



The Granite Belt Naturalist



Stanthorpe Field Naturalists 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. Encourage a spirit of protection towards native birds, animals and plants
4. Assist, where possible, in scientific research
5. Publish a monthly newsletter for the information of 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, (Friday outings as pre-arranged).

NOTE; the latest status of any outing is posted to the FieldNats web site as soon as possible.

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



The Pyramids, Girraween National Park

WEB EDITION

If you have downloaded this from our web site but are not a member of the Stanthorpe Field Nats please let us know by email to fieldnats@granitenet.com.au,

so that we can see how well used the newsletter is.

Thank you.

CLUB OFFICE BEARERS - 2008/2009

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.

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

Deadline for next newsletter: 3 July 2009

COMING UP

Outing: Sunday, 21st June; Kyogle Shire, a drive with Halina Kruger . 46835206.

NOTE:- 7am start!!

Monthly Meeting: Wednesday 24th June; Tasmania in late winter,

Peter Andrewatha

Outing: Saturday, 4th July; Historic Roads with M McNichol.

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

This document is on the website above for download. If there is anyone who would prefer to get their copy from the website, please email m.jefferies@gmail.com for inclusion on the email list. The website will have the document before it reaches you by post.

EDITOR'S NOTES

The layout of the first two pages of the newsletter has been rearranged (and rebuilt) to help accommodate the automatic import of the addresses for the printed version from the address database. This has been done by putting the text of each group of notes such as the 'Aims' in their own text box thus making it easier to add more text without disturbing the layout in each group. In the process I have moved the scale of difficulty for walks to be next to the Coming Up section and I wonder if it would be helpful to include a degree of difficulty in that notice when appropriate.

Any other comments are welcome, please contact me direct by phone or email!

Members Notes

Old habits die hard

A few days ago I tried to watch Saturn because, instead of seeing the famous rings at an angle, we are now looking almost edge on. But, whatever I tried, the planet kept wandering out of the viewing field. Eventually I had enough and packed everything away. Later, in daylight, I discovered that the tracking system which keeps the telescope pointing to the same area of the sky by compensating for the turning of the Earth, was switched to “Northern Hemisphere”

Michael Mueller

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE

TO A GOOD HOME: Encyclopaedia Britannica, complete 1962 set. FREE!! contact Michael Mueller.

FOR SALE:- 10 inch laptop ASUS computer; full documentation, Windows XP, Office suite installed, wifi and CD/DVD built-in, two batteries etc. etc. Like a netbook only with many more options! Contact Michael Jefferies.

PRE-OUTINGS

A Drive through the Kyogle District. Halina Kruger Phone 4683 5206

We will leave Stanthorpe at **7.00 am** on Sunday the 21st June 2009 driving through Legume, Woodenbong for morning tea at a lovely out of the way spot at Imerson, looking out at Mt Lindesay and the surrounding areas.

Depending on road conditions we have the option of taking a few variations to the journey. We hope to drive through Toonumbar National Park stopping off at Sherwood Lookout which provides an excellent vantage point to enjoy the higher views to Mt Lindesay and Glennies Chair, then proceeding to the Toonumbar Dam. A short stay to explore the area and the dam. *There are some details at the website:-* <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/parkFacility.aspx?id=N0092>

Kyogle to Mallanganee Nature Reserve which presents spectacular views over the rainforest canopy, to the north along the Richmond Range and further to the Border Ranges, as well as Mt Warning and Nightcap Range. As there are no facilities we will only be enjoying the view. We will then travel to Cambridge Plateau Forest Drive with scenic views over both the Clarence and Richmond River Valleys. After lunch we will be passing through rainforests and spotted gums unique to the Richmond Ranges. Returning home through either Tenterfield or Urbenville.

Should there be too much rain before the outing then a trip on the Lions Road is proposed. Round trips are average about 350km but the scenery and the countryside will be stunning, especially after the last downpour. It will be a very full but pleasurable day.

Historic Roads with M McNichol. An all day excursion on **Saturday the 4th July.**

OUTING REPORTS

Bird List:- Arcadia Valley Camp Out, 24th – 26th April 2009

Compiled by Margaret Carnell with help from everyone else.

The campout to Arcadia Valley was excellent and we saw a lot of birds. When we went to Lake Nuga Nuga there were hundreds, including ducks. I was unable to identify most of them because they were in the middle of the lake and we were too far away. However, a whistling kite gave us a demonstration of fishing a few metres away.

Emu, swan, willy wagtail, nankeen kestrel, magpie, noisy miner, pelican, Australasian grebe, double barred finch, pee wee, pale headed rosella, ibis, intermediate egret, great egret, white-faced heron, little black cormorant, grey butcher bird, pied butcher bird, masked lapwing, crow, currawong, whistling kite, apostle bird, crested pigeon, darter, little pied cormorant, noisy friarbird (leatherhead), coot, blue-faced honeyeater, grey-crowned babbler, wandering whistling duck, little eagle, dusky moorhen, peregrine falcon, kookaburra, wedgetail eagle, Richard's pipit, bustard (plains turkey), brown honeyeater, black-faced cuckoo shrike, royal spoonbill, leaden flycatcher, red-winged parrot, rainbow lorikeet, scaly-breasted lorikeet, mistletoe bird, bronzewing pigeon, striped honeyeater, yellow plumed honeyeater, black shouldered kite, pheasant coucal, black duck, grey fantail, striated pardalote, king parrot, sulphur-crested white cockatoo, black cockatoo.

Outing Report:- Underground River 8th May 2009

On a fine Friday morning, with just a little cloud, we arrived at the parking area at Underground River to be met by a number of birds, including White-throated Treecreepers and Eastern Spinebills. We had a leisurely morning tea, setting the world to rights, before commencing our walk and were pleased to pass the time of day with Peter Haselgrove who was working at Girraween National Park that day.

There were more flowers in bloom than I had expected and the *Banksias*, both *spinulosa* and *integrifolia* were looking wonderful. Most of the *spinulosa* had black stamens but a few had golden (see picture below; Ed.). We set off at Nats pace, taking so many hours per kilometre, rather than the other way round. After cautiously following a wallaby track into the swamp to photograph a *Geranium neglectum*, we found a clump of them just beside the track. There were thornbills in the trees but we were unable to see them well enough to identify them. They just would not stay still!

On arriving at the Underground River we made our way around to the left and up onto the rock slabs where the river has cut a deep trench full of potholes on its way downstream. There is a large dyke which goes across the stream and another at right angles (more or less) to it. Upstream is a beautiful, tranquil pool. Kris and I have photos of it dating back years, which didn't stop us taking more.



As we made our way back, we saw golden everlastings with the seeds starting to blow away and a solitary spike of *Dianella* in bloom. Michael spotted a beautifully coloured weevil on a shrub and it obligingly sat on his finger to be photographed. After we clambered across to the rocks to peer down into the cave where the river runs, we turned around and spotted a goldfish in the pool below. We hope it was entirely solitary and not just out on a solitary excursion.

It took a good deal less time to walk back to the car park and the cloud was increasing, giving us hope that it might rain later. We sat on the logs in the

car park to eat our lunch before heading home. *Margaret Carnell*

Bird List Underground River: currawong, crow, white-throated tree creeper, thornbill (maybe more than one species), yellow-faced honeyeater, eastern spinebill, crimson rosella, kookaburra, white-browed scrub wren.



The weevil Margaret mentions (left) is the Botany Bay Diamond Weevil, *Chrysolopus spectabilis*, first collected by J Banks at Botany Bay in 1770 and so one of the first insects collected in Australia by scientists. Common on *Acacia*.

Flower List Underground River: *Dianella* sp., *Xerochrysum bracteatum* (golden everlasting), *Leucopogon* sp. (very hard to identify as leaves didn't fit any in the book), *Spyridium scortechinii*, *Hibbertia linearis* (Guinea flower), *Lissanthe stigosa* (Peach

heath), *Geranium neglectum*, *Brachyscombe stuartii* (small white daisy), *Glycine clandestina*, *Goodenia hederaceae*, *Wahlenbergia graniticola* (bluebell), *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, (yellow buttons), *Eucalyptus* sp., *Banksia spinulosa*, *Banksia integrifolia*, *Cassinia* sp. (rosemary teatree), *Brachyloma daphnoides* (daphne heath), *Micromyrtus sessilis*, *Trachmene incisa* (wild carrot), *Callistemon* sp. (cream flower), *Allocasuarina rupicola* (Rock she oak).



Hairpin Banksia but which species? See <http://asgap.org.au/b-cun.html> for a suggestion that this is *Banksia cunninghamii*. Photo MGJ.

Outing Report – To the Lincoln Wreck; 17th May, 2009.

This outing was postponed due to the heavy rain in the preceding days which suggested the area would have been difficult of access and rather hazardous to walking. It will be held at a later date. To make up for it I have included a couple of photos taken after the rain in the local area.



Left is of Bald Rock Creek near The Junction, Girraween at 2pm on Sunday the 24th May; by Col Hockings.

Below is Quart Pot Creek overtopping the Lock Street Bridge about 9am on the 22nd May, by M. Jefferies.



Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. Held on Wednesday 27th May 2009

Meeting opened: 7.35pm

Attendance: 18 Apologies 2 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting: confirmed by R McCosker, seconded by M Mueller carried

Business arising from the minutes: No business from the minutes

Correspondence: Correspondence accepted on the motion of Halina Kruger seconded by M Carnell Carried

Financial Report Balance: \$333.20 (report below). proposed Nanette Jurd, seconded by M Jefferies Carried

Outing Reports:

Margaret Carnell reported “Underground river” Girraween National Park

Sunday outing cancelled due to severe weather

Pre-outing Reports:

Week day outing: N Jurd to private property at Wallangarra.

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Weekend outing: H Kruger to do drive around the Kyogle district.

Next Meeting: 24th June 2009; Peter Andreatha to show pictures of Tasmania in late winter.

General Business:

Michael Jefferies reported that Granitenet Website had experience a few glitches in the last week or so. Fortunately these problems have now been rectified and we are back on line.

Specimens/ Items of interest:

R McCosker displayed a wedge of Hairy Oak, *Allocasuarina inophloia* from the Arcadia Valley campout which was collected on private property. Col Hockings informed us that the sawdust can cause an allergic reaction in some people.



C Hockings presented a photo of a Rosella which seems to be a cross between a Crimson Rosella and Eastern Rosella. It is mated with a Crimson Rosella. He also showed a picture of Bald Rock Creek at the Junction in Girraween the day after the heavy rain.

Meeting closed 7.55pm

Rosella; photo Col Hockings. Best seen in colour!

Presentation: Narelle Crawford shared with us her six week trip last year to South Africa. Her presentation had great photography of the landscape, people and birds and animals in the wild which was enjoyed by everyone. Thank You.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT for May from 22 / 04 /09 to 27 /05 / 09

Cash Book balance as at 27 / 04 /09 \$433.20

Receipts:- Nil for the period covered

Expenditure:-

Magazine postage	\$nil
Photocopier	\$nil
Room Rent	\$ 100.00

Total \$...100.00

CASH BOOK BALANCE AS AT 27 / 05 / 09 \$33.20

Bank reconciliation

Cash Book balance as at 27/ 05 /09

Plus outstanding cheques \$ Nil

Less outstanding cash receipts \$ Nil

Agrees with bank balance as at 27/ 05 / 09 \$...333.20...