



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.



The Pyramids

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 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 23rd September. Walk-through
Mt Norman Day-use to HQ day-use.
Rob McCosker**

**Wednesday 28th Sept. Turkey
Peter Andrewartha**

Friday 5th October, Mt. Marlay - M Jefferies

Deadline for next newsletter:

1st October 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, this is the last notice. Download the form on-line from the web site at:- <http://granitenet.com.au/groups/environment/fieldnats/subs>

Pre-outing Reports

Friday 7th September: Wylie Creek, Liston

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am as usual and drive to a property on the Rivertree Road. This property is bordered by Wylie Creek which was mined extensively for tin and the remains of



Old engine, R. McCosker

the old workings are still obvious, including an old steam engine. We will follow the creek for a bit then walk along the boundary fence and through a patch of remnant forest back to the cars. Being on the eastern fall from Stanthorpe this area received a lot more rain in earlier months and this is obvious with running streams and lush green grass – such a change from our present droughty winter conditions!

Please note this is a private property with a locked gate so we will have to travel in convoy.

Rob McCosker 46835371

Sunday 23rd September: Mt Norman Through Walk

We will meet as usual at Weeroona Park at 9.00am and after arranging for a vehicle to be left at the Girraween Castle Rock campground, we will drive to the Mt Norman Picnic Area. After morning tea we will set off on the 7km Mt Norman Track which, after the first steep rock slope, skirts around the western side of Mt Norman, the highest peak in the Girraween National Park, then following ridge-tops gently descends to the Castle Rock campground. As there is a well made track with some

steep sections I would rate this a grade 6 walk, and there should be a good display of wildflowers at this time of year. We will carry lunch to have along the way and be sure to carry water.

Rob McCosker 46835371

Friday 5th October: Up and down Mt Marlay

We will gather at Weeroona Park and go to the end of Alice Street behind Mt Marlay. We will walk onto the rock slopes below the water purification plant and then ascend the mountain by bush-bashing up to the top. This is a clamber in places. There should be a diversity of plants in flower to record. At the top we'll look for hill-topping insects such as butterflies and then walk down by the made track to the cars on Alice Street. Drinks will be taken as and when required!

Michael Jefferies

Outing Reports

Outing to Girraween Friday 3rd August 2012



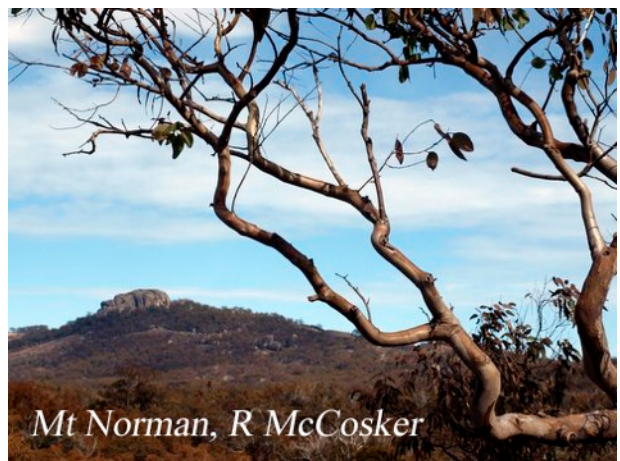
Underground River. R. McCosker

Nine members met up at the Dr Roberts Waterhole Carpark to be greeted with brilliant displays of *Acacia adunca* and Snowbush, *Leucopogon melaleucoides*, which made up for the cool dull weather. We had our cuppa then set off down the track with Coral Heath, *Epacris microphylla* providing the trackside interest until we branched off towards the Underground Creek and dense stands of New England Banksia, *Banksia spinulosa* var. *neoanglica*, became dominant. Several Eastern Spinebills also put on a show for us, flitting from bush to bush, and as we neared the creek there were

lots of flowering Pepper and Salt, *Spyridium scortechinii* (previously called *Stenanthemum*). We clambered up to view the spectacularly water sculptured granite of the Underground Creek then made our way upstream to the where the creek forms a series of pools in solid granite, interlaced with large dykes. The return to the track was in a different direction as we crossed a large granite slab with views to Mt Norman, being careful to negotiate the many wet patches where moisture was seeping over the rock.

Plant list

Epacris microphylla Coral heath, *Leucopogon melaleucoides* Snowbush, *L. microphyllus*, *L. neoanglicus* New England beard heath, *Melichrus procumbens* Jam Tarts, *Cryptandra amara* var. *florabunda*, *Spyridium schortechinii* Pepper and Salt, *Acacia adunca* Wallangarra wattle, *A. irrorata* var. *irrorata* Green wattle, *A. venulosa* Veiny wattle, *A. ulicifolia* Prickly Moses, *A. rubida* Red leaf wattle, *A. filicifolia*, *Banksia spinulosa* var. *neoanglica* New England banksia, *Allocasuarina rupicola* Rock she-oak, *Mirbelia speciosa* supsp. *speciosa* Showy mirbelia, *Pimelia linifolia* subsp. *linifolia* Queen of the bush.



Mt Norman, R. McCosker

Bird list

Wedge-tailed eagle, Spotted pardelote, Eastern spinebill, White-throated treecreeper, Red-browed finch, Eastern yellow robin, Darter, Crimson rosella, Yellow-rumped thornbill.

Rob McCosker

Outing Report – 19th August 2012 – Bolivia Nature Reserve

It was a perfect day for an outing when 10 Nats left Weeroona Park, picking up six more on the way to Bolivia Hill. We were able to park off the truck parking area and have a cuppa before commencing our walk. We saw *Melichrus urceolatus*, *Hovea heterophylla* and *Leucopogon melaleucoides* in bloom where we were parked. The *Acacia fimbriata* was in bud and *Acacia filicafolia* in bloom .

The reserve, which was gazetted in 2000, is 1782 ha in size and is made up of two former sheep stations. The one to the north that we visited first used to be called Clifferna and the southern one was called Bolivia Hill station. Both these stations were originally part of Bolivia Station. The National Parks has a plan of management for the reserve and the medium term goal is to open the Bolivia Hill shearing shed to visitors. Apparently some historic items have been stolen from the shed which probably explains the padlocks on the doors.

Entry to the Nature Reserve is through a gate just over the old railway line and the walking was easy along a road. There was a dead tree fern where we crossed over a gully and a bit further on *Acacia venulosa* and *Epacris microphylla* amongst the rocks. Our first stop was to explore the site of the old house and shearing shed, where some of the fences are still standing. There was some discussion about the naming of Boliva Station and the names of the trails. Edward Hurry was the first European to settle at Bolivia where he had a sheep station. He had lived in Bolivia in South America, hence the name. A community sprang up in the area with shops, a cemetery and a school. It is the only other place in the world with the same name as the country and the local community was presented with a Bolivian flag which they fly at Boliva Hall sometimes. In 2011 Bolivia Station was sold by the widow of Frank McAlary QC who had owned it since the 1970s. Frank McAlary was the dancing man on the dollar coin, issued in 2005, commemorating the end of WW2.



We proceeded along the Chile Trail stopping to look at a *Pimelea* which we thought was *Pimelea neoanglica*. After crossing a creek we had a look at a pig trap that has been built and used. A couple of people heard small piglets squealing in that area. From there we went along the Columbia Trail, stopping to look at an acacia with large green leaves and yellowish, flattened young stems. The buds were still green and looked as if they wouldn't be out for a while, but we thought they would have long flowers like the Wyberba wattle. There were a few plants of *Correa reflexa*

beside the track.

After looking at the view over Boliva Station we had lunch before heading back towards the parking area. Just before we reached the site of the old house we turned south along the Brazil trail. This trail runs roughly parallel to the western boundary of the reserve. The vegetation is distinctly different from the other trail. Firstly we saw golden mistletoe, *Notothixos subaureus*, growing on other mistletoe. This only occurred on *Angophora* trees in a narrow strip. Then the vegetation changed to mainly *Banksia integrifolia* which should be good for bird watching when they are in flower. After a short time we retraced our steps to the vehicles for afternoon tea.



Then we drove to the southern entrance of the park to look at the old shearing shed and house ruins. The shed was locked so we could only look in the cracks. The National Parks has been working on the site and has replaced some of the slabs on the walls as well as protecting some of the eastern side from the weather. After a browse around the area, the outing finished and we made our way home.

Kris & Margaret Carnell

Bird List – Bolivia Hill Nature Reserve

Striated pardalote, Eastern yellow robin,

Eastern spinebill, Yellow-faced honeyeater, New Holland honeyeater, Grey shrike thrush, Grey fantail, Welcome swallow, Fairy Wren (female), White winged chough.

Flowering Plant List – Bolivia Hill Nature Reserve

Acacia filicafolia, *Acacia fimbriata* (Fringed wattle), *Acacia nerifolia* (Black Wattle), *Acacia venulosa* (Veiny wattle), *Banksia integrifolia*, *Correa reflexa*, *Epacris*, *Microphylla* (Coral heath), *Hovea heterophylla* (Trailing hovea), *Leucochrysum albicans*, *Leucopogon melaluciaoides* (Snowbush), *Melichrus urceolatus* (Urn heath), *Pimelea neoanglia*.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 22nd August 2012

Meeting opened: 7:35pm

Attendance: 11 **Apologies:** 4 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting:

confirmed by M Jefferies seconded C Smallwood carried

Business arising from the minutes: nil

Correspondence: as per folder

Monthly Newsletter of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. Sep 2012 – Vol 442

H Kruger moved correspondence be accepted seconded J Campbell carried

Financial Report: \$926.86

C Smallwood moved that the financial report be accepted seconded K Hazeldline

Outing Reports

Weekday outing: R McCosker Girraween NP

Sunday outing: K Carnell Bolivia Hill

Pre-outings reports:

Week day outing: Rob McCosker “Wylie Creek”

Weekend outing: Mt Norman through walk R McCosker.

General Business:

M Jefferies has now copied to disk newsletters from 1970 onwards for future reference. There are only a couple of very early newsletters missing, great work.

Discussion took place that our Sunday outings should be advertised, Free Times, Border Post.

Next Meeting: 26th September 2010 Meeting closed: 8.05pm.

Presentation: R McCosker “Cape Hillsborough”

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR AUGUST, 2012.

INCOME.		EXPENDITURE.	
B/C	\$731.86.		
Membership Subs.	\$260.00	Office of Fair Trading	45.00
INCOME AUGUST	\$260.00	EXPENSES AUGUST	45.00
BALANCE	\$991.86		
Less Expenditure	\$45.00		
BALANCE 22/8/2012	\$946.86		

Bank statement balance of \$881.86 on 15/8/12, reconciles with the Cash Book
Balance of \$731.86 on 25/7/12 with \$150.00 subs deposited on 14/8/12. *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, this is the last issue you will get!

The plant seen on **Mt Edwards** was identified by David Hockings as *Alyxia ruscifolia*, Apocynaceae, Chain fruit, Native Holly, or Prickly Alyxia, a shrub of high rainfall along the eastern coast to 900m.

The State Library has found some of the back issues of the newsletter that we are missing and I hope to get copies when I am in Brisbane at the end of September. *MGJ.*

There is a **Biodiversity Weekend** at Killarney on 20 and 21 October. \$10 for the day or \$15 for the two days. See www.killarney.org.au or ring Susan 4664 4074 or email biodiversity@killarney.org.au

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!

Need something to do?

The [Atlas of Living Australia](#) is looking for volunteers to help Museums and others transcribe various records and specimen labels into electronic form. This is something one could do on a rainy day, or while nursing a cold or just for fun. You need an internet connection of course but apart from signing on and reading the instructions at <http://volunteer.ala.org.au/> you could add considerably to the records of plants and animals available on-line for everyone to use.

Once you are a registered volunteer you can choose which of the projects on offer you would like to do. I see that at the moment there are 3 whale shark expedition record projects, 4 insect label projects and 3 field notebook projects in progress. The field notebooks being transcribed are of MRS Sharland who lived mainly in Tasmania and was very active in the bird world.

So how about it! I have done some, but hope to do more!

Michael Jefferies

How far to the next star?

Lets create a model to support our fantasy. Imagine a map of Australia, so small you could read it only under a microscope and imagine the Earth, shrunk down to the size of a pea. On this scale the Sun would be a large pumpkin, 75m away. Jupiter would be a tennis ball at 400m, Uranus a marble in 1.5km, and Pluto, no longer considered a real planet, in about 3km distance, so just out of town.

Where would we now have to place Alpha Centauri, "only" 4 lightyears away?

Would we have to walk to Warwick or travel all the way to Brisbane to put our neighbouring star into its correct place? Even if we would fly around the world to Germany we could not get away far enough. Alpha Centauri (which is the brighter one of the two "pointers" next to the Southern Cross), would be in a distance equivalent to 2.5 times the diameter of the Earth.

Michael Müller

Overleaf is the program for the next 12 months - don't discard!!

The 2012-13 Provisional Program

Please note that this may change due to circumstances that arise after the program is drafted.

Month	Friday Outing	Sunday Outing	Monthly Talk	Campout
October	5 th . Mt Marlay, MJefferies.	21 st . Girraween North Fence, MJefferies	24th. Pilbara Parks, Peter Kerr	
November	2 nd . Ken Hazeldine's place, Dalcouth.	25 th . Harrigans Lane, NSW, E.Walker	28th. Mt Buffalo, Vic ., E.Walker	
December		9 th . Breakup. Rob & Trish McCosker		
2013				
February	1 st . Frank Cilas' property, Amiens	21 st . Geology of Stanthorpe Mines, Stewart Watt.	24th. Geology, Warwick Willmott	
March	1 st . TBA, Kris Carnell	24 th . Bald Rock, Kris Carnell	27th. McDonnell Ranges, Peter Kerr.	9/10 th . Kwiambal NP, C.Smallwood
April	5 th . Sentimental Rocks, Jardine St; G. Mathison	21 st . Eastern Sundown. Peter Hazelgrove	24th. Windorah area parks. R. McCosker.	
May	3 rd . Eagles Nest Mt Banca. Michael Müller.	19 th . Rivertree Chimney & Mines; E. Walker.	22 nd . Flinders & King Is. E. Walker.	
June	7 th . Girraween Lodge. R. McCosker	23 rd . Warroo, Pikedale, R. McCosker.	26th. African Animals M.Jefferies	
July	5 th TBA, H. Kruger	25 th . Sundown - Beehive Mine, P. Hazelgrove.	24th. AGM - Remember Last Year.	
August	2 nd . TBA, M.Müller	25 th . Horan's Gorge K.Carnell/T.Dunn.	TBA	
September	TBA	22 nd . Allora Mountain Reserve. M. Müller	25 th . The Rockies NPs, USA,, E.Walker.	