



The Granite Belt Naturalist



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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	46835268
Publicity Officer	Errol Walker	46812008
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

Sunday 18th October: Underground Creek with Fassifern FN. Leader Rob McCosker

Wednesday 28th October: *Panama* with Peter Andrewatha

**Deadline for next newsletter
11th November 2015**

Pre-Outing Report – Underground Creek at Girraween – 18th October

Leader: Rob McCosker 46835371

Please note the date for this outing is the 18th, one week earlier than our usual date as we are combining it with the Fassifern Field Nats Club who are camping at Girraween for the weekend.

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 8.30am to car pool and drive out to meet up with the others at 9.00am at the Bald Rock Creek day use car park at Girraween. Car pool again, then go on to Dr.Roberts carpark, where there are limited parking spaces, and no facilities.

We will carry morning tea to have along the track, and give people the option of returning to the cars/Girraween for lunch, or carry lunch as well and continue for another walk in the afternoon for those with the time and energy.

The track to the Underground Creek is about 3km return and well formed with a few steps, Grade 2. If there is enough interest in the more difficult walk, we intend to go over the rocky hill to the north, with great views of Girraween's famous skyline, and return to the cars through the bush, about Grade 8. We should be back to the cars by about 3.00pm.

Outing Report - Campout to Woodside 19-20th September

I arrived around 9.30 at my property, with Michael Muller arriving about an hour later. We packed our lunch and walked up to the lookout behind my cabins as Michael wanted to do the walk up Red Rock himself as a "pre outing" for the following day. I pointed him in the right direction to where we would be driving to in the morning to begin the climb. I had lunch at the lookout before going back to the cabins to do some work. At around 3.30pm I went for a drive over the back and had just pulled up to inspect some wild pig wallows when a movement caught my eye further ahead. It was Michael coming back from his walk. I picked him up and we went to the other side of the creek to pick up one of my trail cameras then headed back to the cabins. Not long after Graham and Karyn arrived.



Mario boiling the billy

After unpacking their gear the 4 of us walked across Woodside road to the neighbour's property to inspect the ruins of the Old Woodside homestead and another old house site about 100 meters further. Not much left of the old homestead except a rock wall with a fire place built into it. The wall was around 4 meters long by about 2.4 meters high. One side had cement plaster covering it. This faced the inside of the house. Part of an old metal bed frame was found nearby.

We had a lovely BBQ dinner together and the weather was perfect to sit around the fire and tell stories. (and eat chocolate, custard and cake)



Spectacular Scenery

After a good night's sleep we had a big BBQ breakfast. After cleaning up Rob and Trish arrived. We all sat together and had another cuppa while admiring 2 red winged parrots in the fruit trees, then the six of us headed off in my Ute to the base of Red Rock. Michael had described the climb as a low 10 on our difficulty scale. It was a fantastic walk/ climb up to the top. From bottom to top was only



Burton's Legless Lizard

around 700 meters in distance and around 200 meters in altitude. It was hard work but well worth the effort by the time we reached the top. Fantastic views from the North to the West and down South. We spent quite some time just sitting and admiring the view with and without binoculars. After a good rest we climbed the last part up onto some boulders which was then the highest point. Coming down was hard on the knees but a good walk as well. When we got back to my Ute we walked to Prospectors creek for a quick look and to soak tired feet.

We then went back to the cabins for lunch and a cuppa. After cleaning and packing each Nats member went home leaving me to lock up before heading home myself.

Mario Pennisi.

Bird and reptile list for the weekend supplied by Rob McCosker: Red-winged Parrot, King Parrot, Hooded Robin, Crimson Parrot, Currawong, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Channel-billed Cuckoo, Spotted Pardelote, Double-barred Finch, Superb Fairy Wren, Grey Shrike-thrush, Kookaburra, Wedge tailed Eagle, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, and Spiny-cheeked Honey eater. The two snakes we saw were Burton's legless Lizard and Yellow-faced Whip Snake also Cunningham Skinks.

Other wildlife seen, grey kangaroos, wallaroos, red neck wallabies, swamp wallabies and plenty of goats.

Thank you to Marc Newman for Number 6 of his articles on native bees.

Cuckoo Bees (and I don't mean crazy)



As with everything in life, there are always shortcuts that can be taken. Most of us are familiar with Cuckoo birds which can't be bothered making their own nest and lay their eggs in another bird species nest and let them raise their chicks, so it is with bees. There are at least 10 solitary bee species in two genera of bee in Australia that parasitize a host bee species. The one I have found locally has the scientific name *Thyreus caeropunctatus* (there isn't a specific common name so we're stuck with that) and is shown in the photos. This bee

parasitizes Blue Banded Bees and I assume the blue colouring suggests they are trying to fit in. They hover around known nesting sites of the Blue Banded Bees (BBBs usually nest in aggregations, sometimes large), wait until the female leaves her nest to forage for more nectar and pollen then back into the nest hole and lay their eggs. What happens from there I don't know but I assume the cuckoo bee egg hatches first and consumes the food stores of nectar and pollen leaving the host larvae to starve. Blue Banded Bees make a number of individual cells in a nest so it is likely that at least some of their eggs are successfully hatched. If that weren't the case the cuckoo would soon find it had nothing to parasitize.



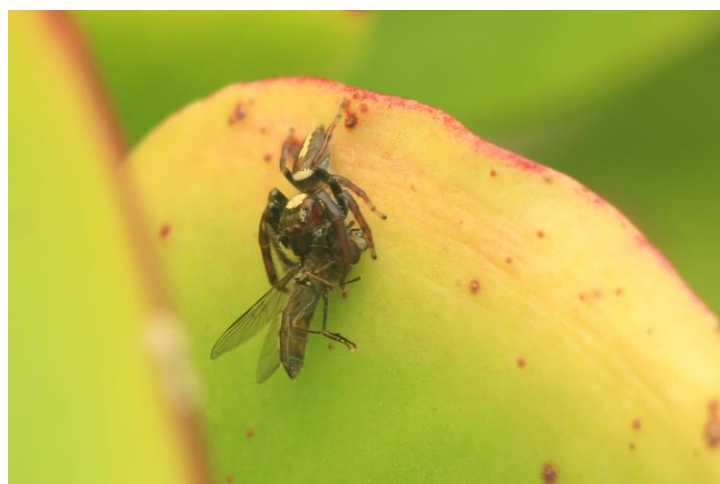
Our native solitary bees have to contend with a number of different parasites and diseases. Foraging bees can pick up mites from flowers and carry them back to the nest. These can utterly destroy the contents of a cell and may also travel to adjacent cells. There are also wasps, flies and beetles that parasitize solitary bees or moulds that cause havoc in the nest chambers. Native Bees have a tough time of it so any help we can give them is a good thing. Planting bee friendly plants, making bee hotels and careful use of insecticides would be ways you can help.

For any discussion on native bees please email me at marcjan@tpg.com.au

Hover Flies

We have been amazed at the number of hover flies in the garden at the moment. There must be hundreds of them. One of them met a sudden end in the jaws of a spider. It must have stopped hovering for long enough to be caught. The spider may be a jumping spider but I was not able to identify it for certain from my green guide *Spiders of Australia*. Photo courtesy of Kris.

Margaret Carnell



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria st, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 26th August 2015**

Meeting opened: 7:40pm

Attendance: 9 Apologies 7 as per attendance sheet

Minutes of the previous meeting:

J Campbell moved P Haselgrove seconded carried

Business arising from the minutes: Nil

Correspondence:

H Kruger moved that the Correspondence accepted T McCosker seconded carried

Financial Report: \$1163.98

L Haselgrove moved that the financial report be accepted H Kruger seconded

Outing Reports:

Sep – Campout to Tenterfield – M Pennisi

Pre-outings:

Sunday outing: 18th October – Underground Creek with Fassifern FN

General Business:

Change of outing for October.

Fassifern FN will be camping at Girraween and as a group we will meet at 8:30am at Weeroona Park for group outing and friendship on Sunday morning 18th October.

Members wanting to be involved with “Aussie Bird Count” from 19-25 October please go to the aussiebirdcount.org.au website and follow the prompts.

Next Meeting: 28th October 2015

Next Month’s Presentation: P Andrewartha “Panama and surrounds”

Meeting closed: 8:05pm

Presentation: National parks Waterfall Way