



# The Granite Belt Naturalist



Stanthorpe Field Naturalists Club Inc., PO BOX 154, Stanthorpe, QLD 4380

Web Site: [www.granitenet.com.au/groups/environment/fieldnats/](http://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](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 - 2009/2010

|                     |                      |          |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------|
| 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: 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2009

### COMING UP

*Sunday, 20th September, Wildflower Consortium walk at Granite Belt Highlands Winery (am) and Nats walk after lunch (pm)*

*Monthly Meeting: Wednesday 23rd September; "The Archies Australian Adventure" by Frank and Morwenna Arcidiacono*

*"Weekday" Outing: Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> October; Wildflower Consortium walk in Girraween NP.*

### 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

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### Members Notes

This space is available for notes and observations from members and others. Please send me contributions, by post, as emails or, if as an attached file, in rich text format.

### Editor's notes

**The calender:-** On the back page is the proposed calender of outings and persons who are doing talks at the meetings for the next year till September 2010. This is distilled from members who have volunteered their time and knowledge for the next year. Please read and comment back to the President if you have any issues or concerns.

Any changes that leaders want to make, and pre-outing reports, are welcomed by me (MGJ) by phone or email to [fieldnats@granitenet.com.au](mailto:fieldnats@granitenet.com.au) I will be putting this program into the Granite Net calender over the next few days for all the world to see and timely corrections and up-to-date information is valuable.

Text contributions are best in rich text format (.rtf) as they do not include formatting codes that I then have to take out to use the text on the web site or in compiling this newsletter.

### FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE

*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!*

This newsletter and the electronic version is made using Open Office ver 3.1

## *Pre-Outings*

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September;** we will be going to the Granite Belt Highlands Winery, 135 Winkler Road, Glen Aplin for the wildflower walk with the people from the Rare Wildflower Consortium and then have an extra walk as a Nats group, with Mark Winkler, after lunch. Follow Wildflower Walk signs to meeting point. *R McCosker*

**5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> October; Camp-out;** Waterfall Way.

We will travel to Armidale via New England Hwy turning off towards Dorrigo. The camp will be Wollomombi Gorge and Falls which is situated 40km east of Armidale a right hand turn off the Waterfall Way. There are designated camping spots with fires places and wood is provided, but no tables. There is a day use area close to the camp within easy reach for early morning walks.

Wollomombi has very well organized tracks and the views are spectacular. There was water coming down the falls last week and hopefully there will be sufficient rain to make a good display for our time away. I feel that we can view these at our leisure and take day trips to other falls and longer walks around the area. On the last day I hope to stop for sometime at Ebor Falls and enjoy the falls returning a different way home through to Guyra. For more information please contact *Halina* 46835206

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October;** The Junction Track, Girraween NP, with the Rare Wildflower Consortium. This is in lieu of a weekday walk. Meet at the Bald Rock Creek day use area.

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October;** The Aztec Temple, beyond the Underground River, led by Col & Janet Hockings.

**NOTE:-** The 09/10 proposed list of meetings and outings is on the back page. Please note; keep, and advise of any changes to the President and the newsletter/web site editor as soon as possible! The document will also be on line.

## *Outing Reports*

### **Outing Report:- Hush' Property August 7<sup>th</sup>**



It was a beautiful early spring day, when the Nats travelled to Greinke Lane for our outing. The property we were visiting is owned by Vic and Lyn Hush and is on the eastern side of the highway off Horan's Gorge Rd. We arrived at our meeting point to be met by Vic and a couple of members who had travelled direct. After gathering our backpacks etc., Vic took us up a track to their house which is only accessible by high clearance vehicles. As we walked up the hill we could clearly see the after effects of the terrible fire in 2002. The wattle is quite thick and was flowering as was some sarsaparilla. The house is situated on the top of the hill with beautiful views and is designed as an eco-friendly house and generates its own electricity.

*Photo by K Carnell*

Before smoko we went a short distance from the



house to look at the little white *Boronia anethifolia* which had nearly finished but there were enough to get some good photos.



Close-up of *B anethifolia*, macro lens. M.G.Jefferies

We were thoroughly spoilt for smoko with Lyn and Vic providing damper, jam and hot water. After smoko we walked south along a newly constructed fire trail to the southern side of the property. At our first stop, we saw some very nice specimens of the Blue Mountain daisy *Olearia ramosissima* and we were able to identify a *Dendrobium caniculatum* for Lyn. We then walked east for a short distance to a large flat rock where there were good views to the South over Eukey Rd and towards Ballandean. There were quite a number of early spring wildflowers growing around the rocks. There were also quite a numbers orchid leaves in evidence and it could be

worthwhile arranging another visit at a different time of the year.

Some of our members left to return home at this time and the rest of us had our lunch enjoying the view and the company. After a while we made our way to the cars at Nats pace. It was a very pleasant outing and we thank Vic and Lyn very much for allowing us to visit their property. *Kris Carnell*

**Flower List:** *Boronia anethifolia*, Orchid buds, Sundew, *Leucopogon* (2), *Hovea* (2), *Sarsparilla*, *Acacia nerifolia*, *Eucalyptus caleyii*, *Acacia purinosa*, *Dendrobium caniculatum*, *Melichrus urceolatus*, *Acacia* (Prickly Moses), *Cryptandra*, *Acacia venulose*, unknown pea, *Acacia adunca*, Flannel Flower, *Pimelia*, *Phebalium rotundifolium*, *Epacris*, *Leptospermum*, *Senecio*, *Olearia ramosissima* (Blue Mountain Daisy)

### Outing Report:- Kitchen Cave, Roman Road, and Slip Rock; Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August

Eight keen walkers met at Weeroona Park at 8.00am and were joined by two more en-route to Girraween.

We set off at 20 to 9. On the way to the saddle behind the Second Pyramid, we passed 3 Lyre bird display mounds, two of which were freshly worked over. A break was taken for morning tea on a rock slab which gave a good view of the back of the Second Pyramid and other peaks in the distance including The Sphinx. We all suffered and passed the squeeze test on reaching the boulder outcrop close to Kitchen Cave. The “test” is to fit sideways through a narrow crevice that leads to a gloomy cave. Kitchen Cave was enjoyed and the surrounding enormous boulder pile thoroughly explored before moving on, climbing the bare outcrops leading up to the Roman Road.



Being a reasonably clear day, peaks along the Main Range, Mt. Superbus, Wilson’s Peak, etc. were visible in the distance. Lunch was taken at the top of Slip Rock overlooking Bill Goebel’s property. Bald Rock

was prominent in the distance. Adjacent to Slip Rock a cream coloured shrub caught the eye of some of us. It was in full bloom and showed potential as a garden plant. Subsequent investigation showed it to be *Acacia myrtifolia*, an uncommon wattle.



After lunch we retraced our steps to Kitchen Cave where we had a relaxing break in the cool air of the “cave”. On the return journey, Alec Harslett led a small group on the very challenging climb up the Second Pyramid. The remainder of us took a break and watched their progress before descending to the vehicles which we reached at about 20 to 3.

**Plant List:** *Spyridium scortechinii*, *Crypandra sp.*, *Acacia adunca*, *Acacia ruppia*, *Acacia ulicifolia*, *Acacia floribunda*, *Acacia irrorata*, *Acacia myrtifolia*, *Acacia venulosa*, *Boronia amabilis*, *Leucopogon melaleuroides*, *Leucopogon lanceolatus*, *Melichrus urceolatus*, *Micromyrtus sessilis*, *Mirbelia speciosa* sub sp. *speciosa*, *Hardenbergia violacea*, *Hovea purpurea*, *Indigofera australis* var. *australis*, *Leionema rotundifolium*, *Patersonia sericea*, *Pomaderris sp.*, *Bossiaea obcordata*, *Prostanthera phyllifolia*, *Correa reflexa*.



**Bird List:** Only a few birds were observed due to the wind. Grey Shrike Thrush, Wedge-Tailed Eagle, Striated Thornbill, Boobook Owl, White-eared Honeyeater, (Heard) Spotted Pardalote.

Colin Hockings and Andrew Cameron

Photos by Col Hockings

### Annual General Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalists Club, Inc. QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2009

**Attendance:** 16 present      apologies 3      as per attendance book

Minutes from the previous meeting 27th August 2008 read: H Kruger moved that this is true and correct record of the meeting; seconded M Müller: carried.

**Business arising from the minutes** Nil

#### Presidents Annual Report

It gives me much pleasure to give the annual report of the Stanthorpe Field Nats. The past year has been a successful one for our club, with lots of interesting outings and programs. I would sincerely thank those members who have led the outings and presented the programs.

It is interesting to note that as far as I am aware, it was the first year that two Sunday outings in a row were cancelled owing to the wet weather. The Friday outing in between was also cancelled, which meant we had a forced holiday for two months. The

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camp out to Arcadia Valley in April was something different for our club, because of the distance involved, but I think all those who participated found it a very enjoyable camp.

Thanks to our editor, Michael Jefferies for the excellent magazine that has been produced. Also a big thank you to Michael Mueller who has been delivering the town copies most months and to Neil and Wendy Donges who as well as collating the magazine, have delivered them when Michael was away. Michael Jefferies has also done an excellent job of putting our magazine on the web. This means that the magazine is available to any web user at granitenet.com.au and is good publicity for our club. Those members who get their magazine by email have the advantage of full colour photos.

This year marks the fortieth anniversary of the beginning of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club and over the next couple of months you will be hearing more about this.

I would again appeal to members to make suggestions for outings and programs, as it is quite hard to make a yearly program if we don't know what people want to do.

In closing I would sincerely thank fellow office-bearers for a job well done.

Kris Carnell - President

### **Correspondence: as per Inward and outward sheet**

Association Incorporation Form 12-1

**Financial Report:** Balance \$ 1569.12 Treasurer moved that the financial report be adopted Seconded, R McCosker Carried.

**Election of Office bearers** All positions were declared vacant

**President:** **Kris Carnell** accepted nomination for the position by M Müller, seconded by M Jefferies, carried.

**Vice Presidents:** **1 M Müller** accepted nomination for the position by K Carnell, seconded by M Marsden carried.  
**2 R McCosker** accepted nomination for the position by C Smallwood, seconded by M Carnell, carried.

**Secretary:** **H Kruger** accepted nomination for the position by R McCosker, seconded M Müller, carried.

**Treasurer:** **N Jurd** accepted nomination for the position by M Müller, seconded M Jefferies, carried.

**Newsletter Editor:** **M Jefferies** accepted nomination for the position by M Carnell, seconded K Carnell, carried.

**Magazine Committee:** Wendy and Neil Donges nominated by M Müller, seconded by C Smallwood. (acceptance to be confirmed).

**Publicity Officer:** **J Hockings** accepted nomination for the position by M Carnell, seconded R McCosker, carried.

**Librarian:** **T McCosker** accepted nomination for the position by R McCosker, seconded by N Jurd, carried.

**General Business:** New program for the year to be arranged at by the executive at K Carnell's place at Severnlea Friday 28<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm (the provisional program from the meeting is on the back page – Ed.)

**Meeting closed: 8pm**

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. Wednesday 26th August 2009**

**Meeting opened: 8pm**

**Attendance:** 16 **Apologies** 3 as per attendance book

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** C Smallwood seconded M Müller Carried

**Business arising from the minutes:** nil

**Inward & Outward Correspondence:** As per correspondence log

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H Kruger moved Correspondence be accepted, Seconded N Jurd, Carried

**Financial Report:** Current balance \$652.02 (details below).

Financial report moved N Jurd be accepted Seconded M Jefferies, carried

### Outing Reports

Weekday outing: K & M Carnell; Ridge between Horans Gorge Rd & Watters Rd

Sunday outing: Col Hockings – Kitchen Caves Girraween NP; Carol Smallwood spoke in absence of Col who was fighting a bush-fire.

### Pre Outings

Weekday outing: Trish McCosker 4<sup>th</sup> Sep 2009 Mt Ferguson 9am start.

Sunday outing: Wildflower Consortium Winkler's Farm, Glen Aplin 10am, followed after lunch by extra tour on the farm by Mark Winkler

**Camp-out date changed to 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> October**, camping at Wollomombi Falls along the Waterfall Way.

### General Business:

M Müller suggested a special afternoon and early evening on the Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> Sept to Bald Rock NP to view the sun going down and the moon coming up about the same time. This is a fairly rare occurrence of the moon and sun lining up. Bring something to nibble on and enjoy to site. We should be down to the car park before it gets too dark.

### Specimens/ Items of interest:

N Jurd photograph of a panoramic view of Girraween NP and M Carnell specimen of a long gall.

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT for August from 23 / 07 /09 to 26 /08 /09

Cash Book balance as at 23 / 07 / 09 \$...282.02...

#### Receipts:-

|               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| Subscriptions | \$ 355.00   |
| Donations     | \$ 15.00    |
| Total         | \$ 370.00.. |

Expenditure:- NIL

CASH BOOK BALANCE AS AT 26 / 08 /09 \$...652.02...

Bank reconciliation

Plus outstanding cheques NIL

Less outstanding cash receipts NIL

Agrees with bank balance as at 26/ 08 / 09 \$...652.02

Accounts for payment:- NIL

**Next Meeting:** 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2009 *"The Archies Australian Adventure" by Frank and Morwenna Arcidiacono.*

**Meeting closed: 8.35pm**

*Presentation by Kris Carnell "Remember last year"*



**Proposed Programme 2009/2010**  
changes & comment to [fieldnats@granitenet.com.au](mailto:fieldnats@granitenet.com.au)

| <b>Weekday</b>  | <b>Sunday</b>                                       | <b>Meeting</b>  |
|---|---|---|
| October<br>Wildflowers  | October 25<br>Aztec Temple<br>C Hockings            | October 28<br>E Walker                                  |
| November<br>Wallangarra   | November 22<br>Undercliff Falls<br>C Smallwood      | November 25<br>'The view from the train'<br>M Jefferies |
| 40 <sup>th</sup> anniversary Breakup December 6 <sup>th</sup><br>R & T McCosker |   |   |
| February<br>M Jefferies   | February 21<br>Richmond Range<br>H Kruger           | February 24<br>P Andrewartha                            |
| March<br>H Kruger   | March 21<br>Lincoln Wreck<br>H Kruger/P McNicol     | March 24<br>Cape York<br>N Jurd                         |
| April<br>M Mueller  | Sat 24 April<br>Nundubbermere Top Falls<br>Carnells | April 28<br>K Carnell                                   |
| May<br>Koreelah N.P.<br>K Carnell   | May 23<br>Goondiwindi Botanic Gardens<br>J Campbell | May 26<br>J Campbell                                    |
| June<br>P Kerr  | June 20<br>Sugarloaf Border<br>N & B Hill           | June 23<br>D Hockings                                   |
| July<br>C Smallwood   | July 25<br>Salatis Hill<br>R McCosker               | July 28<br>R McCosker                                   |
| August<br>C Hockings  | August 22<br>Winder track Goomburra<br>N Jurd       | August 25<br>Remember last Year                         |
| September<br>J Campbell   | September 19<br>Waterfall Creek<br>P Andrewartha    | September 22<br>'Insects I have met'<br>M Jefferies     |

**Camp-outs proposed**

April 17<sup>th</sup> 2010, Kenilworth area, Leaders Kris and Margaret Carnell.  
Oct 10<sup>th</sup> 2010; leader Carol Smallwood, Gibraltar Range, NSW.

**Reserve activities:-**

Walk leaders; K Carnell, N Jurd, H Kruger, M Mueller.

Meeting programs; the Carnells, Wildflower talk by a group of members.

**COMMENTS AND REVISIONS TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR!!!**

[fieldnats@granitenet.com.au](mailto:fieldnats@granitenet.com.au)