

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.



The Pyramids

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 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 October 2010

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

COMING UP

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

*Sunday Sept. 19th, Richmond Range,
Halina Kruger*

*6-10 October Campout – Gibraltar Range
Carol Smallwood*

North Bald Rock – M Mueller

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).

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

Note

Some time ago I said I had started a 'blog' on our web site. It isn't really a blog but place where one can put short pieces of writing and photos. Take a look; there is a piece on an unusual *Hovea* on the Carnell property. It is also in this newsletter. *Ed.*

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

Pre-outing Reports

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". At the CWA premises.

September 9th, (Thursday) to State Forest around Amiens. *Kris Carnell*

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

6th to 10th October:- **Campout at Gibraltar Range.**

Gibraltar Range N.P. can be accessed via the Gwydir Highway, 79km east of Glen Innes. The 9km unsealed entry road to Mulligans camp ground is suitable for 2WD in all weathers. Highlights of the park are its deep valleys and giant granite rocks, scenic creeks and cascades, swamps, woodlands and heaths that can be explored on more than 80km of walking track.

Camping fees: Mulligans Camping area. \$10.00 per adult per night \$5.00 per child per night.
Vehicle fees; \$7.00 per day or annual pass.

Facilities; Wood, gas/electric barbecues, picnic tables, amenities block with flush toilets and cold showers. There are 6 camping areas to suit multi-vehicle groups and 15 individual sites for tents and medium sized caravans and camping trailers. Water supply. Tap water available but boil before drinking. Several walking tracks start from this area. Little Dandahra Creek nearby is suitable for swimming. There are 10 walking tracks ranging in difficulty from easy to medium difficulty, 1km to 19 km. in the park. Temperature range for October 20-25 degrees. Rainfall 100mm for October.

There 140 species of birds, including the rare rufous scrub bird, koalas, spotted tailed quolls, wallabies, rufous bettongs, long nosed potoroos, greater glider and common dunnarts and pouched frogs to be seen in the park.

It would be good if I could get some idea of numbers of members interested in participating in the campout by the next meeting as I may have to book the campsites. Details of the walks can be accessed online at www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au Carol Smallwood.

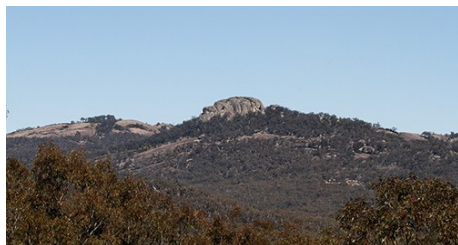
Sunday 24th October:- North Bald Rock *Michael Mueller*

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

FRIDAY 6th August 2010 – North Girraween.



Mt. Norman

On a brisk morning with a “lazy” wind we left Weeroona Park shortly after 9.00am to rendezvous with the rest of the group at the Mt. Norman Rd. Girraween. After a leisurely morning tea our group of 10 set off along the Service road into the National Park. Along the way to our destination we observed the destruction caused by feral pigs. The walk along the road to the chosen ridge is only about one kilometre so it did not take long to reach.

During the scramble up the low ridge everyone’s attention was drawn to a water-worn groove which runs straight down on a steep rock face. The flowers on the ridge were quite a sight with some yet to reach their peak. Views from the top take in The Signboard to the west, Slip Rock to the north-west, the Sphinx and Turtle Rock in the south-west and Mt. Norman to the south south –west.

We returned to the vehicles for a chatty lunch. A number of members were sufficiently impressed

with the accessibility of the ridge and its flowers that they intend to return. *Col Hockings*

PLANT LIST - IN FLOWER

Patersonia glabrata, *Philothea epilosa*, *Leucopogon lanceolatus*, *Leucopogon melaleucooides*, *Leucopogon neoanglicus*, *Acacia adunca*, *Acacia latiseppala*, *Acacia ulicifolia*, *Acacia filicifolia*, *Mirbelia speciosa*, *Leionema rotundifolium*, *Hovea* sp.(very hairy), *Maytenus* sp, *Melichrus procumbens*, *Styphelia viridus*, *Indigofera australis*, *Banksia integrifolia*, *Erythrorchis cassythoides* (climbing orchid, in bud) *Zieria compacta* (in bud).

Insects various including the first bee-fly of the season and a rare 'primitive' earwig, *Cranopygia* sp. which is a species with a Gondwanan distribution. (Pictured, found under bark.)

BIRD LIST

Spotted Pardalote, Grey Shrike-Thrush, Pied Currawong, Eastern Yellow Robin, Brush Cuckoo, Thornbill, Superb Fairy-Wren, Crimson Rosella, Pied Butcher Bird, Kookaburra, Noisy Miner, Little Wattlebird.

MAMMALS – Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Red-necked Wallaby



WATERFALL CREEK FALLS - 22nd August 2010.



Jam Tarts

7 members met at Weeroona Park on a perfect morning which was a nice change from the atrocious weather that we have been experiencing this winter. After a leisurely drive to Boonoo State Forest, we had morning tea at Bark Hut rest area. Because the picnic table was in shade, it was deemed more prudent & comfortable to enjoy our break while sitting on the ground in the sun. We then drove to The Desert & proceeded down Wellington Road to the turnoff to the falls. The track was no more overgrown than when Michael Mueller & I did the pre-outing a fortnight before & we were soon at the cocky's gate where we parked.

The walk to the lookout was very easy, about a kilometre along a vehicular track which is now quite well defined as it has been used recently. The falls were flowing reasonably well & could be seen a bit better from further down the slope where the trees were not quite as thick. While at this spot we enjoyed a leisurely lunch in the sun. Because we had plenty of time, it was decided to go to Basket Swamp Falls or Timbarra trig lookout. On the way we stopped at Basket Swamp rest area where the creek was deeper than usual at the ford. Some time was spent here enjoying the flora & having afternoon tea.



Prickly Moses

By this time it was getting late so we went straight to the trig, only to find that the ladder has been removed. Apparently the NSW NPWS thinks it is too dangerous, even though Forestry didn't & people were able to enjoy the view for years in the past. By this time there was a chill in the air so we made our individual ways home after a very relaxing day out. *Peter Andrewartha.*

Plants

Lomatia silaifolia (crinkle bush), *Stylidium*, *Brachyscome*, *Lomandras*,

Xanthorrhoea, *Petrophile canescens*, *Banksia serrata*, *Banksia spinulosa*, *Epacris microphylla*, *Melichrus procumbens*, *Hovea graniticola* and *heterophylla*, *Acacia floribunda* and *Acacia ulicifolia* and other unidentified acacias.

We also saw wallabies and a flock of Ibis; birdlife was pretty scant. *Carol Smallwood*

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.

Held in GraniteNet Rooms, Hilton Street, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 25th August 2010
Meeting opened: 7.45pm

Attendance: 18 Apologies: 0 as per attendance book

Welcome: President Kris welcomed new members Michelle and Alan Fisher

Minutes of previous meeting:

Peter Andrewartha moved that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record
seconded Michael Jefferies carried

Business arising from the minutes:

The outings for February and March 2011 have been swapped

Correspondence:

Margaret Carnell moved that the inwards correspondence be received and the outwards adopted.
Seconded Michael Mueller carried

Financial Report:

Balance \$982.8

C. Smallwood moved that the financial report be accepted seconded C. Hockings carried

Outing Reports:

Weekday outing: Col Hockings – Girraween N.P. Just off Mt Norman Road

Sunday outing: Peter Andrewartha – Waterfall Creek

Pre-Outings:

Weekday outings: Col Hockings and Kris Carnell – Post Tour of Australian Naturalist Network – 9am on September 7th, 8th and 9th to Bald Rock, Boonoo Boonoo Falls, Girraween NP and Amiens State Forest

Slide Evening Wednesday 8th September – *Remember Last Year & Local Insects*

Sunday outing: Halina Kruger 18th September – Richmond Range

Camp Out: Carol Smallwood October 6th - 10th – Gibraltar Range National Park

General Business:

Neil Donges will be unable to collate the magazine as he has had surgery. Several members offered to assist

Specimens:

Col Hockings had a photo of a basket fungus. There have been several in their garden.

Next Meeting: 22nd September 2010 Meeting closed: 8.10pm

Presentation: David Wilson *The Overland Track*.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUGUST 2010.

Cash Book balance carried forward from 28/7/2010	\$810.83
Receipts;	
Subscriptions	\$260.00
Outing fees	\$18.00
Total	\$ 278.00
Expenditure;	
Rent Hilton St.	\$30.00
Newsletter Postage and printing	\$76.00
Total	\$106.00
Balance 28/7/2010 – 25/8/2010	\$172.00
Cash Book Balance as at 25/8/2010	\$982.83
Bank Statement 16/7/2010 – 13/8/2010	\$840.83

Contributions

White Hovea at Orana



A few weeks ago when Kris was cutting wood up on our mountain, he came across several bushes of a white hovea, growing amongst the usual purple ones. It is a lovely, delicate flower with the keel being purple and the rest of the petals white. I have several cuttings in a pot and am hoping they all grow.

Margaret Carnell

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 and explore the wonders of Flickr!
There are three groups that have local photos; one for Stanthorpe, one for Girraween and one for ourselves!*

Michael Jefferies

FINALLY

This really is the **last call** for anyone who has not paid the current year's subscriptions to receive this newsletter. You should find a reminder slip in this edition if you have not paid. If you get an email notice about the newsletter and/or the Field Nats happenings this will cease too.