

AIMS OF THE CLUB

Gambling Community

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 Club acknowledges the support of the
**Benefit Fund in the production of this Newsletter and
of a data projector**

Meetings 4th Wednesday of each month at
QCWA Rooms,
Victoria Street, Stanthorpe, at
7.30pm

The Pyramids Girraween National Park

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

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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	

Coming Up

Outing Sunday 19 October 2008: Up Mount Norman led by Rob McCosker

Next Meeting Wednesday 22 October 2008: Program : *The Top End, Peter Kerr*

Friday Outing on Saturday 1 November 2008: Forestry Station Rock led by Michael Meuller

Pre-outing reports

Sunday, 19th October: Mt Norman Outing

Mt Norman is the highest peak in the Girraween National Park at 1267m, only surpassed in the Granite Belt by Bald Rock at 1277m. The climb to the top is quite steep and exposed and definitely not to be attempted if it's wet, however there is plenty of scope for exploring without the scary bit to the top which is NOT compulsory!

We will leave Weehroona Park at 9.00am to meet at the Mt Norman Day use parking area for morning tea. Carry lunch with us to have at Mt Norman, and expect to be back at the car park by around 3.00pm. NOTE: The walk is rated at 6 on our scale with the climb to the top at 8.

Rob McCosker Phone 46835371

Saturday, 1 November 2008. Forestry Station Rock, Passchendaele.

We meet at 11.30am at Weeroona Park.

As I mentioned before the pine forest in front of the lookout is growing quickly so parts of the view will be blocked in another year. It was a Monday outing in July so this will be for those can come on a Saturday as well as anyone who wants to see the area in spring. We will have lunch on the rock. The little plateau is not bad for wildflowers either! Distance is less than 2km return. No climbing involved. Michael Meuller.

Starwatch: Sunday 2 November. 6.30pm; please ring Michael Meuller, 46811421.

Antares, Venus and the waxing moon. Antares is cooler than the sun but the Earth would be scorched instantly if it replaced the sun as we would be inside its surface; it is a red supergiant. As for Venus; put your cake on the surface of Venus and it would be baked in no time, but with a sulphurous taste.

Bring a camping chair and binoculars if you like.

Chinchilla Field Nats. Campout in Girraween; 25 and 26 October 2008.

This is led by Frank Truscott (46689054). It is recommended he be contacted if you are interested in meeting them or wish to join their activities (of which we've no

detail.)

Meeting Reports

Excursion - Sunday, September 21, '08 Girraween National Park - Beyond the Granite Arch

We departed from town shortly after 9:00am and met up with others at the Girraween Day use area, bringing the group to a total of 18 which included two-year old, Curtis Cameron. After the compulsory "cuppa", we were met by National Park Ranger, Jo McLellan, who requested that we collect plant specimens and their GPS locations for Park records.

We followed walking tracks to the Granite Arch before heading cross-country to the ridge above. Due to steep terrain and thick vegetation, regular stops were necessary to keep the party together.

On arriving at the first *Eriostemon* plant near the top of the ridge, it was disappointing to find that it was not yet in flower. The second plant had only two flowers causing me to worry that we were too early to witness the spectacular sight of *Eriostemon australasius* in full bloom. Luckily, on top of the ridge there were a couple of plants covered with their mass of 20cent-size flowers. The colour varies plant to plant from white to pink. Other notable plants in flower were the bright yellow *Phebalium whitei*, the white flowered *Calytrix tetragona*, dark pink *Boronia amabilis* and the purple *Kunzea obovata*.

Lunch was eaten in the shade of a large granite boulder after which we followed the ridge downhill and south-west until we met The Junction track. On the way back to the picnic area we passed a small patch of a dozen flowers of *Glossodia major*. With storms rumbling around the hills, we had afternoon tea or lunch in some cases, before heading home after an enjoyable day.

Plant List 21.9.8 (Flowering unless noted otherwise)

Acacia granitica; *Acacia pruinosa*; *Acacia ruppii*; *Acacia ulicifolia*; *Acacia venulose*;
Aotus subglauca (Bacon & eggs); *Bertya recurvata*; *Boronia amabilis*; *Bossiaea rhombifolia*
Caladenia sp.; *Calytrix tetragona*; *Choretrum candollei*; *Comesperma* sp. (match heads)
Craspedia sp. (small billy button); *Cryptandra amara* var. *floribunda*
Dampiera purpurea; *Daviesia latifolia*; *Dodonea hirsuta* (in fruit); *Drosera peltata*
Epacris microphylla; *Eriostemon australasius*; *Erythrorchis cassythoides* (climbing orchid)
Glossodia major; *Glycine* sp.; *Grevillea viridiflava*
Hardenbergia violacea; *Helichrysum collinum*; *Hibbertia elata* (in bud where we had lunch)
Hovea sp. (previously *purpurea*); *Isopogon petiolaris*; *Kunzea obovata* (purple *kunzea*)
Laxmannia compacta; *Leionema ambiens* (in bud); *Leucopogon* sp. (2 of)
Leptospermum sp. (100mm tall bonsai in solid rock); *Leionema rotundifolium* (round leaf *phebalium*)
Lissanthe strigose; *Melichrus urceolatus*; *Micromyrtus sessilis*; *Mirbelia speciosa* ssp. *speciosa*
Olax stricta; *Olearia microphylla*; *Olearia gravis*

Patersonia sericea (wild iris); *Phebalium whitei*; *Pimelea linifolia* ssp. *linifolia*
Pomaderris lanigera; *Prostanthera saxicola*; *Pultenaea hartmanii* (Stanthorpe Pea)
Seringia hillii (formerly *Kerauderenia*) in bud; *Solanum amblymerum*
Spyridium scortechinii; *Stylidium laricifolium*; *Zieria compacta*

Thanks to Margaret Carnell and David Hockings for assistance with this list.

Outing Report – Tank Traps – 3rd October 2008

Ten Nats met at Weeroona Park to travel via Mt Lindesay Road to the Tank Traps near Tenterfield. As we travelled we noticed *Leucochrysum albicans albicans* flowering profusely beside the road. There were also stands of *Kunzea obovata*, *Pimelia linifolia*, *Clematis* sp (could not be identified from the car), *Ozothamnus diosmifolius*, *Xerochrysum beracteatum* (golden everlasting) and one or two peas. I took a specimen of one, thinking it was *Davesia latifolia*, but the leaves seemed much smaller. We also saw a couple of wallabies and a black snake.

Margaret Tricker arrived soon after we did, so after the mandatory cuppa we headed along the track past the tank traps and found our first orchid, *Caladenia carnea*, a few metres along the track. Narelle found a *Pterostylis pedunculata* at about the same time. Further along the track there were colonies of these, as well as *P. curta* and *P. nutans* – the Nodding Greenhood. There were also colonies of *Chiloglottis formicifera*, the Ant Orchid. On a large, mossy boulder a Dagger Orchid, *Dendrobium pugioniforme*, was dangling its blooms down the side of the rock. Close by was a plant of one of the *Bulbophyllums*, unfortunately not in flower.

The track to Thunderbolt's Lookout winds through a diversity of vegetation, with ferny rainforest type plants in the gullies and Eucalypts in the drier parts. Some people heard a Lyrebird calling and we also heard a Whipbird. We stopped to listen to and admire a Golden Whistler which obligingly sat on a branch where we could see it and take photos. Eventually, we arrived at Thunderbolt's Lookout and some members went to the top and looked down. The Tall trigger plant, *Stylidium laricifolium* was growing among the rocks in the highest part. When Erin found it she described the flowers as looking like butterflies, which they do when you think about it.

As it was lunch time and we had to return to the cars, most people walked back along the road and were fortunate to see a Double tail, *Diuris* sp. beside the road. We sat on or around some logs to eat our lunch, and Erin spotted an interesting black and yellow insect sunning itself. Michael thought it was a female muttilid wasp, however, further investigation showed that it was probably a female thynnine wasp, which is closely related. The female can't fly and stings very severely, while the male can fly and doesn't sting. When we left the wasp was still sitting, waiting, perhaps for a male to happen along.

Thank you to Michael for the information below:

"They belong to a group of solitary wasps called the Tiphiidae, flower wasps. They are interesting because the larvae eat scarab beetle larvae and the males find the wingless females and carry them around once they mate. Some orchids emit the pheromones that the females use to attract males so that the males, being deluded, try

Financial Report:

As the Bank Statement has not arrived in our box, reconciliation could not be completed.
Cash book balance to 24 September \$803.71

Outing Reports:

The club did not have a weekday outing in Sept as the Wild Flower Consortium had an outing that club members could attend.

Sunday outing Col Hockings gave a brief report on North of the Granite Arch on 21st September 2008.

Pre-outings:

Week day outing: Friday the 3rd October to Tank Traps meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am

Weekend outing: Rob McCosker will lead the group up to the very top Mt Norman group to meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am

Next Meeting: 22 October 2008 7.30 pm Presentation by P Kerr "The Top End"

Specimens/ Items of interest:

Col Hockings display a very lovely book "Mangroves to Mountains" which can be purchased from Logan Branch SGAP (Qld Region) Inc. cost is \$49.50.

General Business:

Kris clarified some of the details about coming year's programs. There are still a few items to finalize.

Meeting closed 7.45pm

Presentation by Kris Carnell "The Year that was"