



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 - 2011/2012

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

9th August: Short Walk - 7 Acre rock
Michael Mueller

21st August: North-Eastern corner of
Girraween NP. K&M Carnell

Deadline for next newsletter:
1st September 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

Pre Outing Report for Sunday 21st August



The outing on the 21st will be to the North Eastern corner of Girraween National Park. We will leave Weeroona Park at 9 a.m. and travel to the park via Pyramids Road. The start of the walk is where we first meet the National Park. After smoko we will walk along a slashed fire trail going west. The first 200 metres is quite steep but we'll take it slowly. There is then a group of very large granite boulders to walk through where there is evidence of lyre birds and wombats. The track then becomes a lot easier as we follow the park boundary further west. About 1.3 km from the cars our walk turns south up a large exposed granite slab. From points along the slab there are many points of interest to be seen, haze permitting, including Mt Norman, Bald Rock, Mt Lindesay and the Main Range. We will have lunch at a point where you can look across to the back of the Kitchen Caves and Slip Rock.



The return journey will be backtracking along the same route and if time permits there is another vantage point to explore and we could spend more time at the granite boulders. On the preouting there were lots of *Leucopogon* in flower and buds on a number of other wildflowers. We should be back at the cars for afternoon tea. Carry your lunch and water with you.

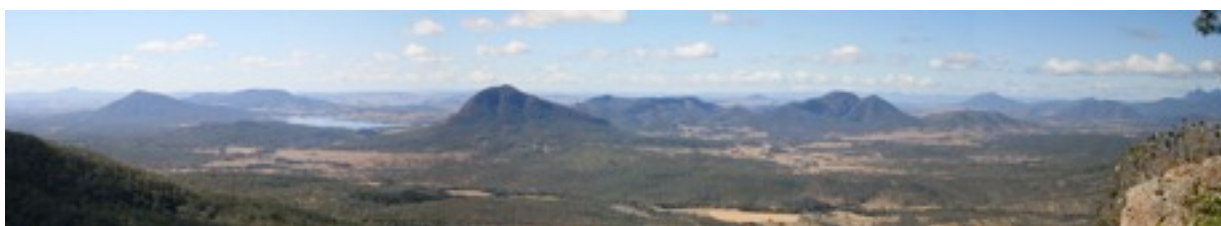
Kris and Margaret Carnell 46835268

Outing Report -

Friday 1st July 2011 “Views around Kruger’s property”

The day did look overcast but a group of four and half decided we would take the walk. Unfortunately the weather did keep the drizzle up. The view toward Amiens had poor visibility as the clouds came in but we could get a general idea of what we could have seen in better weather. Further up the hill we had a good view of the house and top view of our property. There will be many wild flowers but at the time of the walk only buds almost bursting on the wattles were visible. We then walked through the paddock to a rocky outcrop that gave us an unobstructed view looking across to the High School in Stanthorpe and across the town area. Turning to the East there was a view of Severnlea and almost a view of Kris and Margaret’s home and further view of Glen Aplin along the New England Highway. The weather persisted and we cut the walk short with a view out past Ballandean and towards Tenterfield. Unfortunately I didn’t know some of the outcrops sticking up in the horizon out towards south, but I will endeavour to find out what is out in my view. We then walked back to house and had lunch on the veranda which also has a view of Stanthorpe and even better at night.

Outing Report: Mt Matheson 24 July 2011.



The outing to Mt Matheson at Spicer’s Gap was a worthy alternative to the planned ascent of Mt Edwards, after the latter was the victim of a controlled burn three weeks earlier.

Fourteen people gathered at Jackie Howe Park in Warwick before travelling in convoy to the campground below Spicer’s Gap. There, we were met by Errol & Annette Walker who were relaxing with a cuppa beside their motor home as they awaited our arrival. Following our own morning cuppa, eleven began the walk to Mt Matheson while five, who had other commitments, drove to Spicer’s Gap before departing the region.

After an hour’s walking through tall open forest, the track took us onto a long ridge that afforded wonderful views of the Cunningham’s Gap

area. Numerous vantage points provided the opportunity for keen photographers to capture some stunning scenery. Despite the pristine look of this majestic range, the constant drone of vehicles was a reminder that civilisation was not far away. The view of the Gap from here is unusual in that it provides the illusion that it is much wider than from other vantage points. (Maybe that was just me!) With the imposing ramparts behind it, Mt Cordeaux looked relatively insignificant compared to its twin in Mt Mitchell.



Lunch was enjoyed at one of the final vantage points. From here, as the track returned to the Spicer's Road, we passed through patches of rainforest. One particularly large strangler figure was noted beside the track. Further along, we were reminded of the logging history of the area, when a reasonably intact timber jinker was passed.



Once the Spicer's Road was reached, it was a leisurely stroll to Spicer's Gap through some tall eucalypt forest. Along the way, a number of signs provided historic information on the convict history of the road. Of note were several dead mammals along the road. A bandicoot had not long expired as its body was still quite limp. Further along, a species of hopping mouse was found. Other members of our group reported seeing a couple more dead animals along the road.

There are few superlatives to adequately describe the view from the Governor's Chair on such a beautiful day. The mountains of the Moogerah Peaks lay hunched across the plain of the Fassifern Valley, their mottled appearance the result of the fair weather cloud that cast their shadows like a giant camouflage net. After soaking up the scenery, all that remained was the 30 minute walk along the Spicer's Road to the camping ground. A brief stop was made by some to see the historic Moss's Well while others took time to see the pioneer graves at the camping ground.

The drive down from the mountain afforded one final spectacle with the afternoon sun painting Mt Greville and the peaks of the Main Range a golden yellow, the sharp outlines of their lofty peaks a final salute to a picture perfect day for keen photographers.

**Annual General Meeting
Stanthorpe Field Naturalists' Club Inc. 27th July 2011**

Meeting opened: 7:38pm

Attendance: Present 15 Apologies 2 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting:

H Kruger moved minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record **seconded** C Smallwood

Business arising from the minutes: nil

Presidents Annual Report:

Correspondence: Associations Incorporation Form 12-1

Financial Report: \$1037.49

Election of Office Bearers:

President:

K Carnell	Nominated	R McCosker	seconded	C Smallwood	accepted
-----------	------------------	------------	-----------------	-------------	----------

Vice Presidents:

R McCosker	Nominated	K Carnell	seconded	accepted
K Carnell	Nominated	M Mueller	seconded	accepted

Secretary:

K Carnell	Nominated	H Kruger	seconded	R McCosker	accepted
-----------	------------------	----------	-----------------	------------	----------

Treasurer:

M Carnell	Nominated	C Smallwood	seconded	K Carnell	accepted
-----------	------------------	-------------	-----------------	-----------	----------

Newsletter Editor:

Monthly Newsletter of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. August 2011 – Vol 431

K Carnell **Nominated** M Jefferies **seconded** M Marsden accepted

Magazine Committee:

M Mueller and P Andrewartha volunteered to do the magazine jointly

Publicity Officer:

J Hocklings

Librarian:

T McCosker

AGM General Business:

Financial statement and Form 12-1 including payment to be sent to the Office of Fair Trading.

Monday 15th August Executive committee to organize program for the year.

Meeting Closed: 8.02pm

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 27th July 2011**

Meeting opened: 8:05pm

Attendance: 15 Apologies 2 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting:

confirmed by M Marsden seconded by P Andrewartha **carried**

Business arising from the minutes: nil

Correspondence: as per folder

H Kruger moved correspondence be accepted	seconded	M Carnell	Carried
---	----------	-----------	---------

Financial Report: \$1037.49

C Smallwood moved financial report be accepted seconded E Walker

Outing Reports:

Weekday outing: H Kruger - Views around the property

Sunday outing: Warwick members - Spicers Gap

Pre-outings:

Week day outing: Col Hockings - Basket Swamp

Weekend outing: K & M Carnell - N E Corner of Girraween NP

General Business:

E Walker was contacted by a new resident to the district and he mentioned that there is no information available at the Visitors Information Centre in Stanthorpe about our club. We will put out a leaflet, but members felt that our local phonebook had a wide range of information and contact numbers for all clubs.

Southern Downs Regional Council Expo is 14th September 10am-2pm, the club decided that a combined site with the Camera Club displaying screens with photos, handouts and a couple of members on site would give the club exposure on what we are all about.

Much discussion transpired about \$1 outing fee for members and \$3 for non-members. Towards the end of last year funds were depleting fast and a temporary fee was installed to tide us over.

Group decided to get a sign in book for all outings.

Next Meeting: 24th August 2011

Meeting closed: 8.32pm

Presentation: K Carnell "Remember Last Year"

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JULY 2011.

Balance carried forward	\$796.44	(Reconciled with bank statement 15/7/11.)
-------------------------	----------	---

INCOME:

Membership subs	\$380.00	
Outing fees	\$16.00	
Donation(A&G Cameron)	\$20.00	
Balance		\$1,212.44

EXPENDITURE:

Stamps, printing & paper	\$94.95	
C.W.A. room rent	\$50.00	
Office Fair Trading	\$43.45	
Expenditure		\$188.40

BALANCE 27/7/11 \$1,024.04

July Income	\$416.00
July Expenditure	\$188.40

Finally

Our keen photographers may be interested in the **Crows Nest Digital Photo Competition**. The competition is part of the 2011 Crows Nest Festival, which has the theme: *Our Birds - feathers, food and fun*.

This competition is for digital images of birds in Australia, both native and introduced, or Australian birds in an overseas setting. There are five separate classes.

- Australian Native Birds
- Birds as Food
- Birds as Pets or Hobbies
- Birds in Conservation
- Birds on the Web

All images are to be submitted in JPG format as email attachments by 1st October 2011. They will be judged in open competition. Prizes will also be awarded to Junior photographers - under 18 years of age at 1st October.

Entry is free, and there are prizes in cash or kind worth \$3000. Prizes have been provided by

- O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat
- Trekabout Photography Workshops
- Brunnings and Gardman garden and wild bird products
- Birds Australia memberships
- Birds in Backyards
- Baileys Hardware
- Chapman Entertainment Centre
- Condamine Alliance
- Noxidsoft Web Hosting
- Sundowner Coffee Lounge
- Wagging Dog Productions

For further information, see the Coming Events page on www.crowsnest.info

This newsletter was assembled in Kingston, Kitsap Peninsula, Washington State, USA.