



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: 5th November 2010

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

COMING UP

6-10 October Campout – Gibraltar Range
Carol Smallwood

Sunday 24th October, SUN view 8.30am,
Weeroona Park- M Mueller

Sunday 24th October, 9am, North Bald
Rock – M Mueller

Friday 5th November, Broadwater SF – 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).

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 a stinkhorn fungus Col and Janet Hocking have on their place and also a picture of a white Stypandra in the Broadwater SF.

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

Pre-outing Reports

Sunday 24th October:- Weeroona Park. 8.30am viewing the Sun through the telescope- *Michael Mueller*

Sunday 24th October:- North Bald Rock 9am - *Michael Mueller*.

This walk is around 10km return. We will drive along Mt Norman Road from the north and then walk east along fire-trails (grade 4) for most of the way before ascending the hill (grade 7) through the bush. There should be lots of flowers to see. The south face of the hill offers one of the best views of Bald Rock itself.

Friday 5th November:- Broadwater SF. - *Michael Mueller*. A short (3km there and back) walk to a lookout to the south and west, grade 7 in parts. Start at 9am and drive to parking area just near the Happy Valley resort. Morning tea on the rock.

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



The trig on Bald Rock

The accounts for 7, 8 and 9 September cover the visit of a group of Interstate visitors after the Australian Naturalist Network Conference in Chinchilla.

Tuesday 7th September - Bald Rock and Boonoo Boonoo Falls:- Col and Janet Hockings

On a beautiful Stanthorpe Spring day, we met 16 members of the Australian Naturalist Network together with some of our own members and drove to Bald Rock National Park. After the mandatory morning tea, the group were divided into three groups depending on ability and interests. While one small group walked the track to the base of Bald Rock, another set off up the sidetrack while the more adventurous successfully scaled the rock face on a direct route to the summit.

Once the top of Bald Rock had been thoroughly explored, members descended via the track or the rock face. En-route, a family of Cunningham skinks, well camouflaged in a rock crevice, provided an excellent photo opportunity. Everyone eventually returned to the picnic area where we shared our lunch with a couple of hopeful Currawongs and a very quiet male Satin Bower bird, which scavenged for crumbs on, around and under the tables.



Male Satin Bowerbird

Following lunch our convoy continued on to Boonoo Boonoo National Park. The Falls and creek were spectacular due to all the rain and again the cameras were busy. A very tall specimen of yellow *Diuris* was found near the car park and the purple *Patersonias*, which were in full flower, were in great numbers in the grass along the walking track. The yellow *Pomaderris* and sprawling clumps of *Hardenbergia* were also prevalent on the roadside and along the track down to the falls lookout.



Falls Look-out

Morgan's Gully was our last port of call where members were taken on a short walk to be shown the interesting rockwork and resulting gully drilled out during the mining era. The day finished with afternoon tea at the cars before returning to Stanthorpe by 5.30pm.



Diuris sp.

8th September 2010 Girraween National Park:- Kris and Margaret Carnell

We assembled at the Top of The Town Caravan Park and travelled to Girraween by some back roads. The roadside behind Glen Aplin was lined with *Acacia pruinosa* in bloom, as well as *Acacia floribunda*. We crossed the highway at Ballandean to look at the man-made pyramid on Jacobsen Road. Our next stop was to look at *Acacia pubifolia* (Wyberba Wattle) beside the road. One of the Nats explained that *pubifolia* comes from *puberulent* meaning "short soft hairs". The dictionary meaning is covered



A latipetala

with fine, short and nearly imperceptible down.

After the obligatory cuppa, we started along The Junction track, stopping every few metres to look at flowers. *Acacia latisepala*, *A. granitica* and *A. ruppii* were some of the first to catch our eye. The flowers on *Dodonaea falcata* caused quite a lot of interest. The rate of travel along the track was quite slow and most of the walkers didn't get to The Junction before it was time to turn back for lunch. Close to The Junction there were a couple of plants of *Phebalium whitei* in bloom.

At lunch time we observed a lone White-winged Chough foraging in the leaf litter. A group of volunteers from Brisbane were planting an area behind the toilets and erecting a fence to keep the new plants safe from animals and people.

The afternoon walk was to the Granite Arch. At the arch there were Grey Fantails, Thornbills and Pardalotes in the trees. The Thornbills would not stay still long enough to be identified. By the time we returned and had a look at some pig rootings beside the road, we decided it was time to return to Stanthorpe.



A. ruppii



Phebalium whitei

9th September 2010, Amiens State Forest:- *Kris and Margaret Carnell*

Liz Bourne offered to lead the outing to Amiens State Forest, in spite of a very busy schedule, and we would like to thank her very much for that. Liz and Glen and Jenny Holmes met us at Amiens State School and led us along a rather damp track to Swipers Gully.



Boronia granitica

After enjoying pikelets and jam for morning tea, we headed uphill where there were masses of *Boronia granitica*, both pink and white, making a breathtaking display. The *Acacia granitica* around the rock slabs was blooming profusely, along with *Phebalium rotundifolium*. The *Patersonia glabrata* had bigger flowers than I remember seeing before.

On returning to the cars, a couple of people headed off, and the rest of us drove to Donnelly's Castle for lunch. We meandered around the rocks and climbed up to admire the view. Where there had been fire a few months ago, the native violets and *Indigofera australis* were thriving – also the ink weed. Everyone was very interested in the broad-leaved mistletoe growing on the drooping mistletoe.

The journey home was past orchards covered with hail netting along the Thulimbah – Amiens Road.

The visitors and some members were also entertained by a picture show on Wednesday evening in the CWA hall that showed them some more local fauna and the Club's activities last year.

19th September, Richmond Range National Park Drive:- Halina Kruger

Although it had started to shower soon before departure a very small group decided to venture to the Richmond Range. Weather report for the Northern Rivers was showers late afternoon. We drove through Tenterfield proceeding along the Bruxner Hwy to Mallanganee. Morning tea was at the Mallanganee rest area looking down on the road to Cambridge Plateau and beyond, taking in Mt Warning and surrounding areas but visibility was poor. We crossed the highway and drove along the ridge with grazing farms dropping on both sides leading to the Cambridge Plateau. The area is included on the World Heritage List as part of the 'Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves of Australia'. This chain of reserves protects most of the remaining area of rainforest in south-east Qld and the north-east NSW.



Lichen



Clematis

Cambridge Plateau lookout is 12km from the Bruxner Hwy and can be accessed by 2WD but to proceed further 4WD is required. Many walks are able to be enjoyed if time permits.

As our time was short we ventured further into the Richmond Range. Along the way we had spectacular views of the rainforest trees, undergrowth and the many beautiful large staghorns, elkhorns and a king orchid up in the canopy. Subtropical landscape of large long straight trees, grass trees and wild flowers enhanced our visual enjoyment.

Along the road there is a Giant Spotty Gum around 300 years old with many other young spotty gums around this area. As light showers persisted we had the great visual effect of tall White gums turning white bark into green striped bark, like a stage show just as we were passing by. On reaching Peacock Creek camping area we very much enjoyed lunch with birds for entertainment. Much discussion took place in identifying what bird we had seen in the distance.

After lunch we voted to drive up to Toonambar Dam for a look, then through to Afterlee and taking Cox's road, return again into lush rainforest. We stopped at two lookouts along the way enjoying the clouds enveloping the ridges on the other side of the range. Pademelons, rock wallaby and a couple of playful foxes scooted in front as we meandered through the rainforest. As we made our approach to the Summerland Way Hwy the rain became heavier and we were very glad to be out of the National Park.

A pit stop in Woodenbong late afternoon then a slow but lovely drive home.



Staghorn

Minutes of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
QCWA rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe. Wednesday 22nd September 2010

Meeting opened: 7:35pm

Attendance: 12 **Apologies:** 1 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting: moved C Smallwood seconded M Mueller carried

Business arising from the minutes: nil

Correspondence:

H Kruger moved that correspondence be accepted seconded M Jefferies

Financial Report: Balance \$982.00

C Smallwood moved that the financial report be accepted Seconded P Andrewartha

Outing Reports: **Weekday outings:** Post Chinchilla conference members visiting our area by Col Hockings and Kris Carnell - see reports above.

Weekend outing: H Kruger Richmond Range

Pre-outings: **Weekday outing:** 6th -10th October Camp-out to the Gibraltar Range, *Carol Smallwood*

Weekend outing: 24th October M Mueller – North Bald Rock.

General Business:

Toowoomba FN and Murrumbidgee FN newsletters to be available internet

Dropbox is now available to view and edit shared information, stup on request to M Jefferies

GraniteNet at 15 Hilton Street has 2 computers using broadband available for Seniors computer training.

Specimens/items of interest: Photo of Basket Fungus - Col Hockings.

Next meeting:- 29th October 2010 **Meeting closed** 8:10pm

Presentation by P Andrewartha Hong Kong and Singapore

ALSO

GraniteNet now has a 'Broadband for Seniors' Kiosk. This consists of two computers and is manned by a volunteer who is available to train senior citizens in the use of the Internet such as email, word processing and on-line services. If you need such a service or know someone who does please contact GraniteNet on 46814384 or call in during open hours which can be found on-line. Currently these are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9am to 1pm and Fridays from 9am to 4pm.