



The Granite Belt Naturalist



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

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

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



The Pyramids Girraween National Park

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

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 s
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



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Deadline for next Newsletter:

3 April 2009

Coming Up

Outing Sunday, March 22nd, 2009. *Scenic Highlights of the Mt. Norman Road; the Walkers.*

Next Meeting, Wednesday 25th March, 2009. *Galapagos, Errol & Annette Walker.*

Friday Outing, April the 3rd. Michael Mueller. TBA.

Pre Outing Information

Scenic Highlights of the Mt. Norman Road

Leaders - Errol and Annette Walker

The Mt. Norman Road traverses, north to south, the eastern third of Girraween National Park and is a formed 4WD track from which travellers can view, close-up, some spectacular granite formations and waterholes set in sub-alpine swampland. For almost 50 years Annette and I have walked this fascinating area in the company of Jean Harslett and Bill Goebel. We have been privileged to share many of their "special" places and now it is time for us to share some of these places with you, the newer members of this great club.

We plan to climb Billygoat Hill for commanding views of the 'giants' of Girraween; Mt. Norman, South, West and Middle Rock as well as Bald Rock to the east are all over 4000 ft. above sea level. Our next highlight will be a short walk to what must have been a tremendous lightning strike when, in about 1963, several huge slabs of granite were exploded from a cliff face. We have a picture of the result of the strike taken in 1970 (below) and it makes an interesting comparison to view the damage today.



After lunch beside a Racecourse Creek waterhole we will drive south a few Km. for an easy walk to a vantage point from which we can look back to Billygoat Hill and the swamp around Racecourse Creek. Returning home the same way a 15 min. walk is planned along a fire trail to a natural granite crossing of Paling Yard Creek.

This outing replaces the proposed outing to the Cataract River area of New South Wales. Our pre-outing soon put paid to this destination as access timber-getting trails were overgrown and due to re-growth after bushfires, even walking through the undergrowth was somewhat of a challenge. We did find the spectacular falls we were looking for but considered it prudent not to put a group through this 'heavy' walk. Maybe sometime in the future! However if some hardened walker would like to visit the falls the track notes are available.

For this outing we will meet at Weroona Park at 8am and be prepared to pool our 4WD vehicles so that only HIGH CLEARANCE vehicles will be attempting the trip. Lunch will be taken at the vehicles and the return driving distance will only be about 65 Km. Hope to be home by 3.30 to 4pm. We have set the 'scale of difficulty' at 2 and 5 with easy options. 3.5 Km max. walking for the whole day. More information ? Phone Errol Walker. 07 4681 2008

Campout to Arcadia Valley April 23rd – 26th; the McCoskers.

Trish and I had an unscheduled stop-over in the Arcadia Valley on our way to the Carnarvons last year because of a flooded creek, and were directed to Arcadia Valley Escape by the Injune Tourist Office. This is a working cattle property with a range of accommodation as well as camping and is about 78km from Injune and 120km from Carnarvon NP. Lake Nuga Nuga is only 50km. Apart from these nearby attractions there are numerous activities to be taken on the property including a 12km walk along a 4wd track, various 4WD tracks to explore, two large ponded pasture dams with bird hides, and

fishing in the dam near the cottage (with fishing gear provided). Apart from a day at Lake Nuga Nuga, I have not finalised a program for the weekend as yet as it will depend on how many people come, so I am keen to hear if you are interested. It is a comfortable days drive from Stanthorpe to the campsite.

Please phone or email me with any queries, and I encourage you to look at their web site <http://www.arcadiavalleyescape.com/>

Rob McCosker Ph 46835371 – email - robinmcc@halenet.com.au

OUTING REPORTS

The TV Tower, Passchendaele.

Our group of seven arrived at the tower to find Jean Harslett waiting for us.



After morning tea we completed a short circuit walk to the west of the tower to look at *Diuris parvipetala*, a rare donkey orchid, discovered before Christmas by Michael Jefferies. Surprisingly, after the hot, dry weather we had been experiencing, one of the three known plants was still flowering. Adjacent to the rock pavements the Summer flowering wattle attracted attention as did the purple flowered *Scaevola ramosissima*.

On returning to the vehicles, we drove a short distance along the road to the north of the tower. This enabled us to avoid an up-hill return walk in the heat of the day. After parking beside the road we took a leisurely walk to a rock pavement on the north-western edge of the ridge. On the way it was disappointing to find that a *Dipodium* which had been in full flower on the pre-outing five days prior, was badly shrivelled and wilted from the heat and dryness. At the rock pavement

discussion ensued as to which mountains were in view. On returning to the vehicles, some members with other commitments departed and the remainder of us found shade to eat lunch.

This area would be well worth visiting again, especially during Spring as it shows promise as a good area for a variety of flowers.

OUTING REPORT FOR MT. CORDEAUX.

Just four of us left Weeroona Park on a fine clear day & travelled to Main Range. We stopped for morning tea at the picnic ground before proceeding to the car park where we joined by one more member. It was quite an easy walk and quite different from any previous visit in that it was much wetter. There were good streams in some of the gullies and lots of mosses and ferns were thriving well in the wetter conditions. It was quite wet underfoot in some places.



On the way up the mountain, we stopped briefly at the Fassifern Lookout for a view over the Fassifern Valley. After about 1½ hours we reached the lookout at Mt. Cordeaux where there were spectacular views of Mt. Mitchell, Spicer's Peak, Mt. Barney and other mountains of the Scenic Rim. It was refreshing to see the green outlook over the Fassifern Valley. Along the track we noticed quite a few very colourful fungi. We had a brief stop at the lookout before proceeding a little further around the northern

side of the mountain to a saddle where we got different views of Mt. Cordeaux as well as views to the west, east and north. At the top here, we noticed a python was curled up sleeping in the rocks. After photographs were taken he was completely undisturbed the whole time we were there. We had a break here before heading back down. Along the way there were a few wild- flowers sparsely scattered in places.



After about 3½ hours we are back at the cars, where we proceeded to the picnic ground for lunch. A good day was had by all.

Nanette Jurd.



**Minutes of the General Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria st, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 25th February 2009**

Meeting opened: 8.40pm

Attendance: 14 members and guests: Apologies 4, as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting: confirmed by Carol Smallwood seconded by Rob McCosker **carried**

Business arising from the minutes: nil

Correspondence:

Society for Growing Australian Plants regarding -return of newsletter
Cheque from Tom Archer subs
Journal of the Qld Naturalists' Club Inc Dec 08
The Official Journal of the Chinchilla Field Naturalists' Club Inc - Jan 09
Jan & Harry Stevenson - re correct address
Society for Growing Australian Plants
Darling Downs Naturalist- Newsletter
Total Technology Centre Pty Ltd – photo copier
Directory of Australian Association
International Park Tours Jan 09
Australia Post - re box service
Granite Belt Informer – new listings
Rowland house re Association Liability Insurance
The Official Journal of the Chinchilla Field Naturalists' Club Inc Feb09
Fassifern Field Nats – Newsletter
CBA – Bank statement

Correspondence accepted on the motion of H Kruger seconded Michael Jefferies; Carried

Treasurers' Report: FINANCIAL STATEMENT from 26 / 11 / 08 to 25 / 2 / 09

Cash Book balance as at 26 / 11 / 08 \$...960.17

Receipts:-

Subscriptions	\$ 25.00	
Room rent collection	\$	
Wildflower books	\$	
Interest	\$	
.....	\$	
.....	\$	\$...25.00.

Expenditure:-

Magazine postage	\$	
Photocopier	\$	
Room Rent	\$	
...Insurance.	\$ 437.53	
.....	\$	
.....	\$	\$...437.53

CASH BOOK BALANCE AS AT 26 / 2 / 09 \$...547.64

Bank reconciliation

Cash Book balance as at 26 / 2 / 09

Plus outstanding cheques

..... \$ 15.00

Less outstanding cash receipts

..... \$ Nil

Agrees with bank balance as at 26 / 2 / 09 \$...562.64

Accounts for payment:- Nil.

N Jurd moved that the Treasurers report be accepted - seconded by: Geoff Campbell: carried.

Outing Reports

1. Friday outing North of TV Tower Passchendaele report by Col Hockings

2. Mt Cordeaux report by Nannette Jurd

Pre-outings:

Week day outing: Round trip Harrigans' Lane, Boonoo Boonoo River, Linbrook Rd Basket Swamp lead by H. Kruger

Weekend outing: Mt Norman Road lead by E Walker

Next Meeting: 25th March 2009 **Presentation** by E Walker

General Business:

Printing and postage of Newsletter – discussion of how to cut costs for the printing of the Newsletter. As our group is now proceeding with the internet site for their newsletter and information, it is hoped that we can get as many members on line eliminating much of the cost incurred for printing and postage. So far this is working really well with Michael Jefferies always checking and having a more effective way of communicating with our members and the public. (NOTE, change of web site is on front of the newsletter.)

K Carnell is to check with Canon on the 10th regarding cancelling our photo copier charges for the time being with possible reinstatement later should we need.

Specimens and information table:

Brochure- Fresh off the press new 'Visitors Guide to Sundown National Park'

Book – Take a Walk in South East Queensland by John and Lyn Daly priced \$34.95.

(ED. It can be ordered on line from <http://www.takeawalk.com.au/Index.html>)

Bandi-bandi – black and white striped snake found in member's back yard (ED. *Vermicella annulata*. Very wide distribution in Australia, feeds on blind snakes; venomous but not dangerous)

Fly - A Robber-fly, family Asilidae. ED. See note later.

Meeting closed 8:07 pm Next Meeting: 25th March 2009

Presentation by Geoff Campbell *'Orchids of Tasmania'*

A very informative presentation, copiously illustrated, on some identification techniques by leaf, flower, and some on propagation of the Orchid. Unfortunately most of these orchids are very small and many of us will never see specimens in the wild. The markings and very exotic floral displays in the presentation just showed again the beauty of nature.

Editor's Endpiece!

Some random notes; mainly about the web site and email.

The web site is getting visitors from outside the membership already which is a very good thing!

One contact I had was from the Ryans in Brisbane, Vanessa and Chris. They are in the process of setting up a web site on Girraween at <http://www.rymich.com/girraween/> They contacted me view our web site also wanting to contact Liz Bourne about booklets. They are looking for photos from Girraween to illustrate walks and the flora and fauna of the Park. Anyone with an interest in this project should contact them through their web site. I have set-up a Group on Flickr purely for photos from Girraween to add to the Granite Belt Naturalist one. So please join Flickr, <http://www.flickr.com/> and post you good photos!

While talking about the web site please remember that it a quick method of communication; well when I am around, as it takes very little to change and add things to it. I am looking for another member or two to be a backup in maintaining it, feel free to contact me. The only requirement is a reasonable speed connection to the Internet and a degree of curiosity combined with patience!

Thirdly I am happy to put other things on the web site. All contributions are best as rich text format text files (RTF) or just plain text with no formatting, and separate photos carefully named! For those who don't know what rich text format it is a way of ensuring the text can be read by nearly all word processing files – unlike MS Word for example. MS Word can save documents in RTF. It saves me a lot of time having to remove formatting stuff one gets from MS Word!

I do find that I get some problems with email addresses on the Halenet system; I suspect that the server sometimes gets very busy. I, and many others, do not use my ISP's mail addresses for a number of reasons summed up by this article:- http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2009/02/why-you-need-a-second-and-better-email-address-by-dick-eastman.html

A rather long link! Personally I gave up using my ISP address and my own (I could use one like michael@jefferies.id.au using 'my' web site) because of the spam and other complications. As you can see I use Gmail. Not only has it the most wonderful spam control system but I can store all my emails in folders and they are accessible anytime anywhere. Everything I get about the Field Nats is stored in a folder there as well as here so your words of wisdom are not lost!

Finally I thought I would put in a photo of part of the robber-fly that was displayed at the last meeting. This was taken using a macro lens, an extension ring and a ring flash.



This photo and other taken the same way are on my Flickr web site. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/ogcodes/>

Michael Jefferies

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