



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 22nd April Sundown NP Michael Mueller

Monthly Meeting; Wednesday 25th April, talk on the Atlas of Living Australia: M Jefferies

Friday 4th May; Sugarloaf Hill; the Hills.

Deadline for next newsletter:

30th April 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 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.

Pre-outing Reports

The outing for the 22nd April is being led by Michael Mueller. He says by email from Germany that :- "It will be either south of Red Rock Gorge or a through-walk via Mt. Lofty to Nundubbermere Falls, but this is long and steep and could be better suited to cooler months." There will be an **8am** start. However he will not be back in time to decide which so there will be further information by email or contact Michael Mueller direct; after Easter, phone 46811421.

Outing Reports

FRIDAY 2ND MARCH. FINNIES FALLS.

The walk commenced through a very narrow gate to Bill and Jenny Humble's property on Kettle Creek adjacent to the start of Diamondvale Road, a few kilometres from the centre of Stanthorpe. The track leads past a large shed then on through a second equally narrow gate, through long grass and scrub for about 50 metres until the area of large granite rock slabs is reached. Kettle Creek flows over the rock slab in a series of rock pools and drop-offs for about 100 metres and the watercourse is fringed with she-oaks, eucalypts and Cypress pines as well as honeysuckle, which in some areas, is choking the creek. The northern side of the creek is impassable with large amounts of flood debris, honeysuckle and river grass and large washout areas. After morning tea, the group decided to follow the creek on the southern side. It was very overgrown but by following some tracks, probably made by kangaroos, we passed a series of lagoons before reaching Quart Pot Creek. The junction of the two creeks was not far upstream from the little red



bridge which was partially washed away last year. The rail bridge was visible, as were several palatial properties on the banks of Quart Pot Creek.

Few flowering plants were seen and the odd skink fled for shelter. Blue and red dragonflies hovered around the creek. The day was hot so the group headed for home about midday.

PLANTS in flower. *Lobelia andrewsii* (trailing lobelia), *Commelina diffusa* (wandering jew), *Isotoma anethifolia*, *Brachyscome stuartii*, *Trachymene incise* (wild turnip), *Xerochrysum bracteatum* (golden everlasting), *Bursaria spinosa* (Australian blackthorn), *Drosera burmanni* (sun dew), *Murdannia graminea* (slug herb) Carol Smallwood.

Camp out 24th-25th March - Woodside Ranch.



After doing an early morning vote I drove down to Woodside, the weather was perfect and clear. My first guests arrived around mid morning with 10 members (excluding myself) arriving before lunch time. 8 were to stay the night and 2 for the day, (they loved it so much they came back for Sundays activities.) After settling into their camping spots I gave the members a tour of the cabins and surrounds. I showed them my cellar with a small amount of home brew stored in there from the previous owner, it was suggested that we put a few lagers in each others fridges to sample later after dinner.

My pet goats were around to annoy some people while they sat down to have lunch.

It was a rather warm afternoon so we waited until 2.30pm before we headed off over the back to a lookout, taking in views in an Easterly direction towards Red Rock. It was an easy 20 minute walk to the lookout. We sat there for a while checking out the view and plants in the area. I was talking to Rob M. when a snake slithered down from a boulder, we weren't sure at the time what it was but I have since found out it was a Brown Tree Snake also known as a Night Tiger. (Note that this snake is well known for living in roof spaces, it is recorded from Girraween; Ed. Photo Attribution-Noncommercial : Bruce Thompson, Aus Wild Life).



We also observed several jet planes flying over as it is a well used flight path. We strolled on back to camp and before long it was time to get the fire burning to heat water for showers and cooking. It was a pleasant evening, not cold at all. Sitting around the camp fire was wonderful (dodging the smoke) with good company, good food and good beer. By around 9.30 pm we turned in for a good nights sleep.

Early Sunday morning some members decided to have a short walk down to my lower dam where they saw my big wallaroo named "Wally" feeding on the dew covered grass. After a hearty breakfast we waited for Brian and Narelle to return as they went home for the night, before we headed off in 3 four wheel drives down to Gypsies creek. Here we left Halina in charge of the vehicles while the rest of us walked to my Southern boundary fence to walk up a rather steep rocky landscape. As we were walking up I could hear goats calling, this is not unusual but as we got closer we discovered a billy goat with his horn caught up in the netting of the fence. He took some holding but with Lester's help I was able to undo the wire and release the poor fellow, he was happy but didn't say "thanks" as he ran off to meet other goats waiting for him.

It was a rather rough walk over the back, I was trying to find a particular rocky outcrop with a large overhanging rock but could not find it. That will have to be another trip. We walked on back to the creek where I picked up my game camera that I had set a week before to see what had been feeding on some wild pig offal I had left as a lure. We returned to the vehicles and drove back to camp where we had lunch and packed up camp. A fantastic weekend was had by all who attended and I

am looking forward to having the Field Nats back in Spring for another camp out and wild flower walk. By 3 pm all had moved on so I cleaned up the camp area before heading home myself.



When downloading my photos from the game camera I discovered I have a Tiger cat/quoil that had been feeding on the pig liver, I had suspicion that it was a quoil visiting the site as the feeding behavior was very different than that of a fox. I was really excited to capture 3 photos of this elusive little marsupial. *Mario Pennisi.*

Nats March Campout Plant list

Hybanthus, *Senecio*, *Trycorne elata*, Blue bell – *Wahlenbergia sp.*, Swamp Isotoma – *Isotoma fluviatilis subsp. borealis*, Rock Isotoma – *Isotoma anethifolia*, Green hood orchid – *Pterostylis sp.*, Macrozamia, Silver leaf ironbark, *Rostellaria scandens*, *Hibbertia sp.*, *Goodenia rotundifolia*, Skeleton fork-fern – *Psilotum nudum*, Wandering Jew – *Commelina diffusa*, Slug herb – *Murdannia graminea*, Trigger Plant - *Stylidium laricifolium*, *Pittosporum undulatum*, Trefoil – *Desmodium rhytidophyllum*, Peach Bush – *Olearia sp.aff.O.elliptica*, Wombat vine – *Eustrephus latifolius*, Star Goodenia – *Goodenia rotundifolia*, Urn heath – *Melichrus urceolatus*, *Brachyscome sp.*, *Hibbertia sp.*, *Viola sp.*,

Bird list

Kookaburra, Welcome Swallow, Scissor Grinder, Spotted Pardelote, White-eared Honeyeater, Brown-headed Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Weebill, Superb Blue-wren, Willie Wagtail, Grey Shrike-thrush, Grey Fantail, White-throated Tree-creeper, Currawong, Brown Thornbill, Grey Butcherbird, Double-barred finch, Rufous Whistler, Rainbow Lorikeet,

Magpie, Crow, Owl (heard, possibly Powerful Owl), Red Wattlebird, Noisy Friarbird, White-browed Scrubwren, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Oriole, Golden Whistler, White-throated Warbler, Silvereye, Crimson Rosella, Satin Bowerbird.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria st, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 28th March 2012**

Meeting opened: 7.35pm

Attendance: 14 Apologies: 5 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting:
confirmed by M Jefferies seconded by T McCosker carried

Business arising from the minutes: nil

Correspondence: as per folder
H Kruger moved correspondence be accepted seconded C Smallwood carried

Financial Report: \$529.61
C Small moved that the financial report be accepted seconded M Marsden

Outing Reports:

Weekday outing: 2nd March Fannies Falls Stanthorpe - C Smallwood

Sunday outing: 24th-25th Campout West of Tenterfield – M Pennisi

Pre-outings reports:

Week day outing: no outing

Weekend outing: 22nd March Sundown NP – M Mueller

General Business:

nil

Next Meeting: 25th April 2012

Meeting closed: 8.00 pm

Presentation: Presentation. WA trip R McCosker

The April Monthly Talk

As there is some spare space in this issue I thought I would do a promotion of my talk on the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA).

Below is a screen capture of a small part of the distribution records currently on ALA for the Brown Tree Snake seen on the Campout. There are only 3 relatively near; shown by the small red dots with 'Record' in blue beside them, all on the eastern side of the Divide. It is also said to be present in Girraween NP as is the Green Tree Snake.

Learn more on the 25th April.

Do you have any sightings of these snakes; even better any photos? *Michael Jefferies*

