



The Granite Belt Naturalist



Stanthorpe Field Naturalist 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 - 2012/2013

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 Andrewartha	46812913
Publicity Officer:	Lynette Haselgrove	46837255
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 19th August, Bolivia Hill
Kris & Margaret Carnell**

**Monthly meeting Wednesday 21st Aug.
“Easter Island”**

**Friday 7th September. Wylie Creek
Rob McCosker**

Deadline for next newsletter:

30th August 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; download the form on-line from the web site at:- <http://granitenet.com.au/groups/environment/fieldnats/subs>

Pre-outing Reports

Bolivia Nature Reserve - Sunday 19th August 2012 Leaders: Kris & Margaret Carnell

The outing will be to a different part of the Nature Reserve from our previous outing – the northern end. We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am and travel south on the New England Highway to Bolivia Hill, which should take a little over an hour. There is a truck parking area on Bolivia Hill with an area where we can park out of the way of any trucks that want to park there. There are no facilities in the park, but there is a toilet at the parking area. Morning tea will be at the cars before we start our walk. We will carry lunch and water.



The entrance to the reserve is a few metres from the back of the parking area and our first stop will be at the ruin of the old shearing shed with a sheep dip and the remains of the yards. The shed is falling down, so we will not be able to enter it. We will walk along the Chile Trail and then along the Columbia Trail till we reach a spot where there are views over Bolivia Station. The trails are all along management roads with a couple of short steep sections.



Bolivia Nature Reserve is noted for its wattles and with a bit of luck, there should be a good display for the outing. When we return to the ruins, we can walk along the Brazil Trail through a different type of vegetation to look at good examples of the golden mistletoe that only grows on other mistletoe. There are good stands of *Banksia integrifolia* along this track. If time permits, we can drive three or four kilometres down the road to the other entrance to the Nature Reserve where there is an old shearing shed still standing and some equipment lying around the place.

On the pre-outing we saw about a dozen species of birds, including a Scarlet Robin and New England Honeyeaters, as well as a few kangaroos and traces of feral pigs.

Friday 7th September: Wylie Creek, near Liston, led by Rob McCosker.

Meet at Weeroona Park at 9am as usual, more details later.

Outing Reports

Friday 6th July to Tenterfield Park



Five members gathered at Weeroona Park and set off at 9.00am, in one car, to drive to Tenterfield Park where we found Kris waiting for us. After morning tea we had a leisurely stroll around the tracks provided to see how work was progressing on the park development. There were lots of well established native plants as well as quite a few new plantings and the mown tracks made it easy to access the different areas. We managed to record only 14 birds for the morning before heading back home at about 12 noon.

Birds -

Masked Lapwing, Galah, Crimson Rosella, Superb Fairy-wren, Buff-rumped Thornbill, Brown Thornbill, Eastern Spinebill, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, White-naped Honeyeater, Golden Whistler, Grey Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Pied Currawong, Grey Fantail, Magpie-lark.

Rob McCosker

MT. EDWARDS 22nd JULY, 2012.



It was third time lucky for the seven members and five visitors who met on the cold and windy shores of Lake Moogerah at Haigh Park for morning tea, before heading up the track to the summit of Mt Edwards. Mt Edwards, 632 metres, is one of the peaks in the Moogerah Peaks National Parks and is the result of volcanic activity in the area 22 million years ago. The 219 metre walk across the top of the dam wall gives spectacular views across the lake to the farmlands, peaks and mountains to the south and south east. In the other direction Reynolds Creek flows from the base of the dam wall through the densely treed, steep slopes of Mt Edwards Gorge.

The track starts from the far side of the dam wall and zigzags uphill through open eucalypt forest to the rocky outcrop of Gorge Lookout, from where you can look down onto Reynolds Creek and across to Little Mt Edwards. The track ascends steeply uphill via a series of eroded steps and rocky outcrops for several hundred metres before levelling out and meandering through lush grass and *Xanthorrhoea* trees. A short climb later the path reaches the summit where we can catch our breath and take in the wonderful views of the Fassifern Valley, the peaks of the Scenic Rim and beyond to the hazy outline of the buildings in Brisbane. Well worth the climb.

Vegetation on Mt Edwards is open eucalypt forest with a scrubby undergrowth of mainly lantana. There is evidence of fire in the recent past around the track area and regrowth of acacias and hoop pines seedlings amongst the grasses. Pockets of rainforest grow in sheltered areas with mature hoop pines growing along the northern ridgeline. There were only a few flowers in bloom but quite a variety of mosses, lichens and fungi. Remnants of flower stems were seen from *Pterostylis nutans* and there was a very impressive *Philotheca epilosa* in full flower alongside the track.

The duration of the walk was 3 to 4 hours with quite a few stops for plant identification, photos and lunch break. Views from the dam wall and the summit were spectacular, even though hazy, and the picnic area facilities are good with a café nearby.



What is this plant?

Plant List : *Pterostylis nutans*, *Hardenbergia*, *Trachymene*, *Goodenia*, *Hoya*, *Philotheca epilosa*, *Senecio*, *Acacia*, *Lomandra*, *Dianella*, *Xanthorrhoea*, Fireweed (*Senecio madagascariensis*).

Birds: Spinebills, Scrub wrens, Pelican.

**Annual General Meeting - Stanthorpe Field Naturalists' Club Inc.
27th July 2012**

Meeting opened: 7:36pm

Attendance: Present 15 Apologies: 0 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting:

H Kruger moved minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record **seconded** M Marsden

Business arising from the minutes: nil

Presidents Annual Report: Rob McCosker

Correspondence: Nil

Financial Report, details below: \$447.61

Election of Office Bearers:

President:

K Carnell	Nominated	R McCosker	seconded	C Smallwood	accepted
-----------	------------------	------------	-----------------	-------------	----------

Vice Presidents:

R McCosker	Nominated	K Carnell	seconded	M Jeffries	accepted
------------	------------------	-----------	-----------------	------------	----------

M Marsden	Nominated	M Mueller	seconded	R McCosker	accepted
-----------	------------------	-----------	-----------------	------------	----------

Secretary:

R McCosker	Nominated	H Kruger	seconded	K Carnell	accepted
------------	------------------	----------	-----------------	-----------	----------

Treasurer:

H Kruger	Nominated	C Smallwood	seconded	Jeff Campbell	accepted
----------	------------------	-------------	-----------------	---------------	----------

Newsletter Editor:

R McCosker	Nominated	M Jefferies	seconded	T McCosker	accepted
------------	------------------	-------------	-----------------	------------	----------

Magazine Committee:

M Mueller and P Andrewartha volunteered to help deliver the magazine jointly.

Publicity Officer:

R McCosker	Nominated	L Haselgrove	seconded	C Smallwood	accepted
------------	------------------	--------------	-----------------	-------------	----------

Librarian:

K Carnell	Nominated	T McCosker	seconded	H Kruger	accepted
-----------	------------------	------------	-----------------	----------	----------

AGM General Business:

Our Insurance Policy was discussed at length and again it was agreed that we continue to pay as long as we have enough funds. Our policy is for “public risk” which means, our club is covered for a public risk claim from an outside party. This does **not** cover personal injury. We will need to advise members and visitors when they sign our attendance book, that outing participation is at their own risk.

Meeting Closed: 8.02pm.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1/7/2011 TO 30/6/2012.

INCOME.		EXPENDITURE.	
BALANCE B/F	796.44		
SUBSCRIPTIONS	570.00	ROOM HIRE	250.00
DONATIONS	30.00	MAGAZINE COSTS	244.95
BILBY FUND DONATIONS	92.00	INSURANCE	473.00
CAMERA CLUB	93.00	BILBY FOUNDATION	92.00
OUTING FEES.	16.00	P.O.BOX HIRE.	93.00
P.O. BOX HIRE ½ FEE	46.50	OFFICE FAIR TRADE	43.45
INTEREST	00.07		
		BALANCE C/F	447.61
TOTAL.	<u>1644.01</u>	TOTAL	<u>1644.01</u>

The Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc has no liabilities and keeps financial records that properly record the associations income and expenditure, and dealings with its assets and liabilities.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 25th August 2012**

Meeting opened: 8.03pm.

Attendance: 15 Apologies 0 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting:
confirmed by E Walker seconded by M Jefferies carried

Business arising from the minutes: nil

Correspondence: as per folder
H Kruger moved correspondence be accepted seconded J Campbell carried

Financial Report:
Balance: \$731.86
C Smallwood moved financial report be accepted T McCosker seconded

Outing Reports:

Weekday outing: R McCosker - Tenterfield Park
Sunday outing: C Smallwood - Mt Edwards

Pre-outing Reports

Week day outing: 3rd Aug R McCosker - Dr Roberts Waterhole, Girraween
Weekend outing: 19th Aug K & M Carnell - Bolivia Hill

General Business:

Monday 13th Aug 7.30pm McCosker's home for the committee to compile new outing program for 2012-13 all welcome.

M Marsden thanked us for the many fond memories that she has from around the district and beyond, and happy times that she spent being a member of our club.

E Walker has come across a good reference book "Australia's granite wonderland" available from the library. (Ed. author is I A E Bayley and the ISBN is 9781921496141 1921496142)

Next Meeting: 22nd August 2012

Meeting closed: 8.25pm

Presentation: "Remember last year" followed by a 'cuppa' and lots of nice eats.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JULY, 2012.

INCOME.		EXPENDITURE.	
BALANCE C/F	447.61		

Monthly Newsletter of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. Aug 2012 – Vol 441

Subscriptions	340.00	Room Rent CWA	50.00
		Ice Pack First Aid Kit	5.75
INCOME JULY	340.00	EXPENDITURE JULY	\$55.75
BALANCE	787.61		
LESS EXPENDITURE	55.75		
BALANCE at 25/7/2012	\$731.86.		

Cash Book Balance of \$447.61 reconciles with the Bank Statement of 15/7/2012.

Carol Smallwood.

END NOTES

The form for subs is on the Subscriptions page of the web site at <http://granitenet.com.au/groups/environment/fieldnats/subs> - **please action** if you haven't already.

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!

The Newsletters - the back issue project.

At the time of writing the years from 1980 to the present are on-line on a 'cloud' service called Google Drive in a private folder; arranged in calendar year folders. Each newsletter is a .pdf file labelled with year followed by the month in a 3 letter format (e.g. 2000-feb-news). There is one gap, August 1990, I hope that someone has the missing issue. If this fails I will see if the local library has copies; if this also is unsuccessful the State Library may be a source.

Note that I have not checked all the scans for readability, those I have checked seem reasonable, even the old ones. Not all have cover pages, they were not scanned if they contain no useful information or had repeat information. At least one newsletter in each year has the details of the Society's officers for that year.

If you want access please send me an email and I will give you read-only access for a start; this will allow you to download individual copies or read any of the newsletters. If you install a Google Drive folder on your computer you will have all the files on your home computer and they will be automatically synchronized with the master copies on Google Drive. **WARNING:-** if you do this the download may take up quite a long time, and your download quota, as each newsletter is up to 4mb in size.

For those who do not wish to go on-line I can make a CD with all the files on it when the scanning is complete. So far the total size of files are nearly 600mb so it will be around 700mb at the finish. There will have to be a cost for the CD and production. *Michael Jefferies*

AND

My request for photos of the Common Silver Xenica (*Oreixenica lathoniella*) a couple of months back led to photos by Jeff Campbell from two more places; Queen Mary Falls and Ian Milinovitch's place near Mt Tully. I have put these on the Atlas of Living Australia. I hope we can see more records in the summer; it seems to occur from December onwards and prefers shady spots.

AND

See overleaf:-

From the earliest August newsletter we have. August 1970, vol 8.

8

FIELD OUTING TO SWANFELS - SUNDAY, JULY 19.

On Sunday, July 19th our Club, with Mr. Edgar McCulloch of Warwick as leader for the day, undertook a field trip to Swanfels, via Warwick.

Our rendezvous was at the Hospital Park, Warwick, whence we paid a visit to Mr. & Mrs. Ben Stockwell's home to view their rock, mineral and gem collection where we were shown some of the types of specimens that we could expect to find later in the day.

At a few minutes past eleven o'clock we set out from Warwick and travelled to Swanfels, traversing country which should have been verdantly green but which, due to the long drought presented rather a less picturesque setting for our day's outing. The trip was well attended, but there was still ample parking area for all the vehicles.

After a pleasant picnic lunch, members roamed around on the hill-sides and in the bed of the creek itself, which we followed for some distance and at one spot came upon ice covering the entire width of the creek and which was thick and strong enough to support the weight of some of our members.

There are many types of rocks and minerals to be found in this section of the Swanfels valley and specimens we did find included quite a lot of chalcedony and various colours of the common opal, which has been called "rainbow opalite." There were specimens of green agate, several members of the zeolite family of minerals, as well as a lot of other interesting types of rocks etc. These mineral specimens are all of highly volcanic origin, being formed many millions of years ago when this section of the land was in a very turbulent state.

As a matter of interest, in October 1966 two local residents were granted a mining lease to mine and sell the common opal, which although very beautiful in appearance, proved, in the main, to be of relatively unstable character as far as some types of lapidary processing are concerned. However, the deposit of this colourful common opal still attracts, every week end, quite a number of enthusiasts go to the area and all seem to be satisfied with their finds and their day's outing.

This particular section of the country is quite mountainous and, in normal seasons is most beautiful for day trippers and tourists and is reached by quite a good road, in dry weather, by all classes of vehicles. A Field Naturalists' Club such as ours, with its great diversity of interests could find the Swanfels Valley a highly interesting spot at practically any time as there are so many different types of tree and bush growth, mineral deposits, rock formations, and photographers' subjects (for close-up or panoramic views). Bird life is always abundant, Swan Creek flows cool and clear and for the geologically inclined there are many spots of interest, including at least one peaked, acidic, extinct volcanic cone.