



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.

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.

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.

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 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
SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE**

**Friday 6th July walk to Tenterfield Park,
Halina Kruger**

**Mt Edwards; Sunday 22nd July
Carol Smallwood**

**AGM; Wednesday 25th July
“Remember Last Year”**

**Deadline for next newsletter:
30th July 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.

**Subscriptions are NOW due, please pay promptly; form attached to print version;
or download the on-line version from the web site at:-
<http://granitenet.com.au/groups/environment/fieldnats/subs>**

Pre-outing Reports

Friday 6th July 2012 - Tenterfield Park

We will meet at 9am at Weeroona Park and go to Tenterfield. Tenterfield Park is at the top end of Derby Street. This Council land was once an overgrown waste land. Tenterfield Field Nats began to restore the area by fencing, replanting native flora, placing nesting boxes in the trees to attract birds, making pathways and water ponds. The once overgrown area is now taking shape. Morning tea in the park and then spend some time looking at the progress that has been achieved. We will decide on the day to either visit Curry's Gap Reserve on the Mt Mackenzie Road or look at the historic buildings in the town area. *Halina Kruger 4683 5206*

Mt Edwards; Sunday 22nd July

Mt Edwards is one of the peaks in the Moogerah Peaks National Park that was formed as a result of volcanic activity 22 million years ago. Mt Edwards has an altitude of 632 metres and lies 110 km north east of Stanthorpe, east of the Cunningham Highway near Aratula. Vegetation on the mountain is mainly open eucalypt forest consisting of spotted and grey gums, stringybarks and grass trees. Low montane heath grows on exposed rock faces with pockets of rainforest in sheltered areas.

Directions. Mt Edwards is accessed from the upper level of the Haigh Park picnic area adjacent to the dam wall of Lake Moogerah. Leave Stanthorpe and follow the Cunningham Highway towards Aratula. Turn right off the highway at the Aratula Hotel (200 metres before Aratula) into Charlwood Road and drive 4.1 km to Lake Moogerah Road. Right into Lake Moogerah Rd for 6.8 km, then a right hand turn to Lake Moogerah and Haigh Park picnic area.

(The picnic area is at -28.030603 152.551603, enter the pair of numbers in Google Maps or Google Earth for a view of the place. Ed.)

Continue to the upper level of the picnic area, overlooking the dam wall, a total of 8.3 km from the highway. We will have morning tea here before heading off on our walk to the summit and will take our lunch with us. Return journey for the walk is 6.5 km, 3 to 4 hours, and is graded at 6.

The walk starts across the top of the dam wall and zigzags steeply uphill, past a rock slab and exposed rocky outcrops to Gorge Lookout, which looks across Reynolds Gorge and Little Mt Edwards. From the lookout, the eroded track goes steeply uphill over several sets of stone steps and levels out through eucalypt regrowth forest, before veering right for one final climb to the summit.

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 8am for car pooling or at the Haigh Park picnic area at 9.30 am. Please ring Carol on 46811034 if it is raining on the day as the track does become quite slippery in the wet and the walk may have to be cancelled. *Carol Smallwood.*

Outing Reports

Transit of Venus; 6th June. M Müller's backyard.



The day of the transit dawned cloudy but by 8.30 or so the sky cleared and the transit began. Some 12 people came during the morning and, with varying degrees of success, tried photoing the transit by applying their cameras to the telescope. The best was achieved by David Wilson which is displayed on the left. Venus is clearly visible as the small disk on the large one. By lunch time the clouds reappeared and the transit came to an end. For the patient and long-lived the next is on 11th December 2117.

(Note the photo has been modified to enhance the contrast, sunspots are also clearly visible on the modified version but may not come out on the print because of their small size. Ed.)

7 Acre Rock, Passchendaele SF.

A group of 11 Nats set out for this impressive but little known destination in Passchendaele State Forest. On an elevated rock-shelf just 200m from the main track we had our morning tea with views not only to the area around Donnelly's Castle, but all the way to Mt Sugarloaf and Bald Rock, Mt. Norman and Mt. Sailorjack. This spot looks promising for a wildflower-walk in spring. A two km walk on Forestry tracks took us to a small saddle, and after a minor scramble we walked up the dome shaped upper part of The Rock. The way back to the cars took us over the northern half of the approx. 800m long lower part of what would probably be a popular tourist spot if it would be located in Girraween. We will be back in the area soon. *Michael Müller*

Ed. for those who wish to look up the spot on Google Earth or Google Maps enter “-28.5576 151.8588” (without the quotes).

To Yelarbon and Coolmunda; Sunday, 24th June



A cool frosty morning presaged a beautiful sunny day which eventuated for our trip to Yelarbon on Sunday 24 June. 8 members gathered at Weeroona Park with a further 3 joining us at Inglewood where we stopped for smoko. Several large dead kangaroos littered the road on the way, one of which we were unable to avoid, luckily no damage done. The mistletoe with its various bright colours really stood out along the road. We also saw two dead foxes and the usual bird life.

We had expected wind at Yelarbon, it being flat and open and bearing in mind the recent winds, but

we were pleasantly surprised to arrive to calm conditions and a cloudless sky. The *Disphyma crassifolium* (Noon-flower) and *Sarcozona praecox* the two pigfaces, were both in flower, although a little disappointing as the display wasn't as good as when we first checked it out last year.

According to information supplied along the track this site is the only place in Queensland where the two grow together and it is also the northernmost occurrence of the *Disphyma*. A short way along the track the party managed to break up into smaller groups as some moved more quickly than others, the ones looking at all the birds lagging behind. All the small lagoons contained water, the larger ones with birds feeding as well as three horses.

We returned to the cars and drove in to Yelarbon for lunch in the park. During lunch it was decided to bypass the Inglewood stop on the way home and go to Coolmunda Dam instead. The bird life on the dam was quite prolific with many Pelicans and other waterbirds and a group of Whistling Kites overhead for a while. Some headed off home while the remainder had a cuppa before heading off.

Plants in flower included *Brachyscome* sp, *Disphyma crassifolium*, *Sarcozona praecox*, *Senecio* sp, the small *Myoporum*, a Mistletoe (red) and Wilga. On the way we saw a Eucalypt, a Cassia and a pale flowered Acacia in flower.

Birds on the way included King Parrots, Wood Duck, Ibis, Blue-headed Honeyeater, Peewee,

Magpie, Apostle Bird, White-winged Chough, Eastern Rosella, Red-rumped Parrot, Noisy Miner, Common Bronzewing, Fairy Wren, Moor Hen, Black-shouldered Kite, Willie Wagtail, Australian Kestrel, Galah, Kookaburra

Birds at Yelarbon included Red-capped Robin, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, Pale-headed Rosella, Yellow Thornbill, Spoonbill, Sacred Ibis, Egret, Pacific Black Duck, Grey-crowned Babbler, Double-bar Finch, Currawong, Brown Honeyeater
Birds at Coolmunda Dam included Black Swan,



Pelican, White-faced Heron, Darter, Stilt, Little Grebe, Seagull, Whistling Kite, Lapwing, Kingfisher *Jeff Campbell*

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria Street, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 27th June 2012**

Meeting opened: 7.40pm

Attendance: 10 Apologies: 2 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting:

confirmed by M Muller seconded by M Jefferies carried

Business arising from the minutes: **nil**

Correspondence: as per folder

H Kruger moved correspondence be accepted seconded C Smallwood carried

Financial Report: \$447.61

C Smallwood moved that the financial report be accepted seconded T McCosker

General Business:

Jeff Campbell moved that the \$10 that was collected from members at the last outing for Save the Bilby Fund be made as a donation to our club as the final cheque has already been sent away.

Please forward photos of last year's outings to R McCosker so that he can compile "Remember last year" for the Annual General Meeting next month. Please bring a plate for supper for 25th July meeting.

Subs are also due next Month, \$20 single and \$30 family.

Next Meeting: Annual General Meeting 25th July 2012

Meeting closed: 8.25 pm. **Presentation:** J Campbell "Orchids of the Southwest WA".

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JUNE 2012.

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
BALANCE C/F	\$471.61		
Bilby Donations	11.50	Donation to Bilby	92.00
PO box rent from	46.50	Foundation.	
Camera Club			
Member Donations	10.00		
TOTAL INCOME JUNE	68.00	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	92.00
BALANCE	\$539.61		
Less Expenditure	92.00		
<u>BALANCE 27/6/2012</u>	<u>\$447.61</u>		

Carol Smallwood.

END NOTES

The AGM will be at the NEXT meeting so be prepared to pay your subs! The form for subs is on the Subscriptions page of the web site at <http://granitenet.com.au/groups/environment/fieldnats/subs> and is attached to the printed Newsletter.

PLEASE send photos to Rob McCosker for the AGM slideshow ASAP.

Michael Müller would like a lift to and from Cunningham's Gap from anyone doing a day trip to Brisbane or Ipswich, no time-limit on this!

We do get e-mail!!

“Hello Everyone: One of your members, Lesley Saunders, my former podiatrist and now my friend who keeps in touch via e-mail, sent me photos and your latest report. I was thrilled. All those birds! I had a small house in Stanthorpe and we had a long row of high privet trees. Every day King Parrots visited to feast on the bunches of black fruit that looked rather like grapes. The Council, to my disgust, made us chop them all down. No more parrots. I wasn't there at the time but back in my home country, Canada. I was very sad.

My former husband's parents, Anita and Bert Noakes, were members of your organization and enjoyed their time with the group so much. It is heartening to know there are people devoted to the preservation of all living things in the environment.

All the very best to you all.

Sincerely,

Hilary Prince. Montague, Prince Edward Island, Canada” (*Sent 2 June 2012*)

And finally

The Club has maintained a Library, looked after by Trish and Rob McCosker for some years which holds back issues of the Newsletter. After discussions it is planned to scan these back issues to create a digital version of each one. The plan includes making copies in a format (PDF) and in a form that allows for searching for key words and that can be read by any kind of computer.

So far I (Michael Jefferies) have gone through those newsletters from 2003 to the present which already existed in electronic versions such as Word and put them into the right format. They are on-line but only accessible by invitation at this stage. Let me know if there is one you would like (or the lot!, currently 145mb).

The next stage is to scan the paper copies using a document scanner that scans both sides of the paper at once, in colour, eliminates blank pages and creates a searchable PDF file. To do this we will be working over the next few weeks. Each copy has to be disassembled first.

After this is done a decision will be needed on the fate of the paper versions.

Michael Jefferies