



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.

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 website as soon as possible.



The Pyramids

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.

CLUB OFFICE BEARERS - 2010/2011

President:	Kris Carnell	46835268
Vice-presidents :	Rob McCosker	46835371
	Michael Mueller	46811421
Secretary:	Halina Kruger	46835206
Treasurer:	Carol Smallwood	46811034
Newsletter Editor:	Michael Jefferies	46812389
Magazine C'mtee:	W & N 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.

COMING UP

**Connolly Dam and Railway Bridge - 19th
June 2011** Kris & Margaret Carnell

1st July Short Walk -TBA

Riverton Caves - 24th July
R&P McCosker

Deadline for next newsletter:

29th June 2011

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 on-line, please email fieldnats@granitenet.com.au for inclusion on the email newsletter list. This will ensure you have the document as soon as it is finished and before it reaches you by post.

Pre-outing Reports

Connolly Dam and Railway Bridge - 19th June 2011 Leaders: Kris & Margaret Carnell



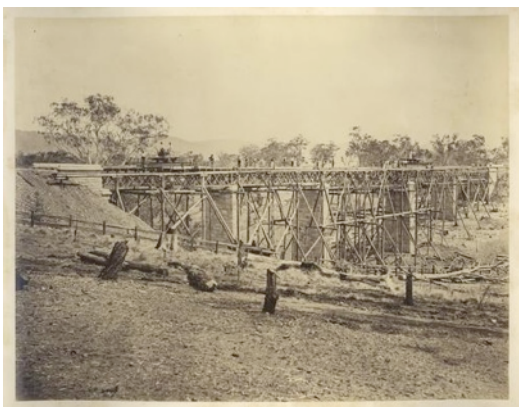
We will meet at 9.00am at Weeroona Park. We will be travelling via Glen Niven and Maryland and then on to Mt Lindesay Road, and travel to Cullendore Road. If there has been substantial rain beforehand we will be going via Liston, as there are three slab crossings with water going across. A short way along Cullendore Road we will stop at Maryland River for morning tea. There are quite a few exotic plants here, including a vine with cream flowers and large seed pods full of fluffy seeds. We then cross back into Queensland and go the site of the old Silverwood Railway Crossing. We are going to walk along the railway line to the site of one of the old

Mineral Creek Bridges. It's not a very long walk, but we didn't take note of the distance. The sandstone piers that used to support the metal bridge are still there. It's an interesting historical site. The bridge was replaced in the 1960s by heavy embankment works. We will then return to the vehicles and drive to Connolly Dam for lunch.

After lunch we will walk below the dam wall to explore the creek bed. A lot of the trees in this area are exotics such as *Pepperina*. We can spend as long as we want looking around Connolly Dam, returning via the Old Stanthorpe Road to Dalveen. We are indebted to *Errol Walker* for the following information:

"Mineral Creek Bridge— On 5th September, 1957 plans were drawn up to bypass the Mineral Creek Bridge with a large embankment with culverts. In 1964 the deviation was built around the Mineral Creek Bridge. The story has it that when trains passed over the bridge, cracks in the freestone pillars





would open up. They tried strapping the pillars, but to no avail.

A large embankment at a cost of about \$100,000 was built to replace the Mineral Creek Bridge in 1963-64. The army reservists (CMF) as part of a demolition exercise blew up the Mineral Creek Bridge in 1967. The original earthworks leading up to the bridge can still be seen, along with one pylon still standing with the strapping attached, and the three collapsed pylons with the majority of the huge sandstone blocks still intact, on the western side of the line.

Spring Creek Bridge – A deviation was built around Spring Creek Bridge in the late 1960s. The original earthworks leading to the bridge and all the freestone piers can still be seen on the eastern side of the line.

OUTING REPORTS

Friday 6 May - there was just one participant for the walk to Dr Roberts Waterhole so the decision was made to postpone the walk.

Sunday 22nd May - Mt Edwards. When the morning dawned with drizzle and low cloud the decision was made to cancel the walk due to the rocky surface of the path, a decision confirmed by the fact that the showers continued all day in the district. There was support for scheduling the walk again for later.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 25th May 2011

Meeting opened: 7.35pm

Attendance: 15 Apologies 3 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting:

M Marsden moved

seconded M Jefferies

carried

Business arising from the minutes: nil

Correspondence:

H Kruger moved that the Correspondence accepted

seconded M Carnell

carried

Financial Report:

K Carnell read the balance as per cashbook in the absence of the treasurer balance \$551.30

Outing Reports:

Week day outing: 6th May P Andrewartha Girraween cancelled

Weekend outing: 22nd May Warwick Members Mt Edwards cancelled due to rain

Pre outings:

Weekday outing: 3rd June M Jefferies - Doctor Roberts Waterhole 9am

Weekend outing: 19th June K & M Carnell to Connolly Dam 9am

General Business:

The 'Atlas of Living Australia' had invited Michael Jefferies to attend a launch in Brisbane. He reported back that the ALA is a unique five-year partnership between the CSIRO, Australia's national science agency; the

Australian Government and Australian museums, herbaria and other biological collections. It was created in response to the need for more comprehensive and accessible information on Australia's biodiversity. Photos and information relating to our own specific area can be included in the database as we learn more about this project. Michael will assist us to be able to input such information include references to plants, fungi, animals, insects, he already has had some photos of insects on the database. This will become a wonderful reference data for all to use.

Michael said he would give a talk to the Club using material provided by the ALA (and this is being arranged). This meeting may have to be at the GraniteNet premises so that the talk can access the ALA site live and on-line through GraniteNet's broadband links. In the meantime members can look at the site through the link below. Below is the official invitation for the Club to participate in the ALA program.

"To Stanthorpe Field Naturalists Club Inc.

My name is Briony Cowper and I am working for the Atlas of Living Australia. The Atlas is a collaborative project involving museums, herbaria, research institutions and the Australian Government tasked with identifying and linking information on Australia's biodiversity.

I would like to introduce you to the Atlas: <http://www.ala.org.au> and ask if you would be interested in helping us.

We are collecting occurrence data for any living species in Australia, and are hoping that your Naturalist Group may have a database of plant, animal or fungi species that you are happy to share. Images are also useful to our website. Even if you do not have anything digital, a list of species (seen in a designated area at a specific time) would be appreciated.

The data you share will be combined with all other data to enhance Australia's biodiversity knowledge. In return we can provide links to your details or website, increasing public recognition.

Would you please take the time to browse the Atlas website (visit some species pages if you would like to see how we currently display contributions, links and attribution), and contact me if you are interested.

Thank you for your time.
Briony Cowper

Briony Cowper, Data Liaison, Atlas of Living Australia
CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences, GPO Box 1700, Canberra, ACT 2601
Phone: (02) 62464524

Web: <http://www.ala.org.au/>

Email: briony.cowper@csiro.au

Next Meeting: 25th June 2011

Specimens/ Items of interest:

Glenys bought in a photograph of fungi in her garden after the recent rain. *Panaeolus* sp??

Meeting closed: 8.05 pm

Presentation: Kris & Margaret Carnell - South Island New Zealand



The gecko (left) was found behind a wardrobe in the Carnell's neighbour's house. This is a true local, a leaf-tailed gecko, *Saltuarius wyberba* confined to the area south of Stanthorpe into NSW on the granite.

FOR SALE Canon Camera Lens

EF-S 18 – 55mm (for APS-C sized sensor cameras) 1:3.5 - 5.6, Image Stabilizer, Auto Focus, UV filter included, VGC.

\$140.00 or best offer. Phone Col Hockings 07 46 811 978

Subscriptions and Program for 2011/12.

As subscriptions are due for the next 12 months from the end of June, at the June meeting there will be some time allotted for the treasurer to write receipts between the end of the meeting and the beginning of the program. If paying by **cash** at the meeting please put your **money in an envelope with your name on the outside** to make it easier for the Treasurer.

Subscriptions for 2010-2011 : Family \$30.00 – Single \$20.00

Please complete your correct name and address details below and present with your subs. to the meeting in an envelope with your name on the outside, or post to:

Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, STANTHORPE Q 4380.

Name (including title please)

Postal Address:

Postcode

Payment enclosed \$.....

As quite a few of our members have Email we would like to have your email address if you are agreeable. Sometimes it is convenient to contact as many members as possible about a change in arrangements at short notice, and this can be a convenient way to do it.

Email address:-

The monthly newsletter is distributed electronically and all members with email are notified with a link built into the newsletter so that they can download it at their convenience. It is also posted on the website in the Documents folder.

If you would prefer to have your magazine emailed direct to you please tick here:-

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NEWSLETTER: The Editor welcomes comment on the newsletter and also is happy to include articles for it AND/OR the web site. If anyone does not want their name mentioned in outing reports could they please advise the editor, Michael Jefferies, at fieldnats@granitenet.com.au

WEBSITE: The Editor welcomes comment on the website and is open to suggestions and material for inclusion. Please send a note, preferably by email to fieldnats@granitenet.com.au

PLEASE add your suggestions for next years program overleaf.

Names and addresses are only used for posting the magazine and are not passed on to anyone else.

The committee once again asks for your assistance to provide a wide range of outing activities and meeting programs for the coming twelve months.

Please **jot down your suggestions below**, and indicate if you would be prepared to lead an outing or provide a meeting program. All suggestions will be considered at a special committee meeting to be held shortly after the AGM.

Name: Outing: (Place or area, duration, time of year, Sunday or weekday)

1)

2)

3)

Campout: (Place, duration and dates)

Meeting subject: (Title and brief description)

1)

2)

3)

Other comments and suggestions:

Thank you.