



The Granite Belt Naturalist



Mail Address: Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, Stanthorpe Qld. 4380

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



The Pyramids Girraween National Park

The Club acknowledges the support of the Gambling Community Benefit Fund in the production of this Newsletter and the purchase of a data projector

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 (Friday outings as pre-arranged)

Subs: Single \$15.00, Family \$25.00 per annum, July to June

Mail contributions: The Newsletter Editor, 31 Britannia Street, Stanthorpe Q. 4380

Email: m.jefferies@gmail.com

CLUB OFFICE BEARERS - 2007/2008

President	Kris Carnell	46835268
Vice-presidents	Michael Mueller	46811421
	Rob McCosker	46835371
Secretary	Halina Kruger	46835206
Treasurer	Nanette Jurd	46837119
Newsletter Editor	Michael Jefferies	46812389
Magazine Committee	Wendy & Neil Donges	46812913
Publicity Officer	Janet Hockings	46811978
Librarian	Trish McCosker	46835371
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 slope
6. Track, steep sections common, with step: rocks, etc., and some thick undergrowth
7. Cross country, some hills, some thick undergrowth
8. Cross country, steep sections with scrambling 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



Deadline for next Newsletter:
5 February 2009

Coming Up

Outing Sunday 23rd November; *Plant Identification*; David Hockings at Girraween.

Next Meeting Wednesday November 26th – *Tanami part 2* D Hockings

Friday Outing – NEXT is scheduled for February 6th, 2009.

BREAK-UP. End of Year barbeque – the Carnells

OUTING; November 23rd

David Hockings, will be doing a plant identification walk to The Junction, Girraween.

Meet at Weeroona Park at 9:00am. We will proceed to the Day Use Area at Girraween Park Headquarters. Following morning tea there will be a talk / demonstration on the basics of plant identification. There will then be a leisurely walk and talk to The Junction, looking at and identifying plants along the way.

Lunch will be at The Junction. Carry lunch and plenty of water - it could be quite warm. A swim in the rock pools could be on the cards if it is warm.

Nats End of Year Break-Up

Sunday 14th December 2008

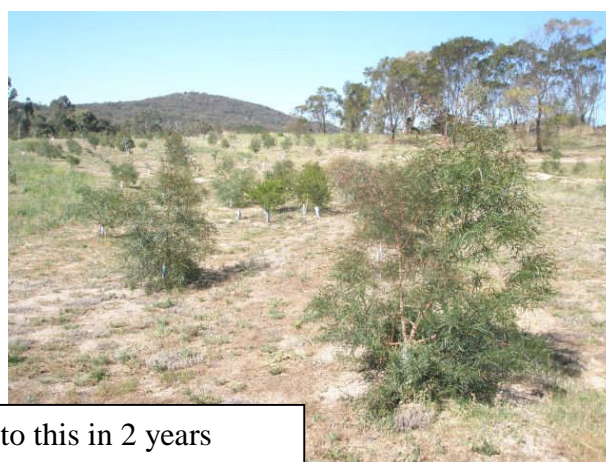
**At Kris & Margaret Carnell's property
Orana, 364 Back Creek Road, Severnlea**

From 3.00pm

The break-up will commence at 3.00pm with afternoon tea, followed by a walk up the mountain, or a stroll around the part of our property which is being revegetated after the orchard was removed. There are also shorter walks along the creek (almost dry at present), or a longer circuit that goes a short way up the mountain.

The barbeque will commence at 6.00pm. We will provide the gas-fired barbeque. Please bring your own food and a chair if possible. (We can rustle up quite a few if you don't have one). Tea, coffee, milk etc will be provided.

If it happens to rain we can have the barbeque and get-together in the shed.



From this to this in 2 years

NOTE:- the next Friday outing is on February the 6th 2009, led by Michael Jefferies. Destination to be decided; any preferences or bright ideas to m.jefferies@gmail.com or 46812389 remembering that it should be less stressful than Mt. Norman!

OUTING REPORTS

Mt Norman Outing 19th October

After meeting up at Weeroona Park as usual we headed off in perfect weather towards Wallangarra and had to stop for unusual traffic at one of the road cuttings. A large kangaroo was heading straight for us down the highway and as another vehicle approached from the south, with nowhere for him to go there could have been an accident. Fortunately we all decided to stop. The 'Roo looked at us, then the other car, then turned and went back the way he came.



We stopped again at the start of Mt. Norman Road to view Arrow Rock so named because of the large white arrow painted on it. The reason being that at the height of war-time activities in the Wallangarra Army Depot one of the sheds was used for instrument repair and it had a window of high optical quality glass through which compasses could be sighted at the arrow for recalibration.

We reached the car park for morning tea and met up with the rest of our members and with two from Tenterfield we had 18 people on the walk. As soon as we set off we were rewarded with some spectacular wild flower displays. In place of the heath we had seen last month were drifts of pink *Boronia* and

bright blue *Dampiera*, while overhead the *Hakea* bushes were at their peak.

Upon reaching the rock slabs *Calytrix*, *Eriostemon* and mouse bushes made floral margins along the way.

Those of us with an interest in botany and photography were having a great time but at a slower pace than those with a sniff of adventure, who went on ahead and were in fact on their way back down from the summit as we were going up. It was disappointing to have the group split up and worrying for myself, as leader, in case there had been a mishap.



The climb to the top proved quite a challenge, not only due to the steepness but also negotiating the flow of other groups of people going up and down. Ten of our group were up to the challenge and were rewarded with the 360 degree views of all those other peaks and points of interest from the top. We returned to



the track then continued to the Eye of the Needle to meet up with the rest of the group and have a rather late lunch before starting back.

We detoured to find a way to view the old Mt. Norman trig station built of stones piled about 2.5m high supporting a timber pole. We pondered the age and quality of workmanship of this structure, which served as a survey point until a way was found to erect the steel trig station on top of Mt Norman. Interestingly there is no trace left of the "new" steel structure, no doubt removed with the advent of

GPS. We returned to the cars by about 3.30pm to end what was described as a most enjoyable outing.

Rob McCosker

October Outing Flowering Plant List.

<i>Jacksonia scoparia</i>	<i>Homoranthus papillatus</i>
<i>Dampiera purpurea</i>	<i>Boronia microphylla</i>
<i>Stackhousia viminea</i>	<i>Boronia amabilis</i>
<i>Mirbelia speciosa</i>	<i>Conospermum burgessiorum</i>
<i>Callistemon pallidus</i>	<i>Drosera peltata</i>
<i>Calytrix tetragona</i>	<i>Stypandra glauca</i>
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	<i>Thelionema grande</i>
<i>Phebalium squamulosum</i>	<i>Bulbophyllum</i> sp. (Pineapple orchid)
<i>Oxylobium arborescens</i>	<i>Zieria arborescens</i>
<i>Choretrum candollei</i>	<i>Brachyscome stuartii</i>
<i>Prostanthera</i> sp. (Boonoo Boonoo?)	<i>Prostanthera phyllicifolia</i>
<i>Kunzea obvata</i>	<i>Kunzea bracteolata</i>
<i>Leptospermum polygalifolium</i>	<i>Leptospermum novae-angliae</i>
<i>Philotheca epilosa</i>	<i>Lionema ambiens</i>
<i>Stylidium laricifolium</i>	<i>Billardiera procumbens</i>
<i>Hakea dactyloides</i>	<i>Pimelea linifolia</i>
<i>Brachyloma daphnoides</i>	<i>Hibbertia linearis</i>
<i>Patersonia sericea</i>	<i>Actinotus helianthi</i>
<i>Acacia ulicifolia</i>	<i>Rulingia hermanniifolia</i>
<i>Dilwynia retorta</i>	<i>Caladenia carnea</i>
<i>Dodonaea hirsuta</i>	<i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i>
<i>Boronia</i> sp (Tiny white flowers)	<i>Stylidium graminifolium</i>
<i>Calochilus robertsonii</i>	<i>Hybanthus monopetalus</i>

Also two pea flowers and a shrub with tiny cream flowers not identified.

Thanks to Margaret for helping with this list.

Notes by Ed. A number of insects were seen too; including two jewel beetle species, several bee-fly species; the butterfly mentioned below and two species of cockroach under a rock plus a small scorpion. Another butterfly seen at the top was a Varied Sword-grass Brown, *Tisiphone abeona regalis*, I think at the limit of its northern distribution on the Tablelands. In addition we found two Lesueur's velvet geckos, common in Girraween and well camouflaged to match the granite.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria st, Stanthorpe
Wednesday 22nd October 2008**

Meeting opened: 7.40pm

Attendance: 15 Apologies: 1 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting: as per newsletter

Confirmed by P James seconded by M Mueller **carried**

Business arising from the minutes: nil

Correspondence:

1. Darling Down Field Nats - Newsletter

2. Society for Growing Aust Plants – Warwick Newsletter
3. Environmental Protection Agency – South Qld Spring 2008
4. The Official Journal of the Chinchilla Field Nats - Volume 42 Number 10
5. INCE Not-for-profit Network – WORKSHOP-“Brave new World
6. Fassifern Field Naturalists Club Inc.
7. Bank Statement Sept
8. The Darling Down Nats
9. The Murrumbidgee Nats
10. Fassifern Field Nats
11. Bank Statement Oct

Correspondence accepted on the motion of Halina Kruger seconded M Jefferies Carried

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR SEPT/OCTOBER

Bank Balance as per statement on 20/9/08	\$857.51
PLUS receipts banked to 20/10/08	\$295.00
TOTAL	\$1152.51
LESS Expenses	\$ 55.00
Cash Book Balance 21/10/08	\$1097.51

In the absence of the Treasurer, the financial report was received

Outing Reports:

Our weekday outing report by Margaret Carnell “Tank Traps for Orchids”
Sunday outing reported by Rob McCosker “To the top of Mt Norman”

Pre-outings:

Week day outing:

1st November Michael Mueller will be taking the outing to Passchendaele 11.30 am start; just a short outing, easy walking lasting about 2 hours .

2nd November Michael Mueller will be doing Star Watch if weather permits. Everyone welcome.

Weekend outing:

3rd November: David Hockings will be doing plant identification at Girraween.

Specimens/ Items of interest:

Michael Jefferies had photos of butterflies that he had taken. One was from the Mt Norman outing, the Fringed Heath-blue, *Neolucia agricola* and the other was from Mt. Marlay, the Copper Pencil-blue, *Candalides cyprotus ssp pallescens*. The latter has a very short flight season and is said to be uncommon and local. In SE Queensland the food plant is recorded as *Jacksonia scoparia*.

Margaret talked about a Boronia ‘white flowers’ small – maybe rare.

No General Business:

Presentation by Peter Kerr “Top End”

Next Meeting: 26th November 2008 7.30 pm

Presentation by D Hockings “Tanami” Pt 2

Meeting closed at 7.58pm.

The Editors Ramble – An occasional series!

Firstly I would remind everyone that the Newsletter can be delivered electronically in your email letter box and in colour! This is not so good for those on dial-up, the file is about 500 kb. If you wish to change please let me know by email as this ensures the email address is right!

Secondly:- As a group I note that we are very focused on flowering plants and birds and there is nothing wrong with that. As an entomologist I look for different things or look at the same thing through a different set of expectations. In the last few weeks I have been looking for insects on the top of Mt. Marlay with a good deal of success. Even round the base of the Mt. Norman top rock faces was a good place. The explanation for this is adapted from Wikipedia.

Hill-topping is a mate-location behaviour seen in many insects including butterflies, dragonflies, wasps, beetles and flies.

Males of many butterfly species may be found flying up to and stay on a hilltop - for days on end if necessary. Females, desirous of mating, fly up the hill. Males dash around the top, competing for the best part of the area - usually the very top; as the male with the best territory at the top of the hill would have the best chance of mating with the occasional female, who knows the "top male" must be strong and thus genetically fit.

The concentrating effect of hill-topping on butterfly populations makes such locations of special conservation significance and at least NSW conservation authorities consider this behavior when assessing sites.

Michael Jefferies

Fringed heath-blue; Mt. Norman.



Copper pencil-blue; Mt. Marlay

