



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

Friday 3rd February 2012; the Carnells

Sunday the 19th February, Goomburra Falls led by H Kruger.

Monthly talk 22nd February; by the Carnells

Friday the 2nd March, Fannies Falls, C Smallwood

Deadline for next newsletter:

28th February 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 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.

Best wishes for all Field Nats members in 2012

The first outing of 2012 will be on **Friday the 10th of February**, led by the Carnells.

Pre-outing Reports

Tenterfield, FRIDAY 10TH February 2012

The Friday outing will be held a week later this month to avoid clashing with the Stanthorpe Show. We will meet as usual at 9 am at Weeroona Park and then drive to Tenterfield. Our first stop will be the picnic area at the water supply dam where we will have smoko. There are usually a lot of birds on the dam so bring your binoculars and we'll see if we can make a decent bird list.

We will then go to Tenterfield Park. This is a community based regeneration project of 5.6 ha. that was undertaken by the Tenterfield Naturalists Inc. A walking track meanders through an area that was rubbish tips and quarries. Extensive plantings have been done since work on the park was started in 2004.

Depending on how long we stay at the park, there are lots of other things to see in the Tenterfield town area, so we will just play it by ear. We will probably have lunch there before we come home.

Kris Carnell

Sunday 19th February: Araucaria Falls, Goomburra Section, Main Range NP.

NOTE 8 am start from Weeroona Park.

We have to drive for of about 1.5 hours to get to Goomburra. It's a lovely drive up to Goomburra section of the Main Range National Park to Araucaria falls. This will depend on the weather because we do need to drive across a creek to get the starting track. The walk winds its way through the dense forest. The walk is about 3 kms return can be slippery if it has rained. The falls are at the bottom of the track and will require climbing down in single file, rather steep. Late lunch

will be back at the camping ground. We could view one of the lookouts if there is anyone interested after lunch.

Halina Kruger

March Campout to Mario Pennisi's property, "Woodside Ranch". **Weekend 24th-25th of March.**

Woodside Ranch is approx. 75 km from Stanthorpe and 27 km from Tenterfield on the Woodside Road off the Bruxner Hwy. More details on how to get there will be in the next newsletter. There will be 7 beds available (5 single & 1 queen) with mattresses, for anyone who wants more than a tent over their head, you will need to bring pillows, sleeping bags or linen of your own. Please let Mario know if you require a bed, first in first served. There is plenty of room for camper trailers and larger caravans etc. about 100m from main area. Some under cover parking as well. More information in the next newsletter.

Mario Pennisi

Outing Reports

The Junction Track; Girraween:- 4th November 2011

A small group gathered at the Day Use area for morning tea and then to walk along the newly repaired Junction track after the January flood. The path is well repaired and there were a very good range of wildflowers out including the rarities of *Phebalium whitei*, *Boronia amabilis* and *Melaleuca favovirens*. The birds were also active! The creek was flowing well and the results of the flood were clearly visible with flattened bushes and deposits of sand in the lower areas. However regrowth was in full swing. A number of other visitors were around including one birdwatching couple looking for wrens. A Korean couple asked to have their photos taken with three of us having lunch.

Ken Haseldine.

Outing Report; Basket Swamp 20th November 2011

Seven Nats in three cars left Weeroona Park on a beautiful morning and travelled via Sugarloaf Road to Mt Lindesay Highway, picking up four more people along the way. Near the site of the old Sugarloaf Gate we came to a stop to admire drifts of foxgloves that have naturalised. A little further on there was a white-necked heron perched in a dead tree beside a water hole.



Beside the Mt Lindesay Road there was a good display of Sago Bush (*Ozothamnus diosmifolius*) and on the way in along Lindrook Road we, being in the first car, caught a glimpse of a spotted quail thrush.

After about an hour we arrived at Basket Swamp Picnic Area where we disturbed a couple of wallabies, and had our cuppa, before strolling down to the creek, botanising as we went. There were a lot of slender Grass Trigger Plants (*Stylidium graminifolium*), mostly with deep pink flowers, and a few dainty Native Iris (*Patersonia* sp). Those people who hadn't been to Basket Swamp before were very taken with the red *Grevillea* which grows there. It is similar to the one at Gibraltar Range, and varies quite a bit in colour, with some being much lighter than others. The *Boronia Microphylla* was still in bloom, as well as the tiny *Boronia*

polygalifolia. On the track patches of red sundews (*Drosera spatulata*), with deep pink flowers, were in bloom and *Hybanthus monopetalus* (tiny mauve flowers with one petal) caused quite a bit of discussion. On our way back to the picnic area we discovered two purple Donkey Orchids (*Diuris punctata*) that we had walked right past, and a little blue flower that no one recognized.

We spent a delightful hour or so browsing through the rock gardens on the other side of the creek. The *Thelionema grande* was holding its beautiful blue flowers up to the sun and the tiny *Laxmannia compacta* was making a lovely display under the shrubs. I have never before seen such drifts of it. I

had the name of this one completely wrong, thinking it was a *Conospermum* and related to the Smokebush (*Conospermum taxifolium*) which was also in flower. (Sorry Lynette). There were gardens of daisies (*Brachyscome stuartii*) in the depressions in the rock and we found a small shrub with a mauve tubular flower which may be an Ice Plant (*Chloanthes sp.*)



Lunch was eaten in the shade in the picnic area and we were entertained by a white throated gerygone singing in the trees overhead. Holly used her iPhone to play the call of the gerygone and call it closer. A first for a Nats outing.

The road to the falls is in fairly good condition, although there are large humps to drain the water.

We parked at the turning circle and walked to the top of the falls, watching the water gush out from beneath

the rock on the way. Part of the creek comes out two small holes at the base of the rock, and the rest goes over a small waterfall, before finding its way over the sheer drop. When we'd had enough of the view we headed upstream towards the Upper Falls. It was fairly rough going as the bushes had been washed over by the flood and we were walking into the tops of them. It was much easier on the way back!

Three of us stopped at a very pretty waterhole with ferns growing on the bank, where we cooled our feet in the water. The rest continued upstream and were rewarded with a view of the Upper Falls cascading into the creek. Those who wished to were able to swim in a waterhole on the way back, while the rest of us relaxed ashore. It was then that Holly found a dead lyre bird, partly submerged at the edge of the creek. A golden whistler was singing fit to burst as we made our way back to the cars. There was a lovely patch of dainty bladderwort (*Utricularia dichotoma*) at the edge of the creek.

After a cuppa everyone went home except for Kris and I, who had brought our camper trailer with us and set up camp for a couple of nights. We walked to the creek at dusk to look for platypus but they weren't playing ball. On Tuesday morning the Fringed Lilies (*Thysanotus tuberosus*) had come into flower and the *Patersonia* was glorious. Some stems had four flowers on them.

We were very pleased to introduce several people to such a special place and feel sure they'll be back to visit again.

Margaret Carnell

Bird List: kookaburra, happy family, Pacific (white necked) Heron, dollar bird, crow, magpie, spotted quail thrush, musk lorikeet, brown thornbill, fantail cuckoo, white-throated gerygone (call), white-throated tree creeper, rufous fantail, golden whistler, lyrebird (dead)

Flower List: *Comesperma retusum* (matchsticks), *Epacris obtusifolia* (blunt-leaved heath), *Osothamnus diosmifolius* (sago bush), *Philotheca epilosa* (*Eriostemon*), *Callistemon pallida* (lemon bottlebrush), *Callistemon seiberi*, *Kunzea obovata* (Pink kunzea), *Kunzea bracteolata* (white kunzea), *Leptospermum sp* (growing in swamp and on hillside), *Calytrix tetragona* (fringe myrtle), *Eucalyptus sp* (black butt), *Hybanthus monopetalus*, *Hibbertia linearis var obtusifolia* (Guinea flower), *Hibbertia sp* (with finer leaf), *Chloanthes sp* (longer leaves than *parviflora* in *Wildflowers of the Granite Belt*), *Stackhousia viminea*, *Grevillea sp*, *Patersonia sp*, *Dilwynia retorta*, *Phyllota phyllicoides* (Small yellow pea in terminal clusters), *Pimelea linifolia* (rice flower), *Boronia Microphylla*, *Boronia polygalifolia*, *Dianella sp*, *Thelionema grande*, *Hypericum gramineum*, *Stylidium graminifolium* (Grass trigger plant), *Conospermum taxifolium* (Smokebush), *Petrophile canescens* (Conesticks), *Goodenia bellidifolia* (Daisy goodenia), *Goodenia hederacea* (ivy-leaf goodenia), *Drosera spatulata* (Rosy sundew), *Drosera peltata* (Tall sundew), *Brachyscome stuartii* (daisy in rock depressions), *Lagenophora stipitata* (daisy other places), *Bauera rubioides*, *Lobelia andrewsii*, *Dampiera purpurea*, *Utricularia dichotoma* (bladderwort. We saw white ones on Tuesday), *Diuris punctata* (Purple donkey orchid), five petalled blue flower at ground level.

Also of interest: *Callitris monticola* (small cypress that grows amongst rocks, fairly rare I think), foxgloves naturalised by roadside.

Christmas Breakup 11th December 2011

On a typical Nats day, weather wise, 17 people braved the impending stormy weather to attend the afternoon gathering at Rob and Trish McCosker's property at Severnlea. Fortunately it remained fine and in fact we had sunshine for a time as we wandered around the garden before returning to the shed for drinks and a BBQ. The slide program, showing how the garden has evolved over the 40 years since we first started here, was well received.

Rob McCosker.

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

Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 23rd November 2011

Meeting opened: 7.40 pm

Attendance: 23 Apologies 1 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting:
confirmed by P Andrewartha seconded by A Walker carried

Business arising from the minutes: nil

Correspondence: as per folder
H Kruger moved correspondence be accepted seconded M Carnell Carried

Financial Report:
C Smallwood moved financial report be accepted seconded E Walker

Outing Reports:

Weekday outing: The Junction Girraween - K Hazeldean

Sunday outing: K Carnell - Basket Swamp

Christmas Breakup – Rob & Trish McCosker

Summer Break

February 2012 Pre-outings:

Week day outing: TBA - K & M Carnell

Weekend outing: Araucaria Falls Goomburra – H Kruger

General Business:

N Hill moved that the club donate to 'Save the Bilby fund' by each paying \$1 per outing and at the end of year we could send our donation. Seconded M Jefferies.

C Smallwood wanted clarification about our Insurance policy. We do not have personal injury insurance for our members. Our policy indemnifies the club.

Next Meeting: 22nd February 2012

Meeting closed: 8.15

Presentation: Presentation Kangaroo Island – P Andrewartha

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR NOVEMBER, 2011.

<u>BALANCE C/F</u>	\$1,227.06		
<u>INCOME:</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE:</u>	
Interest	.01	Room Rent	50.00
		Stamps.	60.00
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	.01	<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	110.00
<u>BALANCE</u>	\$1,227.07		
<u>LESS EXPENSES</u>	110.00		
<u>BALANCE 23/11/11</u>	\$1,117.07		

Cash book balance reconciles with the Bank Statement 15/11/11 of \$1,227.07.

Carol Smallwood.

AND LASTLY

If you have an ebook reader like a Kindle, Nook, iPad or even a 'smartphone' and you get the electronic version of this newsletter you can read it on any of those devices at your convenience; or even take it with you as reference! Ask how! *Michael Jefferies*