



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

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|--------------------|-------------------|----------|
| 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

**October 22-23rd 2011 Texas Campout
with Errol & Annette Walker
NOTE 8am start.**

**Monthly meeting 26th October:- Errol Walker
"The National Parks of North America"**

4th Nov. Short Walk, Girraween NP.

Deadline for next newsletter:

1st November 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 Campout to Texas, 22-23 October 2011



Meet at Weroona Park for 8am departure on the 22nd. President Robin McCosker will lead the convoy to Texas or you may travel independently and meet at Texas in Avon St at 10am. (as marked).

If you follow the dotted line on the map (next page) it is 100km of good sealed scenic road with some slow sections. Ok for caravans.

About 11km from Texas you will notice old mine

workings on your left and then on your right you will see the current silver mine workings. This is the Twin Hills mine which has recently poured it's first ingots of silver. Before descending into Texas keep an eye out on your left where you will see a sign indicating a lookout which is only a few hundred metres off the road.

Smoko can be had at the meeting point where there are clean toilets and even free hot showers.



After smoko those who wish to park their vans or trailers in the caravan park can do so. Members who elect to use the free river campsite can set up there. (about 1km from town.) To use this site you will need to be self contained as far as toilet facilities are concerned. The phone for the caravan park is 07 4653 1194. We suggest you book your site early as it is only a small park and may fill quickly. The Texas Motel is 07 4653 1300.

After settling ourselves in there should be enough time to explore the town before the

shops close. There aren't a lot of shops but these little country towns offer something different. Lunch can be taken when and how you wish and we will all meet again in Avon St at 1pm from where we will travel to the local Heritage Centre to learn of the past tobacco industry and much more. \$5.00 entry.

After our fill of history etc there will be time to explore the river and the old crossing. If you have afternoon tea with you we can enjoy time watching the river run and be amazed at the height it reached during the recent floods. While in the area of the river we should not miss a visit to 'Old Texas'. A 1km drive will allow us to view a few of the old abandoned buildings which were Texas up until 1956. Because we will not all be camping together we will have to work out what we are doing for dinner. Some may wish to eat out while others will like the idea of a campfire on the river.

Sunday morning we have arranged to have the old Riverside Freezing Works and Rabbit Factory opened for us at 10am. \$2.00pp entry. This establishment showcases what was a major export industry for the town and has the famous Wilson collection of stationary engines and other memorabilia. After lunch we have a few options for returning home. We will be camping for another couple of nights on the way home and we have suggestions for a few lovely riverside camps for those with the time and inclination to do the same. The included map shows a suggested route home via Bonshaw Weir and the Pinnacle to cross the wall of Glenlyon dam. The dam is full and quite spectacular. The road has about 10km of good gravel quite suitable for vans and the drive is scenic. If travelling to Glenlyon from Bonshaw Weir, after crossing the bridge below the weir, continue for approx 3km to a T intersection on gravel road and turn right towards Riverton. Another signpost further on will direct you to Glenlyon dam.

Errol and Annette Walker ph 4681 2008 or 0428 154 986

Friday 4th November:- Short walk on the Junction Track, Girraween NP led by Ken Hazeldine.

Outing Reports

Seven Acres Rock, Friday 9th September.

Six optimists gathered at the meeting point under a dark grey sky. Shortly after we left town heavy rain set in and forced us to return.

Bare Rock, Main Range NP, Sunday 25th September.



Increasing rain showers the night before.....no, not again....but seven of us, including a guest, met under a grey sky with a few blue patches. As it continued to fine up, the mountain peaks, still partly in the clouds, looked very impressive. We had lunch with great views from the top of Bare Rock. Morgans Lookout is a bit overgrown, but Mt Cordeaux Lookout on a cliff top was spectacular again. On the way further down we were able to give directions to a man looking for his mother who, instead of walking back to the parking area, accidentally was heading down towards Gap Creek Falls! We drove home under a perfectly blue evening sky. Thank you to Rob for the birds & plants list and the photos.

Michael Müller

List of flowering plants seen on the September Outing:-

Plectranthus graveolens, Solanum, Dianella, Bulbine Lily – Bulbine bulbosa, Orange blossom orchid - Sarcochilus

falcatus, Pink rock orchid – Dendrobium kingianum, Spear Lily – Doryanthes palmeri, Westringia, Helichrysum, Leucopogon, Native violet – Viola hederaceae, Yellow daisy and Walking Stick Palm – Linospadix monostachya.

We occasionally came across sections of track covered with small bell shaped flowers from the canopy above which may have belonged to the White Booyong or Brown Tulip Oak tree.



Orange blossom orchid - *Sarcochilus falcatus*

Bird List

A very brief list – Bell miners and Satin Bower birds were in abundance at the park where we stopped for morning tea, and Sue managed to locate a bower complete with a performing male Bower bird, and his collection of blue decorations. Seen along the track were a Pigeon, a Shrike Thrush and a pair of Rufous Fantails while we heard only the calls of the Whipbird, Catbird and Lyrebird.



A bright red and black spider seen crawling over Trish's shoe was *Nicodamus semiflavum*, a sheet web spider in the family Agelenidae. (*I understand this group of spiders has been revised to be 7 genera and 23 spp which can only reliably identified by microscope! Ed.*)

Rob McCosker

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

Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 28th September 2011

Meeting opened: 7.38pm

Attendance: 14 Apologies 3 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting:

confirmed by R McCosker seconded by C Hockings Carried

Business arising from the minutes: nil

Correspondence: as per folder

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|--|----------------------|---------|
| H Kruger moved inward correspondence be accepted | seconded C Smallwood | Carried |
|--|----------------------|---------|

Financial Report: \$1137.04

C Smallwood moved financial report be accepted seconded P Andrewartha Carried

Outing Reports:

Weekday outing: M Mueller - Donnelly's Castle cancelled due to rain

Weekend outing: M Mueller 'Bare Rock'

Pre-outings:

Weekday outing: 7th Oct. 9.00 am start Pozieres Area – R McCosker

Weekend outing: 21st – 23 Oct 2011 Campout to Texas - E & A Walker

General Business:

Clarifying Non-Member fees for outings. K Carnell moved that a \$3 fee be payable by non-members for outings attended seconded K Hazeldine Carried

C Hockings advised that the flowers at Mallee Ridge in Girraween are very spectacular at the moment.

P Andrewartha suggested that we consider changing banks as interest rate are much more competitive. This will remain the same for the time being.

Next Meeting: 26th October 2011 Meeting closed: 8.03pm

Presentation: M Jefferies 'From the Tropic to the Snow: three National Parks'.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR September 2011

BALANCE C/F **\$1014.04**

INCOME

-
Membership Subs 120.00
Projector Hire Camera Club 50.00
P.O.Box Hire ½ Camera Club 43.00

EXPENDITURE

CWA Room Rent 50.00
2 mths

INCOME FOR September **\$213.00**

EXPENDITURE **\$50.00**

BALANCE **\$1,227.04**

Less Expenditure 50.00

BALANCE 28/9/2011 **\$1,177.04.**

Cash book balance carried forward of \$1014.04 reconciles with Bank Statement to 15/9/2011.

Carol Smallwood.

Some extras!

Please remember that I can put interesting articles and photos in the magazine and one the web site!

The Atlas of Living Australia.

I have talked about this project a few times to the meetings. Well now I beginning to contribute records directly to the [Atlas of Living Australia](#) project and getting some experience in uploading pictures and records to the databases. Also I am going to prepare a load of records for Mt Marlay that can be uploaded in one go rather than one-by-one. I will give a talk on the ALA at the April Monthly Meeting next year. If anyone wants to join me in preparing or putting up records and/or wants to put up their own please let me know and we can do some training!

Michael Jefferies

For Sale

Canon 50D camera body with spare rechargeable battery and charger. This camera can take HD video. \$250.00 contact Michael Jefferies on 46812389 or by email.