



The Granite Belt Naturalist

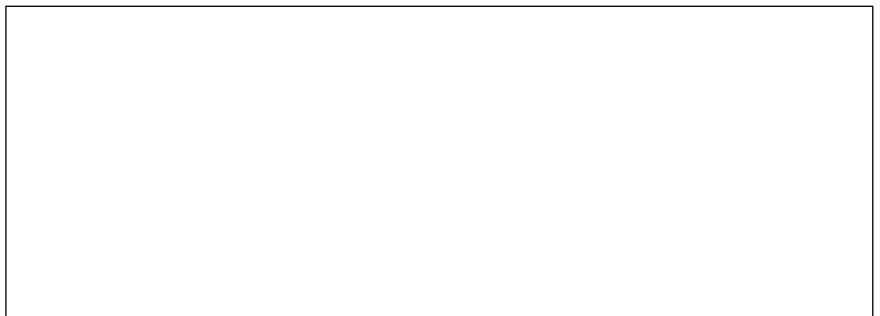


Mail Address: Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, Stanthorpe Qld. 4380

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 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

NEW-----NEW-----NEW

Web page <http://www.granitenet.com.au/groups/st/fieldnats>

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
6. Track, steep sections common, with
7. Cross country, some hills, some thick undergrowth
8. Cross country, steep sections with some 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



To assist the construction of the newsletter and web site will writers please supply the photos separately from the text. Text best in rtf.

Deadline for next Newsletter:
Friday, 6 March 2009

Coming Up

Outing Sunday 22 February; *Walk up Mt. Cordeaux, Main Range NP, Nanette Jurd.*

Next Meeting; Wednesday 25 February; *G Campbell; Orchids of Tasmania*

Friday Outing Friday 6 February; *North of the TV Tower, Passchendaele, M Jefferies*

PRE-OUTING; NORTH OF TV TOWER, PASSCHENDAELE

This is an easy walk to a small rocky outcrop that looks 180 degrees around west towards Mt. Magnus and Traprock country. The majority of the walk is along a 4wd track, about 1km and then a short walk through the bush to the crest of the hill.

We will meet at 9am at Weeroona Park and drive to the parking area near the TV tower. Smoko can be taken on arrival at the TV tower and lunch after the walk. Some interesting plants have recently been seen here and may be visible at the time of the visit. *Michael Jefferies*

PRE OUTING REPORT FOR MT CORDEAUX

This walk will take up the northern peak of Cunningham's Gap. It is a Class 3 track with well defined distinct tracks. It is a well graded easy to moderate walk up a gradual incline to the peak. The track zig-zags through rainforest to the exposed upper slopes, ending at a lookout on the southern side. The views are magnificent and quite extensive looking from north, south, and east. They will not disappoint you. The cliff edge is not fenced, so care needs to be taken.



Mt. Cordeaux

It takes about 1¾ hours to reach the lookout on Mt. Cordeaux, but we will continue along a little further to a saddle on the way to Bare Rock. This saddle is only about another 20 mins. From here though, you can get extensive views to the west as well. There is space here where we can rest for a snack before the return walk. On the way back, we can stop at the Fassifern Lookout for a look before returning to the carpark & the picnic ground for a late lunch.



Mt Cordeaux Lookout

The walk is 3.4 km to the lookout and with the little extra distance to the saddle, it should take about 3 to 3 ½ hours to complete the walk not including any breaks; about a 7 km round trip.

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 7am. or at Bellbird Rest Area at 8.30am. The Rest Area is a little difficult to find but if you go past the Camp Stacey entrance you will have to keep a close lookout for the entrance to the Rest area. It is a sharp turn to the left. If you miss this entrance, then turn around at the top of Cunningham's Gap and the entrance will be the first on the right which has a much better signed and turning road into the park. It is about a 1½ hour drive from Stanthorpe to

the rest area. After smoko we will then proceed up the Visitors section on top of the range leaving our cars. The walk commences right at the car park. There are no toilets facilities along the track. Hope to see you there; *Nanette Jurd.*

The Outing; 23rd November 2008.

On a very windy day we met at the day-use area at Girraween NP to hear David Hockings give a very interesting talk on plant identification. This focussed primarily on leaf structure and type, including the difference between them copiously illustrated by samples from David's nursery collections. David pointed out the ability to correctly identify accurately plant parts is critical for accurate identification. The examples had to be carefully anchored by Col most of the time as the wind was so strong most would have been in NSW in no time.

After the talk we walked down to the Junction looking at and identifying plants; the list of which is below. This was with some trepidation at times as the wind did not abate and pieces of tree came down regularly. Lunch was held under the lee of the granite shelf and then we walked back.

Michael Jefferies

Plant List Outing to The Junction, November 2008

<i>Derwentia arenaria</i>	<i>Kunzea bracteolata</i>	<i>Cheiranthra cyanea</i> var <i>borealis</i>
<i>Melaleuca alternifolia</i>	(<i>Westringia longifolia</i>) now <i>Hemigenia cuneifolia</i>	<i>Spyridium scortechinii</i>
<i>Stylidium graminifolium</i>	<i>Hibbertia elata</i>	<i>Hibbertia</i> , 2 maybe 3 spp.
<i>Dipodium punctatum</i> (Hyacinth Orchid)	<i>Leptospermum arachnoides</i>	<i>Babbingtonia granitica</i>
<i>Pimelia</i> sp.	<i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i>	<i>Allocasuarina rigida</i>
(<i>Leptospermum</i> sp) we saw <i>L. minutifolium</i>	(<i>Grevillea linifolia</i>) now <i>G. viridiflava</i>	<i>Melaleuca alternifolia</i>
<i>Actinotus helianthi</i> (Flannel Flower)	<i>Goodenia bellidifolia</i>	<i>Pimelea linifolia</i>
<i>Pelargonium australe</i>	<i>Leptomeria</i> according to Geoff Campbell, may be <i>Choretrum candollei</i>	<i>Comesperma defoliatum</i> (blue flower)
<i>Comesperma retusum</i> (matchsticks)	<i>Zieria fraseri</i>	<i>Dodonea hirsute</i> (seeds)
<i>Dodonea falcata</i>	<i>Dodonea viscosa</i>	<i>Boronia amabilis</i>
<i>Patersonia sericea</i>	<i>Dampiera purpurea</i>	<i>Laxmannia compacta</i>
<i>Conospermum burgessiorum</i>	<i>Trachymene incisa</i>	<i>Haemodorum planifolium</i> (blood root)
<i>Podolepis</i> sp	<i>Dianella longifolia</i>	<i>Solanum amblymerum</i>
<i>Thysanotis tuberosus</i> (Fringed Lily)	<i>Dillwynia retorta</i>	<i>Hypericum gramminum</i>
<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	<i>Petrophile canescens</i>	(<i>Eriostemon epilosa</i>) now <i>Philotheca epilosa</i>
<i>Isotoma anethifolia</i>	<i>Ozothamnus diosmifolius</i>	<i>Ozothamnus obcordatus</i>
<i>Lobelia andrewsii</i> (this apparently has replaced <i>L. gracilis</i>)	(<i>Callistemon flavovirens</i>) now <i>Melaleuca flavovirens</i>	<i>Brachyscombe stuartii</i>
<i>Eucalyptus</i> (yellow twigs, cream flowers)	<i>Thelionema grande</i> (in garden near toilet)	<i>Bulbine bulbosa</i>

<i>Persoonia</i> either <i>P. tenuifolia</i> (very fine leaves) or <i>P. sericea</i>	<i>Wahlenbergia graniticola</i>	<i>Micromyrtus sessilis</i>
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Break-up Report 14th December 2008

The break-up at *Orana* began at about 3.00pm. After the obligatory cuppa Kris led a group of people on a walk up the mountain where they admired the views and found several interesting plants in bloom. Of particular interest was the *Babbingtonia* which we still have to have identified. There were also quite a few Hyacinth Orchids (*Dipodium punctatum*). On the way to the first lookout the group saw what we think is a luminous fungus growing on the base of a messmate tree. Ooboo, the dog from next door accompanied them on the walk and came back looking very pleased with herself. On the way back to the house several members of the group stopped to look at the trees planted in the Land Care Block, which have grown to over 2 metres high in some cases. Those who did not feel so energetic went for a gentle stroll round the garden and into the Indigenous Block, which is planted with only those plants which occur naturally on the property.



Before darkness fell, the barbeque was lit and everyone settled down to eat and talk. It was a good opportunity to catch up with people who we may not have seen for some time and we were very pleased to have the Nats visit our place. *Margaret Carnell*

Tree Fern Forest Circuit Walk - Gibraltar Range

Kris and I have just spent a delightful couple of days at Gibraltar Range National Park where a new track has been built linking the Dandahra Trail with Tree Fern Forest Walk. We started along the Dandahra Trail where there were still Christmas Bells in bloom and we found a *Cryptostylus* with an attendant wasp. Unfortunately, the photo I took was out of focus and by the time Kris was ready, the wasp had gone. The new track crosses Dandahra Creek and heads upwards over a granite hill. There are good views of the ridges to the east and south. Around the half way point is a picturesque waterfall (un-named). We stopped for smoko overlooking the falls. The track does not go very close. Amongst the rocks an acacia was in bloom. It looked a bit like Rupp's wattle, but was blooming in summer.



This walk has a great diversity of vegetation, with several swamps, eucalypt forest and heathland. There are rock slabs with "gardens" and hundreds of grass trees along the way. The track comes into the bottom of the Tree Fern Forest where there are some huge eucalypts - Sydney blue gums and messmate. There are four species of tree fern in the forest. The track passes through rainforest for a start, on the way back to Mulligan's Hut. We saw a black snake sunning itself on the track in this section and were a bit perplexed as it didn't seem to want

to move from its sunny spot so that we could pass. After the T junction, the vegetation changes to

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 26th November 2008**

CASH BOOK BALANCE AS AT 26 / 11 / 08 \$960.20

Bank reconciliation

Cash Book balance as at 26 / 11 / 08

Plus outstanding cheques

...Printing..... \$ 167.31

Less outstanding cash receipts

.....Subs..... \$ 30.00

Agrees with bank balance as at 26 / 11 / 08

\$...1097.51

Accounts for payment:-

Nannette moved that the Treasurers report be accepted.

Proposed by: N Jurd

Seconded by: C Smallwood

Outing Reports:

Weekday outing: In the absence of M Mueller who had to leave for Germany suddenly; report outline by H Kruger:

On Saturday the outing took us to Passchendaele Forest about 10 of us went on a short walk that has been attempted on a previous outing. We parked at the Forestry Office and meandered across the road and up a track. Our path lead us up a large rock and on top we were blest with a wonderful display of *Kunzea bracteolata* White kunzea A patch of *Actinotus helianthi* Flannel flowers amongst the rocks nodded in the wind. Someone spotted a skin of a brown snake amongst the rocks was the investigated by the younger ones in our group.

As we did not start the day with a cuppa Lunch was enjoyed by all. We then wondered around the area. Also observed was *Stackhousia viminea* Slender stackhousia, Candlesticks, *Laxmannia compacta* Compact wire lily, *Jacksonia scoparia* Dogwood almost spent.

General Business

Reminder Christmas break 14 December 2008 at Margaret and Kris Carnell.

M Jefferies had an opportunity to attend meeting on how to create a Granite Belt community Group Website. Apparently this is in the initial stages and we could use this website to expand coverage for our club.

Week day outing: M Jefferies **Weekend outing:** N Jurd to Mt Cordeaux

Specimens;

Margaret Carnell found a Leopard Slug that possibly came with some bromeliads she had ordered.

Meeting Closed 7.55pm

Presentation by D Hockings "Tanami" Pt 2

Editor's Notes:-

Just room to squeeze in a note about the Nats web site on GraniteNet.

It is at <http://www.granitenet.com.au/> and then go to the Groups button on the left. The direct link is on the front page of this document. We don't appear on the front page yet but will in time; we are in the list on the left. I am working on it as this goes to press but any comment on any aspect of the site and any request for content, emailed to me, is welcome. It is early days!!!