



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: 21st May: Durikai State Forest
with Jeanie Wylie and Peter Haselgrove
Wednesday 24th May: *Wild Scotland*
with David Wilson

**Deadline for next newsletter
14th June 2017**

Pre-Outing Report Durikai State Forest 21st May 2017

Leaders: Jeanie Wylie and Peter Haselgrove

The trip will be through Durikai from south to north, partly following the rabbit fence. The area is ironbark box open forest / woodland on traprock. Whilst there were no wildflowers at the time of the pre-outing, two wattle species were starting to flower and numerous others were coming into bud. At one spot the Mugga was flowering and a large number of honeyeaters were heard. Our lunch spot should be at a dam and cleared area which should be good to explore.

We should car-pool and aim to leave Weeroona Park by 9:00 am sharp. So, please try to arrive by 8:45am. The track has numerous whoa-boy drains across it and so highish clearance vehicles, preferably 4WD, are needed. Our AWD Grand Vitara was fine.

Lunch and smoko will be at the vehicles. Add some extra food in case we are still out at afternoon tea time. Bring water, sunscreen and all the usual bits and pieces. And chairs if you can fit them in.

Report on the outing to Billy Goat Hill 23rd March 2017



On the way up Billy Goat Hill

A total of 16 people turned up for the outing on what was a perfect autumn day. We went out through Eukey then onto Pyramids Road before turning into Mt Norman Road and continued slowly to park near the start of the walk for morning tea. The drive was slow not only because of the road condition, although it had dried out since my pre-outing, but also because of the traffic with some joggers and several oncoming vehicles. We headed up the hill admiring the granite slabs and the many familiar peaks as they

came into view as we neared the top. We spent some time reflecting on the amazing wildlife in the gnamma, particularly the clam shrimps *Paralimnadia urukhai*. These clever animals survive the harsh conditions in the waterholes by mating and laying eggs as soon as conditions are right, then the eggs lie dormant but can hatch and continue the cycle next time it rains sufficiently.

We moved into the shade of some trees for an early lunch in the company of a small brown snake



Nats reflected in the gnamma

which disappeared under the leaf litter and rocks before we could get a good look at it. After making our way down the eastern side of the hill we walked through a forest with several large tree stumps and termite mounds and one giant dead tree with the ring-bark marks still visible. A result of last months' wet spell was evident with the many fungi species seen and also a couple of large bush worms about 30cms long, which must have popped up after the leaders of our group passed by and were only seen by the tail enders. The ground was very

uneven due to feral pig activity in the past and there was lots of Lyrebird scratchings in the leaf mulch and even a couple of feathers. Perhaps most interesting was the discovery of two working wombat holes and wombat scats nearby. After making our way back to the lower slopes of Billy Goat Hill we returned to the vehicles for an early afternoon tea then all decided to continue along the road and home through Wallangarra.



Some of the fungi we saw. I think the one on the left looks as if it's topped with meringue. Earth Star on the right.



Plant list

Bluebells *Wahlenbergia* sp., Yellow buttons *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, Daisies *Brachyscome microcarpa*, *B. stuartii*, *Calotis cuneifolia*, Hoary sunray *Leucochrysum albicans*, Native candytuft *Trachymene incisa*, Swamp isotoma *Isotoma fluviatilis* subsp. *borealis*, Rock isotoma *Isotoma anethifolia*, Greenhood orchid *Pterostylis nutans*.

Bird List

Purple swamphen, Currawong, Magpie, Crested pigeon, and an Australian raven – which after seeing no handouts at our lunch spot, perched on the rock cairn at the top of the hill then dislodged the top stone as it flew away.

Rob McCosker

Genus *Pterostylis*

The genus name derives from Greek *Ptero* meaning winged and *stylis* meaning style or column, hence winged column which they do have. They are terrestrial although some grow in pockets of soil and detritus on rocks and others grow on the sides of plants. Each ovary produces up to 1 million or more tiny seeds which must find their associated fungus to progress when they germinate. The common name *greenhood*, refers to the upper section of the flower which is comprised of the dorsal sepal and two petals. They are divided into two groups, those with lateral sepals erect and those with them deflexed, the former being further divided into nine groups and the latter eight groups, although these sub-group names have yet to be fully accepted.

The life cycle of a terrestrial orchid tuber is generally twelve months where it lays dormant, develops its leaves and reproduces the tuber, flowers if it is going to and then dies. Apart from normal seed reproduction, many orchids also reproduce vegetatively whereby instead of reproducing itself alone it develops two or more daughter tubers. Generally speaking the orchids that form large colonies of plants close together reproduce this way. Not all daughter tubers flower the same year, so you get some in flower and the majority sterile. Orchid pollen is not individual grains as in most other plants but usually in two small lumps of pollen called pollinia. In the case of greenhoods they are pollinated by small insects that are enticed into the flower, proceed beyond the labellum (the third petal) when it is in set position, irritates the mechanism which causes the labellum to move to the closed position which forces the insect to struggle up past the column, picking up and/or depositing the pollinia on the column.

The three greenhoods at the meeting are *Pt daintreana*, *Pt revoluta* and *Pt longicurva*

Jeff Campbell



Pt fischii



Pt. woolsii



Pt longicurva

White Rock Wind Farm

At the last Granite Borders Landcare Committee meeting the guest speaker gave an informative outline of the White Rock Solar and Wind Farm being developed about 20km west of Glen Innes to the south of the Gwyder Highway. Some of the figures are quite staggering. Stage 1 will see the construction of 70 Wind Turbines which will produce some 548 gigawatt hours of electricity annually, enough to power 75,000 homes. There will be up to 200 jobs provided during construction with \$30-

\$40 million put into the local economy and 1.9 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions saved by 2020. Each tower worth some \$6 million is transported by road in 10 oversized deliveries of components such as 3 blades, each 59.5m long and 16.5 tonnes, tower sections, four of them, up to 33m long and up to almost 70 tonnes each, with the total weight of each wind generator some 422 tonnes. The project is expected to be fully operational by mid 2018 and the company is proposing to hold an open day for public viewing in November 2017. If there is enough interest our club may hold an outing in the vicinity to take in the open day as part of the trip. More information can be found on the web site www.whiterockwindfarm.com or visit the shop front in Glen Innes at 303C Grey Street open Mon-Thurs 10am to 3.30pm.

Rob McCosker

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 26th April 2017**

Meeting opened: 7:40pm

Attendance: 16 Apologies 4 as per attendance sheet

Minutes of the previous meeting:

L Saunders moved K Carnell seconded **carried**

Business arising from the minutes:

Nil

Correspondence:

H Kruger moved that the Correspondence accepted L Saunders seconded

Financial Report: \$701.87

L Saunders moved that the financial report is accepted L Collins seconded **carried**

Outing Reports:

R McCosker reported on "Billy Goat Hill" outing.

Pre-outings:

21st May outing - Durakai State Forest - J Wylie and P & L Haselgrove

General Business:

Rob McCosker report on GBLC General Meeting last month.

Some members were interested in going to the opening of the wind turbines at Glen Innes later this year.

Chinchilla FN 50 year more discussion next month.

Next Meeting: 24th May 2017

Next Month Presentation: D Wilson - 'Wild Scotland'

Meeting closed: 8:15pm

Specimens/ Items of interest:

Interesting collection of Orchids from Severnlea

Map and book on the Kokoda Trail.

Presentation: Kokoda Trail - L Saunders

Our presentation was a very personal account of Leslie's walking guided tour she had completed of the Kokoda trail. Her passion and determination to complete this journey in very extreme and still crude conditions was inspiring. Very appropriate presentation as yesterday was Anzac day.

Financial Statement March/April 2017

Balance at 22/03/2017	825.87
April Expenses	<u>124.00</u>
Balance as per statement	
23/04/2017	\$701.87