



# The Granite Belt Naturalist



Stanthorpe Field Naturalists Club Inc., PO BOX 154, Stanthorpe, QLD 4380

Web Site: [www.granitenet.com.au/groups/environment/fieldnats/](http://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.

## 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](mailto:fieldnats@granitenet.com.au), so that we can see how well used the newsletter is.

Thank you.

**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.

## 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 Müller &	
	P Andrwartha	46812913
Publicity Officer:	Janet Hockings	46811978
Librarian:	Trish McCosker	46835371

Management Committee: President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer.



*The Pyramids*

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 20<sup>th</sup> May, east of Warwick, Dave Wilson;  
8am start.**

**Monthly Meeting; Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, the  
desert National Parks of the USA by Dave Wilson**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June Allora Mountain Reserve,  
Michael Müller**

**Deadline for next newsletter:**

**30<sup>th</sup> May 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](mailto: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.

## Pre-outing Reports

### **Sugarloaf Mountain area Friday 4 May 2012**

Please meet at Weeroona Park 9 am and then travel out Sugarloaf Road towards Willsons Downfall to Brown Gully Road - approx 13k on left. We will meet you here and then all drive approx 1.5k to park the cars.

We will have morning tea before walking another section of the border fence accessible through neighbours' properties to the north. We will also be able to see the results of the January 2011 floods and devastation which was caused to our area. Please bring your leech repellants as we always encounter these friendly pests.

Anyone wishing to bring lunch at our place after a leisurely morning can do so. Also if you have not been to the summit of the mountain before, or wish to go again, we can take a shorter route up there after lunch. Levels 3-7.

### **Sat 5th May 11.00am. Viewing the Sun.**

(venue: Michael Müller's backyard, Connor Street. Ring if directions needed on 46811421)

*Michael Müller*

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2012. Warwick area led by Dave Wilson.**

This is to be announced and will be led by Dave Wilson from Warwick.

An email will be sent to all on the email list. Otherwise meet at Weeroona Park at 8am for a full day's mystery tour!

## Outing Reports

There was no **Friday** outing in April.

**Sunday April 22<sup>nd</sup>, east end of Sundown NP, led by M Müller.**

**Red Rock Falls - Gorge Rim - Shepherds Creek - Red Rock Creek**



A warm and sunny day with picturesque morning cloud cover over the mountain tops welcomed the ten of us to the National Park. After morning tea on the lookout platform, from where we were able to see the first quarter of the walk, we moved down the steep slope from where the waterfall (at present no more than a trickle) normally drops down over the 90m high cliff.



We continued along the rim, keeping well clear of the crumbly edge and enjoyed the views into the gorge and towards Mt Jibbinbar and The Brothers in the distance.



On the far side we went down the cascades of Shepherds Creek which were completely dry. Further east we reached what little is left of the old hut erected during the time when mining was done sporadically in the area. On reaching the track to the Severn River we turned north, then west to get back to Red Rock Creek where we intended to walk back to the falls along the scenic creek-bed when one member had a very unlucky fall and had to be taken to hospital.

An unfortunate ending to an otherwise very enjoyable walk. *Michael Müller*

### *Sundown Outing Bird List*

Magpie, Richards Pipit, Willie Wagtail, Currawong, Bronze wing pigeon, Scrub wren, Grey fantail, Superb blue wren, Spotted pardelote.

### *Sundown Plant list*

Urn heath, *Melichrus uceolatus*; Peach bush, *Olearia elliptica*; Blue mountain daisy, *O. ramosissima*; Purple daisy, *Brachyscome stuartii*; Bluebell, *Whalenbergia graniticola*.



Also noticed along the track in the National Park was extensive areas invaded by Coolatai grass *Hyparrhenia hirta*.





*photos by Rob McCosker.*

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.  
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2012**

**Meeting opened:** 7.45pm

**Attendance:** 13                      Apologies: 3                      as per attendance book

**Minutes of the previous meeting:**  
confirmed by seconded by C Smallwood      carried

**Business arising from the minutes:** nil

**Correspondence:** as per folder

H Kruger moved correspondence be accepted      seconded      M Carnell      carried

**Financial Report:** \$469.61

C Smallwood moved that the financial report be accepted      M Jefferies      seconded

**Outing Reports:**

**Weekday outing:** no outing

**Sunday outing:** 22<sup>nd</sup> April Sundown NP – M Mueller

**Pre-outings reports:**

**Week day outing:** 4<sup>th</sup> May Sugarloaf, N & B Hill

**Weekend outing:** 20<sup>th</sup> May Warwick area D Wilson

**General Business:**

M Jefferies reported that the Rare Wildflower Consortium will be printing new additions to their booklet and asked if the Stanthorpe Field Nats had anything specific that could be included.

**Next Meeting:** 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2012

**Meeting closed:** 7.55pm

**Presentation:** Presentation. “Atlas of living Australia” by M Jefferies

**FINANCIAL REPORT FOR APRIL 2012.**

**BALANCE C/F**                      **\$529. 61**

**INCOME.**                      **nil.**

**EXPENDITURE.**  
**Stamps, roll of 100,      60.00**

**BALANCE**                      **\$529.61.**  
**LESS EXPENDITURE**                      **60.00**

**BALANCE 25/4/2012**                      **\$469.61.**

Cash book balance of \$529.61 reconciles with the Bank Statement to 15/4/12.



## This and that!

1) We (the Field Nats) had a request for photos of the Granite Boronia, *Boronia granitica* from a degree student in Melbourne. I referred her to Flickr and the Rare Wildflower Consortium's booklet on the SDRC web site for which she was grateful.

2) We also received an email thanking us for a report of the walk to Split Rock in September 2009 as the person was looking to go there. She found it by searching for 'Split Rock Girraween'. She said "Thanks for the info as I am going there this week. Marge and Albert Parfitt told me about Slip Rock, the kitchen etc many years ago and I finally getting there." Note that the report is in the newsletter on our web site as a .PDF document. It illustrates how much information is retrieved by the search engines!



3) Following on from my talk about the Atlas of Living Australia this is a photo of probably our commonest native butterfly, the Meadow Argus. (Taken today, Monday the 30<sup>th</sup> April.)

Its page on the Atlas is:-

<http://bie.ala.org.au/species/Junonia+villida>

Anyone can access this page for free and see the map etc. However there are not as many records as one might think!

Recently the ALA have developed a free 'app' that you can get from the App

store for your smartphone or tablet. I have it on my iPad and it seems to work fine. It is called ozatlas.

If anyone wants to have more information and/or help with the Atlas of Living Australia please let me know!

*Michael Jefferies*