



The Granite Belt Naturalist



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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	46811420
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**

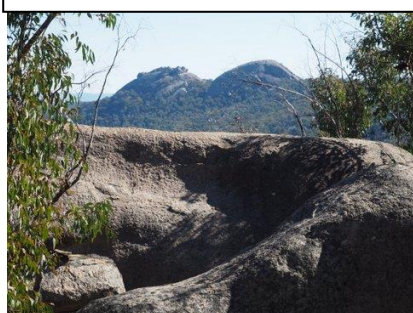
1. Flat walking, road or track
2. Road or track, gentle hills
3. Track, some hilly sections
4. Track, some steep sections
5. Cross country, easy open forest, gentle slopes
6. Track, steep sections common, with steps
7. Cross country, some hills, some thick undergrowth
8. Cross country, steep sections 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 21st August: *Girraween* with Rob McCosker
Wednesday 24th August:
Friday 23rd – Monday 26th September:
Camp Out at Torrington with Kris & Margaret Carnell

**Deadline for next newsletter
14th September 2016**

A Different View of the Pyramids



Pre-Outing Report August 21st to Girraween National Park

This outing will be a walk from Bill Goebel's house following a fire trail to where it crosses Pyramid Creek before reaching a gate on Pyramid Road. We will have lunch here before returning to the cars via an interesting area of huge boulders, with a different outlook on the Pyramids and Castle Rock. The area has suffered two serious wildfires in recent years the last being in 2014 and though the bush is recovering well be prepared for walking through burnt undergrowth. The walk is not very long, perhaps 3km, mostly on a vehicle track but quite steep in places.

We will meet at Weeroona Park for a 9.00am start, have morning tea at Bill's house then carry lunch to have along the way.

Leader Rob McCosker 46835371



Strangler Fig

Outing Report 4 July 2016 Swanfels Valley

Thank you to those who attended the walk. It was a very good turn up for such a long drive.

20 Club members plus Peter Cook and Pepper Cook (small black dog) came on the walk on Sunday.

I had ordered sunny weather with light winds for this day, so that's what we got.

We had morning tea at Pioneer Park, Swanfels at 10 am then travelled 10km up the valley to Peter and Rebecca's property. We met Peter Cook on Swan creek then proceeded up the hill to the flat plateau where all the vine/fig trees grow. It was a steep 300 m walk, mainly following horse tracks. We took it in stages and conveniently looked at plants on the way up, which enabled several breaks.

At the top we entered a dark and mossy environment surrounded by the cliffs. We climbed through vines and over mossy rocks until we found a

suitable area to have lunch amongst the fig vines and trees. After lunch we followed along the bottom of the cliff to another unique area of rocks, fig vines and trees. It was so dark under these trees, it seemed like it was around 6pm, whereas it was 1pm and blue skies looking to the east.



Lunch Break



www.pooktre.com

After some time we walked down to Peter and Rebecca's tree shaping plantation which is right on the beautiful Swan Creek. We were met by Sha Cook and shown around the plantation. Peter explained the methods he uses to shape and graft the trees into furniture.

All the members found the tree shaping very interesting and want to thank Peter and Rebecca for giving us the opportunity to see this interesting and unique art form. Thank you to Sha Cook for the tour around the plantation and we hope Pepper managed the walk OK.

Peter and Rebeca's website is www.pooktre.com

I think most people were given a few Swanfels ticks to take home, I know I found two.

Karyn Van Tilberg

Swanfels Bird List compiled by Rob McCosker: Kookaburra, Magpie, Pied Butcherbird, Raven, Indian myna, Noisy Minor, Galah, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Crested Pigeon, Striated Pardalote, Banded Lapwing, Bellbird, Superb Lyrebird, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Eastern Whipbird, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Satin Bowerbird, Currawong, Lewin's Honeyeater, Superb Fairy-wren.

On the way home: White ibis, Black and white ibis, Wood duc, Red-rumped parrot – *Editor*

Date Claimer – Camp-Out to Torrington – 23rd – 26th September

We plan to go to Torrington from Friday 23rd September to Monday 26th September. The main walks will be on Saturday and Sunday. We would like some idea of numbers for the camp-out so that we can arrange the walks in the best way for any day trippers. It takes 2 to 2 ½ hours to drive there. There will be a full pre-outing report in the September magazine.

Kris and Margaret Carnell
Phone 46835268
email: oranakm@bigpond.com

Alyxia sp. probably ruscifolia



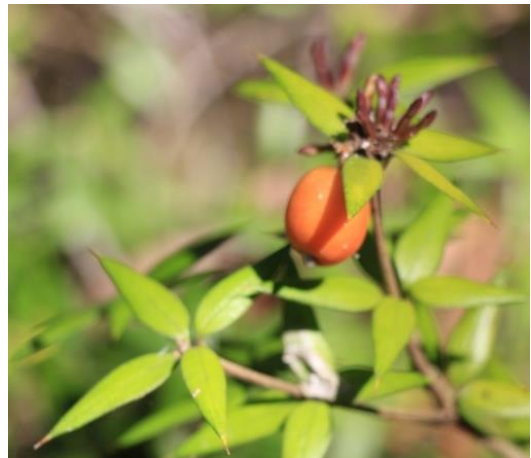
Thank you to David Hockings for identifying this beautiful flowering shrub that we saw at the beginning of our walk.

Alyxia is the genus - parallel venation on reverse of rigid, spine tipped leaves and leaves in whorls. *A. ruscifolia* is the most widespread species and possibly this is it. Chain fruit is the common name - ripe red or orange fruit in a chain of 2 or 3 - end to end.

Information from a fact sheet from *A Synopsis of Australian Fauna*

says the flower is strongly scented. I didn't notice that at the time. Fruits are sometimes moniliform, which the one we saw was, each ellipsoid segment or 'bead' about 6.5-7 x 6 mm. Style remnants persistent at the apex. You can see this if you look closely at the photo.

Margaret Carnell



Antechinus

Mario Pennisi caught this photo of an Antechinus on security camera.

The Story of a keen plant collector who visited Stanthorpe in 1943

I received an email via the Field Nats website from a lady in Michigan, America, who is in the process of compiling a book on the life of Mary Strong Clemens. Mary had travelled much of the world collecting plant specimens for the University of Michigan and was evacuated to Brisbane from Papua New Guinea when the Japanese invaded in 1941. In spite of this 71 year old widow having no money

or identification papers, she was able to contact Mr C T White, government botanist, who arranged for her to work from a small shed behind the herbarium. She spent some 20 years collecting plants on various trips including some to Stanthorpe, where she was picked up from the train by Mrs Lee, who also arranged accommodation for her, and one to Wallangarra and Wyberba, where she stayed with Mrs Goebel, and her twelve children, sleeping on the floor in front of the stove.

The author of this book, Nelda Ikenberry, is using the information from Mary's journals which she found stored in the Queensland Herbarium in 1987 when she visited Australia. The original request from Nelda was for information about an orchid Mary called a *Pterostylis* seen growing in sand on Stradbroke Island. From the description we think it may have been *P. nigricans*, now called *Speculantha nigricans*, and Nelda is now waiting for confirmation from the Herbarium.

Here is a brief example of what Nelda has gleaned from Mary's journal-

Stanthorpe and Environs Nov. 10–11, 1943. “The plan is to go inland to Stanthorpe, 3,000 feet, in orchard region and granite country. Mr. White advises to go to as soon as possible as the season is growing late, but he may not have time to finish my difficult species before his departure...

“Big town, new court house. Fair, windy, hot midday...There was a wonderful color display of plants, especially *Verbena*, *Wahlenbergia* and yellow legume shrubs, wheat fields, sheep and dairy farms and mountains. The much coal dust, numerous tunnels, and rather crowded seats, added to the hours of slow progress, became tiresome and some of us slept upright after reading my Testament and looking at [a poster of] Churchill’s cigar at great conferences.”

In a letter to Dr. Helen M. Gilkey, Mary continues the adventure: “[I] went in search of an indigenous deep-blue flower, *Cheiranthra* (Pittosporaceae), but was too late and only have one sterile specimen. Otherwise the journey was all and more than one could desire, due to my minister commending me to the minister at that place. At 6 p.m. a Mrs. Lee took me in her car to some fine old pines where a couple of the state teachers board, and mine was the center room of a three-roomed cabin which it was only possible for me to keep three nights – congestion everywhere.

“So by foregoing tea (the evening meal), it was possible to have a press in the oven before retiring. A wee maid at once adopted me and vigorously dug every kind of grass she saw me dig, so her mother, the cook, bore with my press. The new court house was opposite, so in the morning a ‘boarder’ took me to meet some ‘great ones.’ One, a Sergeant Thomas, was reputed to know the multitudinous ‘gums’ [Australian eucalyptus trees]. Not being on a social expedition, I lit out for the range of rocky, wooded hills but only reached the base when the capacity of press and bag were gorged with gay *Goodenias*, *Hibbertias* [a.k.a. guinea flower, vines with lovely yellow flowers], *Lobelia*, composites, *Halorrhagis*, rusty Galium, many Monocots and unknowns.

“Next morning Sgt. Thomas’s call was more than the walking trip I planned. He put me into his car and took me miles with precious ‘petrol’ to the government experimental orchard of which he is in charge. It was a paradise of unique endemics. Deep-purple violets and yellow stars were where he cached the car; he said ‘Do not ask me the names of those stars.’ Impulsively I cried, *Hypoxis ulacca*...a purple lily and much more...“Fearing he was giving me too much of his valuable time, tried to terminate this ‘lark,’ but he had one more treasure down a gully or another over a fence to show me...Who could have more thrills than mine! And when we returned, he loitered to see what I was going to do with the heap of verdure – or the real object probably was to tell me of his stamp-collecting hobby and some [of mine] have gone to pay a portion of my indebtedness.” - Rob McCosker

**Annual General Meeting Stanthorpe Field Naturalists' Club Inc.
27th July 2014**

Meeting opened: 7:45pm

Attendance: 18 Apologies 2 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting:

H Kruger moved minutes be accepted seconded J Campbell

Business arising from the minutes: nil

R McCosker presented the Presidents Annual Report

H Kruger moved correspondence be accepted seconded L Saunders

Financial Report: \$791.53

L Saunders moved that the financial report be accepted seconded M Carnell

Election of Office Bearers:

President:

G Greenup **Nominated** R McCosker **seconded** C Hockings accepted

Vice Presidents:

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

K Carnell **Nominated** Jeff Campbell **seconded** T McCosker accepted

Secretary:

K Carnell **Nominated** H Kruger **seconded** L Haselgrove accepted

Treasurer:

H Kruger **Nominated** L Saunders **seconded** M Carnell accepted

Newsletter Editor:

L Saunders **Nominated** K & M Carnell **seconded** H Kruger accepted

Publicity Officer:

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

Librarian:

G Greenup **Nominated** T McCosker **seconded** J Campbell accepted

Business for AGM

Association Incorporation form to be completed

Meeting Closed: 8:04pm

**General Meeting Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
27th July 2016**

Meeting opened: 8:05pm

Attendance: 18 Apologies 2 as per attendance sheet

Minutes of the previous meeting:

G Greenup moved P Andrewartha seconded carried

Business arising from the minutes: Nil

Correspondence:

H Kruger moved that the Correspondence be accepted T McCosker seconded

Financial Report: \$791.63

L Saunders moved that the financial report be accepted P Andrewartha seconded

Outing reports:

Sunday outing: 26th Jun K Carnell outing Eastern Fall drive
 24th July K Van Tilburg – Swanfels Valley

Pre outing reports

Sunday outing: 21st Aug R McCosker “Yooralla” Girraween NP

General Business

Executive meeting regarding new program of activities 2016-17 on the Wed. 3rd Aug at 3 pm

Report on GBLC AGM and General Meeting at Tenterfield 30th June

Meeting Closed: 8:35pm

Next meeting: 24th August 2016

Next month’s presentation: R McCosker to be advised

Tonight’s presentation: K Carnell - Remember Last Year

Stanthorpe Field Nats Financial Statement 1/7/2015 to 30/6/2016			
Balance Brought Fwd	763.90	CWA Rent	250.00
Subscriptions	660.00	Stationery and Stamps	172.55
Donations	90.00	Printer Service	187.00
Projector Hire	10.00	Office of Fair Trading	49.95
Interest	00.12	Insurance	60.00
		P.O. Rent	126.00
		Balance Carried Fwd	678.52
	1524.02		1524.02

Reminder

Subscriptions for 2016/17 are now due

Single \$20.00, Family \$30.00

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