



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.

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.

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 **DUE NOW**

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 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.

Deadline for next newsletter: 4th September 2009

COMING UP

Sunday, 23rd August. To Kitchen Caves, the Roman Road and Slip Rock. This is a level 8 walk of 7 hours. – Col Hockings

Monthly Meeting: Wednesday 26th August; The AGM; 'Remember last year' followed by Supper.

Rare Wildflower Consortium walk; Sunday 30th August -Foxbar Falls, Amiens.

Outing: Friday, 4th September; Mt Ferguson led by Trish McCosker.

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 notification list. The website will have the document before it reaches you by post.

Remembering Wal Cathcart 27 December 1921 – 28 June 2009

Wal was one of our foundation members, 40 years ago in 1969. He made enormous contributions to our club and many others in Stanthorpe. Following the formation of a steering committee on the 26th November 1969 he was Vice-President for 1970-71. We remember Wal as a person generous of his time and talents; he was gifted with paint brush and pen and he always came up with an electrical 'gadget' to solve a problem.

We extend our sympathy to his wife Ness, daughter Diane and his extended family.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE

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

FOR Sale:- two 80gb Maxtor 5000LE external hard drives with power supply and USB cables. Will run on Mac or Windows machines. Excellent for backing up all those special files such as photos! \$50.00 each or \$80.00 for both. Michael Jefferies 4681 2389 or m.jefferies@gmail.com

Does anyone want a free email address that is not tied to your ISP?

Go to <http://www.granitenet.com.au/about/email> and you can have one for yourself like we have for the fieldnats!

Pre-Outings

Sunday 23rd August 2009. - To Kitchen Caves, the Roman Road and Slip Rock. This is a **Level 8** walk of about 7km and requires sturdy footware and to carry morning and afternoon tea and lunch. We will meet at Weeroona Park at **8.00am** and drive via Eukey to a gate adjacent to the Pyramids. Morning tea will be taken beyond the Second Pyramid. Depending on time we may not make Slip Rock.

Col Hockings 4681 1978.

Sunday 30th August 2009. - Wildflower Consortium; Foxbar Falls, Goldfields Road, Amiens. Detail on the back of the newsletter for all Wildflower walks. Liz Bourne 4683 6374.

Friday 4th September 2009. The walk will be up Mt Ferguson. We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9am and drive to Harslett's Farm. Morning tea before the walk and lunch on return.

Trish McCosker. 4683 5371.

Sunday the 20th September 2009. The September Sunday outing is combined with the Wildflower Consortium's September outing on the 20th. We expect the Wildflower walk to finish about 1pm and then, after lunch, Mark Winkler has offered to show us more of his property and plants in the afternoon.

Rob McCosker. 4683 5371.

Outing Reports

Historic Roads – 4th July 2009



Mark McNichol led a very interesting outing on Saturday 4th July. The weather was cold and windy but about 20 people braved the elements. Some of us met at Weeroona Park and travelled to the Sugarloaf Rural Fire Brigade shed, where several more people joined the outing. Mark distributed maps and information and talked about the roads and telegraph line we hoped to investigate, before we set out to find the old road East of Storm King Dam. It was possible to follow a faint track, just a depression in the landscape, for quite some distance to where it crossed a creek and continued up the other side. The crossing was slightly higher where dirt had been placed in the creek and the water had banked up a little behind it. Michael did an excellent job of leading the group along the track.



From there we travelled to Panorama Drive and onto Peter Crisp's land where we had morning tea, before looking for the old telegraph line. Ruth Bott had two joeys with her and one of them was quite frightened and confused by all of us when let out to stretch his legs. We discovered the remains of a greater glider hooked on the fence, so Ruth took it with her to be tested for DNA, to establish whether the area would be suitable for the release of any gliders that the Wildlife Carers had rescued. After smoko, we went through the fence into the bush looking for signs of the telegraph line and found a tree with an old blaze in it, and further on a cairn of stones. Some Nats found a patch of nodding greenhoods (*Pterostylus nutans*) in bloom, as well as lots of leaves of

bird orchids (*Chiloglottis sp.*).

We drove along the road and walked down the paddock, past the yards in Peter's place, where we were joined by Alan Mayne and he and Mark marked the junction of the Stanthorpe branch line and the main Sydney to Brisbane telegraph line. There was some mistletoe with flowers that seemed to be a different colour from the usual ones, growing in a tree near the fence. Alan walked along the branch line to the road where the rest of us met him and we drove to Col and Janet Hocking's place where we had lunch in their garden. We were having such a relaxed time chatting that we were reluctant to stir our stumps and walk across the road to the site of an old dredge. Peter McNichol brought a model of a sluice box and a 1/16 size pump that he had made, and explained how it worked where the original sluice box would have stood. We saw the hole in the creek where the sand and tin was pumped from and the hole behind it where the water and sand would have washed out. From there we drove a short distance to the Brisbane Claim, an old tin mine. We found the remains of the old road beside the claim with rocks that may have been scraped by steel coach wheels.



The Brisbane Claim was one of the richest in the world and had a floating dredge on it at one time. It was also worked by Chinese miners. We walked along Quart Pot Creek and found the rusted remains of an impeller of a pump that had worn out from use in the mines. As time was passing rather too quickly to visit any more old road sites, we came home via Dalcouth and stopped to look at the site of the Dalcouth school and hall.

It was a very interesting outing and we would like to thank Mark and Peter McNichol, Peter Crisp and Alan Mayne for going to so much trouble and making it so enjoyable. *Margaret Carnell (photos by Margaret Carnell)*

Rokeby Station Sunday, 19th July 2009.



Eighteen adults, one very keen young fellow and a bub met at Rokeby. After smoko we were led by our young naturalist, Curtis, slowly to the top of the ridge through Rokeby Scrub. The scrub is true rainforest with a variety of tree sizes, but a completely closed canopy resulting in an almost bare floor and numerous vines and creepers to be negotiated. Several old brush turkey mounds were seen. Once we reached the top of the ridge the rainforest ended and became open woodland, with views to the west (top end of Connolly Dam) and north-west to Warwick. We then walked around the edge of the scrub to the power line

easement and followed it back down to the cars for lunch.

Photo Col Hockings

After lunch, most of the group drove northwards to Elbow Valley. We inspected a small timber cottage at the valley entrance and then proceeded into the valley. Lantana along the creek soon forced us up the valley sides and we then obtained excellent views across to the east to the Main Range. It became obvious that although we did not have the time, we were part-way on the walk to the top of Rokeby Hill and this has real potential for a future trip. Although there will be some steep walking for some of it.

It was interesting to contrast the two valleys - the Rokeby Scrub was true rainforest, with quite large Stinging Trees, Crows Ash, Fig species, Lacebark Kurrajong and Silky Oaks, plus numerous smaller rainforest species, whereas Elbow Valley vegetation was Ironbark and Gum with a smattering of dry rainforest species along the creek edges. Poplar-leaved Kurrajong (the common one for this area) were present and an unknown *Backhousia* (*angustifolia*?) was seen on a rock face. Lantana was present in both areas but only around the edges of the Scrub as it had been shaded out in the interior.



Birds seen or heard included Wedge-tailed Eagle, Nankeen kestrel, Pied Butcherbird, Currawong, White browed Scrubwren, Superb Blue Wren, Brown Thornbill, Yellow Robin, Grey Thrush, Eastern Whipbird and Lewin Honeyeaters. Towards the top of the ridge in the Scrub some platelets were seen scraped on the ground. These are typical of button-quail and it would be interesting to know if they were Black-breasted button-quail.

Peter Hazlegrove.

Seed pod- Flindersia australis: photo J Bryant.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. Wednesday 22nd July 2009

Meeting opened: 7:48pm

Attendance: 22 **Apologies** 3 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting: M Mueller seconded P James Carried

Business Arising from the minutes: Nil

Inward Correspondence:

1. Chinchilla Field Nats - Newsletter
2. Chinchilla Field Nats - Letter for the ANN 2010
3. Society for Growing Aust Plants - Warwick Newsletter
4. QNC - Newsletter - July-Aug
5. Darling Downs Field Nats - Newsletter
6. Fassifern Field Nats - Newsletter
7. Tenterfield & District Visitors Assoc - Tenterfield Birdwatching Guide

Seconded M Mueller

Carried

Monthly Newsletter of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. August 2009- Vol 411

Financial Report: Balance at time of meeting \$282.03; details below.

Outing Reports

Mid week outing: Saturday 4th July Historical Roads with Mark McNichol; report above.

Weekend outing: 19th July 2009 Rain Forest, Rokeby Station 14km north of Dalveen on the Old Warwick Rd, and Elbow Valley – report above.

General Business:

Our mid week outing Historical Roads with Mark McNichol was well received and we will completed the second half of the project on a Saturday later this year. To be advised.

A letter from the Chinchilla Field Naturalists' outlining the sixth ANN Get-together which runs from Tuesdays 24th August to Saturday 4th September 2010 was read out. As a club we are invited to organize a post Get-together excursion in our local area for participants who attend the ANN.

Col Hockings moved that Stanthorpe Club accept Chinchilla Field Naturalists' post Get-together excursion following the sixth Australian Naturalist Network.

Rental for the CWA rooms will rise to \$25 per month.

Subs for the year are now due. (note forms in last month's newsletter or on the web site - Ed).

Members are reminded to contribute ideas for outings for the following year program, either to lead proposed outing or suggest a place of interest for its members.

Kris also advised that the next meeting will be our Annual General Meeting 26th August 2009 and he will be presenting a photo album "Remember Last Year" Assistance is needed from our personal digital photos to complete the album. Please supply these photos well before the next meeting. Bring a plate for supper.

Advance Notice. Sep 20th 2009 Our club is informed that the Rare Wildflower Consortium will be having their outing at Glen Aplin. Although this is our schedule outing Weekend we can attend the Wild Flower walk which usually takes about 2-3 hours, followed by lunch and then Rob McCosker will present an outing for the afternoon. (Note- see list of outings above – Ed.)

Millie Marsden invited members to an Information Luncheon on the 13th August 2009 at the CWA Rooms at a cost of \$10 information will be presented on "Macular Degeneration"

Wally Cathcart passed away recently, our condolence to his wife Ness. Wally was a foundation member and Vic President of the club in 1970. E Walker while looking through records noted that our Club will be 40 years old on the 26 November. Jean Harslett said that she had a copy of the 1st Newsletter which we hope to reproduce later in the year.

NOTE:- Upcoming outings are listed above!

Specimens/ Items of interest:

Dried Fruit of *Flindersia australis* (Crows Ash) (see photo) Col Hockings.

Next Meeting: 26 August 2009 7.30 pm AGM + supper

Meeting closed: 8:15pm

The Presentation was by Dave Wilson on trip to Maui with especial reference to the volcanos and endemic plant species.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT for July:- from 24/06/09 to 22/07/09

Cash Book balance as at 24/06/09 \$334.52

Receipts:-

Subscriptions \$15.00

Room rent collection \$

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Wildflower books	\$	
Interest	\$	
Projector hire.....	\$10.00	
.....		\$25.00
Expenditure:-		
Newsletter postage	\$ 50.00	
Printing of newsletter	\$ 27.50	
Room Rent	\$	
TOTAL	\$77.50	
CASH Book balance as at 22/ 07/ 09		\$282.20
Plus outstanding cheques NIL		
Cash receipts	NIL	
Agrees with bank balance as at 22/ 07 / 09		\$282.20
Accounts for payment	NIL	
N Jurd moved that the financial be accepted	Seconded E Walker	carried

Members Notes



This has been the year of the figbird for me! Last winter I saw an unfamiliar bird at the garden birdbath which turned out to be a figbird. Later I saw a male eating cotoneaster berries but that was that. However, about a month ago we looked out one morning to see a queue of figbirds, males and females jostling for turns at the water in the birdbath. This went on for about 10 days at various times of day; often I would have to go out to refill the supplies. From their droppings and flight paths when leaving I realised they were feeding on a white cedar in a neighbour's garden. I have seen them round town too.

Michael Jefferies

Rare Wildflower Consortium leaflet overleaf!

Walking with Wildflowers Spring 2009



Stanthorpe's Rare Wildflower Consortium is again preparing to host three Wildflower Walks this coming 2009 spring/summer season. For the past five years these walks have been immensely popular with locals and visitors to the area. The walks are open to anyone interested in learning more about the unique local flora of the Granite Belt.

1



Sunday 30th August
Foxbar Falls, Goldfields Rd Amiens
Meet outside Amiens State School
1137 Amiens Rd, Amiens
Follow Wildflower Walk signs to Foxbar Falls

2



Sunday 20th September
Granite Belt Highlands Winery
135 Winkler Road, Glen Aplin
Follow Wildflower Walk signs to meeting point

3



Sunday 11th October
The Junction Track
Girraween National Park
Meet at Bald Rock Creek day use area
Follow Wildflower Walk signs to meeting point

Further information

Bring

- ☒ hat
- ☒ sunscreen
- ☒ water

Optional

- ☐ camera
- ☐ binoculars
- ☐ morning tea and/or lunch

- All walks start at 9:30am and aim to finish by 12:30pm
- Groups will be led by botanical guides who will be able to assist in the identification of wildflowers and answer questions you may have
- Wildflower books and field guides will be available for purchase at each walk.
- Bookings not required, just turn up on the day.
- For further information phone:
Liz Bourne - 4683 6374 or
Kelsie Neilson - 0409 989 766 on day of walk.

For further information google [Rare Wildflower Consortium](#)