



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 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: 2nd July 2010

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

COMING UP

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

Friday 2nd July - Carol Smallwood

***Wednesday 28th July “Remember Last
Year” and AGM.***

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).

Notice – Subscriptions due!

A form for the 2010/11 subscriptions of \$30 for families and \$20 for individuals, and for suggestions for outings, campouts and talks is the last sheet in **this** newsletter. For readers of the on-line version please download it from the web site on the Subscriptions page:-
<http://www.granitenet.com.au/groups/environment/fieldnats/subs>.

Wanted

Images for “Remember Last Year”

If you have images for the programme we have at the annual meeting, could you please arrange to get them to me by the end of June. As we were away for a number of outings I would particularly like images for the following outings.

September Mt Ferguson and Winklers, November Campout and Undercliff
March Goomburra, April Rock Near Donnelly’s Castle May Goondoowindi

I would also like better images than I have for the 40th anniversary break-up.

Kris Carnell 46835268

Girraween plant list

Vanessa Ryan has compiled an Excel spreadsheet of all the plant names associated with Girraween NP. She would be most grateful for expert comment on the names and any offers of photographs.

It is on the Documents page of our web site and can be downloaded and commented on. Please submit the comments separately (i.e. not on the spreadsheet) either to me or direct to Vanessa via her web site and refer to the line on the sheet that the comment refers to.

Partial Lunar Eclipse. - from Michael Mueller

On the evening of June 26th, there will be a partial Lunar Eclipse. After 7 pm. the moon will gradually start to dim as its northern half moves through the shadow of the earth. At 9.30 pm. half of the moon will appear in a reddish, brown light, which is caused by the scattering of the sun's light through the earth's atmosphere. Shortly after midnight, the moon will appear normal again.

Moon 'overtakes' Venus.

If you look at the western sky shortly after sunset on the 15th June, you will see Venus and the Moon appearing very close to each other.

Pre-Outing Reports

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

Meet at Weeroona Park at 9am and then travel out Sugarloaf Road towards Willsons Downfall to Brown Gully Road - approx 13kms on left. We will meet you here and show you some of the area's history before driving approx 1 1/2 km and parking cars. Walk in from here, bring all your gear, morning tea/lunch etc. Morning tea will be at our place followed by a 2-2 1/2 hr walk in and around our property, Sugarloaf Creek, border fence area, summit of Sugarloaf Mountain and back to our property for lunch. After lunch we will be walking on a neighbour's property around the border fence area to the north of our place and back to cars (approx 1-1 1/2 hrs). Anyone wishing to come back to our place for afternoon tea, bird feeding or just to look around further is most welcome. Members who cannot walk in can be driven (4WD) or Brian can drive you up and you can spend a leisurely day relaxing, looking around or reading a book - the choice is yours. Please wear good boots and bring your leech repellants as we do have these pests. For anyone interested we can have a look at the old mining area on the neighbour's property following the afternoon walk. L

NOTE:- Levels 4-8.

Friday 2nd July - Carol Smallwood

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

Goondiwindi Botanic Gardens - 23rd May 2010

Thirteen members departed Weeroona Park about 8.30am on a beautiful autumn morning. Driving via the Texas Road to a morning tea stop at Inglewood we saw the usual striking display of mistletoe and lovely grass-trees just past Pikedale. There were lots of birds seen between Stanthorpe and Inglewood, including Eastern Rosellas, Pee-wees, Wood Swallow, Butcherbirds, Magpies, Crested pigeon, Galahs, Willie-wagtail and Col & Janet Hocking saw an emu, unusual. Nearer Inglewood were currawongs and an Australian kestrel.

After Inglewood we stopped to photograph a caravan powered by camels, with a couple and several dogs.

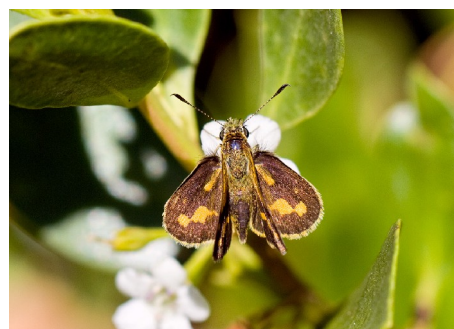
My daughter said they travel through each year, sometimes with chooks under the wagon too. There was plenty of water lying beside the road between Inglewood and Goondiwindi; we saw ibis and a pelican and corellas in the trees.



Arriving at the Gardens about 11.30am we had a leisurely walk among the Eremophilas and then the Western Woodland section. The lake had a White-faced heron and Wood ducks. In the woodlands there were Noisy Miners, Bronze-wing pigeon, White-winged Chough, Blue-faced honeyeater, Grey-crowned babbler, Apostlebird, Welcome swallow, Superb blue wren, Richard's pipit and a Little Wattlebird, Double-barred finches and Red-rumped parrots. The gardens were first

planted in May 1988 after a public meeting in 1986 called by local naturalist Cecil Cameron and has grown since.

Plants flowering in the gardens were Wilga (*Geijera parviflora*) and spring-pod cassia (*Cassia cincinnata*) and some Eremophila with many in bud in a variety of colours. On a *Myoporum insulare* there were lots of insects feeding on the flowers including the butterflies Small Grass-yellow, Caper White, Scarlet Jezabel, White Migrant, Greenish Grass-dart and Yellow Palm-dart. There were flies too including the handsome hover-fly *Eristalinus punctulatus* with spotted eyes. To feed on these were a number of golden orb-web spiders (*Nephila edulis*) with their strong yellow webs.



Greenish grass-dart

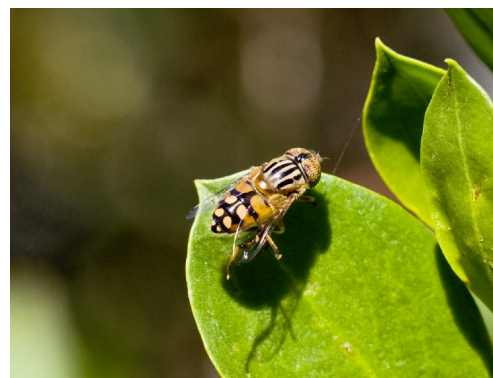
A pleasant lunch was had by the lake, some barbecued with the facilities provided.



Gunsynd

After lunch we drove to the river walk-on the Macintyre; time only permitted a short walk taking in the River Red Gums, the Gunsynd Memorial and the outside of the Historical Museum which was closed that day.

Glenys Mathieson & Jeff Campbell



Eristalinus punctulatus

Monthly Newsletter of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. June 2010 – Vol 419

Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 26th July 2009

Meeting opened: 7:35pm

Attendance: 16 **Apologies** 2 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting: moved P James seconded M Marsden

Business Arising from the minutes: Nil

Correspondence: as per register

Correspondence accepted on the motion of H Kruger seconded C Smallwood Carried

Financial Report: Balance \$91.99

Outing Reports:

Weekday outing: Korelah NP - K Carnell

Weekend outing: Goondiwindi Botanical Gardens – Jeff Campbell

Pre-outings:

Week day outing: Morgan's Mystery outing 4th June 9.00am

Weekend outing: The Sugarloaf Border led by Narelle and Brian Hill

General Business:

Jean Harslett has had a new species cycad named after her. Some 30 years ago Jean sent a sample away for identification and finally this was indeed set aside as being different.

M Mueller suggested that we should look into subsidized equipment for our club through the Gaming Commission.

Vanessa Ryan would like members to help with any photographs of Girraween for her work on a plant list for Girraween NP in progress. (*See elsewhere., Ed.*)

Items of Interest

M Mueller had a photo image made with his digital camera of a Sun spot through his telescope. Apparently the weather has not been kind to Michael's endeavors in searching and sharing the skies.

Brochure of Goondiwindi Botanic Garden of the Western Woodlands. A must visit if in the Goondiwindi area.

Meeting closed 8:05pm.

Next Meeting: 23rd June 2010 7.30 pm

Presentation by Jeff Campbell "Walking tracks in Tasmania"

FINANCIAL STATEMENT for May from 28 / 04 / 10 to 26 / 05 / 10

Cash Book balance as at 28 / 04 / 10 \$72.99

Receipts:-

Subscriptions	\$40.00		
Outings	\$39.00		
Post Box Rental	\$40.00	TOTAL	\$119.00.

Expenditure:- NIL

CASH BOOK BALANCE AS AT 26 / 05 / 10 \$191.99

Bank reconciliation

Cash Book balance as at 26 / 05 / 10

Plus outstanding cheques

R. Hutchins	\$ 50.00
Room rent	\$ 50.00

Less outstanding cash receipts NIL

Agrees with bank balance as at 26 / 05 / 10 \$91.99

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.

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).

SUBSCRIPTIONS

NOW DUE – PLEASE DETACH THE FORM OVERLEAF

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