



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, 31 Britannia Street, Stanthorpe Q 4380.

Email: m.jefferies@gmail.com

CLUB OFFICE BEARERS - 2007/2008

President	Kris Carnell	46835268
Vice-presidents	Michael Mueller	46811421
	Rob McCosker	46835371
Secretary	Halina Kruger	46835206
Treasurer	Nanette Jurd	46837119
Newsletter Editor	Michael Jefferies	46812389
Magazine Committee	Wendy & Neil Donges	46812913
Publicity Officer	Janet Hockings	46811978
Librarian	Trish 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:

7th October 2008

Coming Up

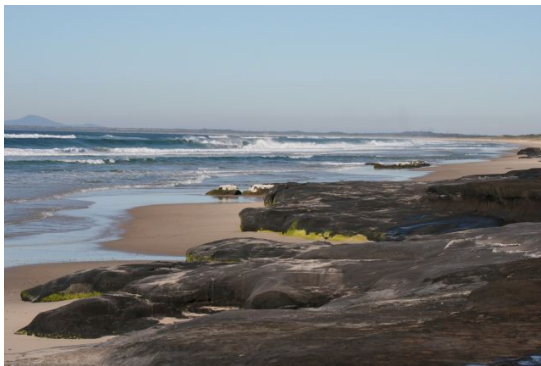
Outing Sunday 21st September: North of Granite Arch led by Col Hockings

Next Meeting Wednesday 24th September: Program *Remember Last Year*

Friday Outing October 3rd: Tank Traps for Orchids led by Kris & Margaret Carnell

Outing Report Bundjalung National Park 11-14 August 2008

Kris and Margaret arrived on Monday afternoon and had time for a short walk while Archie and Grace set up camp. Along the Mibanbah Firetrail behind the campground, myriads of blooms gave a taste of what we'd find in the heath. The night provided the second shock of the outing.



(The first being a steep increase in fees to \$10pp/night – along with Gibraltar Range, Bald Rock and Boonoo Boonoo, locally). It was freezing with ice evidence in the mornings. Fortunately, the days were pleasant, though much colder than I expected.



Hibbertia sp.

Tuesday, Dave arrived, then we had a leisurely walk around “Emu Loop”, returning along a section of the short Jerusalem Creek. *Banksia ericifolia* and yellow pea bushes were profuse. Wednesday, we strolled north along the beach where the tide, even low, caused “sprints” around some headlands and scrambles over others. Soft brown and black “coffee rock” or “black rock” (formed by rainwater washing iron oxide and organic matter through sand dunes) formed 2-4m high cliffs and many little coves. Rain, wind and wave action have produced some fascinating sculptures in the rock – archways, caves, potholes and (blow) holes. Most caves were washed clean, but some deeper ones were littered with human's debris and driftwood. One tree trunk had speared into the soft cliff, and was firmly embedded horizontally.



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A late smoko at the mouth of Jerusalem Creek, open to the ocean after heavy rain three weeks previously, then we followed the pleasant track between creek and sand dunes (with some vistas of the area) back to camp for a late lunch.

On Thursday, after a slightly warmer night, some packed for the return home; others stayed or moved elsewhere.

Plant and bird list courtesy of Margaret.

Peter Kerr

Jerusalem Track – Thursday 14th

Kris and I stayed another day at Black Rocks and drove out to the Jerusalem Track and walked along it to Jerusalem Creek. For the first 400 metres or so there were masses of boronia in bloom. It was a very enjoyable walk and went almost to the mouth of Jerusalem Creek. We saw the same great egret and two brahminy kites that we had seen from the other side of the creek. We then moved on to Red Cliffs and saw a small flock of coastal Emus on the way. On our last day at Red Cliffs two whales appeared well out to sea, but we were able to watch them for a while.



Margaret

Bird List Bundjalung National Park: brown or swamp quail, little wattlebird, grey butcherbird, welcome swallow, martin (not sure which), white-cheeked honeyeater, brahminy kite, Australasian gannet, pied oyster catcher, silver gull, tern (at least 1 species), superb blue wren, black-faced cuckoo shrike, magpie, Lewin's honeyeater, brown honeyeater, whipbird (call), kookaburra, crow, osprey, willie wagtail, duck, sacred kingfisher, silver eye, sacred ibis, currawong, white-faced heron, grey fantail, great egret, noisy friar bird, white bellied sea eagle, red capped plover, pelican, rail?, brolga?

Other: echidna, bandicoot, kangaroo.

On Jerusalem Track: rufous whistler, grey shrike thrush, rainbow bee-eater.

Flower List Bundjalung National Park: Callistemon sp (red), Mirbelia? (small pinkish/purple pea), Leptospermum sp, Pandorea pandorana, Smilax australis, Boronia floribunda, Boronia falcifolia, Billardiera scandens, Banksia ericifolia, Banksia integrifolia, Banksia serrata, Epacris microphylla, Epacris obtusifolia, Sprengelia sprengelioides, Grevillea sp. (sericea?), Dodonea triquetra, Pultenaea villosa, Melaleuca sp, Hakea sp (like sericea) Dilwynnia retorta, Viola hederacea, Bossiaea ensata, Gompholobium virgatum, Philotheca australasius, Philotheca sp., Hardenbergia violacea, Homaranthus or Darwinia sp., Dianella sp., Hibbertia scandens + 3 others, Actinotus heliathi, Styphelia longifolia, Leucopogon virgatus, Yellow pea (flowers in terminal clusters), Ricinocarpus pinifolia, Acacia sp (small cream flower), Acacia sp. (Coastal Wattle), Sowerbaea juncea, Conospermum sp, Xanthorrhoea sp (green buds), Woolsia sp., Pinelea linifolia, Kennedia rubicunda, Patersonia sp. Carpobrotus glaucescens (pig face), Allowcasurina sp. **Berries:** yellow on unidentified shrub, Eleocarpus reticulatus (blueberry ash), Lilly Pilly.

Outing Report Mallee Ridge 24th August 2008

It was a beautiful clear morning when three car loads of Nats set out from Weeroona Park to drive to the Mt Norman Day Use Area where Trish and Rob, accompanied by Patrick, Kelly and Taryn, met us.



In the vicinity of Devil's Elbow we noticed the first of the *Acacia pubifolia* (Wyberba Wattle) coming out, and inside the National Park, *Acacia ruppelii*. After the usual cuppa, 13 of us set off along the track to Mt Norman.

As we passed through the swamp at the beginning of the track there was *epacris microphylla*, *leucopogon neoanglicus*,

leucopogon melaleuroides and *Bossiaea rhombifolia* in bloom along the track. Further along we saw *Mirbelia speciosa* subsp. *Speciosa*, *Hovea purpurea*, *Acacia adunca* and *Acacia latiseppala*, as well as a lovely specimen of *Indigofera australis* off to the side. Where we turned to cross from one rock slab to another, almost in the shadow of Mt Norman, we saw *Homoranthus montanus*, *Micromyrtus sessilis*, *Spyridium* (formerly *Stenanthemum*) *scortechinii* and *Prostanthera phyllicifolia* making a great show. Amongst the boulders the *Boronia amabilis* was a very beautiful pink.



We made our way through the boulders to the very large expanse of rock with a weathered dyke leading upwards, and fantastically weathered boulders scattered about. After admiring the view all the way to the Main Range, we passed through a wooded area where *Phebalium squamulosum* was in bloom and then clambered up a couple of logs to the very top of Mallee Ridge. From here the Pyramids seemed quite low and we could see The Sphinx quite clearly across the valley at the top of its steep granite slope.

Across to the south we scrambled down between the rocks to look over Wallangarra and sit in the sun to eat our lunch. This is where the Bell-fruited Mallee (*Eucalyptus codonocarpa*) grows, along with *Eucalyptus scoparia* (Wallangarra White Gum) in its natural habitat.

We made our way back to the cars and most of us travelled along Mt Norman Road to the creek crossing near Billygoat Hill where we had another cuppa. There were several species of wattle flowering here, including *Acacia rubida*. As we continued along the road, we noticed a mob of Red-necked Wallabies in a paddock on the right. We came past the headwaters of Storm King Dam where there were a number of water birds, which we did not stop to identify. All in all it was a perfect day for an outing.

Margaret Carnell

Flower List Mallee Ridge: *Acacia pubifolia* (on way), *Acacia adunca*, *Acacia falciformis*, *Acacia filicifolia*, *Acacia fimbriata*, *Acacia granitica*, *Acacia latiseppala*, *Acacia rubida*, *Acacia ruppii*, *Acacia ulicifolia*, *Acacia venulosa*, *Allocasuarina* sp., *Banksia spinulosa*, *Boronia amabilis*, *Bossiaea rhombifolia*, *Brachyscome stuartii*, *Dodonaea hirsute* (fruit), *Epacris microphylla*, *Hardenbergia violacea*, *Homoranthus montanus*, *Hovea purpurea*, *Indigofera australis*, *Leionema ambiens*, *Leionema rotundifolium*, *Leucopogon melaleuroides*, *Leucopogon neoanglicus*, *Melichrus urceolatus*, *Mirbelia speciosum*, *Olearia microphylla*, *Phebalium squamulosum*, *Philotheca epilosa*, *Pultenaea hartmanni*, *Prostanthera phyllicifolia*, *Pimelea linifolia*, *Spyridium scortechinii*.

Pre-Outing Report - North of Granite Arch – 21st September 2008

Leader: Col Hockings

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am as usual, and travel to the Picnic Area at Girraween National Park where we will have morning tea. Then we will walk to a ridge north of the Granite Arch where *Eriostemon australis* should be in bloom, along with other wildflowers. We will carry lunch and may follow down towards the Junction. The scale of difficulty is 8 as there are steep sections.

Pre-Outing Report – Tank Traps – Friday 3rd October

Leaders: Kris & Margaret Carnell

As there are a variety of terrestrial orchids at the Tank Traps on Mt Lindesay Road, east of Tenterfield, we decided to have our weekday outing for October there. At the time of going to press we have not done a pre-outing, but we trust that they will be blooming as usual at that time. We have also seen a wide variety of fungus in that area.

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am and travel via Mt Lindesay Road to the Tank Traps where we will have smoko when we arrive. It is possible to walk from the Tank Traps to Thunderbolt's Lookout along a pleasant track for about a kilometre and there is often a lyrebird in the area. If it is at all damp, be prepared for leeches. I'm taking insect repellent! We will have lunch at the cars before returning home. If we have plenty of time we can go to the town dam to look at water birds.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 27 August 2008

Meeting opened: 7:45pm

Attendance: Present 11 Apologies 9 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting: Kris asked that the minutes of the previous meeting be received as true and correct record seconded by Grace Cameron Carried

Correspondence:

1. News letter from Fassifern Field Nats – June and Aug 08
2. New letter from Toowoomba Field Nats
3. Qld Naturalists Club – QNC News June and Aug 08
4. Chinchilla Field Nats
5. Society for Growing Aust Plants – Warwick Newsletter
6. Canon Total Technology – photocopier sale
7. Community Development Services – 2008/09 Stanthorpe Youth Directory
8. Environmental Protection Agency – Bush Telegraph Winter 08

Also subs and bank statements as per Inwards Mail List

Correspondence accepted on the motion of Kris Carnell seconded Margaret Carnell
Carried

Financial Statement from 23 July 2008 to 25 August 2008

Cash book balance 23 July 2008 \$480.61

Receipts:

Subs 165.00

Expenditure:

Magazine postage 50.00
Room Rent 140.00

Cash Book Balance as 25 August 2008 \$455.61

Kris moved that the report be adopted seconded Patience James

Outing Reports

1. **Friday outing to the northern end of Girraween NP** report by Margaret Carnell
2. **Campout Bundjalong NP** report by Margaret Carnell.

3. Mallee Ridge report by Margaret Carnell

Pre-outings:

Week day outing: Suggested that Sunday 7th September be to Girraween NP with the Wild Flower Consortium 9.30 am meet at Bald Creek Day Area.

Weekend outing: September 21st 9.00 am at the usual place to Mt Norman.

Next Meeting: 24 September 7.30 pm

Specimens:

Very fragile snail shell

Book by Tony Groom 'World at my feet'

General Business:

Chinchilla FN will be visiting Girraween NP 25/26 October need further information from Liz.

Peter Andrewartha will be away in April-May 2009.

Possible suggestions for the 2008-2009 program input.

Due to the thunderstorm and rain our scheduled slide presentation was moved for another time. Supper was enjoyed by a wet early evening.

Meeting closed: 8.25pm

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc
held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe Wednesday 27th August 2008**

Attendance: 10 present 9 apologies as per attendance book

Minutes from the previous meeting 22nd August 2007 handed out and received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Millie Marsden seconded by Col Hockings carried.

Business arising from the minutes

No business arising from the minutes

Presidents Annual Report

It gives me much pleasure to present the President report of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club for the 2007/2008 year. The year has been a successful one with a varied array of outings and programs. Our thanks must go to those members responsible for the organizing of them. The two campouts held during the week were very successful, the Bunya Mountains more so than the Bundgalong one. Maybe August was a little cold. (We need more suggestions).

We have really held our own financially and here should again, thanks Michael Mueller for delivery the town newsletter and also the members who donated stamps. Before our next annual meeting we need to decide whether to amend our constitution so that we do not need a qualified auditor.

It is very obvious that more of our members are traveling for extended periods and there will have to be some job sharing. I would like to thank the Office bearers for their support during the year especially when Margaret and I were away.

Thanks to all of you for attendance on our outings and our meetings.

Kris Carnell

Financial Report: Balance \$1854.30 Kris Carnell in the absence of Nannette Jurd Treasurer nominated that the financial report be adopted Seconded by Grace Cameron, Carried.

Election of Office bearers Kris Carnell advised that all positions be vacant and chaired the meeting.

President: Kris Carnell was nominated by Millie Marsden seconded by Patience James for the position of president
Kris accepted carried.

Vice Presidents: Michael Mueller was nominated by Kris Carnell seconded by Col Hockings ` accepted (prior to meeting)carried.

Rob McCosker was nominated by Trish McCosker Seconded by Archie Cameron accepted carried

Secretary: Halina Kruger was nominated by Rob McCosker seconded Peter Andrewartha
Accepted carried.

Treasurer: Nannette Jurd was nominated by Margaret Carnell seconded by Patience James accepted (prior to meeting)
carried.

Newsletter Editor: Michael Jefferies nominated by Margaret Carnell seconded Millie Marsden
Accepted (prior to meeting) carried.

Magazine Committee: Wendy and Neil Donges nominated by Kris Carnell seconded by Rob McCosker accepted
carried.

Publicity Officer: Halina Kruger nominated Janet Hocking seconded Peter Andrewartha accepted
carried.

Librarian: Trish McCosker nominated by Rob McCosker seconded by Margaret Carnell accepted carried.

AGM Business; Kris stated that new laws have come out from the Office of Fair Trading regarding the auditing of financial records. Due to our finances being under \$10,000 we are exempt from having our financial records audited every financial year. This would be a good thing but the downside is that if we needed to apply for a Grant we would need to have the books audited. Kris suggested that if we should apply for a Grant then we would have to follow the regulation and meet the any requirements necessary.

Amendment to our constitution would need to be made before the next AGM. Our current auditor has advised that because of the wording of our constitution we may not need to do that. We will need to confirm our situation with the Office of Fair Trading to be sure that we have all bases covered.

Meeting closed: 7:43pm

A Friendly Reminder

Subs for 2008/09 are due

Single \$15.00, Family \$25.00

**If you have not yet paid
bring to meeting or post to
PO Box 154, Stanthorpe Q 4380.**

Proposed Programme 2008/2009

Weekday	Sunday	Wednesday
Oct 3 rd <i>Tank Traps for Orchids</i> M Carnell	Oct 19 th <i>Mt Norman</i> R McCosker	Oct 22 nd <i>Top End</i> P Kerr
Nov 7 th M Mueller	Nov 23 rd <i>Plant Identification</i> D Hockings	Nov 26 th <i>Tanami Pt 2</i> D Hockings
Break Up 14 Dec K&M Carnell		
Feb 6 th M Jefferies	Feb 22 nd <i>Mt Cordeaux</i> N Jurd	Feb 25 G Campbell
Mar 6 th H Kruger	Mar 22 nd <i>Cataract Falls</i> E Walker	Mar 25 th E Walker
April 3 rd M Mueller	April 19 th <i>Severn River below the Falls</i> K & M Carnell	April 22 nd <i>This Side of the Black Stump</i> R McCosker
May 8 th K Carnell	May 24 th <i>Lincoln Wreck ?</i> To be determined	May 27 th N Crawford
June 5 th N Jurd	June 21 st <i>Driving in Kyogle Shire</i> H Kruger	June 24 th P Andrewartha
July 4 th (Saturday) <i>Historic Roads (Full Day)</i> M McNichol	July 19 th <i>Kitchen Caves & Roman Road</i> C Hockings	July 22 nd D Wilson
August <i>Ridge between Horans Gorge Rd and Watters Rd</i> K & M Carnell	August 23 rd <i>Rock of Gibraltar</i> P Haselgrove	August 26 th <i>Remember Last Year</i> A.G.M.
Sep 4 th <i>Sow and Pigs</i> Trish McCosker	Sep 20 th <i>Underground Creek below Cascades</i> R McCosker	Sep 23 S Frances

Camp outs

April 23rd to 26th *Arcadia Valley* Rob and Trish McCosker
September 7th to 11th *Waterfall Way* H.Kruger

Spare Programmes

K & M Carnell
R McCosker
N Jurd

Spare Outing

Koreelah N.P.

Spare Weekday

H Kruger