



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.

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: 5th November 2009

COMING UP

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

***Sunday, 25th October, The Signboard,
Aztec Temple and Underground River***

***Monthly Meeting: Wednesday 28th
October; "Christmas in Antarctica" Errol &
Annette Walker***

***Special Outing; Tuesday 3rd November; Up
Bald Rock for sunset and moonrise, M
Mueller***

***Weekday Outing, Friday 6th November;
Beyond Wallangarra: Nanette Jurd.***

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 fieldnats@granitenet.com.au for inclusion on the email notification list. The website will have the document before it reaches you by post (and in colour).

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

I received an email about our web site and newsletter; this is reproduced at the end of this and I think illustrates that the club's activities are worth bottling!

The calender:- On the back page is the calender of outings and persons who are doing talks at the meetings up to and including 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 This program is in the Granite Net calender web site up to Christmas 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 the 11th October Rare Wildflower Consortium walk to The Junction; Girraween NP.
Meet in the day-use picnic area at 9.30am.

SUNDAY 25th October : THE SIGNBOARD, AZTEC TEMPLE and UNDERGROUND CREEK

Distance: Approx. 4.5km.

Scale of Difficulty: 50%+ Level 2, Level 5 and a small amount of Level 7.

What to bring: Sturdy walking boots or shoes, carry morning and afternoon tea, lunch and plenty of water. Hat and sunscreen.

Meet at Weeroona Park for a 9.00am departure. We will travel via Eukey to the 4WD road to Mt. Norman. Cars will be parked at the first locked gate on the right, a short distance from the road junction to Girraween. 4WD is NOT necessary to reach this location. From the cars we will walk up a ridge to a medium-sloped granite outcrop which leads to the top of Signboard, a height of 1100m. Morning tea will be enjoyed on top while admiring the magnificent views.

Following morning tea we will descend the southern slopes of The Signboard and make our way to Aztec Temple. To reach the summit of Aztec Temple it is again a moderate slope but we will have plenty of time to stop and admire the interesting rock formations. Lunch will be on top where we can again enjoy the views. After descending, some members may like to explore the top end of Underground Creek before we return along a National Park fire trail. This is an easy walk and we should arrive at the cars between 3 and 4.00pm. Weather conditions will dictate the actual route taken on the day. For further information contact *Col Hockings* 46 811 978

Monthly Meeting, October 28th. "Christmas in Antarctica"

Annette and I spent almost two weeks aboard an ice strengthened Russian ship and were lucky enough to experience unprecedented fine weather enabling us to make sixteen Zodiac landings on the Antarctic continent. This, combined with the fact that the 'timing' was just right for wildlife observation, made the trip a lifetime experience.

We departed from Ushuaia at the southern-most point of South America spending only one and a half days at sea before sighting our first iceberg. The sailing across the Drake Passage was uneventful except for some sea-sickness among the other passengers. The return journey was somewhat different with seas higher than the ship and listing to within a few degrees of roll-over. We were not told that at the time! One of the highlights of the voyage was being able to sail right into the flooded crater of a volcano and to be able to climb to the rim of the crater from within. Some of the water was warm enough to swim in due to the volcanic activity below. We didn't! One other 'plus' was the fact that we had two Christmas days and two Christmas dinners because we had to observe the Scandinavian Christmas as well as our own.

Errol Walker

Tuesday 3rd November: Sunset and Moonrise on Bald Rock. - a M Mueller special.

Meet at Weeroona Park at 4pm; the object is to start the walk up Bald Rock at 5.30pm. IF it is cloudy and not clear by 3pm the trip will be cancelled; ring Michael Mueller 4681 1421 if in doubt.

Sunset is at 6.13pm and moonrise is at 6.50pm. After the moonrise we will split into two groups; those who walk down to return home in the moonlight and the second group will spend the night on the Rock and walk down after sunrise at 4.57am. Breakfast will be held round the barbecues in the picnic area at the base around 6am with the local birds and other wildlife. There is an option go elsewhere before returning home; suggestions to me, *Michael Mueller* on 4681 1421.

Outing Reports

Friday Outing 4th September.

We met at Weeroona Park and drove to Harslett's property "Mountain View" at Amiens. Our host Jean was not around so we made ourselves comfortable in the garden for morning tea, with a view to the mountain we had come to climb, Mt Ferguson. When Alex arrived he invited us inside the house to avoid the shower of rain and while there he passed around some of Jean's collection of tin samples collected from all over the district.



On top of Mt Ferguson

With the weather clearing we climbed aboard a farm vehicle and drove to the start of the walk. As we made our way to the top we saw several wildflowers in bloom though they were looking rather drought stressed. Alex pointed out the group of *Eucalyptus scoparia* or Wallangarra white gums which only grow naturally here and in the Wallangarra area. There is also a Moreton Bay fig, *Ficus* sp., which some botanists think may be different from the species normally found in the district.

Mt Ferguson is on the western edge of the Harsletts property, and also the western edge of the granite land form so from the top we were looking down on traprock country. To the east we could see

much of the farm below us. We returned to the vehicle and drove back to the farm where Trish and Denise gave us a guided tour of the seedling nursery.



Taking tea!

We were all very grateful to the Harslett family for giving us the time to provide such an interesting outing. *Rob McCosker*

Plant list:- *Leucopogon melaleuroides*, *L. muticus*, *Melichrus urceolatus*, *Boronia granitica*, *Zieria laevigata*, *Glossodia major*, *Cryptandra amara*, *Stylidium laricifolia*, *Leptospermum polygalifolium*, *Choretrum candolei*, *Bossiaea* sp., *Hibbertia elata*, *Ozothamnus obcordata*.

Outing Sunday 20th September.

Wildflower Walk with Rare Wildflower Consortium (RWC) to Winkler's property at Glen Aplin.



Poranthera corymbosa

About 20 members mingled with about 80 others to take part in the second of three Wildflower Walks organized this spring by the RWC. We split up into three groups and set off in different directions, though we all met up at some stage. I was impressed with the amount of preparation done for these walks, with a draft flora list provided at the start and pre-arranged tracks with plants of interest marked with tape along the way. We were able to add 8 extra plants to the list and we saw about 50 in flower. I chose to go with the group led by our host, Mark Winkler, who took us to a wonderful lookout over the Glen Aplin valley and down as far as Mt Mackenzie near Tenterfield.

Plant of the day, for me, was *Poranthera corymbosa*, with its striking white flower cluster held on top of red stems with bright green leaves. It seemed to be on show everywhere we went on the property.

After lunch at the Granite Belt Highlands Winery, where some people enjoyed the very reasonably priced local fare, including Hamburgers and Fruit Salad and Ice-cream, the remaining Nats members set off again with Mark. There were 16 in our group this time, including a visitor from New Zealand, and a past member from Toowoomba. It was great to see you again Desley. We headed east to a small creek which was just trickling through a rocky gully where Mark pointed out a pink flowered bottlebrush. Though not in bloom, the buds showed it was only a couple of weeks away. From there we went to see a couple of *Bertya* sp., which it's believed is the most western location of this plant, before returning to the cars. We were very grateful to Mark to give us his time and to share with us some of the delights of his property. I think we should keep it in mind for future trips, particularly as Mark said, there is 1000ac out there to explore. *Rob McCosker*



Admiring the bottle-brush

Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. Wednesday 23rd September 2009.

Vice-President R McCosker in the chair. The Secretary and Treasurer were absent; no reading of the previous minutes or financial report was given. Pre-outing and Outing reports were given as recorded earlier in this newsletter.

The meeting then heard and saw a presentation, in verse, entitled 'The Archies Australian Adventure' by Frank and Morwenna Archidiacono which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Addendum.

The following email came to me through our web site and I thought it would be of interest to everyone.

“I found your site and newsletter while researching ideas for something similar for our field nats group, The Broken Creek Field Naturalists Group Inc. based around the Goulburn Valley in northern Victoria. I have negotiated some free hosted web space through the State Library and am now starting to negotiate to build our site.

Our membership is small, and getting older but we are very active. Our trouble has been in attracting younger members and I believe a web presence may help. I'm the president again this year and at 56 I am the youngest member! Our website will also serve to maintain a record of our trips, observations, ideas, projects and photos and so forth for the future. These sites such as yours are valuable reference depositories of Australia's fauna and flora.

So your newsletter has reached Victoria and will be read in future with great interest. Its about the best I've found !!

Congratulations

Paul Hockett
President
Broken Creek Field Naturalist Group”

Proposed Programme 2009/2010
changes & comment to fieldnats@granitenet.com.au

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

Camp-outs proposed

April 17th 2010, Kenilworth area, Leaders Kris and Margaret Carnell.
Oct 10th 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