend on when people need to leave to return home.

Torrington is about 2 hours drive from Stanthorpe. The shortest way is to go across the Sunnyside shortcut to the Bruxner Highway and then down Silent Grove Road, but the Silent Grove Road is nearly all gravel. If you travel down the New England Highway take the Castle Rag Road as it is a good short cut. **If coming only on Sunday please let Kris know so we don't leave you behind.**

## BREAK UP

9<sup>th</sup> December from 3.00pm  
At Cliff & Nanette Jurds place  
*Dilga* 680 Mt Tully Road, Stanthorpe

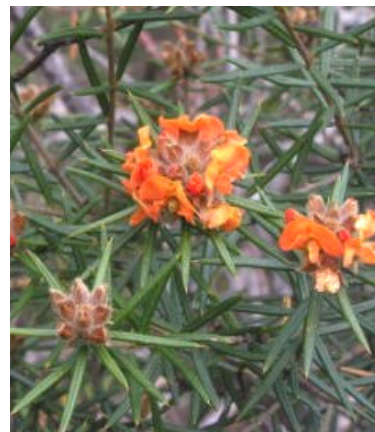
Bring your own food, cup and chair  
Tea, coffee, milk and a barbeque will be provided

## Outing Report – Mt Prentice, Boonoo Boonoo National Park – 21 October 2007

The main group gathered at Weeroona Park and met up with various others along the way until we numbered about 20 people. We accessed the park off the Mt Lindesay Highway via the Gasparin's property, *Jindabyne*, and after a short drive through their paddocks and forest, had smoko beside the track where we left the cars.

We were joined on the outing by Ken Gibbs, a former owner of the property, who was keen to return to the area after many years absence and were pleased to also have Jean and Bob Harslett along with us, although they stayed at the cars and botanised while we walked into the park.

After only a 15 minute walk east into the park, we reached an area of granite boulders covered in moss and rock orchids - predominantly King orchids (*Dendrobium speciosum*) and pink rock-orchids (*D. kingianum*) and we spent an hour exploring this beautiful area. The dry weather meant that the orchids were not as prolifically flowering as hoped but there were still enough blooms to keep the photographers happy. It was obvious from the droppings and diggings that this was also an area of much wombat activity and Jenny and Andy Cameron were lucky enough to actually encounter one amongst the rocks which caused much excitement. Above this gorge area, on some granite slabs, there was a profusion of the threatened *Mirbelia confertiflora*.



Some of the group elected to return to the cars while the rest of the party walked cross country to the foot of Mt Prentice and up the granite slabs to a lunch spot just below the summit. Smoke from bushfires to the north-east in Girard State Forest restricted our views in that direction but to the south and west we had excellent views to Bald Rock and Mt Norman. The “car” group joined us after lunch for an exploration of the summit and we were rewarded with a profusion of wildflowers. The *Mirbelia confertiflora* were prolific here and we also came across gardens of *Homoranthus lunatus* which are restricted to Boonoo Boonoo. It was hard to drag ourselves away from this botanical wonderland!

A 20 minute walk had us back at the cars where we had afternoon tea and repaired Millie's leg (poked by a nasty stick) before returning to Stanthorpe. Our thanks to the Gasparins for allowing us access through their property for this outing. We left them with a souvenir of some wombat poo since they were unaware that they had these animals right on their doorstep and were very excited to learn about them.

Liz Bourne

### PLANTS IN FLOWER SEEN ON THE OUTING

(Compiled by Ian Milinovich)

IRIDACEAE  
LOMANDRACEAE  
LAXMANNIACEAE  
ORCHIDACEAE

*Patersonia sericea*  
*Lomandra longifolia*  
*Laxmannia compacta*  
*Bulbophyllum elisae*

Purple flag  
Long-leaf matrush  
Wire lily  
Pineapple orchid

	<i>Caladenia carnea</i>	Pink fingers
	<i>Calochilus gracillimus</i>	Late beard orchid
	<i>Dendrobium speciosum</i>	King orchid
	<i>D. kingianum</i>	Pink rock orchid
	<i>Diurus abbreviata</i>	Lemon doubletails
	<i>Gastrodia sesamoides</i>	Potato orchid
PHORMIACEAE	<i>Dianella caerulea</i>	Blue flax lily
SMILACACEAE	<i>Smilax australis</i>	Bare wire vine
APIACEAE	<i>Actinotus helianthi</i>	Flannel flower
ASTERACEAE	<i>Brachyscombe stuartii</i>	Granite daisy
	<i>Ozothamnus diosmifolius</i>	White dogwood/sago bush
DILLENiaceae	<i>Hibberia aspera</i>	Rough guinea flower
	<i>H. scandens</i>	Climbing guinea flower
EPACRIDACEAE	<i>Brachyloma daphnoides</i>	Daphne heath
	<i>Trochocarpa laurina</i>	Tree heath
FABACEAE	<i>Kennedia rubicunda</i>	Red kennedy pea
	<i>Mirbelia confertiflora</i>	
	<i>Podolobium iliafolium</i>	Shaggy pea
MYRTACEAE	<i>Eucalyptus campanulata</i>	New England blackbutt
	<i>Homoranthus lunatus</i>	
	<i>Kunzea bracteolata</i>	
	<i>K. obovata</i>	Pink kunzea
	<i>Calytrix tetragona</i>	Heath myrtle
	<i>Leptospermum polygalifolium</i>	Tea tree
	<i>Melaleuca flavovirens</i>	Green bottlebrush
OLEACEAE	<i>Notelaea (verosa var.) sp.A</i>	Veined mock olive
PITTOSPORACEAE	<i>Billardiera scandens</i>	Apple berry
RANUNCULACEAE	<i>Ranunculus lappaceus</i>	Common buttercup
RUTACEAE	<i>Philotheca epilosa</i>	Waxflower
	<i>Boronia anemifolia</i>	
STERCULIACEAE	<i>Seringia hillii</i>	
THYMELIACEAE	<i>Pimelia linifolia subsp.linifolia</i>	Queen of the Bush
TREMANDRACEAE	<i>Tetratheca thymifolia</i>	Black-eyed Susan
VIOLACEAE	<i>Hybanthus monopetalus</i>	Ladies slipper
	<i>Viola betonicifolia</i>	Mountain violet

### Outing Report - "Tully Park" - 29 September 2007

The main aim of this walk was to see as many ground orchids as possible. Good winter rain, (June and August) similar to 2005, led to a strong early spring response. However, a fifth dry, warm week of no rain may have reduced the number seen.

The property is located on the western side of an unnamed 1040m high peak, being part of a ridge running NE from the Mt Tully 'plateau'. The block is only 16ha (40 acres) in size being partially (largest trees) ringbarked about the 1920's. Most of the remnant vegetation is mapped as RE13.12.2 dominated by western New England blackbutt (*Eucalyptus andrewsii*) and red stringybark (*E. youmanii*). Some orange gum (*E. prava*) and cypress pine (*Callitrus endlicheri*) tend towards several small rock pavements – RE 13.12.6.

It's within these zones that the majority of ground orchids occur. A total of 30 species have been recorded so far. On the outing, we encountered 9 from a potential 12 or so at this time of the year (see list). In all, 15 people enjoyed the afternoon, with 12 going up the slope led by John Dearnaley and

myself. Special thanks to Terry Rayner who came all the way from Dalby and who showed us his slides of orchids he'd taken in the 1970's.

*Ian Milinovich*

### ***Ground Orchids Seen at "Tully Park" on Outing***

<i>Pterostylis nutans</i>	Nodding greenhood
<i>Pterostylis muticus</i>	Midget greenhood
<i>Glossodia major</i>	Wax-lip orchid
<i>Caladenia fuscata</i>	Dusky fingers
<i>Caladenia sp.aff. tenticulata</i>	Eastern mantis orchid ( <i>C. dilatata</i> group)
<i>Diuris chrysantha</i>	Granite donkey orchid
<i>Diuris abbreviata</i>	Lemon doubletail
<i>Pterostylis bicolor</i>	Black tip orchid
<i>Pterostylis sp.aff. homata</i>	Southern hooked rustyhood
<i>Pterostylis rufa</i>	Red rustyhood

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 24 October, 2007**

**Opening:** The meeting opened at 7.40pm.

**Attendance:** There were 21 present at the meeting and 9 apologies as per the attendance book.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 07 were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Rob McCosker, seconded by Millie Marsden. Carried.

#### **Correspondence:**

##### **Inwards:**

1. Society for Growing Aust Plants – Oct newsletter
2. Chinchilla Field Nats. – *Urimbirra* – Oct 07
3. Qld Parks and Wildlife Service – *Bush Telegraph* – Spring 07
4. Aust Naturalists Network – information on Northern Territory get-together 10 – 18 May 08
5. Total Technology Centre – statement for \$62.39
6. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club – *Darling Downs Naturalist*- Oct
7. Commonwealth Bank – statement for Oct
8. Qld Nats Club – *QNC News*- Oct
9. Membership renewal – Rob and Trish McCosker
9. Murrumbidgee Field Nats - newsletter
10. Events Tasmania – grants for club events in Tasmania

This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Liz Bourne, seconded by Ian Milinovich. Carried.

#### **Financial Statement from 25/9/07 to 24/10/07:**

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

Membership renewals	55.00	
Sale of wildflower books	91.00	
Postage	6.00	
		146.00

##### Expenditure:

Photocopier	62.39	
		62.39

Cash book balance as at 24/10/07	\$1,113.41
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Less outstanding cash receipts	131.00
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Agrees with bank balance as at 24/10/07	\$982.41
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Accounts for payment:

QCWA room hire is due. It is \$20/month but we are uncertain which months the last payment covered. Nanette will check this.

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

Kris said that the hard drive in their computer had crashed and he was uncertain if all financial members had received their last newsletter. He asked members to let him know if they hadn't.

**Outing Reports:**

1. Saturday 29 September

This was to "Tully Park" to look at ground orchids. Although the dry conditions had limited what was in flower, 8 species were seen. Over 12 people attended, including one from Dalby.

2. Sunday 21 October - Mt Prentice, Boonoo Boonoo National Park

Twenty one people participated in this outing which accessed the western side of the Boonoo Boonoo National Park via the Gasparin's property. The group walked a short distance into an area of large boulders to the north of Mt Prentice where there was a good display of rock orchids. Some then returned to the cars and drove down the road to opposite Mt Prentice while the others walked cross country to the mountain for lunch on its granite slabs. After lunch, the car group climbed up the slopes and everyone then enjoyed the views and wildflowers on the summit.

**Pre-Outing Reports:**

1. Friday outing – 2 November – Upper Leslie Dam

Archie and Grace Cameron will be leading this outing. The meeting place will be at the junction of Pikedale Road with the New England Highway. Details as per the newsletter.

2. Campout to Torrington, NSW – Sat 23 and Sun 24 November

The Carnells will be organising this campout with a walk planned to the Bismuth Falls on the Sunday for those who can only come for the day. It is an easy walk to the falls with a spectacular view of the gorge. The camping fee is \$5 per person per night.

**Next Meeting – Wed. 28<sup>th</sup> November**

Errol Walker will be giving a talk on their trip to Japan.

**Specimens:**

1. Jean Harslett had photos of wildflowers taken on the Mt Prentice trip.

**General Business:**

1. Memorial plaque at Heritage Park

Rob McCosker said that the previous sign was plastic and therefore susceptible to vandalism. It needs to be made of an anodised metal to better protect it from the weather and damage. He has requested that the Council help meet the costs of this.

2. Absence of committee members

Michael Mueller will be away in Germany for 5 months until April and the Carnells will be absent from March until June next year.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm and was followed by a very interesting and educational presentation by Stuart Watt from Warwick on a Royal Geographical Society expedition earlier this year to the Craven's Peak property, 200 km south west of Boulia.

