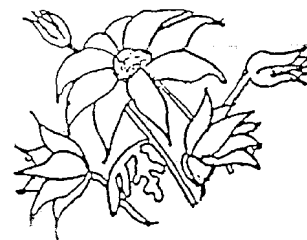




The Granite Belt Naturalist



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:	Carol Smallwood;	46811034
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: 3rd September 2010

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

COMING UP

Sunday 22nd August, Waterfall Creek, Peter Andrewartha

Wednesday 25th August, talk by David Wilson on "The Overland Track"

September Short walks; see the activities for the visitors below. Come and join in.

Sunday Sept. 19th, Richmond Range, Halina Kruger

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).

NOTE PLEASE:-

We wish to bring to our readers attention that, if you are reading this, (whether in the paper edition or by downloading it on receipt of an email from the Editor) AND haven't paid your subscription for 2010-11 BEFORE the September newsletter is ready for posting, then this one is the last you will receive.

Subscription forms were in the last two newsletters and are on the web site.

NOTE NUMBER 2

The draft program for October 2010 to September 2011 is on the **back** of this Newsletter. Please make sure you keep this as a guide; the program will be put in the Field Nats Calendar on the web site as well but it is subject to amendment as time goes by.

Please report errors, changes and omissions to Kris Carnell and Michael Jefferies with as much notice as possible.

NOTE 3

The Rare Wildflower Consortium are holding their usual three wildflower walks this sprint; two of which clash with our outing program. The dates are the 29th August, 19th September and 24th October. Details are available on GraniteNet.

Note 4

Some time ago I said I had started a 'blog' on our web site. It isn't really a blog but a place where one can put short pieces of writing and photos. Take a look; Rob McCosker started it off by sending me a piece which is also in the magazine! Ed.

<http://www.granitenet.com.au/groups/environment/fieldnats/blog>

UPCOMING OUTINGS

Sunday 22nd August, The outing is to Waterfall Creek Falls in the Boonoo State Forest. We will leave Weroona Park at 9.00am & probably have smoko at Bark Hut rest area. The roads in the area are suitable for 4WD's & some of the tracks are a bit overgrown, so anyone who doesn't want to risk scratching their paintwork can hitch a lift with either Michael Mueller or myself. The walk to the falls lookout is fairly easy but to reach the base of the falls is very difficult. This can possibly be an option for some, but it is a grade 9 scramble on a steep & loose slope. *Peter Andrewartha.*

September short walks: -As we are hosting a visit from persons who have been attending the Australian Naturalists Network Annual Meeting in Chinchilla in early September the 'Friday' outing is subsumed into the ones below. All members welcome to join in all or part, 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. *Kris Carnell*

Sunday September 19th:- The Richmond Range, NSW led by Halina Kruger.

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

Top of the Cascades; Girraween NP. 2nd July.



A small group of six braved the drizzly weather and headed out from Dr. Robert's Waterhole in Girraween to walk to the top of the Cascades. Morning tea was taken in the carpark before we set off on the walk. There were many *Banksia spinulosa* in bloom along the track and the odd *Leucopogon microphyllus* starting to flower. Many of the acacias were only a short time away from flowering too and the whole area was lush and green. It was lovely to see so much water in the creek but it did make crossing the creek trickier than when it was dry, as the rocks were quite slippery. Our goal was to head down along the creek to the top of the Cascades where we would get good views of the two Pyramids but after several slips and slides on the slippery rocks, we decided it was too wet and dangerous to continue. Short detours were taken to Dr. Robert's



Waterhole and the Underground Creek but the rain increased so we headed for an undercover table in the day area of the main carpark for our second cuppa of the day.

We all agreed it would be lovely to just sit by the edge of the the two largest waterholes on the walk, especially at dawn, and just watch the birds and animals that come down to feed and drink. May even see platypus as well. The whole area will be a mass of wildflowers in the coming weeks, a good walk to do during early August in the future.

There was quite a bit of bird activity and those sighted included scrub wrens, Eastern spinebill, New Holland honey eaters, Thornbills, Double bars, female Blue wren, Pied Butcher birds, Magpies and

Currawongs, a Yellow Robin and a Lyrebird calling.

Plants noted were *Banksia spinulosa*, var *neoanglica*, *Banksia integrifolia*, *Leucopogon microphyllus*, *Acacia adunca* and *A fimbriata*.

Carol Smallwood.

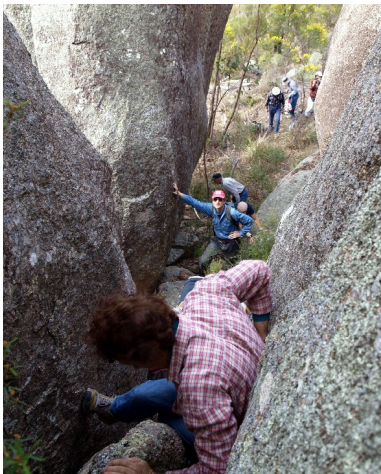
Ed. some of us looked under bark and stones too:- hence the spider!

Outing to the Fletcher Hills - 25th July.



Twelve people attended the outing to the Fletcher hills on 25th July. After turning off the highway into Fletcher Road we continued for a couple of kilometers before pausing at the property which once took its name, Mt Pleasant, from the mountain we were about to climb. We continued on to John Salata's property to park the cars and enjoy a cuppa. The Nats have had a couple of outings to this area over the years, attracted by the range of wildflowers and because of the interest and knowledge John's mother Mary had, of these wildflowers.

We set off up the hill accompanied by one of the two dogs which had come to share our morning tea. It was a neighbour's dog and though it seemed quite old and frail, our attempts to discourage it from joining us failed. The other dog stayed with its owner, after showing us how easily it could jump onto the large rocks set up in front of the house. Upon reaching some sheer rocks we deliberated for some time before some of us set off up a narrow cleft which involved a bit of chimneying to reach the top. We had found an easier way on the pre-outing, but that was a month ago, and of course once on top we soon found the easier way to come back down. The view from this point included the farms and Severn River valley to the west and north. The vegetation here was severely damaged by feral goats. There was no sign of *Eriostemon* that I remember was prolific on a previous outing.



After joining up again with those who stayed below, passing the time fruitfully looking for reptiles, we continued in a southerly direction to another large flat rocky area with views to the south overlooking the orchards with their patchwork of hail netting and one peach orchard already pink with blossom. There was less feral animal damage here and we started seeing some wildflowers – *Acacia*, *Leucopogon*, *Merbelia*, and *Cryptandra*. Our canine companion took advantage of the rock holes by taking a drink from those which still held water. We headed north east from here through some thick scrub and came to an area with extensive wildflowers in bloom, notably the delicate white *Boronia anethifolia*. The view from here was to the south and included looking down on the hill to the west of Ballandean with its communication towers, and

beyond it to Mt Mackenzie on the horizon. Our next stop was another exposed granite slab where we stopped for lunch, with a backdrop of golden Wallangarra Wattle - *Acacia adunca*. From here we could look directly into Horan's Gorge and south along the horizon to Mt Norman, while below that cars, like ants, could be seen traveling along the highway. We could also see showers moving across to the north and south and the clouds began to darken above us as we headed on to our last objective. After more steep scrub bashing first down then up to near the summit of the next hill we rested before six of us made the interesting climb up the last bit to the top, grateful that the showers kept away. During the week before the outing I had a phone call from Ron Salata, John's brother, and he mentioned that there was a cave on the mountain which had been used by aboriginals. It was believed that these early inhabitants had coated the rocks with resin to make them more comfortable, and after a little searching we



found a large rock overhang with a deep cave and a platform of smooth rock which may well validate the story. It was a pleasant spot for us to linger, with a north facing view through the wattles to the valley below, and in the valley a large waterhole in the river where Ron said his family used to go for picnics. He said that the waterhole was once measured to be about 10 metres deep.

Our return journey was a gentle, mainly downhill stroll through fairly open country to reach the cars a little after 2.00pm. Once again John came out to greet us and invited anyone interested to inspect his tractor collection, which is very impressive, especially the Ferguson which is in the process of being restored in its dazzling gold and grey livery. After a much appreciated cuppa we headed home, some continuing along Fletcher Road to return via Emu Swamp Road and Glen Aplin.

Rob McCosker.



Plant List

<i>Acacia adunca</i>	<i>Acacia ulicifolia</i>	<i>Plectranthus suaveolens</i>
<i>Melichrus urceolatus</i>	<i>Mirbelia speciosa</i>	<i>Leucopogon melaleucoides</i>
<i>Leucopogon neoanglicus</i>	<i>Cryptandra amara</i>	<i>Stypandra glauca</i>
<i>Stylidium graminifolium</i>	<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>	<i>Hovea linearis</i>
<i>Boronia anethifolia</i>	<i>Trachymene incise</i>	<i>Spyridium scortechinii</i>

Bird List

Yellow faced honeyeater	Pardalote	Eastern spinebill
Crimson rosella	Eastern rosella	Kookaburra
Magpie	Superb blue wren	Pied butcher bird

President's Report

It is with pleasure that I present the annual report of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc for the 2009/2010 year.

Firstly I would like to thank the leaders of the outings. The programme has run pretty well as planned and it is pleasing to have members who are willing to lead outings to various places for our enjoyment.

I would also like to thank the presenters of our monthly programmes. These programmes have taken us to places that we may not be able to visit and the time and effort taken to prepare these programmes is much appreciated. I would appeal for more suggestions for outings and programme presenters. If you have any suggestions at all please let the executive know even if you can't lead or present yourself.

Unfortunately we do not seem to be able to attract new members at the same rate as we lose members. This decline in membership means a greater financial burden on the remaining members. We have had to introduce an outing fee and also increase our yearly membership fee to try and stay viable.

Lastly, I would like to thank all my fellow office bearers. The vice-presidents Rob and Michael M for standing in while I was away. Halina for her excellent work as secretary. Nanette for looking after our finances right up until she left the district. Michael Jefferies for the excellent job he does as newsletter editor, as well as looking after the Nats website. He also puts photos from our outings on Flickr. Neil and Wendy for assembling our newsletters and Michael M for delivering the town ones and Neil for delivering when Michael is away. Janet for attending to our publicity and Trish for looking after the

library.

I encourage anyone who would like to take a turn at office bearer to put your hand up. A reasonable rotation of office bearers means the club doesn't get stale. If we all pull together I'm sure the club can continue successfully into the future.

Kris Carnell
President

Note from Ed. Kris mentions that I put photos I have taken from outings on Flickr. I also put on photos of wildlife and scenery from the district taken at other times. I would be delighted if others would contribute photos to this pool so join Flickr and sign up to <http://www.flickr.com/groups/gbnaturalist/>

**Minutes of the General Meeting
of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria st, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 28th July 2010
Meeting opened: 8:00pm**

Attendance: 20 Apologies: as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting:

H Kruger moved that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record

Confirmed by	M Müller	seconded	R McCosker	carried
--------------	----------	-----------------	------------	----------------

Business arising from the minutes: Nil

Correspondence:

H Kruger moved Inward correspondence be received	seconded M Carnell	carried
--	---------------------------	----------------

Financial Report: Balance \$579.03

K Carnell moved that the financial report be accepted seconded E Walker carried

Outing Reports:

Weekday outing: C Smallwood - Top Cascades

Sunday outing: R McCosker Salata's Hill

Pre Outings:

Week day outing: C Hockings – Mt Norman rd first gate wildflowers walk

Weekend outing: P Andrewartha Waterfall Creek

General Business:

Kris Carnell offered the clubs condolences to Jean Harslett for the recent loss of her husband Bob.

M Jefferies wanted everyone to know if emailed Newsletter's were coming through as he was using a different program.

C Hockings wanted a Thank you sent to N Jurd for her assistance as Treasurer while in Stanthorpe.

K Carnell read email from the “Cameron’s in Utah” keeping very busy.

Next Meeting: 25th Aug 2010

Meeting closed: 8:25 pm

Presentation: K Carnell “Remember Last Year”

Contributions

I was browsing through an old S.F.N. Newsletter, August 1973 in fact, and came across this delightful article which I felt was worth repeating. The author was Dorothy Wiseman, a lovely, slightly eccentric lady who I am sure many of our long term members will remember. Rob McCosker.

“Random Thoughts on a wet Saturday Afternoon”

Having had the privilege of being a member of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalists Club since its inception, I wish to write about what the S.N.C. had done for me.

- It has added to my circle of friends in all age groups, and I have enjoyed many an interesting and instructive outing in their company.
- Although I have lived here and at Wallangarra for a quarter of a century, my duties prevented me from seeing much of the countryside, except from the windows of a railway train. Since I joined the S.N.C., really I have been amazed at the great number of beauty spots in this area, their waterfalls, fauna, (birds included) majestic eucalypts, and an infinite variety of beautiful, and sometimes quaint, wildflowers, and queerly shaped rocks.
- As we drive along the well kept roads in these areas, and across good bridges, passing towering mountains and well-kept and prosperous looking farms and station properties, I marvel at the courage of the early pioneers who traversed this country in bullock wagons or with horse teams, and waded across the streams. And of their womenfolk who, lacking all modern conveniences, and many miles from towns, exercised their ingenuity, and improvised many things from kerosene tins, wire, sugarbags etc, taught their children, and I should imagine were too busy to have time to waste complaining.
- Sometimes we pause beside some lonely graves out in the bush where these brave people who opened up the country, are lying and wish that they could see it as it is today – thanks to them!
- To end these thoughts, I send my thanks to all club members, in all age groups, who have, in many ways, helped me to enjoy our outings, and hope that we may have more fun together.

Cheerio, *D. Wiseman*

AND

A big 'Thank-you' to Wendy and Neil.

Wendy and Neil Donges are not only involved in putting our magazine together since many years, they also help to hand deliver the Newsletter in town when I am absent. *Michael Mueller*

ALSO

If you have an interest in manipulating photos and putting them on Flickr, I am at 15, Hilton Street nearly every Wednesday from 9 till 12! Call in and have a chat.

Monthly Newsletter of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. August 2010 – Vol 421

Month	Weekday	Sunday	Meeting
October	6-10 th Gibraltar Range N.P. Campout - C Smallwood	24 th North Bald Rock M Mueller	October 27th View from the train M Jefferies
November	5th Broadwater M Mueller	21st Underground Creek below Wyberba Cascades C&J Hockings	24th E Walker Patagonia
February	4th Sugarloaf N&B Hills	20th Browns & Queen Mary's Falls C Smallwood	23rd P Kerr S.W West Australia
March	4th K&M Carnell	20th Ramsay Ck South R&P McCosker	23rd R McCosker
April	1st M Jefferies	24th Connolly Dam K&M Carnell	27th N&B Hill
May	6th P Andrewartha ?	22nd Warwick members	25th K&M Carnell South Island N.Z.
June	3rd H Kruger	19th Mt Norman through walk C&J Hockings	22nd C&J Hockings Flinders Ranges
July	1st M Jefferies	24th Riverton Caves R&P McCosker	27th Remember Last Year
August	5th 7 Acre Rock M Mueller	21st Bare Rock with option of walk to Goomburra M Mueller	24th J Campbell ?
September	2nd Brisbane Claim C&J Hockings	25th N.E. corner of Girraween K&M Carnell	28th M Jefferies Mammals of East Africa

Break Up:- 12th December the Krugers Property "Thorndale".

Campout April ??

Campout September Texas E&A Walker

Spare outings R&P McCosker, C&J Hockings

Spare meetings N&B Hill, C&J Hockings, P Andrewartha, J Campbell

NOTE:- this Program is provisional; amendments and errata to Kris Carnell.