



# 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.



*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: 5<sup>th</sup> March 2010

### COMING UP

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February; Finding spiders –  
Girraween NP – M Jefferies**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February: Travel in Kyogle  
District – H Kruger.**

**Monthly Meeting: Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>  
February; “Cape York” Nanette Jurd.**

**Friday 5 March – Halina Kruger**

**Toowoomba Field Nats visit to  
Stanthorpe:- 26 - 29<sup>th</sup> March.**

### 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](mailto: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. (files in formats such as MS Word require a lot more editing to remove hidden formatting).

### Special Advance Notice

**The Toowoomba Nats are having a camp in the Stanthorpe area over the last weekend in March. Many will arrive on Fri. 26<sup>th</sup> and stay until Mon. 29<sup>th</sup>, but the core of the camp will be Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup>. They will provide a more detailed program later but hope some of our members will join them. Please bear the w/e in mind! Margaret Compton 4687 6107.**

### For Sale

1) Canon 30D single lens digital reflex camera with battery, charger, software, cables etc.  
With 18-55mm lens \$350.00; body only \$300.00.

Michael Jefferies 46812389 or [michael@granitenet.com.au](mailto:michael@granitenet.com.au)

2) Kayak, Double, 15foot, Fibreglass, Touring, Rudder, Paddles, Seats with back-rests, PFD's. Great for bird watching and visiting Texas Caves. **\$400.00**

Phone :- Col & Janet Hockings – 07 46 811 978 Email:- [pinaster@halenet.com.au](mailto:pinaster@halenet.com.au)

## Pre-Outing Reports

### The weekday walk will be on Friday the 5th February, in Girraween National Park.

Meet at 9am at Weeroona Park or 9.45am at the carpark for the walk to Dr. Robert's Waterhole in the Park. We will walk towards the Waterhole and perhaps branch off towards the top of the Cascades. The object is to see how many orb-weaving spiders such as the St. Andrew's Cross spider can be found, to take pictures of them and to identify them from the pictures. This should be ideal for those not in a hurry; all that is needed is a good power of observation and, if possible but not essential, a camera. Scale 3.

Michael Jefferies 4812389 or michael@granitenet.com.au

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February:- A Drive through the Kyogle District to the Richmond Range.

Leaving Stanthorpe at 7.00 am on Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2009 driving through Legume, Woodenbong for morning tea at a lovely out of the way spot at Imerson, looking out at Mt Lindesay and 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 exploring the area and the dam. Then 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.

Halina Kruger Phone 4683 5206

## Outing Reports

### SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER UNDERCLIFF FALLS, NSW



5 members braved the heat and left the carpark at Undercliff Falls to follow Bookookoorara Creek up to an area where we could step across to the the other side, disturbing a large lace monitor in the process. We followed a trail bike trail in the Bookookoorara State Forest through undulating terrain vegetated with tussock grasses and tall eucalypts. There were still a few orange and brown butterflies (*Common Brown*) about with the odd white one, but overall, very few insects were found by Michael. Birds could be heard in the canopy but none were identified by our group. The track is approximately 2 km circuit walk and returns back to the creek, about 200 metres from our starting point. The creek was flowing well; quite picturesque with plenty of white *Leptospermum* in full flower along the banks. There are some deep pools amongst the granite rocks which form the creek bed and some of the locals were cooling off in the shady pools closer to the top of the falls. Flood damage from earlier in the year was evident with uprooted trees and fallen fences along

the creek course. The creek branches into two streams before going over the falls and there is a bit of rock hopping and thick scrub to negotiate before reaching the top of the falls. We explored the top of the falls before having lunch and then scrambled down a very steep and slippery track to the pool at the base of the



falls; again much rock hopping was required. It was cool and lush in the vegetation below the falls with tree ferns, Lomandras and wet sclerophyll trees; the mosquitos were pretty hungry so after some time exploring this area we headed back up the track to the cars. At some later date, it may be an interesting walk to explore further down the creek.

Plant list; *Leptospermum*, *Acacia*, *Allocasuarina*, *Lomandra longifolia*, *Murdannia graminea* [slug herb], *Solanum* [kangaroo apple], *Callistemons*. Weeds:-Honeysuckle along the creek and *Coreopsis* along the roadside.

### *The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Breakup*



*Founder members to cut the cake!*



*The President welcoming members to the ceremonial!*

Rob and Trish McCosker's property at Severnlea was the venue for the Christmas Breakup on the 6th of December. A total of about 60 people enjoyed the day, with a few braving the heat to walk to a hilltop vantage point with Trish in the afternoon, while others arrived later and spent the time more sedately in the cool shade of the garden. We were very pleased to have our inaugural Club President, Tom Chapman with us but unfortunately he could not stay for long. As sunset approached we moved to an open area to cook our dinner on the BBQ, and as the weather remained favourable a projector and screen were set up for the evening slide show. This had been prepared, to commemorate the clubs 40 year anniversary, by Errol Walker and Rob McCosker with their own slides, as well as some from Col Hockings, Jean Harslett and Tom Archer. It was wonderful to have some of the members of the original committee present, and after the very well received slide show, they were asked to cut a cake prepared by Janet Hockings to share with everyone. This was a fitting conclusion to our Christmas Breakup and I hope, a memorable way to mark 40 years of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalists. *Rob McCosker*



*Members gathering at the McCoskers before sundown.*



*BBQ action - men only!*



*A founder with a new member.*

*Jean Harslett and Lucy Cameron*

*Pictures by Errol Walker and Joyce Bryant; many thanks – Ed.*

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2009**

**Meeting opened:** 7:40pm. **Attendance:** 16 Apologies 2 as per attendance book.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** as per newsletter:-  
confirmed by E Walker seconded by Rob McCosker, carried.

**Business arising from the minutes:** nil

**Correspondence:**

Correspondence accepted on the motion of Halina Kruger seconded C Smallwood, carried.



## Monthly Newsletter of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. February 2010 – Vol 415

**Financial Report:** \$703.02 (detail below) Moved by N Jurd seconded by M Jefferies, carried

### Outing Reports:

**Weekday outing:** H Kruger for M Mueller Bald Rock

**Sunday outing:** 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov C Smallwood Undercliffe Falls

### Pre-outings:

**Week day outing:** February 2010 M Jefferies

**Weekend outing:** 21<sup>st</sup> February 2010 H Kruger Richmond Range

### General Business:

Christmas breakup 6<sup>th</sup> December 2009 Rob and Trish McCoskers Severnlea

ANN Stanthorpe section of the programme discussed, Tagalong tours of the Granite Belt with some functions mainly at the Top of the Town Caravan Park. As per notice to Chinchilla Field Nats.

Kris asked that as many past members of the club be involved in the 40 year celebrations at our Christmas gathering. A slide presentation to follow the barbeque.

Next Meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> February 2010 Meeting closed: 7:56pm

Specimens/ Items of interest:

Acacia cultriformis seeds available for member to take home from C Hockings

Brochure from CSIRO Christmas book list.

Print out of a chapter in a book on “The Imperial Blue butterfly”.

This months presentation was “Local insects” by Michael Jefferies.

What a wonderful close up look at our local insects. Beautiful presentation.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT for November 2009, from 28 /10 /09 to 25 /11 / 09

|                                     |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Cash Book balance as at 28 /10 / 09 | \$...663.02 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|

Receipts:-

|               |          |
|---------------|----------|
| Subscriptions | \$ 40.00 |
|---------------|----------|

|               |          |
|---------------|----------|
| Expenditure:- | \$...Nil |
|---------------|----------|

|                                     |                  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| CASH BOOK BALANCE AS AT 25 /11 / 09 | \$...703.02..... |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|

### Bank reconciliation

Cash Book balance as at 25 / 11 / 09

Plus outstanding cheques \$ Nil

Less outstanding cash receipts \$ Nil

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Agrees with bank balance as at 25/ 11/ 09 | \$...703.02 |
|---|-------------|

Accounts for payment:- NIL