



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: 4th June 2010

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

COMING UP

Sunday 23rd May – Goondiwindi Botanic Gardens; Jeff Campbell

Friday 4th June – TBA

Sunday 20th June -The Sugarloaf Border; led by Narelle and Brian Hill.

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).

Notices

A form for the 2010/11 subscriptions and for suggestions for outings, campouts and talks can be downloaded from the web site on the Subscriptions page; it will be included as a sheet in the next newsletter.

Girraween web site

The web site created by Vanessa and Chris Ryan is getting more comprehensive all the time and is now referred to regularly as a source of information on the Park.

It is on the Links page of our web site or at <http://www.rymich.com/girraween/>

Several members have contributed photos and expertise. More contributions are welcome!

Open Office

This newsletter and the electronic version is made using Open Office ver 3.1 which is FREE and does all that MS Office does. Contributions in .rtf format for text and .jpg for pictures separate from the text please. (files in formats such as MS Word require a lot more editing to remove hidden formatting).

Pre-Outing Reports

Sunday 23rd May - Goondiwindi Botanical Gardens -Jeff Campbell

Travel via Texas Road to Inglewood for early Smoko and rest stop. Continue on Cunningham Hwy to Goondiwindi. Turn right at the St George turnoff (signposted) and proceed to T-junction. Turn left and continue on towards Goondiwindi, taking the turn off to the Botanic Gardens on right. Continue to Botanic Gardens entrance on right. Leisurely look at the Eremophila garden and open treelands walk followed by lunch. Toilets and BBQ available. Following lunch backtrack towards Goondiwindi and turn right to the Gunsynd memorial beside the river. Ample parking available. Choice of river walk or local museum (small entrance fee). Smoko prior to returning to Stanthorpe. Level 1.

Friday 4th June – to be decided at May General Meeting.

Sunday 20th June – The Sugarloaf Border; led by Narelle & Brian Hill

REMEMBER

Changes to the program appear on our very own web site as soon as I can get them on, keep an eye on <http://www.granitenet.com.au/groups/environment/fieldnats> when you can – Michael Jefferies

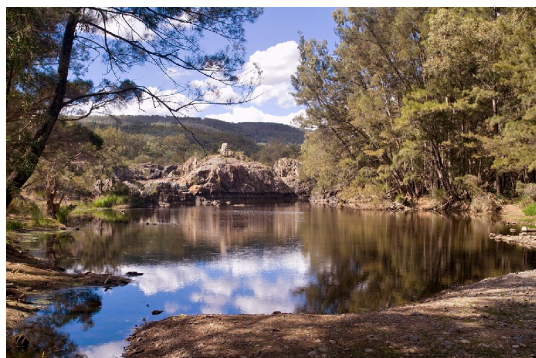
Outing Reports

Nundubbermere Top Falls – 24th April 2010

Leaders: Kris and Margaret Carnell

Eleven Nats set out for Nundubbermere on a perfect autumn morning. On the way we saw crimson rosellas, red backed parrots, wood ducks, pee wees, pied butcherbirds, noisy miners and Richard's pipits. (*The dust on the road was very bad in parts. Ed.*)

We had morning tea at the cars before setting out along a track down a ferny gully to the Severn River. Two members chose not to walk to the top falls, but spent some time around the bottom falls. We had not gone very far along the river bank when someone spotted a yellow-faced whip snake (*Demansia psammophis*) sunning itself on the rock. (Note; this is not recorded in the EPA database for Sundown NP. Ed.) Half the group stopped to admire it and take photographs while the rest went ahead. There were several different dragonflies, as well as a number of butterflies, including large grass yellow, common grass blue, yellow admiral and a number of pepper or heliotrope moths (*Utetheisa pulchelloides*).



This was a leisurely walk, as we kept stopping to look at things like the greywacke (an angular conglomerate) and a young Litoria frog with a line through its eye and a pattern in its groin. Apart from that there were numerous birds, such as white eared and yellow-faced honeyeaters, and double barred and red browed finches and a female golden whistler. There were a few flowers out on a Callistemon, which Peter identified as the Marshall's



Crossing Callistemon.

There was water in the river, although it was not flowing and we stopped to admire and take photos of the pool at the bottom of the top falls, (*above*) before climbing up the steep bank and making our way towards the top of the falls. After lunch in the shade we left our packs and explored the area above the falls. The view from the top is stunning. There is a hole beneath the top of the bar of rock in the main channel where the water falls when the river is running, and numerous interesting pools with reflections. There was a different species of dragonfly around the pools, which Michael thought were probably specific to rock pools.

After an hour or so we started back towards the cars. Along the way there was an ant's nest with a wide ring of grass seed husks around it.

They were obviously harvester ants, possibly *Pheidole*. The ants were not very big or numerous but we were able to get some photos. (*Turns out to be a Meranoplus species, the genus occurs from Africa, southern Asia to Australia, about 50 species in Australia, well known for harvesting seeds; Ed.*)

It was a pleasant walk back along the river. We spotted a peaceful dove perched in a tree and a speckled warbler. After another cuppa we headed for home.

Bird List: magpie, crimson rosella, pied currawong, kookaburra, red-backed parrot, wood duck, pied butcherbird, pee wee, noisy miner, Richard's pipit, weebill, wonga pigeon, brown thornbill, bronzewing pigeon, white-throated treecreeper, yellow-faced honeyeater, yellow robin, red-browed finch, double barred finch, golden whistler, noisy friar bird, white eared honeyeater, grey fantail, superb blue wren, grey shrike thrush, willy wagtail, spotted pardalote, welcome swallow, martin (tree or fairy), peaceful dove, speckled warbler.

Other: *Litoria* sp (frog), yellow-faced whip snake, water skink (*Eulamprus quoyii*), pepper moth, yellow admiral, grass yellow, grass blue butterflies, various ants including a Harvester ant.

Flowers: *Marshall's Crossing Callistemon*, *Isotoma* sp, *Wahlenbergia* sp. (Australian bluebell)

Outing Report Koreelah National Park – 8th May 2010

It was a beautiful day after a frost when seven Nats set out from Weeroona Park and travelled through Liston, where we picked up two more members. Once we crossed the border the grass became green and the full dams reflected their surroundings. There were beautiful fat cattle grazing in the paddocks.

Several bridges on the Mt Lindesay Road are being replaced, so we had to slow down to 20kph to cross them. After crossing the Maryland River Bridge we pulled in beside the river to have morning tea. This was quite a drawn-out leisurely affair as there were birds to watch and the river to admire. A wallaby had crossed the river and left a trail of water and some footprints, one of which looked like a large cat's paw, where the feet had been touching. There were superb blue wrens, grey fantails, fire-tailed finches and thornbills in the casuarinas. We spent some time trying to identify a bird sitting very still in a casuarina tree, and worked it out later, from a photo, it was a fan-tailed cuckoo.



The drive along that part of the road is very picturesque and we were soon able to look to the left and see the rainforest covered slopes of the range. There were views of Mt Lindesay and the other peaks in the vicinity. It was such a change to see lush conditions that we were quite envious. When we turned into White Swamp Road at Old Koreelah we passed a paddock of about six acres full of cobblers pegs in full seed. We weren't envious of that!

As we entered Koreelah National Park Narelle noticed wood ducks on the river. When we strolled back to have a better look, king parrots flew overhead and lorikeets were calling in the trees. The car park is close to the Koreelah Falls so we had a look there before lunch. The falls are not very high but are quite pretty. Some ants caught our attention. There were two species amongst the rocks – one blue and red and one black and gold,

and on the way back there was a nest of bull ants quite different from the ones we get here. They were smaller and two-toned. Apart from the stringy barks in bloom there were very few flowers.

Some of us walked along a mown track to our lunch spot at a table beside the creek, and on the way we saw several butterflies in the grass – skippers, monarchs, lesser wanderers and grass yellows, also a hoverfly. The monarchs were fluttering about high in the trees above us. The stringy barks were in bloom and the lorikeets were feasting. After a lot of looking we were able to identify them as musk lorikeets. On the way out we stopped to look at some more lorikeets in the casuarina trees and discovered they were rainbow lorikeets. We had a visit from a goanna who was not keen to be photographed, at lunch time.



As all the vehicles were four wheel drives we returned home via Head Gate Road through the Condamine Gorge. It is beautiful country with spectacular cliffs and 14 river crossings. We took it slowly and all manoeuvred them without much difficulty. The day ended with coffee in Killarney before coming back to Stanthorpe. *Margaret Carnell*



Bird List Koreelah National Park (including the journey in and out); *compiled by Margaret Carnell*

Superb blue wren, firetail finch, grey fantail, thornbill, cuckoo (probably pallid), pied currawong, welcome swallow, crow, peaceful dove, crested pigeon, kookaburra, magpie, willy wagtail, masked lapwing (spurwing plover), noisy miner, wood duck, king parrot, musk lorikeet, rainbow lorikeet, eastern spinebill (call), yellow-faced honeyeater (call), eastern rosella, grey butcherbird, Richard's pipit, pee wee, crimson rosella, bell bird (call), nankeen

kestrel, heron (or something similar)

**Minutes of the General Meeting Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 28th April 2010**

Meeting opened: 7:38pm

Attendance: 13 **Visitors:** 3 **Apologies:** 0 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting:

Confirmed by M Mueller seconded by M Marsden **carried**

Business arising from the minutes:

Subscription for the year discussed at length and due to our Insurance of \$427, Room rental of \$25 per meeting as well as Post box rental, printing etc. increases need to be introduced.

P James moved a motion that Subscription be increased to \$30.00 per family and \$20.00 per single, with outing contributions Members: \$1.00 and Non-Members: \$3.00 Seconded by M Jefferies Carried

Correspondence:

H Kruger moved that the Inward and Outward Correspondence be accepted seconded M Carnell Carried

Financial Report: \$72.99 N Jurd moved Report be accepted Seconded M Jefferies

Outing Reports

Weekday outing: M Mueller Unnamed place near Donnelley's castle area

Monthly Newsletter of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. May 2010 – Vol 418

Sunday outing: Sat 24th April **Nundubbermere Top Falls** with Kris and Margaret Carnell

Pre-outings :

Week day outing: Kris and Margaret Carnell Koreelah NP, NSW Saturday 8th May

Weekend outing: J Campbell Goondiwindi Botanical Gardens Sunday 23rd May

General Business:

Due to our financial records no longer needing official Audit our Annual General Meeting will again be in July not August. So please remember to send images earlier to Kris for “Remember Last Year”

Next Meeting: 26 May 2010

Meeting closed : 8:15pm

Presentation: Kris Carnell on a recent trip to Tasmania

FINANCIAL STATEMENT for March from 24 / 02 /10 to 24 /03 /10

Cash Book balance as at 24/ 02 /10 \$155.99

Receipts:- NIL

Expenditure:-

Magazine postage \$ 61.25

Printing \$ 31.25

Room Rent \$ 16.00

TOTAL \$108.50

CASH BOOK BALANCE AS AT 24 /03 / 10 \$47.49

Bank reconciliation

Cash Book balance as at 24 / 03/10 \$47.49

Plus outstanding cheques NIL

Less outstanding cash receipts NIL

Agrees with bank balance as at 24 / 03 / 10 \$47.49

Accounts for payment:- NIL

Finally!

I put some pictures I take on Flickr: www.flickr.com including ones from our trips.

Flickr has the facility to put pictures in what are called Groups.

There are several that may be of interest. For example <http://www.flickr.com/groups/girraween/> is for photos of Girraween NP . There is the one I started for ourselves at:-

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/gbnaturalist/> and one for the district at:-

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/stanthorpe/> So go to it! Ed.