



The Granite Belt Naturalist



Mail Address: Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, Stanthorpe Qld. 4380
fieldnats@granitenet.com.au@

Web site www.granitenet.com.au/groups/environment/fieldnats/

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



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 (Saturday outings as pre-arranged)
Subs: Single \$20.00, Family \$30.00 per annum, July to June

CLUB OFFICE BEARERS - 2013/2014

President	Rob McCosker	46835371
Vice-presidents	Kris Carnell	46835268
	Jeff Campbell	
Secretary	Halina Kruger	46835206
Treasurer	Leslie Saunders	
Newsletter Editor	K & M. Carnell	
Publicity Officer	Margaret Carnell	46835268
Librarian	Trish McCosker	46835371

The Club thanks the Queensland Country Credit Union for their donation that enabled us to buy a printer.

The Club acknowledges the support of the Gambling Community Benefit Fund in the purchase of a data projector.

Stanthorpe Field Naturalists is a group member of Granite Borders Landcare.

*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

Coming Up

Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd August:
Camp Out at Basket Swamp with
Michael Mueller
Wednesday 26th August: *West Canada*
with Jeff Campbell

**Deadline for next newsletter
1st September 2015**

Pre-Outing Report Basket Swamp Camp Out- 22 & 23 August

Leader: Michael Mueller

From Stanthorpe it is around 65Km to Basket Swamp, but you will need more than an hour to get there, as the last 8Km through the State Forest and National Park consist of a narrow and bumpy forestry track. 2WD cars are usually fine if driven slowly and carefully. We will meet at Basket Swamp camp ground around 10.00 on Saturday 22nd, set up camp and have morning tea, then leave for a day walk.

The camp ground is free of charge, has picnic tables and a pit toilet. The nearby creek provides plenty of clean water, but BYO drinking water in case you have a sensitive stomach. As some people may choose to come for just one day, I will be flexible as for which walk we'll do on which day. The main walk will go to the seldom visited unnamed waterfall often referred to as Waterfall Creek or Cataract Falls. It consists of a spectacular single drop with cascades and pools before and after. On an outing a few years ago we went to a lookout on a rock south of the falls, but steepness of the terrain and thickness of vegetation prevented us from descending to the falls. However, I have found an easier access into the scenic creek bed upstream from the falls. We will end up right beside the top of the falls.

Another walk takes us past Basket Swamp Falls, then down the creek to Treasure Falls (cascades) and to a track crossing after a second kilometre. From here we can return back up the creek or along the track.

There are also short walks near the camping area and more interesting places within a very short driving distance. A longer and harder walk, ideal for people who choose to stay until Monday, would be to Feather Rock and a spot with a good view into the valley west of Basket Swamp.

Michael Mueller
46811421

REMINDER

Annual Subscriptions are now due

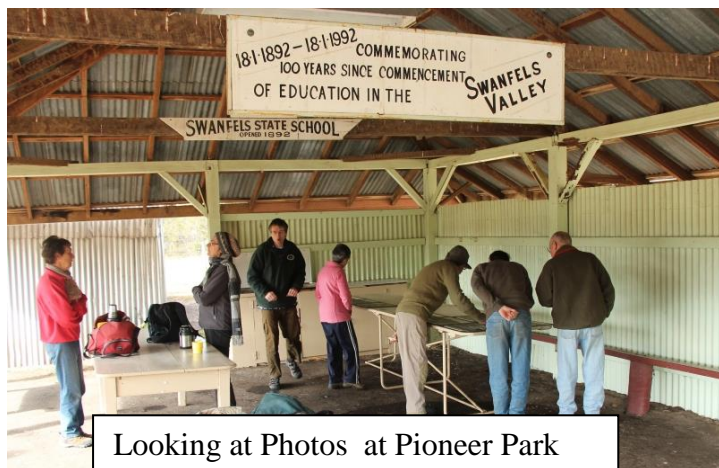
If you have not paid, please pay now

See Subscription form at end of this newsletter

Outing Report - Hell Hole Gorge/Creek - July 19th 2015.

A group of 22 walkers attended the Hell Hole Gorge walk. The group was made up of members from the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist club and the Queensland Naturalists Club. The weather was mainly fine with a few light clouds in the morning.

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Looking at Photos at Pioneer Park

We all met at Pioneer Park on Swanfels Road, Swanfels at 9.15 am, where we had morning tea. Pioneer Park was originally a staging and watering stop for horses and bullock teams in the late 1800's - early 1900's, because it is located on Swan creek. The shelter shed from the old Swanfels School has been relocated to the park and made a convenient place to have morning tea. Some old photos, dated 1900 – 1920's of Swanfels Valley, and the early men working on the land, taken by Charles 'Plum' Johanson, were laid out on the table for the club members to view (Provided by Jennifer Wallace).

We then travelled 10km to Hell Hole Gorge and parked right on the junction of Swan Creek and Hell Hole Creek on a beautiful open grassy flat. This property was originally part of Canning Downs Station and the valley itself from Yangan to the head of Swan Creek comprised the "Heifer Out Station". The first person to select the Hell Hole pocket of land was William Hall and it has remained in the Hall family ever since.

We proceeded to walk up the hell hole track. This was built by hand by Donald Learmonth using a compressor, jackhammer and 3000 sticks of gelignite in 1980-1982. Donald explained the reason they built the track was that it would take 8 good horsemen from sunup to sundown to muster the Gorge and the cattle were difficult to get out; they were born up there and they didn't want to be moved out of the valley. There was only a narrow bridle trail. Good horsemen were becoming scarce and they needed an easier way to get the cattle out of the Gorge. The Gorge is totally enclosed on all sides with cliffs on both sides. It is almost a perfect hideaway.



Nats on track



Prostanthera

Once through the Gorge it opens out onto a grassy plateau where we had lunch. The edges of the grassy plateau are lightly timbered, with the hill/mountain country being thickly timbered. We were joined by the property owner's horses to the delight of some of the walkers. We followed Hell Hole Creek up to an old saw mill then crossed the creek and walked over to some old cattle yards. They were built in 1955 for drafting and processing cattle, before taking them through the gorge to the main yards on Top Swanfels Road. It is a mystery to me how they ever mustered those cattle from that steep, rough, forest country.

There is an old plough in the open grassland plateau. Donald said that many years ago they tried to till the land to kill out the 'tufty grass', with no success. We then walked back through the Gorge, some took a slightly different route back to the cars via the creek and some stayed on the track. We were back at the cars around 3pm which left plenty of time to travel home before dark.



Old Plough in Grassland

There is a lot more exploring and future walks to do up this valley for the club.

Special thanks to Hellen Hall, the property owner and Donald Learmonth for providing the history of the valley.

Karyn Van Tilberg

Bird List Hellhole Gorge: Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, White-faced Heron, Masked Lapwing, Musk Lorikeet, Little Lorikeet, Azure Kingfisher, Crimson Rosella, Laughjng Kookaburra, White-throated Treecreeper, Superb Fairy-wren, Weebill, Brown Thornbill, Spotted Pardalote, Striated Pardalote, Eastern Spinebill, Lewin's Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Bell Mine4r, Noisy Miner, Scarlet Honeyeate4r, Brown-headed Honeyeater, White-naped Honeyeater, Eastern Whipbird, Varied Siuttella, Golden Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Grey Butcher bird, Pied Currawong

Plant List Hellhole Gorge: Prostanthera, Correa, Pomaderris – two species, Bursaria, Casuarina cunninghamiana, Allocasurina torulosa, Melichrus urceolatus, Pterostylis, Eucalyptus tereticornis, Acacia stricta, Acacia ullicifolia, Lissanthe, Pimelea, Ozothamnus, Hovea, Numerous ferns and rock orchids.

**General Meeting
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held at the CWA Rooms Victoria Street, Stanthorpe Wednesday 22July2015**

Meeting open: 8:52 pm

Attendance: 12 Apologies: 5 Visitor: 1

Minutes of the previous meeting:

G Greenup moved that the minutes be accepted T McCosker seconded

Business arising from the minutes: Nil

Correspondence:

H Kruger moved inward and outward correspondence accepted T McCosker seconded

Financial Report:

L Saunders moved financial be accepted E Walker seconded

Outing reports

Sunday outing: Hell hole gorge Swanfels- K Van Tilburg

Pre outing reports

Sunday outing: 22nd -23rd August 2015 - M Müller - Campout "Feather Rock - Basket Swamp"

General Business

The Granite Belt Naturalist August 2015 Vol. 471

C Smallwood says "HELLO" to everyone in the club and happy that they have missed the snow is NSW and Stanthorpe. At this moment are holidaying at the North Coast.

Management Committee meeting on the 19 Aug at R & T McCosker's at 7:30 pm.

Report of the progress made at Sentimental Rocks by members of our club. Well done.

Patience James passed away recently. A memorial service is to be advised. A tireless worker for many community groups as well as a special loved member of our club.

Maurie Passmore was a past member of our club has also passed away recently.

Harley West, Stanthorpe Landcare Project Officer spoke about the Indian Mynas Project which he has started in the Ballandean area. He wanted to know whether we wanted to get involved in monitoring.

The Indian Mynas was introduced from Asia and are listed as "One of the World's 100 most invasive species" (World Conservation Union)

He has left Survey sheets for members that can be left at the Ballandean store, Post Office or at Landmark Ballandean.

Specimens/items of Interest: Indian Myna Survey sheets

Next meeting: 26Aug2015

Next month's presentation: J Campbell "Western Canada"

Tonight's presentation: R McCosker "Remember last year"

Meeting closed: 8:32 pm

Granite Belt Naturalist Financial Statement July 2015

	SUBS	BANK INTEREST	DONATIONS	INCOME	Expenditure
Balance c/f 30/6/2015				\$ 763.90	CWA Rental June/July 2015 50.00
Hockings/Gersekowski	\$ 30.00				
K&M Carnell	\$ 30.00				
N Donges	\$ 20.00				
A&G Cameron	\$ 30.00		\$ 20.00		
G Greenup	\$ 20.00				
L Saunders	\$ 20.00				
M Jeffries	\$ 20.00				
INTEREST	\$ 0.01				
	\$ 170.01		\$ 20.00	\$ 190.01	
				\$ 953.91	
LESS EXP				\$50.00	
Balance c/f 22/07/2015				\$ 903.91	Balances with statement as at 22/07/2015

Annual General Meeting Stanthorpe Field Naturalists' Club Inc. 22nd July 2015

Meeting opened: 8:35 pm

Attendance: Present 12 Apologies 5 Visitors 1 per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting:

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H Kruger moved minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record **seconded** L Saunders

Business arising from the minutes: nil

Presidents Annual Report: R McCosker

Financial Report: L Saunders moved that the financials be accepted **seconded** K Carnell

Election of Office Bearers:

President:

K Carnell **Nominated** R McCosker **seconded** L Saunders accepted

Vice Presidents:

R McCosker **Nominated** J Campbell **seconded** A Walker accepted

R McCosker **Nominated** K Carnell **seconded** L Saunders accepted

Secretary:

L Haselgrove **Nominated** H Kruger **seconded** E Walker accepted

Treasurer:

K Carnell **Nominated** L Saunders **seconded** R McCosker accepted

Newsletter Editor:

R McCosker **Nominated** K & M Carnell **seconded** L Saunders accepted

Publicity Officer:

H Kruger **Nominated** E Walker **seconded** L Saunders accepted

Librarian:

A Walker **Nominated** T McCosker **seconded** H Kruger accepted

Business for AGM

H Kruger to follow up on Association Incorporation form 12-1 as to date not received.

Meeting Closed: 8:50 pm

**STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC.
FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1/7/2014 TO 30/06/2015**

Balance c/f 1/7/2014		\$640.30
Members subscriptions	870.00	
Bank Interest	0.12	
Donation	15.00	
Camera Club Rental	57.50	
	\$942.63	
		\$942.62
TOTAL INCOME		\$1582.92
EXPENDITURE		
Rental	200.00	
Insurance	60.00	
Fair Trading	48.25	
P O Box Rental	115.00	
Stamps & Stationary	395.77	
Total Expenditure	819.02	\$819.02
Cash Book Balance and Bank Balance as at 30.06/2015.....		\$763.90

Stanthorpe Field Naturalists' Club Inc. - Annual Report 2015

I am pleased to again report another busy and successful year for the Nats Club. We were all saddened with the recent loss of Jean Harslett, one of our founding members and an inspiration to us all with her knowledge of all aspects of nature.

I think our variety of outings this year has satisfied everyone's "ises" - that is to botanise, socialize and exercise. We enjoyed a field outing every month, with a few re-arrangements of our program, to suit leader's availability, and only one outing cut short due to a rainy day. Members also took part in two weekend campouts during the year and six members travelled to Tasmania for the Australian Naturalists' Network Get-together. We have received a Preliminary Program for the 2016 Get-together to be held in Perth WA in October, to make the most of the spectacular WA wildflowers. I would like to thank all our outing leaders particularly those who organised the campouts. We have also had a working bee at the Sentimental Rocks to do some track repair work and I would like to thank those involved and hope we can continue to assist Council to maintain and preserve this area in its natural state.

Our excellent meeting programs this year have all been provided by our members, who have taken us to many different places in Australia and overseas. Thank you to all involved with these. Finally a sincere thankyou to our committee members – Secretary Halina, Treasurer Lesley, Newsletter Editor and Publicity Officer Kris and Margaret, your efforts have kept our Club running smoothly throughout the year. Thank you.

Rob McCosker President

Reed Bees (Exoneura species)



Another range of bee species from the Apidae family are the Reed Bees (*Exoneura* species). There are a large number of species in this genus and they are interesting because of the fact that they are semi-social in behaviour as opposed to the solitary bees which generally have one nest site per female bee. They are called reed bees because of their habit of nesting in dried out plant stems including the weed Lantana. Solitary bees create one cell per egg on a ball of pollen and nectar and the larvae and pupae develop in the cell until it's time to exit as an adult bee. A

number of female reed bees lay their eggs in the nest without separation and the pupa end up in a pile. The adults share the nest and guard the entrance, usually blocking it with their abdomen or head. I have no idea how they would decide who gets to do the guarding job.

I've never found a nest of these bees though they are quite common here on the Granite Belt. The ones I see here are shiny black with a red abdomen and often with face markings and range in size from 5 to 8 mm. They are pretty easy to identify with their red abdomen and black body. The abdomen has a flattened rear end on the top surface giving a characteristic triangular shape as can be seen in the photo. I haven't done this yet but nest bundles can be easily made for these bees. All you need is a bundle of plant stems about 200mm long with pithy centres such as Lantana, Hydrangea or Grape vine (not too hard to find here in the Granite Belt). Wire the bundle together and attach to the underside of a branch or limb to afford a measure of protection from the environment.

If you would like to discuss anything on native bees I can be contacted on marcjan@tpg.com.au

Subscriptions and Program for 2015/16.

Subscriptions are due for the next 12 months from the end of June,

Subscriptions for 2015-2016 : Family \$30.00 – Single \$20.00

Please complete your correct name and address details below and bring or send to the Treasurer

Name (including preferred title please)

Postal Address:

Post-code **State**..... **Payment made \$**.....

Circle payment method please: **CASH** **CHEQUE** **DIRECT DEBIT**

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

PAYMENT METHODS

1. **Present with your subs.** to the meeting in an envelope with your name on the outside.
2. **Post to:** Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, STANTHORPE Q 4380.
3. **By Direct Debit** to Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. BSB 064-431 Acc. 00902063

I would like to receive my magazine by **POST** **EMAIL** (please circle)

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 at short notice, and this can be a convenient way to do it.

Email address:-

The monthly newsletter is distributed electronically by email and by post.

It is also posted on the website in the Documents folder.

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

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: Outing: (Place or area, duration, time of year)

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Campout: (Place, duration and dates)

Meeting subject: (Title and brief description)

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Other comments and suggestions:

Thank you