



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:

8th September 2008

Coming Up

Camp-Out 8th – 11th August: Bundjalung National Park led by Peter Kerr

Outing Sunday 24th August: Mallee Ridge led by Kris & Margaret Carnell

Next Meeting Wednesday 27th August: A.G.M. program *Remember Last Year* followed by supper

Outing Report Sundown National Park 20th July 2008

It was a cool, clear winter morning when we met at Weeroona Park to travel to Sundown. Along the way we could see a number of different wattles in flower, as well as some eucalypt. On the way in to the park we saw a striated pardalote on the bulldozer parked beside the road.

We arrived at the Broadwater camping area and met Peter and Lynette, who were leading the outing. While we were having our mandatory cuppa, we started our bird watching with yellow robins in the trees around us. Peter showed us the information hut which is made from recycled timber from a hut in the hills.



Our walk for the day was mainly along a new track built mainly by volunteers from the National Parks Association. We paused along the way and Peter showed us how the cypress trees are shading out the grasses and stopping other trees from growing. Our track climbed up from the camping area towards the back fence. After a little while we left the track and walked up a creek bed until we came to a granite dyke which runs through the traprock, then continued to the fence. We walked along the boundary which is also the Dingo Spur Fence until we came to a vantage point where we had good views

down to the south west, where the river runs out of the park. Peter pointed out the top of the ridge lines and explained how they were the original boundaries of the stations.

We had lunch over the brow of the hill to shelter from the wind and admired the Wonga Vine growing on the fence. One was covered in flowers. There was considerable interest in a large hover fly which was eventually photographed by Michael. We continued along the fence until we rejoined the main track where there is a seat under an ironbark tree. Michael noticed a tiny fly which had laid its eggs on a dead twig. They lay all their eggs on the one twig, so that it looks quite black.



On the way back down to the cars we saw lots of different birds, including White Winged Choughs, Apostle Birds and Spiny Cheeked Honeyeaters. It was a very interesting walk. It's good to have a made walking track in that part of the park.

Kris Carnell

Bird List Sundown National Park: Peewee, Magpie, Galah, King Parrot, Crested Pigeon, Eastern Rosella Crow, Wood Duck, Pied Butcherbird, Unidentified small parrot, White-winged Chough, Willy Wagtail, Bronzewing Pigeon, Striated Pardalote, Spotted Pardalote, Jacky Winter, Eastern Yellow Robin, Welcome Swallow, Red-rumped Parrot, Yellow Faced Honeyeater, Noisy Friar Bird, Little Fiar Bird, Superb Blue wren, Weebill, Speckled Warbler, Grey Fantail, Red Winged Parrot (call), White Throated Tree Creeper (call), Fuscous Honeyeater, Grey Crowned Babbler, Spiny Cheeked Honeyeater, Dusky Wood Swallow, Little Friarbird, Apostle Bird, Blue Faced Honeyeater.

Other: Grey Kangaroo, Fallow Deer

Pre-Outing Report – Mallee Ridge – 24th August 2008

Leaders: Kris & Margaret Carnell

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am on 24th August and travel to the Mt Norman Day Use Area to walk to Mallee Ridge. We will have morning tea at the picnic area before setting out and will carry lunch.



Kris and I did the pre-outing on a gloriously clear day after the snow the day before. There was *Bossiaea rhombifolia* and *Acacia adunca* (Wallangarra Wattle) in bloom at the car park and *Banksia spinulosa* and *Leucopogon neoanglicus* along the track, as well as some *Epacris microphylla* (Coral heath). As we reached the rock slabs on the track we stopped to identify a small bird, and a lyrebird walked across the rock in front of us. We were able to observe it scratching in the gully for several minutes before it moved out of site. The rock gardens around the rock slabs were glorious with *Mirbelia speciosa*, and *Acacia latisepala* was growing in the crevices. We saw the first of the Flannel Flowers (*Actinotus healianthi*) in bloom as well as the beautiful pink *Boronia amabilis*.



When we reached the rock slab, we walked through the weathered boulders and sat on the rock to have lunch and admire the view of all the Bald Rocks. When we reached the top of Mallee Ridge we had an excellent view of The Pyramids which were a misty blue from our vantage point. After climbing to the highest point we explored the area where the Yellow Topped Mallee is growing, and looked down over Wallangarra and Tenterfield and admired the wattles that were turning the hills yellow.

On our way down we came across a couple of bushes of *Phebalium squamulosum ssp squamulosum* in flower. We speculated as to which Phebalium it might be and subsequently identified it from *The Flora of Girraween and Bald Rock National Parks* by Bill McDonald, Colleen Gravatt, Paul Grimshaw and John Williams.

Although the pre-outing was a month before the outing, I feel sure there will still be a lot of wildflowers in bloom. Some of the wattles were just starting to come out and there will be other wildflowers at that time.

Margaret Carnell



Phebalium squamulosum

Outing Report – Girraween National Park – 1st August 2008

Seven intrepid Nats met at Weeroona Park and travelled along Pyramids Road to the turnoff to Mt Norman Road where they met up with three more members who had come from other directions. As we reached a crossing on the road a rather slow red-bellied black snake made its way across, so that we had to stop for it to reach the other side. No one thought to take a photo.

We parked near the sign and climbed up the rock stopping to admire the rock gardens on the way, as well as the empty shell of a native snail lying in the leaf litter.. At the base of the rock there were *Acacia adunca* (Wallangarra Wattle), *Acacia venulose*, *Leucopogon neoanglicus* in bloom and *Leionema ambiens* (Fruit Salad Plant) in bud. The *Mirbelia speciosa* was a picture. The first of the *Philotheca epilosa* (formerly Eriostemon) flowers were out in the gardens at the bottom of the rock and as we went higher there were more blooms out on each plant.

We stopped for morning tea in the shelter of a belt of trees and shrubs where the wind blew over the



Acacia latisepala

top of us and we had our first view of the Pyramids. The *Leionema rotundifolium* was in full bloom here and we saw *Leucopogon melaleuroides* (Snowbush) amongst the other shrubs. *Acacia latisepala* grew in the garden here. As we were having our morning tea, we saw bees in the *Leionema* and flies hovering. When one of the flies landed, Michael Jefferies was able to identify it as a Bee Fly. It very obligingly stayed still long enough to have its photo taken several times.



Bee Fly Photo by M Jefferies

As we walked further up the rock slab we saw *Pultenaea hartmannii* (Stanthorpe Pea), *Spyridium scortechinii* (formerly *Stenanthemum*) and a couple of lovely patches of Hares Foot Fern. The deep purple *Prostanthera phyllicifolia* was in bloom and a few *Acacia granitica* flowers were evident along with masses of buds. In the gully leading up to the top of the rock three climbing orchids (*Erythrorchis cassythoides*) were growing, with one flower open on one plant.

From the top of the rock we looked towards the Main Range and saw Wilson's Peak, Mt Superbus, Mt May, Mt Maroon, Mt Barney and the top of Mt Lindesay. Closer to home there was Bald Rock, Castle Rock, Mt Norman, Slip Rock and of course, The Pyramids. It was very windy as we started to move back down. On the way we tried to identify some plants growing in shallow ground beside a rock slab. They looked quite a lot like *Maytenus silvestris*, but we weren't sure. Then we saw seed pods on another shrub and were unable to identify it. There was quite a lot of it and we wondered if it might be *Kunzea bracteolata* which had flowered in the autumn, even though it is rare. There were some buds on the tips, but we were unsure whether they were flower or leaf buds. The leaves are within the range of *Kunzea bracteolata*. There were definitely flower buds on the *Kunzea obovata*. We also found *Philotheca* plants which had somewhat different growth habits. On one of them the leaves were much closer together and appeared shorter and broader. However, both of these are within the size range for *Philotheca epilosa*, so they are probably variations of the same species. There were a number of different mosses and lichens growing on the rocks.



We had lunch in the same sheltered spot before making our way down the rock and proceeding homewards. We paused on the way to discuss a steep sided channel in the rock where the water was running out of the rock gardens. It was a very pleasant outing and we felt it would be worth visiting the area again in a month or so to see what else had come out.

Margaret Carnell.

Flower List Girraween: *Prosopis juliflora*, *Bulbine bulbosa* (Bulbine lily), *Drosera peltata* (pale sundew), *Spyridium scortechinii*, *Mirbelia speciosa* (showy Mirbelia), *Acacia latisepala*, *Acacia adunca* (Wallangarra wattle), *Acacia granitica*, *Acacia* sp., *Acacia venulose*, *Brachyscome stuartii* (mauve daisy), *Leucopogon melaleucoides* (Snowbush), *Leucopogon neoanglicus* (New England beard heath), *Philotheca epilosa* (Waxflower), *Leionema rotundifolium*, *Persoonia cornifolia* (Broad-leaved geebung berries), *Leionema ambiens* (Fruit salad plant in bud), *Hardenbergia violacea* (false sarsaparilla), *Hovea purpurea*, *Pultenaea hartmanni* (Stanthorpe pea), *Erythrorchis cassythoides* (Climbing orchid), *Goodenia hederaceae*, *Olearia microphylla* (Star bush), *Lomandra longifolia*.

Outing Report Passchendaele Forest

The rainy weather of the past few days had helped bring out a great variety of wildflowers and cleared only an hour before we met.

We could see as far as Mt Mackenzie near Tenterfield. The top of the rock slope is 955m above sea level. For comparison nearby Donnelly's Castle is 967m and Mt Marlay 920m. The most outstanding feature of this very short outing was the amount of Granite Hovea in the shallow depressions near the hilltop and an easy uphill walk from the forestry station where we left our vehicles.

Because the pine forest in front of the rock is growing so quickly, part of the view will be obstructed in a couple of years, so the outing will be repeated in the near future.

Michael Mueller

Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on Wednesday 23 July 2008

Opening: The meeting opened at 7.40pm with president, Kris Carnell, welcoming members.

Attendance: There were 16 present at the meeting and 2 apologies as per the attendance book.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 25th June 08 were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Michael Mueller seconded by Col Hockings. Carried.

Correspondence:

Inwards:

1. Environmental Protection Agency – *Traveller's Guide to the Darling Downs and Granite Belt* and *Traveller's Guide to the Central Queensland Sandstone*
2. Fassifern Field Naturalists Club – June newsletter
3. Chinchilla Field Nats. – *Urimbirra* – June and July 08
4. Gambling Community Benefit Fund – rejection of our application for grant
5. International Park Tours – *IPT Traveller*
6. Toowoomba Field Naturalists Club – *Darling Downs Naturalist* – June and July 08

7. Commonwealth Bank – statements for June and July
8. Qld Naturalists Club – Qld Natural History Award 2009
9. Society for Growing Aust Plants – Warwick Branch – June and July newsletters
- 10 Office of Fair Trading – annual return
- 11 Community Development Services – Granite Learner's Day – Wed 3 Sept.

This correspondence was accepted on the motion of Liz Bourne, seconded by Michael Mueller. Carried.

Business Arising from the Correspondence:

1. Community Learning Fiesta

It was agreed that the club would have a display at this community event on 3 September in the Civic Centre.

2. Annual Return to the Office of Fair Trading

This will need to be completed after the Annual General Meeting.

Financial Statement from 24/4/08 to 30/6/08:

Cash book balance as at 23/4/08	\$540.66
---------------------------------	----------

Receipts:

Memberships	25.00	
Interest	2.85	
Half of PO Box rental from Camera Club	35.00	
		68.25

Expenditure:

Photocopier	68.21	
Photocopier	54.69	
		122.90

Cash book balance as at 23/7/08	\$480.61
---------------------------------	----------

Less outstanding cash receipts	
- membership	40.00

Agrees with bank balance as at 23/7/08	\$520.61
--	----------

This financial statement was accepted on the motion of Nanette Jurd, seconded by Margaret Carnell. Carried.

The auditing of our accounts may not be a requirement now, following recent changes made by the Office of Fair Trading. Previously, we had an arrangement with the Camera Club for one of our members to audit the other club's books. Kris and Rod Hutchins will check out the Camera Club's requirements.

We do not appear to have paid our rent of the QCWA room for the last few months and this should be brought up to date.

Outing Reports:

1. Passchendaele State Forest

Michael Mueller led this Monday outing to a large rock near the Forestry Station which had good views as far as Mt McKenzie, outside Tenterfield. There were already a lot of wildflowers out so it should be good for future outings.

2. Sundown National Park

Sixteen people went on this outing which went along a newly constructed track in the park. 32 species of birds were seen on the walk and a pandorea vine in flower plus some very interesting flies. There were excellent views to the south down the Severn River valley.

Pre-outings:

1. Weekday – Friday 1 August

This will be to a rock slab in the Mt Norman area of Girraween National Park.

2. Campout from 11 to 14 August

This will be at Bundjalong National Park on the north coast of NSW and is being organised by Peter Kerr.

3. Mallee Ridge – Girraween National Park on Sunday 24 August

Although this date clashes with the first of the spring wildflower walks, it was decided to go ahead with it.

Next Meeting:

This will be the Annual General Meeting so Kris asked members for photos from outings during the past year by 20 August.

Specimens:

1. Microbat

Kris had the body of an unidentified microbat that had nested in his grinder and was killed when the machine was turned on.

2. Fly

Michael Jefferies had a photo of a hovering fly – *Trichophthama spp.* - which he is trying to get further information about.

General Business;

1. Annual subscriptions

These are due in August each year and Kris suggested they stay the same as the club's finances were reasonable healthy at present. Quite a lot of postage has been saved by emailing the newsletter to some members and by Michael Mueller delivering those to members around town on his bike.

Motion: "That the membership fees for 2008/2009 remain the same - \$25 for a family and \$15 for an individual"

Moved: Michael Mueller Seconded: Grace Cameron Carried.

The meeting closed at 8.11pm and was followed by a fascinating presentation from Ian Milinovich on close up photos of a variety of insects, lizards, amphibians and invertebrates.

Learner's Fiesta – Wednesday 3 September

The Granite Belt Learners are conducting their annual celebration of Adult Learner's Week by holding a Learning Fiesta in the Civic Centre on Wednesday 3 September from 10am to 2pm.

The Fiesta will concentrate on many facets of learning in the community. A diverse range of community groups, including the Field Naturalist Club, will be providing information and putting on displays about their activities. There will also be food available so make certain you come along and learn more about what local groups have to offer.

**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

Annual General Meeting
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc
Wednesday 27th August 2008
At 7.30pm
QCWA Rooms, Victoria Street, Stanthorpe
Program: *Remember Last Year*
Followed by supper. Please bring a plate

Management Matters

As subscriptions are now due for the next 12 months, at the next meeting there will be some time allotted for the treasurer to write receipts between the end of the meeting and the beginning of the program.

If paying by **cash** at the meeting please put your **money in an envelope with your name on the outside** to make it easier for the treasurer.

Subscriptions for 2008/2009 : Family \$25.00 – Single \$15.00

Please complete your correct name and address details below and present with your subs. to the meeting in an envelope with your name on the outside, or post to:

Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, STANTHORPE Q 4380.

Name (including title please) _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

Payment enclosed \$ _____

Please note – Receipts not collected at the meeting will be enclosed with your Newsletter.

<i>Names and addresses are only used for posting the magazine and are not passed on to anyone else.</i>

If anyone does not want their name mentioned in outing reports could they please advise the editor.

As quite a few of our members have Email we would like to have your email address if you are agreeable. Sometimes it is convenient to contact as many members as possible about a change in arrangements, and this could be a convenient way to do it.

Email address _____

If you would prefer to have your magazine emailed to you please tick the box

☐

Club Program Suggestions – 2008/2009

The committee once again asks for your assistance to provide a wide range of outing activities and meeting programs for the coming twelve months. Please **jot down your suggestions below**, and indicate if you would be prepared to lead an outing or provide a meeting program. All suggestions will be considered at a special committee meeting to be held shortly after the AGM.

Name:

Outings	Camp-Outs	Programs

Comments:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....