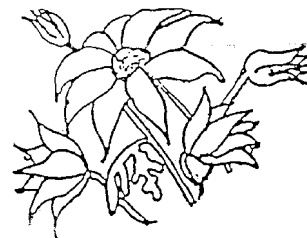




The Granite Belt Naturalist



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

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 August 2010

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

COMING UP

Sunday 25th July, Salata Hill R McCosker

Wednesday 28th July AGM, “Remember Last Year” & supper.

Friday 6th August, Girraween, Col & Janet Hockings

Sunday 22nd August, Waterfall Creek, Peter Andrewartha

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>.

AGM Requests

Our annual meeting will be held on the **28th July**. We will have the annual meeting followed by the general meeting and the programme will be “Remember last year” followed by supper.

At our annual meeting, all positions are declared vacant and election of officers takes place. For a club such as ours it is good if there is a regular change of office bearers. Please consider if you are able to help in any way. We also urgently need suggestions for outings and meetings for the next year. Up to this point we have very few suggestions. You do not necessarily need to lead an outing to suggest it.

Kris Carnell 46835268

UPCOMING OUTINGS

Sunday 25th July:- Outing to Salata’s Hill

The Fletcher hills stand out quite prominently between Glen Aplin to the north and Ballandean to the south with the highway crossing the eastern side and bordered by the Severn River to the west. We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am then drive south on the highway to turn right at Fletcher Road, then left into John Salata’s property at 389 Fletcher Road.

This outing will be a “proper” bushwalk, as there are no tracks, and we have to find our way over rocks and logs etc. I would rate it a Grade 7 walk, however it is only quite short and should be within everyone’s capability. Views from the top of the hills make the effort very worthwhile, particularly one rocky hill top with 360 degree views of the horizon. Sadly some of the area has been badly damaged by feral goats and pigs but we did come across one area in good condition with promising wildflowers and I was surprised

to see the number of Ironbark trees and Moreton Bay figs growing there on our pre-outing trip. There is a lot of regrowth after the 2002 bushfires so cover arms and legs to avoid scratches. We will have morning tea at the cars before walking and carry lunch to have along the way in the bush, and of course, carry drinking water – the hills are quite steep. *Rob McCosker 46835371*

Friday 6th August, Leaders: Col & Janet Hockings: Ph. 46 811 978 Email: pinaster@halenet.com.au Meet at Weeroona Park for a 9:00 am departure. Details are yet to be finalised but we will either have a walk in Girraween or a walk near our property on Gillbard Rd. **Bring:** Walking shoes / boots, hat, morning tea, lunch. Depending upon final details, lunch will be back at the vehicles or at our house.

September NOTE: -We are hosting a visit from persons who have been attending the Australian Naturalists Network Annual Meeting in Chinchilla in early September. We will provide the guide(s) and logistical support. All members welcome to join in and assist.

The program we are running is:-

September 7th (Tuesday) to Bald Rock and Boono Boonoo Falls. Evening dinner at the RSL.

September 8th, (Wednesday) to Girraween NP. Evening meeting for the visitors showing "Remember last year" and "Local Insects".

September 9th, (Thursday) to State Forest around Amiens. More detail nearer the time when numbers become available. *Kris Carnell*

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

MORGANS GULLY OUTING June 4th



Six Nats gathered at Weeroona Park on a fairly bleak day to go to Morgans Gully. There was low cloud and it was misting. We expected that it would be raining over the border but we decided to go for the drive anyway. When we crossed into N.S.W. at Sugarloaf the sun came out and the weather improved. It was a very pleasant drive to the Boonoo Boonoo National Park and we noticed how green it was (a pleasant change) and there were quite a lot of well fed cattle along the way.

On arrival at Morgans Gully we firstly had our compulsory cup of tea. We then meandered upstream along the creek looking at the cutting in the granite made by the miners. Further up the gully there were masses of ferns and beside the gully, banksias were out in bloom. By the looks of the vegetation there should be an excellent wildflower display soon. Col and Jeff crossed over the gully and walked some distance further up.

When they returned we walked back to the carpark and then went downstream towards the junction. After taking some more photos and taking in the pleasant views we made our way back to the cars for lunch. The weather was starting to close in and most of our group had to leave but two of us went in to the falls before we came home. There was more water going over the falls than I have seen for a long time and if we can get just a bit more rain soon they should be spectacular. We took some more photos and then made our way home having enjoyed a very pleasant mornings outing.



Lichen

Birds and Plants

Kookaburra, Wattle Bird, Crimson Rosella, Eastern Rosella, Eastern Spinebill, New England Honeyeater, Yellow Robin, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Blue Wren, Striated Thornbill, Crow, Yellow-tail Black Cockatoo, Fire-tail Finch, Magpie, Pee Wee, Robin Red-Breast.

Leucopogon, Boronia, Homoranthus, Chiloglottis, Acianthus, Banksia spinulosa, Banksia integrifolia, Bauera, Eriostemon.

Also seen – Some lovely fungi and lichen, Red Necked Wallaby, Kangaroo, 3 small wallabies playing “chicken” with my car on the way home. *Kris Carnell*

Sugarloaf Mountain, 20th June 2010, Narelle & Brian Hill.



Border fence

15 Nats attended the Sunday outing at the Sugarloaf Mountain area on a beautiful winters day. Our property sits on a saddle (approx 1060m above sea level) between the highest point of the mountain (1086m) to a lesser point to the north-west and 100m from the Qld/NSW border fence to the east. We firstly checked out some historic sites at the corner of Sugarloaf Road and Brown Gully Road which also included part of a sluice in an old tin mining area, the supports of which are still visible. We drove to a point about 1.5 kms and left our cars here, walking in the rest of the way to enjoy the lovely morning and the bush along Sugarloaf Creek.

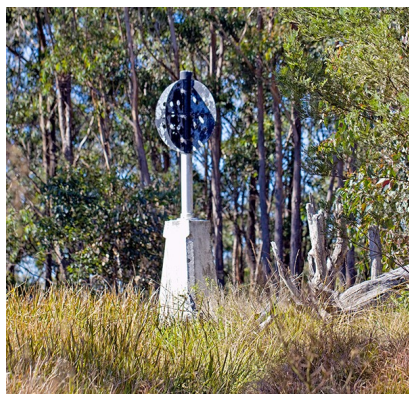
Morning tea was at our place with views of the Main Range NP (Killarney area) and afterwards 12 Nats set out on a walk which included a track back down to the creek, following the creek to where it begins east towards the border fence.

The creek is always damp with an abundance of ferns, banksias and large eucalypts. Our first sightings of bird nest/crows nest ferns, elkhorns and tree ferns were along the creek. We walked east towards the

“rabbit proof fence” and then south up to the summit of the mountain.

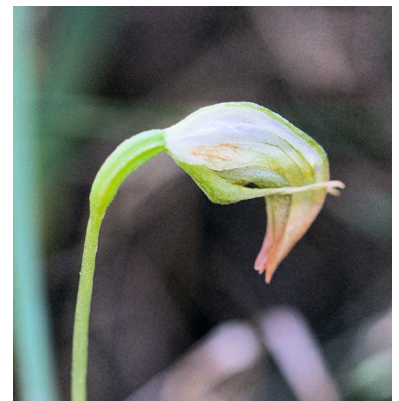
We had views through trees to the northeast, Main Range NP and Wilsons Peak. Unfortunately the views to the west and south are blocked by the trees growing on the mountain and a viewing tower would be a wonderful addition! (Michael M’s suggestion) Coming down off the summit we saw rainforest clinging vines growing on an old banksia.

Further down we were on a wider track and had views back towards the ridge east of town, Mount Tully and the mountain range to the west of Glen Aplin. Following a track through the pine forests we saw many tree ferns, bat wing ferns, fungi and heard birds in the trees. We came back up to the saddle via our southern boundary where mosses, small trigger plants, lichens and nodding greenhood orchids were spotted.



Trig point

During the walk the 3 Nats who stayed on the saddle had a look around the gardens and walked around the perimeter of our cleared area of about 4.5 acres. They relaxed and enjoyed watching the yellow tailed black cockatoos come in to our fish pond for a drink and also sighted many magpies, crimson rosellas and currawongs.



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After lunch 8 Nats walked to a viewing rock at the south-western edge of the saddle from where we could see good views of Bald Rock NP and Girraween NP. More fungi were found here, more greenhood orchids and also a climbing orchid in bud. Views to Mt Clunie and Mt Ballow were also seen from the western end of our cleared area. 7 Nats then set out on our afternoon walk to the end of Brown Gully Road through a neighbour's property to the border fence north, following the fence over more hilly country where more vines, fungi, mosses, lichens and plant life was found. A beautiful rocky moss wall was seen with native clinging vines. We followed the border fence which swings back west towards Brown Gully Road, across the creek at a small rocky waterfall (when the creek is running) and back to the cars.

Thank you for joining us at our property and surrounds for a wonderful day. *Narelle and Brian*

Birds sighted or heard:-

Wedge Tailed Eagle; Grey Shrike Thrush; Grey Fantail; Superb Fairy Wrens; Crows; Yellow-Tailed Black-Cockatoos, Crimson Rosellas. King Parrots; Golden Whistler; White Winged Choughs; Brown Tree Creeper; Eastern Spinebill; Magpies; Currawongs; Pardalote; Scrub Wrens; Striated Thornbill.

PLANTS:-

FERNS

Cyathea Tree Ferns; *Asplenium australasicum*, Bird's Nest Ferns; *Platycerium bifurcatum*, Elkhorn fern; *Histiopteris incisa*, Bat's Wing Fern; *Adiantum aethiopicum*, Maidenhair Fern; *Davallia sp.*, Hare's Foot Fern; *Doodia caudata*, Small Rasp Fern.

ORCHIDS

Pterostylis nutans, Nodding Greenhoods; *Acianthus sp.*, Gnat orchid; *Pterostylis vitreus*, Shiny leafy greenhood; *Chiloglottis sp.*, Bird orchid; *Erthrorchis cassythoides*, Black bootlace orchid.

OTHERS

Banksia integrifolia; *Stylidium graminifolium*, Grass trigger plant; *Pittosporum sp.*; *Clematis glycinoides*; *Glycine clandestina*, Twining glycine; *Hardenbergia violacea*, False sarsaparilla; *Trachymene incisa*, Native Candytuft; *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, Yellow Buttons; *Xerochrysum bracteatum*, Golden Everlasting; *Brachyscome stuartii*; *Hibbertia linearis*, Guinea Flower; *Lomandra multiflora*, Many flowered matrush; *Lomandra longifolia*, Spiny headed matrush; *Persoonia cornifolia*, Broad-leaved geebung; *Viola betonicifolia*, Mountain Violet; *Hybanthus monopetalus*, Lady's Slipper; *Leptosperum novae-angliae*, New England tea tree; *Ajuga sp.*, Native Mint; Native portulaca;; *Leucopogon sp.*, Bearded heath; *Dianella sp.*, Native flax; *Acacias spp*; *Lomatia sp.*; *Billardiera scandens*; *Notelaea sp.*; *Solanum sp.*; *Drosera spatulata*, Sundew.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria st, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 23rd June 2010

Meeting opened: 7:35pm

Attendance: 20 Apologies: 2 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting:

Confirmed by M Mueller seconded by R McCosker carried

Business arising from the minutes: Nil

Correspondence:

H Kruger moved Inward correspondence be received seconded J Campbell Carried

Financial Report: Current balance \$108.03

K Carnell moved that the financial report be accepted seconded M Jefferies carried

Outing Reports:

Weekday outing: 4th June 2010 9.30 Morgans Gully

Sunday outing: 20th June The Sugarloaf Border with Narelle and Brian Hill

Pre-outings:

Weekday outing: 2nd July, C Smallwood - Cascades, Girraween NP.

Weekend outing: 25th July: R McCosker, Salata's Hill.

General Business:

K Carnell asked member to have photos of outings to him for “Remember Last Year”

M Mueller mentioned that in Sundown National Park on the fire trail to Mt Lofty there is a locked gate where 4WD vehicles have been able to drive around the gate and proceed further down the trail. He had concerns for the trail and safety of the vehicles as the terrain gets steep. P Hazelgrove said he'd pass it on to appropriate authority.

Next Meeting: Annual General Meeting 28th Jul 2010. Bring a plate for supper.

Meeting closed: 7:55pm

Presentation: M Jefferies “The view from the train”

Specimens/ Items of interest:

M Jefferies had 2 folders of photo from which some were displayed in the nights presentation.

H Kruger had Photos of Bugs for Identification

Cotton Harlequin Bugs

The bugs are also known as **Hibiscus Harlequin Bugs**. Females are orange with small patches of metallic blue scatter over their body. Males are red with metallic blue patches. Their patterns can be quite different between individuals. Males are smaller than the females in size. Their scutellum completely covers the whole abdomen and wings. The bugs suck sap from hibiscus plants. They feed mostly on young shoots, piercing the stems and sucking the sugar-rich juices intended for shoot growth. As their common name implies, they also attack cotton. They are the minor pest of cotton, feeding on young shoots and bolls. Females lay eggs around stem and will guard them until the eggs hatch. Female bug lays eggs and sticks them around stem during early summer. Maternal care is common in stink bug families. Cotton Harlequin Bug is well known for maternal care. Unfortunately they are a pest but I feel they are still beautiful.

FUTURE OUTINGS – Michael Mueller

A few days ago I came across a few photos taken by Nasa's Cassini-Huygens Mission to Saturn in 2007.

A high resolution image of its outer-most moon Iapetus shows a section of its mountain range stretching almost all the way around the equator. Measuring between 50 and 100 km in width at its base, it rises in parts up to nearly 20 km above average surface elevation. A mountain of that height could not exist on earth as it would immediately collapse under its own weight. As we know from the kangaroo hops of our astronauts on the moon, on the surface of objects much smaller than earth, the same mass (man or mountain, or whatever it is) weighs considerably less. Consequently Mount Everest couldn't have got much higher here on earth. The diameter of the earth is 12,756 km. Mars is only 6794 km in diameter, but its highest mountain, the Shield Volcano Olympus Mons with its 60 km wide caldera on top, has a height of approximately 22,000 metres. (Heights are harder to determine accurately because of the lack of an ocean). So we won't yet run out of mountains to climb!

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR