



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:	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 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

Sunday Nov. 20th, Basket Swamp, NSW, led by the Carnells

Monthly Meeting, Wednesday 23rd; talk by Peter Andrewartha on Kangaroo Island.

Christmas Breakup; Sunday 11th December at the McCoskers.

Deadline for next newsletter:

20th January 2012

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 fielddnats@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.

REMEMBER:- this is the Last Newsletter for 2011.

The first outing of 2012 will be on Friday the 3rd of February, led by the Carnells.

Pre-outing Reports

Pre-Outing Report – Basket Swamp – 20th November 2011

As usual we will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am and travel via Sugarloaf Road and Mt

Lindesay Road to the turnoff to Basket Swamp. It will take approximately an hour to get to the rest area. We will have morning tea and then walk to the waterhole and then explore either up the creek or across the creek, depending on where the best wildflowers seem to be. Wear long pants as it could be a bit scratchy. When we did the pre-outing on 31st October, there were drifts of sun orchids in the swamp and lots of boronia. The *Boronia* should still be blooming for the outing. The *Grevillea* that grows in that area was also in bloom, and should still be flowering.



Boronia microphylla

After lunch we will drive to the Basket Swamp Falls and walk upstream to the upper falls and generally explore and botanise. If the weather is suitable there are places to swim. We will have afternoon tea before returning home. The road to the falls has been repaired, so there is no longer a mud hole but there are speed bumps, so we will decide at the rest area which vehicles to take.



Spotted sun orchid

Christmas Breakup Sunday 11th December

The breakup is to be held at Rob and Trish McCosker's property at Severnlea. Everyone is welcome to come from about 4.00pm and weather permitting, there will be a gas BBQ available to cook your dinner as usual. We are hoping to put on a brief slide show of our property and garden showing how it has grown over the years.

Directions – turn off the New England Highway at the Blue Topaz Caravan Park at Severnlea, into Reid Road. Continue along Reid Road to Lofaro Road 'T' intersection and turn right, then turn left into Jones Road. 'Shortlands' is 750m on the left.

Rob McCosker

Outing Reports

Outing Report for Pozieres outing Friday 7th October.



Heath myrtle patch

Once again dull skies heralded the start of the outing, however four brave souls met at the park and set off in one vehicle for our destination – a private property at Pozieres. The rain started again before reaching the place and on arrival we sheltered under the awning of a shed to have morning tea in the hope the rain would ease. The property owners were not at home but their two dogs, which barked loudly on our arrival, were happy to accompany us as we set off when the rain did stop. We walked to a rock

slab with views to the south and some interesting rock gardens with Heath myrtle putting on a good display. It was also noted that the rare wattle *Acacia latisepela* was growing here, but had finished flowering and we saw a Leafless climbing orchid as well. A little further along we had a view to the 7 acre rock in the forestry, the destination of last months Friday outing which was cancelled due to the weather. On returning to the vehicle we decided to return to Stanthorpe via the badly washed out Bamerry Lane, Canon Creek Road and Amiens Road.

Plant list – Leafless climbing orchid, *Erythrorchis cassythoides*; Snowbush, *Leucopogon melaleuroides*; Lance beard heath, *L. lanceolatus*; Nodding blue lily, *Stypandra glauca*; Queen of the bush, *Pimelea linifolia* subsp. *linifolia*; Slender stackhousia, *Stackhousia viminea*; *Brachyscome stuartii*; Granite wattle- *Acacia granitica*; Heath myrtle, *Calytrix tetragona*; Flannel flower, *Actinotus helianthi*; Wild iris, *Patersonia glabrata*; Kangaroo apple, *Solanum amblymerum*; Twining glycine, *Glycine clandestina*; Granite donkey orchid, *Diuris chrysantha*; Wax lip orchid- *Glossodia major*; Bulbine lily, *Bulbine bulbosa*; Pink kunzea, *Kunzea obovata*; and four species of Bacon and egg pea flowers. Seen along Bamerry Lane were a *Pomaderris*, Rice flower, *Ozothamnus diosmifolius* and *Poranthera corymbosa*.

I would like to thank the owners, Geoff and Bev Stoessel for allowing us access to their property for this interesting outing.

Rob McCosker

Campout Report : Texas 22/23 October 2011



Removing prickles

Weather made to order and an idyllic campsite. That set the scene for our Spring campout to Texas. Sadly only fourteen members and friends were able to take advantage of this perfect weekend for camping. As pre-arranged President Robin McCosker led the small convoy from Stanthorpe to arrive in Texas to be met by four of us who arrived earlier to check out the campsite etc. After a cuppa and conversation we headed to the free campsite on the Dumaesq River about one and a half km

from town. One look at the green grass and swiftly flowing river and the decision was unanimous. We all decided to use the river camp and leave the caravan park for others.

Lunch was taken by the river before meeting at the local historical museum. Knowledgeable local ladies and gentlemen entertained us with stories of old Texas and demonstrated equipment which some of us were only too familiar with. It was a small museum with separate sections on communications, the wool industry and tobacco production in which the district was heavily involved. Texas was originally built on the river flats but after frequent inundations it was moved to its present site in stages. The final move was as recent as the 1970's. We spent almost an hour photographing a few of the remaining ruins of buildings remaining after the floods. This year, 2011, was one of the highest inundations on record. Debris in trees indicated a flood height about three metres above our camp.

In the center of town Council has provided hot showers for campers and travellers. We took advantage of this facility even to the extent that one of our ladies opened the shower door (which read "vacant") to be confronted by a male member. Oops!. Only the names have been withheld to protect the embarrassed. Peter Andrewartha had a campfire site next to his vehicle. This put him in charge of the fire for the night. Being pleasantly cool we enjoyed a few hours swapping travellers tales around the fire.



Sunday morning dawned to the sounds of birds and running water. There was heavy dew. Life was good.

Texas had a thriving rabbit industry from 1928 to 1982. The rabbit factory and freezing works building has been

preserved and inspections are welcome. Our inspection was hosted by Sally from Texas who gave us a most informative talk on most aspects of the industry. Also included in the rabbit factory building is the Wilson collection of stationary engines and memorabilia of things photographic and industrial.

From here we broke up with some of us heading home via the Pinnacle Road while others found interest in other towns or nearby waterholes. While this campout had an orientation towards the history of settlement in the Texas area there was much to appreciate by just camping in the bush, and don't we all love it?

Errol & Annette Walker

By courtesy of *Margaret Carnell* the bird observation list follows...

Galah, white-faced heron, pale headed rosella, red rumped parrot, blue-faced honeyeater, black-faced cuckoo shrike, apostle bird, noisy miner, white winged chough, crow, pee wee, magpie, wood duck with ducklings, grey butcher bird, crested pigeon, superb blue wren, brown tree creeper, dollar bird, Pacific black duck, welcome swallow, sacred kingfisher, white browed scrub wren, noisy friar bird, little friar bird, willy wagtail, fuscous honeyeater or white plumed honeyeater, scaly breasted lorikeet, rainbow lorikeet, feral pigeon.

On the way home via Glen Lyon Dam: kestrel, corella, eastern rosella, Indian mynah, king parrot, starling and maybe Richard's pipit.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 26^h October 2011**

Meeting opened: 7:40pm

Attendance: 11 Apologies 3 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting:

confirmed by M Jefferies seconded by C Smallwood carried

Business arising from the minutes: nil

Correspondence: as per folder

H Kruger moved inward correspondence be accepted	seconded N Walker	Carried
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Financial Report: Balance: \$1207.06

C Smallwood moved financial report be accepted seconded T McCosker

Outing Reports:

Weekday outing: Pozieres Area – R McCosker

Weekend outing: Campout to Texas - E & A Walker

Pre-outings:

Weekday outing: Girraween, K Hazeldine

Weekend outing: Basket Swamp, K Carnell

General Business: nil

Next Meeting: 23rd October 2011

Meeting closed: 7:55pm

Presentation: E Walker “National Parks of America”

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR OCTOBER, 2011.

SEPT BALANCE C/F	\$1,177.04
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INCOME.

Bank interest	.02
Members Subs	50.00

<u>TOTAL INCOME.</u>	50.02
<u>BALANCE</u>	\$1,227.06

<u>BALANCE 26/10/2011</u>	\$1,227.06.
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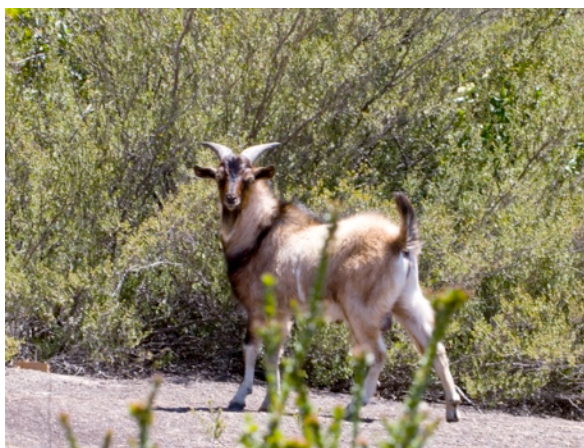
EXPENDITURE.

<u>EXPENDITURE.</u>	Nil
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Cash book balance reconciles with the bank statement to 15/10/2011 of \$1,177.06 with 0.02 cent interest paid 1/10/11.

Carol Smallwood.

Finally:- Some pictures from Girraween



I recently had a quiet walk on the track from the Mt Norman day-use park towards Mt Norman. The road is now open as far as that and it in good condition for standard saloons.

I was the only person there and so was making very little noise. Coming up to the rock slope area I met three goats; and took photos of them all, this one was lying down and only got up when I was quite close.



There were lots of flowers out including some of those with very restricted distributions such as *Rulingia hermannifolia*, (according to the handbook). However there seems to be some doubt about this as the NSW PlantNet site suggests this species is confined to the Sydney area and there are other species it could be!

The last is *Hibbertia elata* which only occurs in Girraween and near



Mudgee, NSW.

Seasons Greetings to all our readers, I hope you and your visitors travel safe and enjoy it all.

Michael Jefferies