



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.



The Pyramids, Girraween National Park

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 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: 15th January 2010

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

COMING UP

Sunday 22nd November: Undercliff Falls.

***Monthly Meeting: Wednesday 24th
November; "Local Insects" Michael
Jefferies.***

***Breakup Barbeque at Rob & Trish
McCosker's; 40th Anniversary
celebration.***

Summer Break

***Next outing scheduled for February 5th
2010.***

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).

Editor's notes

This newsletter and the electronic version is made using Open Office ver 3.1. Contributions in .rtf format for text and .jpg for pictures please.

Breakup – Remember the past 40 Years. Sunday December 6th from 3.00pm on.

We are hoping to organise a bit of a reunion for long time members and a photographic presentation to "Remember the past 40 years" of the Nats club. It would be great if any member can pass on this invitation to any past member they may know, to come along to the Xmas breakup.

Trish will be happy to lead a group to a lookout, over the Severnlea valley, on a neighbouring hill, for any keen walkers wishing to come at around 3.00pm. Otherwise people are most welcome to come and wander around the garden until the usual BBQ at around 6.00pm.

After dark we hope to put on a slide show outdoors, so bring a chair and Stanthorpe (cool weather) clothing, followed by fellowship around the campfire - weather permitting. The alternative will be to adjourn to our shed.

We are at "Shortlands" 75 Jones Road, Severnlea. Turn off the highway at the Severnlea Blue Topaz Caravan Park, into Reid Rd, continue through the crossroad to turn R at the T junction into Lofaros Rd, then L into Jones Rd, and we are 750m along on the left.

Hope to see everyone there.

BYO BBQ food and drinks - BBQ available
Bring a chair, pillow and rug, and mossie repellent.

Rob and Trish McCosker Ph 46835371 Email robinmcc@halenet.com.au

Pre-Outing Reports

Sunday 22 November:- Undercliff Falls.

Undercliff Falls are 27 km east of Stanthorpe via Liston. The road has about 7 km unsealed with the odd pothole and some corrugations but is suitable for 2wheel drive. There is a moderate amount of water flowing over the falls and some nice pools for a swim above the falls. The walk will follow the trail bike tracks across Bookookoorara Creek and south through Bookookoorara State Forest returning as a circuit back to the creek. The terrain is undulating through tall eucalypt forest. We saw a couple of kangaroos and there were many birds calling from the forest canopy; there were numerous orange and brown butterflies flitting about despite very few wild flowers in bloom. Morning tea and possibly lunch will be at the car park and river with an optional exploration of the gully adjacent to the car park, which runs down to below the falls. Meet at Weeroona Park or 9.30am Undercliff Falls . Long pants are recommended for the walk. *Carol Smallwood.*

Outing reports

SUNDAY 25th OCTOBER SIGNBOARD and AZTEC TEMPLE



From the Signboard

9 members met at the first locked gate on the 4WD track to Mt. Norman to start the climb up The Signboard. The views from the top were enjoyed over morning tea before descending the southern slope to rejoin the road. On arriving at the road a yellow flowered, formerly *Callistemon*, now *Melaleuca* was flowering prolifically. We proceeded to the creek which was rather low due to the dry weather. While some members decided to escape the heat and cool their feet in the rock pools, the remainder continued to the Aztec Temple. Lunch was eaten on top with a view to Bald Rock in the distance. Once down off Aztec Temple the group returned along the road to arrive at

the cars in the early afternoon.

BIRD LIST: Due to warm, dry conditions birds were scarce.

Grey Thrush, Magpie, Kookaburra, Spotted Pardalote, Crimson Rosella, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Superb Blue Wren, Striated Thornbill, Wattlebird .

Insects (Ed.) As above, insects were scarce but a bee-fly and stiletto-fly of interest were caught on the top of the Aztec temple. There were a few fringed heath-blue, common grass-blue, common brown and orange ringlet butterflies too.

PLANTS in FLOWER: *Melaleuca pallida*, *Melaleuca pityoides*, *Melaleuca linearis*, *Melaleuca sp. (williamsii?)*, *Leptospermum novae-angliae*, *Leptospermum sp.* *Philothea epilosa*, *Leucopogon melaleucoides*, *Leucopogon lanceolatus*, *Dianella sp.*, *Erythrorchis cassythoides*, *Bulbophyllum elisae*, *Hakea microcarpa*, *Ozothamnus diosmifolius*, *Brachyscome sp.* *Helichrysum collinum*, *Viola betonicifolia*, *Stylidium graminifolium*, *Goodenia hederacea*, *Choretrum candollei*, *Pimelea linifolia*, *Comesperma retusum*, *Craspedia uniflora*, *Rhodanthe albicans*.

Campout:- Wollomombi 5th to 8th November.

A small group set out for the campout at Wollomombi Falls.

Day 1: Wollomombi Falls.



By early afternoon we had arrived and with much discussion set up camp for the next few days.

We ventured to the lookout at Wollomombi Falls which is the 2nd highest waterfall in Australia 220m it was just magic, unbelievable that such areas are so close to home and very few have had the pleasure. Following the road we then walked along to the Day use area. Although there was less water than on the pre-outing the views were breathe taking. We then proceeded to the bottom of the Chandler River which we were able to cross by a super structure across the water and explore more spectacular views. No matter where we looked there was rugged beauty all around. A good walk for the beginning of our stay. During the night the weather was a little wet.

Day 2: Dangarra Falls.

We set off early for Dangarra Falls and again were not disappointed with the views and spectacular rock gorges. We again crossed the river across another structure and continued to the main lookout which looked to the East and the mountains just seem to go forever. Back to the cars for lunch and again lots of walks. When you are on top there is only steps and more steps down to lookout platforms and then again steps getting back up. The day although windy was very pleasant.

In the afternoon we thought that the Long Point lookout looked interesting. I must say that we felt as if we were the only people looking around. Beauty again across the mountains and gorges the view from a different angle. The roads although not sealed were very good. The light rain that we had overnight had settled the dust. The country side seemed so lush and green and almost manicured.



Our next stop was the Historic village of Hillgrove. This was and is still a Gold mine that is working today. The town has markers for the businesses that operated in time gone by. As it was late in the afternoon we could not spend much time browsing. There was a museum that looked interesting for another time. That evening it did get very cold and although we changed the date of the camp, the weather was minimum 2 degrees and the top of 16 degrees with a chilling wind.

Day 3: Ebor Falls and Point Lookout.

The next day we set out to Ebor Falls the wind was gusty and had a bite to it. We watch the Guy Fawkes river crash down the falls which I am told are never dry. The wind swept the water every which way, but it still was something beautiful to see. The day was beginning to get colder.

We ventured to Point Lookout in the New England NP one of the oldest and most popular NP. Elevation 1564m. This would be the only lookout that I have seen that has glassed in area for picnics. Point Lookout provided spectacular view of the near vertical escarpments. Below are deep forested valleys. The walk went through sub-alpine, cool temperate rainforest, and snow gums. I must say that at the lookout we almost felt like partners with the Wedge tail eagle that flew with the wind.

A magnificent panorama stretching to the North, East and South is framed by The views were to die for. Amazing! We took a different way back to camp and again we were not disappointed with the trip. Continuing along Styx Forest Way and turning into Kempsey 'Armidale' Road produced a very scenic drive. There was a lovely display of wildflowers. Back at camp it was starting to get very cold. By the campfire we were entertained by the local possums which came very close to check out the campsite.

Day 4: Metz and Garra falls.

We decided that we would check out just one or two more areas that took our interest before heading home. Metz lookout was an area that looked back across the gorge to Hillgrove. We could see a lot of roads and workings in progress. A very secluded area of minor interest. We then went to Garra Falls. A beautiful spot for picnics, no camping available. The weather made the morning tea break a welcome relief. We continued the road further and came to another day use area and walked along the track for a while. We could see diagrams of the days gone by and how water was transferred in flumes, either timber over the rocks going down or concrete through the bush to power a hydro electric power station. This would be a good area to explore as more time was needed.

All in all, a very lovely campout and must see again when the waters are flowing well.

FLORA

Podolobium ilicifolium, Holly-leaf Shaggy Pea; *Acacia concurrens*, *Hibbertia banksii*, *Lomandra confertifolia*, *Wahlenbergia stricta*, Native Blue bell; *Cassinia aureonitens*, Yellow cassina; *Hakea microcarpa*, *Comesperma ericinum*, Matchheads; *Craspedia uniflora*, Billy Buttons; *Diuris sulphurea*, Donkey Orchid, Tiger Orchid; *Hovea acutifolia*, Goodeneas, *Hederacea*, *Hypericum japonicum*

The following was received from Christine Adams-Hosking, School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Management, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Qld 4072. email c.hosking@ug.edu.au. Please help if you can.

I am undergoing a PhD at the University of Queensland and I am investigating the optimal areas for protecting koalas throughout Queensland. With the decline of koalas in southeast Queensland, we think that it is vitally important to examine remaining koala habitats at a State-wide scale. Although we have historical sightings information for koalas from the DERM WildNet database, I am seeking more recent sightings information to ascertain where koalas are still occurring.

This is a very quick survey that I would be most grateful if any people with a definite and recent (2008-2009) koala sighting could complete and return to me by Friday 27th November, 2009.

1. Have you seen, heard, or been told of any koalas in your area? (Please mark with an x)
Yes No

If yes, proceed to question 2. If no, this is also a valuable answer.

2. Date of occurrence: _____ Month: _____ Year: _____

3. Seen: _____ Heard: _____ Reported from someone else: _____

Additional information: _____

3. Koala location:

Address: _____

Local Gov. Area: _____ GPS (if possible): _____

4. Regarding koala abundance in your area, do you think there are (Please mark with an x):

- a) Many koalas, often seen.
- b) Some koalas, small fragmented populations.
- c) Few koalas, rarely seen.
- d) Koalas are declining.

5. Further information/comments: _____

Monthly Newsletter of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. November 2009 – Vol 414

Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. Wednesday 28th October 2009

Meeting opened: 7.40pm

Attendance: 20 Apologies 5 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting: no minutes from the previous meeting due to executive being absent.

Correspondence:

Qld Naturalists' Club Inc.

Society for Growing Aust. Plants

Darling Downs Naturalists

Chinchilla Field Nats

Aust Naturalists' Network Sixth ANN get-together 24th Sep – 4th Sep 2010

Dept Employment, Economic Development and Innovation

Bella Rosa

Correspondence accepted on the motion of Halina Kruger **seconded** Rod Hutchins:- Carried

Financial Report: Balance \$741.02

N Jurd moved that the financial report be accepted. **seconded** Col Hockings:- carried

Outing Reports:

H Kruger reported on Campout Waterfall Way. Col Hockings report of Aztec Temple; *details in this newsletter.*

Pre-outings:

Week day outing: Bald Rock Sunset and Moonrise on Bald Rock. Contact M Mueller 4681 1421

Weekend outing: Undercliff Falls leader C Smallwood 22nd November 2009 meet 9.00am Weeroona Park.

General Business:

40th Birthday Celebrations will be in conjunction with Christmas Breakup 6th December 2009 at Trish and Rob McCosker's property. *Full details in this newsletter*

Specimens/ Items of interest: New 2nd Edition Wildflowers of the Granite Belt from the Stanthorpe Rare Wildflowers Consortium.

Meeting closed: 8.13pm:- Next Meeting: Wednesday 25th November 2009

Presentation by Errol Walker "**Christmas in Antarctica**" a very picturesque Slide show of the unpopulated beauty of Antarctica.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT for Sept/Oct from 27 / 08 / 09 to 28/ 10/ 09

Cash Book balance as at 26 / 08 / 09 \$652.02

Receipts:-

Subscriptions \$ 225.00

Donations \$5.00

\$230.00

Expenditure:-

Room Rent \$100.00

Office Fair Trading \$41.00

\$141.00

CASH BOOK BALANCE AS AT 28 / 10 / 09 \$741.02

Bank reconciliation

Agrees with bank balance as at 28/10 / 09 \$741.02

Accounts for payment:-

Postage and printing; M. Jefferies \$77.50

To help celebrate the 40th anniversary of the formation of our club included is the first newsletter, a report of the first meeting of the Field Nats. (*Because of its rather worn condition I have retyped it. Ed.*) This and the document overleaf was researched and supplied by Errol Walker with the help of Jean Harslett and our librarians Rob and Trish McCosker.

Errol says that the club constitution and rules were adopted on 25 February 1970 when the membership joining fee was \$1.00 and the annual subscription was also \$1.00. Postage was then 5 cents!

“STANTHORPE & DISTRICT FIELD NATURALIST CLUB NEWSLETTER NO. 1 DEC. 1969

There was a very good response from a wide section of the community to the inaugural meeting of the above club held at the Civic Centre on 16th Nov. 1969.

After discussion on what activities would interest the largest number of people a steering committee was elected; this comprises Tom Chapman, President, Jean Harslett and Errol Walker vice-presidents, Robin McCosker sec/treasurer, John Heaton, Noel Newman, Joan Westcott and Irene Chapman. It was decided the special interests would include bush walking, climbing, bird-watching, fossicking and a study of native plants. The Board of Adult Education is to be approached for support, and other naturalist clubs are to be contacted with a view to the exchanging of news and possibly combined outings.

The Club had its first outing to Girraween National Park at Wyberba on Sunday 7th Dec. 1969. About 50 people arrived with lunches, plastic bags, note-books, binoculars, reference books, magnifying glasses papoose carriers and all the paraphernalia for a good day's outing. Tom Chapman welcomed everyone and Jean Harslett gave an interesting talk on the purpose of a naturalist club, illustrating some of her points by referring to the composition of wild flowers and pointing out how they adapt to dry conditions etc. The party then divided into various groups. One of the Pyramids and Castle Rock were climbed and the creek area was well and truly combed for birds and plants. An interesting variety of specimens was brought back for the experts to identifying talk about. After lunch many members went on to the Junction where swimming and general nature study were enjoyed for the remainder of the afternoon.

The bird list for the day was not very long but included the following:- Magpie, Crow, Willie-wagtail, Grey Fantail, Grey Thrush, Rufous Whistler, Double-barrred and Zebra Finches, White-throated Warbler (heard). White-eared Honeyeater, Yellow-tufted Honeyeater, Lewin Honeyeater, Blue Wren, Crimson Rosella, Eastern Rosella, and King Parrot.

An outing has been arranged for New Year's Day when it is hoped that members and friends will assemble at 12, Wallangarra road at 10am or meet for lunch at Rivertree at one o'clock. A brief call to Undercliff falls will be made on the outward journey. After lunch a tour of the old mine workings should be of interest. Don't forget your swimming gear if the day is warm.

On Wed. Jan. 28th at 8pm in the C.W.A rooms everyone is invited to a meeting at which Malcolm Wilson will speak and show slides about his recent trip across the Simpson Desert. Malcolm was a member of the team which crossed Australia from East to West. He is a member of the Toowoomba Field Naturalist Club and of the Bird Observers Club and has travelled all over Australia.

That's all for this time, hope to see you on New Year's Day with all your friends. The Compliments of the Season to everyone.
Flo Tremear and Irene Chapman.”

Overleaf is a reproduction of the program and a list of members and office bearers for the following year from September 1970.

Programme for the Period September 1970 to February 1971.

FIELD OUTINGS

<u>Place</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Leader</u>
Cunningham's Gap	20th Sept.	R. Tremeer
*Salata Hill	10th Oct.	Mrs. Newman
S. Bald Rock	25th Oct.	Mrs. Harslett
McCoskers area (Wyberba)	22nd Nov.	Robin McCosker
Killarney Falls area	31st Jan.	Brian Dodd
Dr Robert's Water Hole	21st Feb.	W. Cathcart
		(B. Walker

* May be changed to fit in with Toowoomba Nats.

MEETINGS

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
Rocks and gems	23rd Sept	Mr. J. Anderson
Native plants	28th Oct.	Mrs. B. Harslett
Stars	25th Nov.	Mr. E. McCulloch
National Parks	27th Jan.	(Mr. T. Ryan & B. Goebel
Galls	24th Feb.	Mr. P. Grant

Note It is proposed to hold a barbecue for members of the Nats. Club on Sunday 13th December at the Wilmot's Estate. More details later.

FINANCIAL MEMBERS 1970 - 1971

Mrs. G. Bott	Mr. R. McCosker
Mr. & Mrs. C. Burton	Mr. N. MacDonald
Mr. & Mrs. B. Barnett	Mr & Mrs E. McCulloch
Mr. & Mrs. T. Chapman	Mr. R. Marsden
Mr. & Mrs. W. Cathcart	Mr & Mrs W. Newman
Mr. & Mrs. B. Dodd	Mr N. Newman
Mrs. B. Donaldson	Mr Nixon
Mr. E. Donges	Mr & Mrs J. Quinlan
Revd. & Mrs. M. Fox	Mrs V. Paskins
Mr. & Mrs. R.J. Francis	Mr D. Pfrunder
Mr. & Mrs. B. Harslett	Mr D. Passmore
Mr. J. Harslett	Mr & Mrs P. Power
Mrs. A. Haynes	Mrs Rushton
Mr. P. Higgins	Sisters of Mercy
Mr & Mrs L. Large	Miss P. Smith
Mr & Mrs W. McCosker	Mr & Mrs I Simcocks
Mr & Mrs M. Stevensen	Mr & Mrs E. Walker
Mrs Smith	Mr & Mrs F. Wilkinson
Mr T. Spiller	Mrs D. Wiseman
Mr & Mrs R. Tremeer	Mr & Mrs J. Heaton
Mrs J. Verrie	Mr N. Butler
Miss J. Westacott	Mr E. Ree

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 1970-1971

President:	Mr. T. Chapman ph.232
Vice Presidents:	J. Harslett W. Cathcart
Secretary:	E. Walker ph.888
Treasurer:	J. Westacott
Editor:	F. Tremeer
Librarian:	M. Fox
Committee:	B. Dodd, I. Chapman, S. Wilmot
	Z. Newman, R. McCosker
Publicity Officer:	R. Tremeer ph. 651