



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

1st July Short Walk -TBA

Mt Edwards - 24th July

The Warwick members

AGM, 27th July 2011

Deadline for next newsletter:

2nd August 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.

**PLEASE submit photos for ‘Remembrance of Times Past to Kris Carnell by the 20th July!!
The AGM will take place during the July Monthly meeting on 27th.**

Pre-outing Reports

Sunday 24th July 2011 Mt Edwards, near Aratula, led by Warwick members.

Mt Edwards in the Fassifern Valley will be our destination for the May outing. This peak is one of several volcanic plugs that make up the Moogerah Peaks National Park. Of all the mountains, Mt Edwards is the only one of the peaks to bear a resemblance to a volcanic cone. Despite this, its distinctive shape is the result of 24 million years of erosion and is not an indication of its volcanic origin.



Summit View from Mt Edwards

Mt Edwards is located near Moogerah Dam with the trail head starting from the western end of the wall of the dam. The reservoir is currently full and the probability is high that, if there is further rain, some water may still be flowing over the spillway in May. After crossing the wall, the walk is through well-timbered country with some views gained of Moogerah Dam and Little Mt Edwards during the ascent. The summit provides panoramic views of the northern Fassifern Valley encompassing Mt French and Flinder's Peak. Three terrestrial orchids were noted during our pre-outing.

The walk is a steady ascent. Though relatively steep in some places, the track is well-defined and does not necessarily require any rock scrambling. The summit is reached after a walk of around 4km from the parking area. It did take over two hours to reach the summit during the pre-outing. We have rated the track at around a Level 6 to 7 mainly because of the relentless uphill.

Departure will be from Weeroona Park at 8:00am. After meeting up with the Warwick members at Jack Howe Park on the north side of Warwick, we will depart from there at 9:00am. Morning tea will be at Moogerah Dam with lunch at the summit of Mt Edwards. If time permits, the return drive will take us around Lake Moogerah, past Mt Alford and Mt Greville before rejoining the Cunningham Highway south of Aratula. *David Wilson; 4661 2839; Narelle Crawford; 4661 4651; Peter Kerr; 4661 1818*

Outing Report - The Underground River, 3 June 2011



Six persons gathered at Weeroona Park, in amongst those arriving for the Eisteddfod, on a perfect outing day, cool and sunny with little breeze. We went to the car-park for the track to The Underground River and met two more there. It was agreed to walk to the creek before smoko. There was the normal amble as an interesting little caterpillar was found on an *Allocasuarina*. Now known to be the larva of *Pernattia pusilla* Lasiocampidae, an egg moth. The Banksias along the track in full flower were attracting a host of birds. Robins abounded and a cuckoo was seen. Approaching the Underground River the effects of the January rains were clearly visible; it appeared that the water had flowed directly over the barrier that normally diverts the water under the face of the overhang and had flattened a lot of the smaller shrubs, probably to a depth of 2m. Smoko in the sun

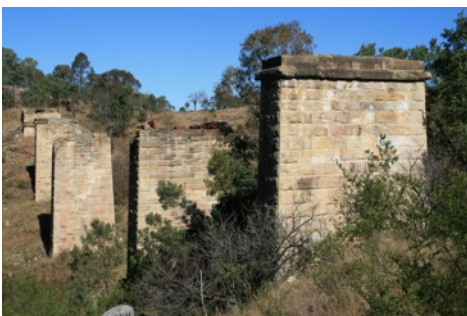
under the overhang was enjoyed. We then all went up to the granite surface above the overhang and admired the water rushing down the incised course in the granite. Several frogs could be heard and one was caught, there were tadpoles and mosquito larvae in the rock-pools. We then wended our way back to the car-park and went our separate ways.

Michael Jefferies

Bird list:- Yellow-faced Honeyeater, White-eared Honeyeater, New Holland Honeyeater, White-naped Honeyeater, Spotted Pardalote, Scarlet Robin, Eastern Spinebill, Red Wattle bird, Eastern Rosella, Crimson Rosella, Kookaburra, Yellow Robin, Striated Thornbill, Pied Butcher bird, Common Bronzewing, Fan-tailed Cuckoo and Pallid Cuckoo. *Col & Janet Hockings*

Outing Report 19th June – Mineral Creek Bridge and Connolly Dam

Eighteen Nats set off on a cold, clear morning to drive to the Mineral Creek Bridge via Wylie Creek. It was a very pleasant drive along a road that was a first for several members. We saw birds right from the start, including welcome swallows at Mossvale. Along the way we passed quite a large eucalypt plantation. It was good to see the dams full and sleek cattle in the paddocks.



Smoko was at the Maryland River, on Cullendore Road, not far from the turnoff. There was a convenient mowed area for parking and we used the back of Rob 's ute as a table – very civilised. Some of us walked downstream to the old

crossing which is badly damaged by flood water. An Australasian Grebe provided entertainment, diving and resurfacing in the river. From the river we drove further along Cullendore Road and noticed a large patch of Mother of Millions at the Cullendore Gate. As we got closer to the Silverton Railway Crossing we saw two different *Acacias* growing by the roadside.

During the walk along the railway line to the Mineral Creek Bridge members found a number of interesting things, including many and varied dog spikes and other pieces of metal lying on the ballast. Jackson had fun putting them into little piles. There was a box containing sand, presumably to help the train get a grip, and a grease point on the rails in one spot. We saw two more *acacias* in bud beside the track, as well as *Dianellas* and something that was not a *Dianella* but looked a bit like it. Also of interest were the olivine crystals in some of the pieces of ballast and mica and other minerals in others. We disturbed a couple of wallabies and stopped to look at Connolly Dam through the trees to the west.



Just as we reached the bridge, a pied butcher bird flew past with a mouse in its beak. We walked to the end of the old bridge pillars and looked back along the length of the bridge remains, then clambered down the slope to the base of the sandstone pillars. There were fallen pieces of sandstone and pieces of metal galore. The metal part of the bridge was blasted from the pillars as an exercise for the CMF during the 1960s(?). Neville and Lester did some investigating and found the remains of the trusses in an adjoining paddock. It appears that most of the steel was made in Scotland. We looked at the three

very large pipes that run under the embankment, then climbed the other side back to the current railway line.

Connolly Dam was a short drive from the Silverton Crossing and we had lunch at the picnic area overlooking the dam. In the distance there was a pelican and a number of black swans on the water. After lunch we walked the short distance to the base of the dam wall, admiring the waterfall below the spillway. Most of the Nats bridged the creek via a fallen tree trunk and walked out to the tower on the dam, but a couple of us headed back and disturbed a quail that was in the grass beside the track. We also saw a couple of brilliantly coloured king parrots.

It was too early for afternoon tea, so we headed for home along the Old Stanthorpe Road. It was a very enjoyable outing and the weather was just about perfect.

Margaret Carnell

Flower List: 4 *Acacias* (2 in bud), *Brachycombe* sp, *Hardenbergia*, yellow paper daisy, *Senecio* sp (fire weed), Yellow Jacket.

Bird List: duck (probably Pacific Black), eastern rosella, willy wagtail, pied butcher bird, welcome swallow, kookaburra, crested pigeon, red wattle bird, magpie, bar shouldered dove, wood duck,

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crow, superb blue wren, Australasian grebe, yellow-faced honeyeater, musk lorikeet, white-winged chough, sulphur crested cockatoo, noisy miner, wedgetail eagle, grey-crowned babbler, pee wee, striated pardalote, white-faced heron, pelican, black swan, quail (don't know which), king parrot, galah, Wonga pigeon(?).

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 22nd June 2011**

Meeting opened: 7:30pm

Attendance: 18 Apologies 4 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting:
M Marsden seconded P Andrewartha **carried**

Business arising from the minutes: nil

Correspondence:

H Kruger moved that the Correspondence accepted seconded J Campbell **carried**

Financial Report: \$776.30

C Smallwood moved that the financial report be accepted seconded E Walker

Outing Reports:

Week day outing: 3rd June M Jefferies - Doctor Roberts Waterhole

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

Weekday outing: 1st July - H Kruger

Weekend outing: 24th July Mt Edwards Warwick group 8am start.

General Business:

Wildflower walk 17 July 2011

AGM at the July meeting.

Don't forget photos for Kris Carnell "Remember last Year"

Next Meeting: 27th July 2011

Specimens/ Items of interest:

Collection of rocks from outing at Silverwood

Meeting closed: 7.54pm

Presentation: Cecile & John Daniels "North America"

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR JUNE 2011.

Balance B/F \$551.39 (Reconciled with Bank Statement 15/6/2011).

INCOME:

Membership fees \$250.00

Outing fees \$25.00

EXPENDITURE:

VGA monitor cable \$29.95

TOTAL INCOME \$275.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURE \$29.95

BALANCE \$826.39

LESS EXPENDITURE \$ 29.95

BALANCE 22/6/2011 \$796.44

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A local

The picture to the left is of the jewel beetle named after Jean Harslett's father Alexander Gemmell by Shelley Barker. Its full name is *Castiarina alecgemellii* (Barker, 1987) and the holotype was collected by him with the label, Stanthorpe, Dec 1958, and is in the South Australian Museum. This specimen was collected by me on 2 Dec 2010 along Quart Pot Creek and was photographed using the focus stacking technique. This species is also recorded from Milmerran and at Coonabarabran, NSW.

ref:- '*Castiarina Australia's richest jewel beetle genus*' Shelley Barker. ABRIS, Canberra, 2006. ISBN 978 0 64256 843 4

Finally

There is now a list of plant species for Girraween NP developed from the spreadsheet we had on the web site from Vanessa Ryan, the owner of the Girraween NP web site at <http://www.rymich.com/girraween/>. This is a pdf file and is on our web site on the Documents page for download and use It is also on the Girraween site mentioned above in the Downloads section together with a bird species list and orchid flowering guide. It has been developed by Vanessa and Craig Robbins in consultation with the Queensland Herbarium, the Wildflower Consortium and the Girraween NP staff. Comment, additions etc are encouraged!

In addition Vanessa has given me the spreadsheet from which this was derived and I intend to modify it so that it can be used for the whole district and record times and places in more detail for use with records that we might produce for the Atlas of Living Australia. More later!

Michael Jefferies

NOTE PLEASE:-

We wish to bring to our readers attention that, if you haven't paid your subscription for 2011-12 BEFORE the September newsletter is ready for posting, then the August one is the last you will receive, whether in the paper edition or by the electronic newsletter delivery.

Subscription forms follow in this newsletter and are on the web site.

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.