



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:
11th August 2008

Coming Up

Outing Monday 14th July: “Forestry Station Rock” led by Michael Mueller

Outing Sunday 20th July: Sundown National Park led by Peter Haselgrove

Next Meeting Wednesday 23rd July: Program *Macro Magic – Details in Nature* by Ian Milinovich

Outing Friday 1st August: Rock Slab in Girraween National Park led by Kris and Margaret Carnell

Camp-Out 11th – 14th August: Bundjalung National Park led by Peter Kerr

Annual General Meeting Wednesday 27th August: Program *Remember Last Year*

Pre-Outing Report “Forestry Station Rock” – 14th July 2008

Leader: Michael Mueller

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 11.00am on Monday 14th July. **(Please take note of time)** to travel to an unnamed rock lookout at Passchendaele. The rock is neither signposted nor visible from any road, but the view is nearly as good as from Donnelly’s Castle. The distance is approximately 2km return. As the eastern side is a mostly gentle slope, there is no climbing involved. We will have lunch on the rock.

There will probably be some wildflowers in bloom along the way.

Pre-Outing Report Sundown National Park – Sunday 20th July 2008

Leader: Peter Haselgrove

The walk will be along a new walking track recently constructed, with the help of volunteers, at the southern end of the park. Leave Stanthorpe at 8.00 am and follow the Texas Road through Pikedale and on to Glenlyon Dam Road to the Park HQ. Meet at the Broadwater Camping Area between sites 13 and 12 for smoko around 9.30am.

We will take our lunch and walk along the new track from the Broadwater. Part way along the track we will leave it and walk up a creek-line to the north-western boundary, then follow south along the boundary to a hill with excellent views of the southern end of the park and across to the west and south into NSW. We rejoin the walking track and follow it down to the flats and back to the vehicles.

Those with extra energy may like to walk along the Permanent Waterhole track, which has been upgraded since the last club outing to this part of the world.

Outing Report Tunnel Walk 22nd June 2008

On 22nd June we began with 23 participants on a cold frosty morning with a perfect day promising. We drove to a point on the railway line 1 km south of the Overend tunnel and inspected a timber bridge of approximately 16 m. in height. We walked the rail line from this point to the tunnel. Tiger pear and tree pear were quite apparent. Two very dehydrated marsupial



carcasses were seen in the tunnel. Morning tea was at the northern end of the tunnel.

Most walked the next kilometre to the small Gorge dam built in 1880. This is the oldest concrete arch dam still extant in the world. It is very evident that lantana will take over in this area soon. Then another 1 kilometre walk to the Gorge tank, erected in 1881. I am told that this is identical to the tanks along the old Ghan line in Central Australia, so far away. The water was supplied by gravity feed from the Gorge dam. We saw one eagle from this point. Most disappointing as last time we were here there were quite a few.



We returned to the tunnel for lunch. From here, some locals returned to Dalveen for the presentation of a new

Fire truck to the Dalveen Rural Bush Fire Brigade, some to the Dalveen tunnel, and 11 keen walkers detoured to inspect the "Goat Hole", in the Rosenthal Gorge. Some Nagoora Burr and more lantana was encountered in this area. So concluded this successful outing.

Arch Cameron.

Outing To Round Stone House At Girraween.

Friday 13th June, 2008.

It was "Black Friday" as five of us set out from town under ominous skies. It was OK in town but before we got too far down the highway, it started to rain.

We travelled to Wallangarra and drove up the Mt. Norman Road from there. This road follows the eastern boundary of the park. Not far from the Mt. Norman Day park, we stopped for morning tea before exploring a rocky slab where on a good day there are good views all over the park – both to the east to the all Bald Rocks, and also good views of Billy Goat Hill, Twin Peaks, Mt. Norman, and Mallee Ridge.

We had morning tea in the rain from the back of the vehicles and then proceeded to explore the rocky slab. The visibility was only a short way and had not stopped raining, so after sheltering under a rock for a little while, we decided that the rain was not going to stop. As it was all walking on rocks, we decided that it was too dangerous to continue in the wet. At least everybody knows where it is for a future visit on a better day.



A little further up the road we did venture a short distance off the road to find the round stone house. It stands on a rock slab not far from the road. It was only a few minutes before we were there. By this time, the rain had eased a little and we were able to look at it. It was very well constructed and somebody had built quite a cosy dwelling.

There is the beginnings of another stone house close by here but after searching a little while, we decided again that it was too dangerous to be walking on the wet rock.

We all returned to the cars quite wet and decided to continue home right round to Pyramids Road without stopping for lunch. We were quite surprised by the number of wild flowers out already.

The sun had started to come out by the time we got back to Pyramids Road. Not one of our better days but at least those who went along, now know where to find these places.

Nanette Jurd

Flowering Plant List: *Leucopogon melaleucoides* (Snowbush), *Leucopogon muticus*, *Leucopogon neoanglicus*, *Banksia spinulosa*, *Micromyrtus sessilis*, *Acacia adunca* (Wallangarra wattle), *Acacia ilicifolia* (prickly moses), *Phebalium rotundifolium*, *Actinotus helianthi* (Flannelflower), *Melichrus urceolatus* (Urn Heath), *Isotoma anethifolia*, *Eucalyptus mellidora* (Yellow Jacket), *Trachymene incisa* (wild carrot)

Pre-Outing Report – Friday 1st August – Girraween National Park

Leaders: Kris and Margaret Carnell

The outing on 1st August is to a large granite slab in Girraween National Park, just off Pyramids Road. We will leave Weeroona Park at 9.00am and travel along Sugarloaf Road, turning onto Pyramids Road and continuing to the northern end of Mt Norman Road.

We will carry morning tea and lunch up to the top the rock so we can eat with a view. It is fairly steep for a short distance, but there are plenty of places to stop to admire the view. When we did the pre-outing on a glorious day at the end of June, the rock gardens were yellow with *Acacia adunca* (Wallangarra Wattle), *Acacia latiseppala* and *Phebalium rotundifolium*. The first flowers were appearing on the *Acacia granitica* and *Philotheca (Eriostemon) epilosa*. The *Kunzea* was in bud and there were extensive stands of another wattle in tight bud. Hopefully, these will be in bloom at the beginning of August. The *Stenanthemum scortechinii* was coming into flower and there were beautiful purple patches of *Mirbelia speciosa* as well as *Leucopogon melaleucoides* and *neoanglicus*.

There is no need to carry our bags while we explore the rock slab to the west, then those who feel energetic enough can walk to the top of the rock from where Mt Norman, Castle Rock, Bald Rock and the peaks of the Main Range are visible. We made out Mt Lindesay through the haze and Wilson's Peak, but neither of us could identify any other peaks.

Lunch will be eaten before we descend back to the cars.

Pre-Outing Report Camp Out to Bundjalung National Park – 11-14 August

Leader: Peter Kerr

Escape the cold at a campout at Bundjalung National Park 11 – 14 August. It's about 4 hours driving from Stanthorpe to Black Rocks Camping area, via Tenterfield, Casino and Woodburn. Turn east off the Pacific Highway 5km south of Woodburn (and turn right, immediately, to GAP Road. It's 21km into the campground; 17km of narrow gravel but suitable for 2WDs and caravans.

There's a vehicle entry fee of \$7.00 per day (unless you have an annual pass), plus a camping fee of \$3.00p.p./night. 26 campsites (maximum vehicle length 13m) are carved out of chest high heath, first in first served. Unfortunately bitou bush and bush fires have killed most of the shade trees, and it's likely to be quite hot in the afternoons. Composting toilets, gas BBQs and picnic tables. **BYO WATER.**

On offer: The **wildflowers** are usually good August to October – banksias, boronias, grass trees, pink wax flowers, flannel flowers, ground orchids, wild iris.

Beach walks, featuring “coffee rock” or “black rock” formations: soft, sponge like; formed when rain water washed iron oxides and organic matter through sand dunes.

Walks: to the mouth of Jerusalem Creek (or paddle your canoe (8km/3hrs return); fire trails; Dirrawang Reserve at Evans Head.

Contact: Kris and Margaret Carnell on 46835268 (Peter is on holiday but will be back in time to lead the camp out)

Minutes of Meeting of Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria Street, Stanthorpe on 25th June 2008

Opening: The meeting was opened at 7.40pm by president, Kris Carnell

Attendance: There were 14 present and 3 apologies.

Thanks: President Kris thanked members for taking the meetings and producing the newsletter while he and Margaret were away.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 28th May 2008 were received as a correct record on the motion of Millie Marsden, seconded Rob McCosker. Carried

Correspondence: As the secretary was not present, no correspondence was received.

Financial Statement:

Balance b/fwd	507.45
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Receipts:-

Interest	\$ 2.85
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CASH BOOK BALANCE AS AT 25 / 06 / 08	510.30
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Plus outstanding cash receipts

..... \$ 25.00

Agrees with bank balance as at 25 / 06 / 08	\$...535.30
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Moved by N. Jurd, seconded C. Hockings that the financial statement be received. Carried

Outing Reports:

1. Dalveen Tunnels

The president read the report of the Tunnel Outing provided by Archie Cameron.

Members commented that they were closer to Connelly's Dam and Silverwood than they had expected. Also there was a graded track alongside the railway line.

2. Round House

Nanette gave a brief report of the outing to the Round House at Girraween N.P.

Pre-Outing Reports:

1. Passchendaele State Forest

Michael Mueller reported that the outing would be on 14th or 15th July to an un-named rock in the forest.

2. August Weekday Outing

Kris Carnell reported that the outing would be on 1st August to the northern end of Girraween N. P.

3. Sundown National Park

The outing to Sundown, led by Peter Haselgrove is an early start, so that we can start on the walk at 9.30.

4. Camp Out to Bundjalung N.P.

The questions asked at the meeting about the camping area are answered in Peter's report.

General Business:

Frank James had some photos of some unusual West Australian Xanthorrhoea with club like flowers.

Millie Marsden thanked the club for re-erecting the plaque in memory of Ray in Heritage Park.

The meeting closed at 8.00p.m.

The program for the evening was *Highlights of Bulgaria* presented by Kris Carnell

Granite Belt Wildlife Carers Inc. are active in the district.

If you are interested in receiving a copy of their magazine or joining the group, contact them as follows:

All correspondence to:

The Secretary,

c/- PO Box 27

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**Interested in hosting a 23 year old German girl for a week or longer
between mid September 2008 and February 2009?**

She comes from my hometown of Grossburgwedel near Hanover in Northern Germany. I have known her for over 10 years. She will commence her uni course, which will be partly in English, and until then would appreciate any opportunity to live with Australian families in order to improve her English.

For information give me a call
Michael Mueller
Phone 46 811421