



The Granite Belt Naturalist

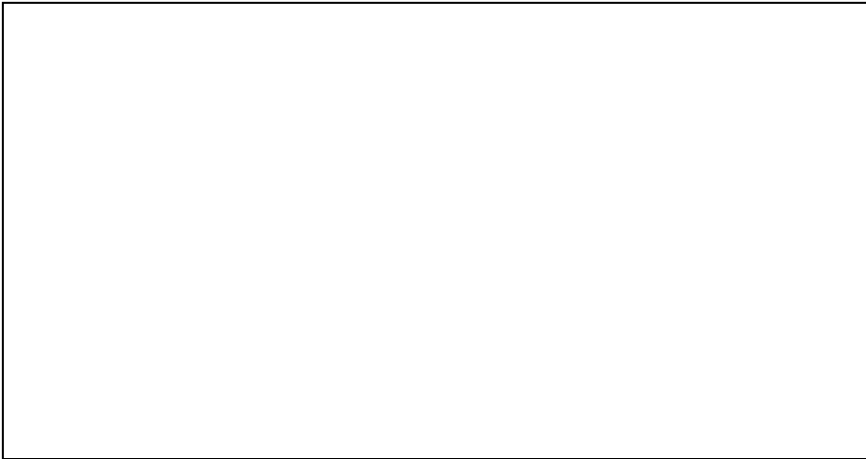


Mail Address: Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, Stanthorpe Qld. 4380
fieldnats@granitenet.com.au@

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	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 19th November: *Rocky River and Beyond* with Errol and Annette Walker.

Wednesday 22nd November: *Crustacea* with Professor Brian Timms.
Break-up: Sunday 10th December at Rob and Trish McCoskers.

**Deadline for next newsletter
February 9th 2018**

Pre-Outing Report Sunday 19th November 2017 - "Rocky River and Beyond".

Leaders - Errol and Annette Walker
Phone 07 4681 2008 or 0428 154 986

The Timbarra, Rocky & Boonoo rivers will be the spectacular driving venues for this outing with the opportunity for landscape and bird photography as well as a spot of paddling in cool waters. We will travel through tall blue mountains on well maintained, scenic gravel roads with vistas of large rivers, rock strewn stretches of waterholes, picturesque old property huts and a surprise patch of lush rainforest.



Our club has not been to this area for many years and on the pre-outing we were pleased to note that all 14 gates have been replaced with grids. The road is suitable for 2WD vehicles. Being November it will probably be warm so no strenuous walking is planned. The day will be long but there is plenty of interest with scheduled stops at scenic areas along the rivers for botanising, photography or relaxation.

The total distance will be approx. 220 km .return from Stanthorpe. We plan to meet for an 8am departure from Rotary Park in Tenterfield next to the swimming pool complex on the right as you enter the town travelling from Stanthorpe. (This is the last traditional comfort stop for about 4 hours when we arrive at Drake on the Bruxner Highway before heading bush again).

Bring a full tank of fuel and enough food and drink to last the day. We will have two way radios in the lead and last vehicle but the club policy of not proceeding at intersections until the vehicle behind you is in site should be adhered to. We don't want to lose anybody! A map and a brochure giving interesting detail of points along the way will be provided for each vehicle. (courtesy of Tenterfield Tourism) Attached photo will give you an idea of the drive.

REMEMBER -: Meet for 8am (QLD TIME)departure at Rotary Park TENTERFIELD (next to swimming pool).

Outing Report - Wildflower Walk Mt Norman 5th November



Caleana major - Flying Duck Orchid

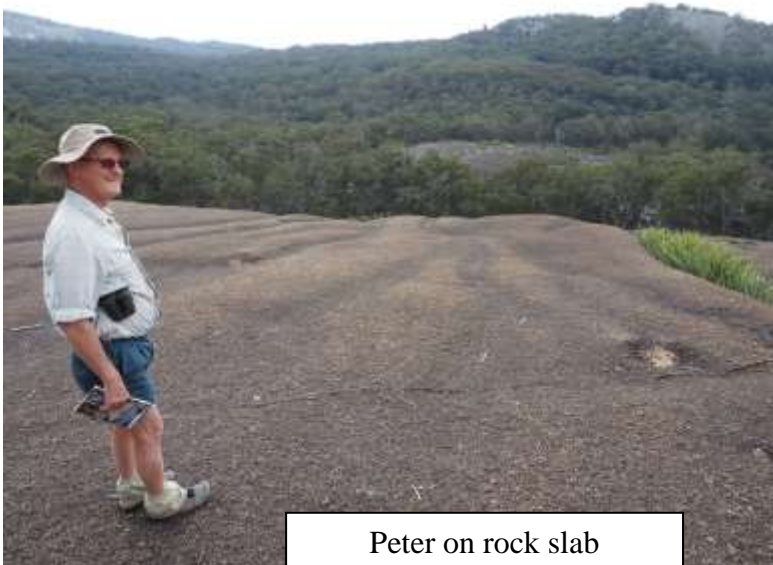
We met up at the Mt Norman car park with members of the Rare Wildflower Consortium and a good number of people attracted to the event, and started along the track to Mt Norman at 10.00am. The walk previously scheduled for the 15th October was cancelled due to rain, which seemed a definite advantage for this trip as wildflowers were abundant. Progress was halted only a few metres to view some Flying Duck orchids and we were to see them again a couple of times later in the day. Boronia was most spectacular, but as the plant list shows there was a great variety of species in flower.

We walked only as far as the granite slabs with a clear view of Mt Norman before returning to the carpark for lunch. Field Nats members then drove further along the road, which had been recently repaired, to park at a popular unnamed rock south of Billy Goat Hill. We made our way to the top noting several different plants and the extensive area of Green bottlebrush growing there. Unfortunately there were only a few blooms on it. We returned to the cars at about 3.00pm then headed home after a very enjoyable day rambling in the bush.

Rob McCosker



Paracaleana minor - small duck orchid



Peter on rock slab

Plant List Mt Norman : *Thelionema grande* greater rock lily, *Kunzea bracteolata*, white kunzea, *K. obovata* pink Kunzea, *Homeranthus papillatus* mouse bush, *Commersonia breviseta* wrinkled kerrawang, *Dodonea hirsuta* hairy hop bush, *Leptospermum novae-angliae* new england tea-tree,

Calytrix tetragona heath myrtle, *Boronia amabilis* lovely boronia, *B. anethifolia* narrow-leaved boronia, *B. polygalifolia*

dwarf boronia, *Xanthosia pilosa*, *Xanthorrhoea johnsonii* grass tree, *Philothea epilosa* wax flower, *Ozothamnus diosmifolius* Rice flower/sago bush, *Daviesia latifolia* hop bitter pea, *Dillwynnia sericea* silky parrot-pea, *D. sieberi* prickly parrot-pea, *Micrantheum hexandrum*, *Isotoma anethifolia*, *Leionema rotundifolium* round-leaved phebalium, *Brachyscome stuartii*, *Actinotis helianthi* flannel flower, *Bertya recurvata*, *Prostanthera phyllicifolia*, *Melaluca flavovirens* Green bottlebrush,

Lomandra longifolia long-leaf matrush plus the small *Lomandra*, *Erythrorchis cassythoides* leafless climbing orchid, *Thelymitra pauciflora* slender sun orchid, *Dipodium roseum* hyacinth orchid, *Caleana major* large duck orchid, *Paracaleana minor* small duck orchid, *Cryptostylis subulata* large tongue orchid, Two species of *Hibbertia*, *Hybanthus monopetalus* lady's slipper, *Comesperma retusum* match heads

Meeting held at the CWA Room on Wednesday 25th October

As there were no committee members apart from the Secretary there was no meeting held.

Present 10 apologies 11

Rob welcomed all present especially new members Gunter and Laura Maywald.

There was no outing report as it was cancelled due to rain and Errol outlined his outing for next month, 19th November, to Rocky River.

Errol then gave an interesting program of delightful photos of Part 2 of his and Annette's trip "Around the world in 106 days". We wait in anticipation for the next installment.

Program for next meeting, 22nd November, will be provided by Brian Timms, and here is a little about him.

Professor Brian Timms is with the Centre for Ecosystem Science of the University of New South Wales.

Brian studies invertebrate biodiversity in a variety of temporary waters across the inland. One focus is on the taxonomy of large branchiopods (fairy shrimps, clam shrimps and shield shrimps) and over the last few years has described 26 new species. Furthermore, in collaboration with overseas geneticists, the evolutionary relationships among species and genera are being elucidated. Another aspect of his research concerns the biogeography and seasonality of the fauna of gnammas (rock holes) in Australia. These small specialised habitats often support a bewildering variety of microorganisms in southwest Western Australia, but few in eastern Australia. He is trying to build on knowledge of factors which influence diversity in gnammas, with the ultimate aim of explaining the difference in diversity across Australia. There are a number of gnammas in the Granite Belt which Brian visits regularly, including the one on Billy Goat Hill which our club visited recently.

He has authored a book on the geomorphology of lakes and is presently active researching the geomorphology of gnammas. He has long been interested in inland salt lakes, Australia having more salt lakes than any other country. Presently he is studying the survival of normally freshwater fairy and clam shrimps, in hyposaline lakes, both in Western Australia and the Paroo in the Murray-Darling Basin.

Another aquatic habitat that interests him is the ubiquitous clay pan. The extreme turbidity of these wetlands could be thought of restricting diversity and productivity, but nevertheless they often support rich and somewhat regionalised communities. With a knowledge base of Paroo clay pans, he is now venturing further afield with studies in southwest Western Australia and inland central Queensland.

BREAKUP ARRANGEMENTS

December 10th

Our breakup this year will be at Rob and Trish McCoskers property 75 Jones Road Severnlea.

There is no walk planned for the day so arrive about 5 pm for a stroll around the garden. There should be a flock of 12 Grey crowned babblers to entertain us as well as Bowerbirds and Dollarbirds. Bring binoculars to see what else we can find and of course a chair and tucker for the BBQ which we will start about 6.00pm.



Comesperma retusum - Matchsticks



Melaleuca flavovirens – Green Bottlebrush