



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



Deadline for next Newsletter:
7th of July

Coming Up

Outing: Sunday: 22 June 2008. Tunnels and dams on the railway, Dalveen. A. Cameron

Next Meeting: Wednesday 25th June. Highlights of Bulgaria : Kris and Margaret Carnell

Friday 13 June Outing: *The Round Stone House, Mt. Norman Road, Girraween.*

Sunday 22 June Outing – Cherry Gully Railway Tunnel and Rosenthal Gorge.

We meet at Wahroona Park at 8am or at Archie Cameron's house at 3482, Old Stanthorpe Road, just north of Dalveen at 8.30am. The object is to visit the Cherry Gully Tunnel (heritage listed) and associated dam built in 1880 on the Warwick-Stanthorpe line. We will carry lunch with us. After lunch those interested can visit the east side of Rosenthal Creek gorge, about ½ an hour one way.

Friday meeting in July. Michael Mueller hopes to lead a group to a lookout in the Pozieres area with views as good as Donnelly's Castle; more at the next meeting.

Advance notice and reminder: Camp-out: August 2008

There is to be a camp-out at the Black Rocks camping area in the Bundjalung National Park on the NSW coast north of Maclean from 11 to 14 August 2008. The Leader is Peter Kerr but for information ring Kris on 46835268.

FOR SALE: Leki Walking Pole; spring-loaded; hardly used. Great for knees and stability. \$60.00. Ring Sue Frances 0427 786 700.

Xerochrysum sp. From Mt. Mitchell, Main Range N.P.



May Outing to the Girraween Lodge

In perfect autumn weather 11 members met up to attend the outing to the Girraween Environmental Lodge. The property is bordered on three sides by the Girraween National Park and we started the day with a cuppa at the "Girraween Hilton" campsite. This is beside an old irrigation dam on the eastern side of the property quite near to Castle Rock, as the crow flies. We followed the tracks to circumnavigate the property in an anti-clockwise direction to view the named rock formations along the way, (as well as view the well known peaks of the National Park from different angles). There was Whale Rock, Echidna Rock, Pillows Tor and Cathedral Arch where we paused for lunch. After lunch we made a short detour up the ridge to see the Lyrebird's nest, before returning to the tracks to view the Giants Marbles and Rock Pools, then continuing to arrive back at the cars at about 3.00pm.

There was quite a lot of bird activity early in the day but my apologies as I did not make a bird list. We did not expect to see many wild flowers in bloom and indeed saw only the first blooms of the Blue Mountain Daisy, *Leucopogon* sp., *Lionema* (*Phebalium*) and one confused *Boronia*. While at the Lyrebird's nest Halina noticed a cocoon on the ground next to Narelle's foot, who then proceeded to pick it up, much to her discomfort. It was most likely from a White-stemmed Gum Moth *Chelepteryx collesi* which are patterned in wavy bands of grey and brown and have a wingspan of up to 160mm. The caterpillar of this moth grow to between 100 and 120mm in length, are grey and white in colour with tufts of reddish bristles. These bristles are forced out through the silk of their cocoon when they pupate to protect them from predators, but when touched easily penetrate the skin, causing irritation and sometimes an allergic reaction. So be warned - look but don't touch!

Rob McCosker

The effects of the flood

I walk around the section of Quart Pot Creek from Lock to Britannia Street most days and keep an eye on the bird life as I go. On January 5th the Stanthorpe area had a lot of rain, we recorded over 120mm in town. The subsequent flood down Quart Pot Creek had a significant effect on the water birds. After the creek subsided most of the resident coots, moorhens and little pied cormorants had gone though the Pacific Black and Wood ducks stayed. In the following months the moorhens returned quite quickly but the cormorants are only now back in their pre-flood fishing areas. However the coots have not returned as yet and the Australasian grebes have only just reappeared on this stretch along with the white-faced herons.

Michael Jefferies

Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 28 May 2008

Opening: The meeting opened at 7.40pm with vice president, Michael Mueller, standing in for the president, Kris Carnell, who was away.

Attendance: There were 9 present at the meeting and 8 apologies as per the attendance book.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 23rd April 08 were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Rob McCosker seconded by Col Hockings. Carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes:

1. Email version of the newsletter

Members who did not receive the April newsletter via email should have now got it. It was felt that the electronic version of the newsletter may need to be condensed so that the file is not too large.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Society for Growing Aust Plants – Warwick Branch – May newsletter
2. Chinchilla Field Nats. – *Urimbirra* – May 08
3. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club – *Darling Downs Naturalist* – May 08
4. Commonwealth Bank – statement for May
5. Qld Naturalists Club – *QNC News* – May/June 08
6. Fassifern Field Naturalists Club – April, May newsletters

This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Liz Bourne, seconded by Peter Andrewartha. Carried.

Financial Statement

In the absence of the treasurer, there was no financial statement. The bank statement shows we have a closing balance of \$507.45

Outing Reports:

1. Wombat Survey in Girraween National Park

Several members participated in this annual survey on 18 May. Although no wombats were seen, some teams recorded multiple holes, scats and signs of diggings.

2. Donnelly's Castle - Friday 9 May

A small number of members attended this outing which was led by Rob McCosker. One interesting sighting was a tree bearing three different types of mistletoe.

3. Girraween Environmental Lodge – 25 May

Rob McCosker also led this outing which visited a number of the tracks on the property, including some newly constructed ones. Some bluebells and *Phebalium rotundifolium* were seen.

Pre-outings:

1. Weekday

Halina and Nanette had offered to lead this but as there were no details, Michael offered to organise something if they were not available.

2. Dalveen Tunnels

Archie Cameron will be leading this outing to the railway tunnels at Dalveen, starting at 8.30am.

3. Potential future outings

Michael suggested a possible walk down the Boonoo Boonoo River from below the falls and also inquired about tackling the Mallee Ridge in the southern part of Girraween from the western side. Col reported that, in his experience, this was very thick and rocky.

Specimens:

1. Rob McCosker had a hairy cocoon of the white-stemmed gum moth – *Chelepteryx collesi*. The adult moth apparently has a wing span of up to 16cm. The bristles of the caterpillars and the cocoons can cause an allergic reaction in some people.

General Business:

1. First Aid Kit

Michael asked where the club's first aid kit had got to as it should be taken on outings. It was thought it may possibly be with the Carnells. Members felt that as it was quite large and bulky this prevented people from carrying it. Michael offered to review what was in it to maybe try and reduce it in size.

The meeting closed at 8.09pm and was followed by a presentation from Michael on a cycling trip he did around the west coast of Ireland in 1994.