



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

The 2011-12 Program is attached!

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

9th Sept. Short Walk with M Mueller

**25th Sept. To Bare Rock,
Main Range NP with M Mueller.
NOTE 8am start.**

**Monthly Meeting; Tropic to Snow,
3 National Parks, M Jefferies**

Deadline for next newsletter:

4th October 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 online, 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.

NOTE PLEASE:

If you haven't paid your subscription by the next newsletter deadline above, this is your last!

Pre-outing Reports

The **Friday** 9th Short walk is to a large granite outcrop in State Forest west of Donnelly's Castle led by Michael Mueller; meet at 9am, Weeroona Park.

The walk on **Sunday** the **25th September** is led by Michael Mueller. The convoy will leave Weeroona Park at 8am. The walk is to Bare Rock in the Main Range NP and will take all day as it is there and return. Ring Michael on 4681 1421 for more details or questions.

The walk on **Friday** the **7th October** is to a private property in the Poziers area led by Rob McCosker. "Depart Weeroona Park at 9.00am as usual for a half day outing. Plan to carry morning tea to have on a granite slab with views to the south after a short walk and return to the cars about mid-day."

The **October Outing** is a **Campout** at Texas on the weekend of 22-23rd led by Errol & Annette Walker. They say:- *Do you know how Texas got it's name ?*

Did you know that Texas once supported a rabbit export industry as well as supplying the local market for the manufacture of Akubra hats and other fur products?

Did you know that Texas has many lovely free riverside camping areas with excellent fishing?

Did you know that Texas once existed on the river flats and the whole town was moved a few hundred metres to higher ground in the early 1920's? There are a lot more interesting facts about "our" Texas which will surprise you and there is still plenty of tangible evidence which will amaze you.

There will be more detail about the campout in the next magazine but this is more of a date claimer for the event. Accommodation possibilities are many and varied, ranging from free camping on the

riverside flats with no facilities right through to motels or a caravan park. Toilets and free hot showers are supplied in the town for campers using the riverside camp.”

Outing Reports

On **Friday August 5th**, a small group of members arrived at “Pinaster” on a cool and overcast day. Following a leisurely morning tea inside the house by the wood heater, we walked around the property finishing up at Quart Pot Creek. After observing the three resident Australasian Grebes we continued along the creek bank then back to the house. During our walk we were delighted to see a group of Variegated Wrens, a first recording for “Pinaster”. The many *Leucopogon melaleuoides* were in flower and the purple *Mirbelia speciosa* subsp. *speciosa* were noted in the paddock near the weir.

Janet Hockings

Girraween National Park 21st August



Four Nats assembled at Weeroona Park to go to the North East corner of Girraween National Park on a blowy, cold morning. We travelled along Sugarloaf Road, heading towards Pyramids Road when it started to rain. After a quick conference we decided to call off the outing, as walking on wet slabs of granite is not safe. On the way home, via Mt Tully Road Kris and I saw a flock of Ibis feeding in someone’s paddock. We have seen some at home recently. The only other birds we saw were a magpie and a kookaburra. Beside the road, the *Leucopogon melaleucaoides* was blooming profusely, living up to its name of Queen of the Bush. We also noticed four species of wattle: *Acacia falciformis* (Broad-leaf hickory wattle), *Acacia floribunda* (White sally wattle), *Acacia nerifolia* (Black Wattle), picture on left; and *Acacia venulosa* (Veiny wattle). Hopefully next time we want to visit that area of Girraween the weather will be kinder.

Margaret Carnell

Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.

Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria st, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 24th August 2011

Meeting opened:7:40pm

Attendance: 11 Apologies 8 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting:

confirmed by M Marsden seconded by A Walker carried

Business arising from the minutes:

R McCosker to leave details about our club to be left at the Stanthorpe Information Centre.

Correspondence: as per folder

H Kruger moved inward correspondence be accepted seconded C Smallwood Carried

Financial Report:

C Smallwood moved financial report be accepted seconded N Hill

Outing Reports:

Weekday outing: Col Hockings - Creek & Home property – report by B Hill
Sunday outing: K & M Carnell - N E Corner of Girraween NP- Outing washed out

Pre-outings:

Week day outing: M Muller- 7 Acre Rock 9th Sept 9am

Weekend outing: M Muller - Bare Rock 25th Sept 8am start

General Business:

R McCosker reported that the Seniors Expo was a success and thanked members who helped on the day.

Next Meeting: 28th September 2011

Meeting closed: 8:05pm

Presentation: China by Halina Kruger

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR AUGUST 2011.

BALANCE C/F \$1,024 04

Bank Statement to 15/8/11 \$1,082.44. Uncashed chqs.\$58.40
Reconciles with cash book total of \$1,024.04.

INCOME Subs 20.00 EXPENDITURE Printing Senior's info stall. 30.00

TOTAL INCOME AUGUST 20.00 TOTAL EXPENDITURE AUGUST 30.00

BALANCE \$1,044.04

LESS EXPENSES 30.00

BALANCE 24/8/2011. \$1,014.04. Carol Smallwood Hon. Treasurer.

END NOTE:- SAUNDERS CASE MOTH - *Metura elongatus* Saunders 1847.



In early July I went to visit some Camera Club members in Stanthorpe. As I was leaving one of them pointed out that there was a “critter” on the mail box post. After numerous photos were taken and some research was undertaken, I discovered that it was a good specimen of Saunders Case Moth (*Metura elongatus*), also called a large bag worm or a bag moth (Family Psychidae) . The next day there was a second smaller one in the garden and on the third day they had both disappeared. It's one of the largest case moths in Australia

and can grow up to 15cm. long. The female is wingless and mates and lays her eggs in the cocoon and then dies. There is a good fact sheet on the Queensland Museum web site (at http://www.qm.qld.gov.au/~media/Documents/QMSB/Inquiry%20Centre/Fact%20Sheets/case_moths_20080709.pdf Ed). Photos by Frank Dalgity. Kris Carnell

