



# The Granite Belt Naturalist



Stanthorpe Field Naturalists Club Inc., PO BOX 154, Stanthorpe, QLD 4380

Web Site: [www.granitenet.com.au/groups/environment/fieldnats/](http://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](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup> 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: 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011

*THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR*

## COMING UP

*Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November – Nundubbermere Falls led by Col & Janet Hockings*

*Monthly Meeting - 24<sup>th</sup> November  
The Walkers – Patagonia*

*Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December Breakup  
The Krugers place for 3.00pm.*

*Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February – Sugarloaf  
Narelle & Brian Hill*

## 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

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## Notes

**THIS IS THE LAST NEWSLETTER OF OUR 40TH YEAR!  
SEASONS GREETINGS AND GOOD WISHES FROM THE EDITOR!**

*Please note the early deadline for the first newsletter of 2011!!!*

### *Pre-outing Reports*

**November Outing Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> - Leader Col Hockings Ph: 4681 1978**

### **Nundubbermere Falls**

Meet at Weeroona Park at 9:00am. Bring lunch to carry, water and a hat. It may be hot. Wear sturdy shoes or boots as we will be walking on rough, uneven rocks. A swim is a possibility. The weather will determine where we go and what we do on the day. Plans may change.

**BREAKUP – 3pm Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> December.  
The Krugers, Kruger Lane, Thorndale. Contact Halina Kruger on 4683 5206**

### **ADVANCE NOTICE**

The first meeting of the New Year is on the 4<sup>th</sup> February at Narelle & Brian Hill's, Sugarloaf. Details in the February newsletter and on the web-site.

### **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

### GIBRALTAR RANGE NATIONAL PARK CAMPOUT 6<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2010. *Carol Smallwood*

The weather outlook was poor but seven field nats decided to go ahead with the Gibraltar Range NP camp out scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> October. Foolhardy maybe, but the trip was worth the effort despite being cut short by rain on the third day.

The main entrance to the park lies 80 km east of Glen Innes on the Gwydir Highway, with another 7.5 km of good, unsealed road to reach Mulligan's camp ground. Facilities at the campground are good with gas barbecues, fireplaces with wood supplied, tables and chairs, some of which were covered, and individual campsites separated by foliage to provide privacy. There is also a large group camping area with a covered activity/kitchen area. The amenities block includes flush toilets and cold showers. Maps are provided showing the walks in both Gibraltar and Washpool National Parks. We explored the area around Mulligan's hut and saw the remnants of the two weirs Mulligan set up on Little Dandahra Creek in 1920's to provided water for a hydro electric scheme to power electricity for reworking copper deposits in the foothills below. There was plenty of water going over the Barra Nulla Cascades but it was too cold to swim; would be lovely in the summer months. The group headed towards Lyrebird Rock along the Forest Walk but some of us didn't reach the rock as we were too busy photographing the many wildflowers in bloom along the track. One member of the group went to Murrumbooee Cascades, the site of the second weir, and saw many orchids on the rocks leading down to the cascades.



On the second day we did a new 8km circuit walk which passes through a variety of vegetation areas. The track starts from the campground and winds through stands of stringy barks and very tall xanthorrhoeas, and heath flats, to follow and cross Little Dandahra Creek. It heads uphill through grasses dotted with white conospermum and dry sclerophyll forests of acacias, stingy barks, banksias and leptosperms. Granite rock outcrops provided good views in all directions over the park. It was along this section of the track we were lucky enough to see two waratahs in flower as many of the plants were still only in bud.



At the top of the escarpment is a large area of traprock with many wildflowers in bloom and a waterfall in good flow across the gully. Donkey orchids and bearded orchids were seen in this area before we headed downhill and into the Treefern Forest. Here were 60metre high Sydney Bluegums and four different types of treeferns; such a contrast to the dry forest of the upland ridge. The track continued through rainforest before coming out into dry forest of New England blackbutt with a thick undergrowth of bush peas, hakeas, banksias, waratahs and grasstrees. The track crosses the creek once more at the day use picnic area, adjacent to the camping area.



That afternoon we did 4klm walk to Anvil Rock, a landmark feature of the park. The vegetation was very different with giant granite boulders scattered amongst the stands of gums, grasstrees and thick undergrowth. The track passes a large heathland area where the remnants of last years Christmas bell flowers could still be seen, then winds uphill to the base rocks of the Anvil where good views over park can be seen in all directions. Heavy rain clouds were gathering on our return and that evening the heavy rain started and continued through the night. Next morning was misty and drizzly so it was decided that we head for home.

We didn't see much in the way of wildlife or birds, but the abundance of wildflowers and the diversity of vegetation made for a very interesting and picturesque trip.

Plant list: Acacias, Boronias, *Bossiaea*, Banksias, *Calochilus robertsonii*, *Comesperma retusum*, *Coronidium boomani*, *Dampiera purpurea*, *Daviesia latifolia*, *Diuris chrysantha*, *Drosera spatulata* and *pectata*, *Epacris longifolia* and *microphylla*, Geebung (*Persoonia*), *Grevillia* (spider), *Hibbertia*, *Hybanthus monopetalus*, *Isotoma anaethifolia*, *Isopogon petiolaris*, *Leucopogon microphyllus* and *neoanglicus*, *Lomandras*, *Lomatia silafolia*, *Micromyrtus sessilis*, *Mirbelia confertifolia* and *pungens*, *Prostanthera*, *Patersonia glabrata*, *Plebalium*, *Seringia hillii*, *Viola betonicifolia*, *Xanthorrhoea*, *Zieria*.

SUNDAY 24th October.

8.30am The Sun through a telescope. *Michael Mueller*

I could hardly believe it when I woke up to a blue sky that morning, and it remained so until exactly 8.50 am! Just enough time to give all of us a glimpse at the star closest to earth. We could clearly see a few sunspots, which are caused by disturbances in the sun's very strong magnetic field. The diameter of these small and significantly less bright patches is similar to the diameter of the earth. As the sun has just gone through a period of minimum activity, we will gradually see that the sunspots can get much larger. (Remember, never look into the sun without a good quality filter.)

9 am. North Bald Rock. *Michael Mueller*



*Erythrorchis*

A group of nine, including two visitors, went on this adventurous walk, which took us towards the N.S.W. border in the northern part of Girraween National Park. As a result of the weather in the past weeks, parts of Mt. Norman road had to be negotiated with great care.

After walking down the fire trail and past a large swamp near the headwaters of Quart Pot Creek, we had to wade through water for about 200 metres before heading uphill through the bush to the large southern rock face. It offers a picturesque southerly panoramic view with Bald Rock in the centre. Only 100 metres north is the highest point of the southern part of this long 'U' shaped hill. Here the flat rock slabs are partly fringed by pink Kunzeas. In more sheltered spots groups of King Orchids are common. We proceeded approximately one kilometre along the ridge to a very special spot high on the southern slope. On top of a few large boulders, King Orchids were in such an abundance as never seen before by anyone on this walk! Another half kilometre eastwards were some grade 8 sections to scramble over or through, then we stepped over the border fence to reach a small rocky outcrop with a view. More and more black

clouds were building up as we started to walk back along the northern side of the ridge and over more flat rock slabs, some of them offering good views to the north and eventually to the east. Fringed by vegetation these rock slabs are all difficult to spot from the distance. Even the large

southern rock face, which can be clearly seen from Bald Rock, appears smaller than it actually is, due to the topography of this large hill. Perhaps for this reason the area is relatively unknown. Luckily the heavy downpour waited until we were all in the cars heading home! (*I did not receive any photos of the wading, unfortunately nor the King Orchids; Ed.*)

**Plant List for North Bald Rock Outing**



*Brachyscome stuartii*

*Kennedia rubicunda*, Red kennedy pea; *Hardenbergia violacea*, False Sarsaparilla; *Daviesia latifolia*, Hop Bitter pea; *Dillwynia retorta*, Showy parrot pea; *Mirbelia speciosa*, Showy mirbelia; *Diurus* sp. x 2, Yellow donkey orchids; *Lyperanthus suaveolens*, Brown beaks; *Erythrorchis cassythoides*, Climbing orchid; *Pterostylis rufa*, Ruddy greenhood; *Calochilus robertsonii*, Purplish beard orchid; *Dendrobium speciosum*, King orchid; *Stylidium graminifolium*, Grass trigger plant; *Stylidium laricifolium*, Tall trigger plant; *Viola betonicifolia*, Mountain violet; *Pimelea linifolia*, Queen of the bush; *Grevillea viridiflava*, Narrow leaved grevillea; *Hakea leavipes* subsp. *granitica*, Finger hakea; *H. macrocarpa*, Small fruited hakea; *Leptospermum polygalifolium*, Common tea tree; *L. novae-angliae*, New England tea tree; *Kunzea obovata*, Pink kunzea; *Stypandra glauca*, Nodding blue lily; *Bulbine bulbosa*, Bulbine lily; *Tricoryne elatior*, Yellow rush lily; *Billardiera scandens*, Apple berry; *Lomandra longifolia*, Matrush; *L. multiflora* subsp. *multiflora*, Many-flowered matrush; *Xanthorrhoea johnsonii*, Grass tree; *Craspedia uniflora*, Billy buttons; *Brachyscome stuartii*, Daisy; *Cassinia uncata*, Dead finish; *Actinotus helianthi*, Flannel flower; *Goodenia hederacea*, Ivy-leaved goodenia; *Philotheca epilosa*, White eriostemon; *Leionema ambiens*, Fruit salad plant; *Stackhousia viminea*, Slender stackhousia; *Leucopogon melaleucoides*, Snowbush; *Acacia venulosa*, Veiny wattle; *Drosera peltata*, Tall sundew; *Wahlenbergia granitica*, bluebell; *Hibbertia* sp. x 2, Guinea flowers; *Ranunculus lappaceus*, Buttercup; *Solanum amblymerum*, Kangaroo apple; *Solanum* sp. Nightshade.

The most outstanding display for the day was that of the King orchids with their multiple flower spikes at the peak of their blossom but for me the flower of the day was the Mountain violet, for wherever we walked it was a constant companion with its splash of violet amongst the grass. *Rob McCosker.*

November 5th. South Broadwater State Forest. *Michael Mueller*

Five of us went on this short walk on the rock slabs on the west side of the 930 m high hill. We were pleasantly surprised by the number of wild flowers still around, including:-

*Zieria aspalathoides*, *Glycine clandestina*, *Hardenbergia violacea*, *Erythrorchis cassythoides*, *Patersonia glabrata*, *Billardiera scandens*, *Solanum amblymerum*, *Stackhousia viminea*, *Hybanthus monopetalus*, *Calochilus robertsonii*. (*There was a good suite of shrubs not otherwise mentioned with, when the sun shone, a good suite of flies etc feeding on them; Ed.*)

Again the weather was kind to us, as those dark clouds released their load well after we returned home.



*Which one?*

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.  
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria st, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

**Meeting opened:** 7:35 pm

**Attendance:** 9 Apologies 4 as per attendance book

**Minutes of the previous meeting:**

H Kruger moved seconded C Smallwood **carried**

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**Business arising from the minutes:** nil

**Correspondence:**

H Kruger moved seconded K Hazeldine carried

**Financial Report:** Current Balance \$1289.83. There were no monies received nor bills paid in the month.

C Smallwood moved that the financial report be accepted seconded M Jefferies

**Outing Reports:**

Weekday outing: Campout to Gibraltar Range Carol Smallwood. Weekend outing: M Mueller North Bald Rock

**Pre-outings:**

Week day outing: M Mueller Broadwater SF. Weekend outing: Col Hockings Underground Creek or maybe alternate venue due to the wet weather (note from Ed. See Pre-outing report).

**General Business:**

M Mueller reported on the sun spots through his scope.

**Next Meeting:** 24<sup>th</sup> November 2010

**Specimens/ Items of interest:** Book of further interest ViaRail Canada transcontinental booklet; guide to the places on the line from Montreal to Vancouver.

**Meeting closed:** 8:10 pm

**Presentation:** M Jefferies “The View from the Train, Seattle, WA to Kenola, Canada”.

***ALSO***

***More news for the Blog please; someone must have seen something!***

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.