



# The Granite Belt Naturalist



Stanthorpe Field Naturalist 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 Naturalist Club 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.

**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 21<sup>st</sup> October: N Girraween Fenceline;  
Carol Smallwood.**

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October; talk on  
Pilbara Parks by Peter Kerr.**

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November: Ken Hazeldine's Patch,  
Dalcouth Road.**

**Deadline for next newsletter:**

**30<sup>th</sup> 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 [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

**Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> October.** North Girraween Fence; led by Carol Smallwood.

Meet at Weeroona Park at 9am to travel to the Pyramids Road section in Girraween NP. This walk starts from Pyramids Road, on the section that has been surfaced south of Parrish Lane, and goes to the west on a track closed to vehicles. Crossing over over the small creek in a Banksia patch it ascends rapidly to a group of rocks on one of which is a lyre-bird's nest. Once through the rocks the path picks up a trail which ascends again until it flattens out alongside the northern boundary fence of the Park. Once on the northern boundary fence the walk is relatively level and the woodland is open with stands of several tree species. There are several places where a short walk to the south brings magnificent views to the south on rock sheets and outcrops overlooking the Park. How far one goes along the fence line can be decided depending how far the group gets on the day.

There is limited space to park safely on the road as it is steep and cambered so, depending on the number of vehicles, it may be necessary to park some vehicles in the Dr Roberts Waterhole car park and ferry back to the start.

**Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> November.** Ken Hazeldine's patch, Dalcouth Road.

Ken has kindly allowed the group to see his property, most of which is uncleared, on the Dalcouth Road. Meet at 9am at Weeroona Park.

## OUTING REPORTS

### Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September: Wylie Creek, Liston, NSW

Eight people took the opportunity to attend the outing on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September. We drove out to Liston then down the Rivertree Road to the property which is bordered by Wylie Creek. Morning tea was had at the cars before walking down to the creek where we inspected a steam engine left behind from the tin mining days, a long way from Cincinnati, Ohio, where it was built. The creek, with its large mining dredge holes was popular with birdlife, and we were able to watch the antics of a trio of Striated Pardelotes as they flitted in and out of a hole high up in the trunk of a eucalypt tree. We made



our way along the creek bank then scrambled up to follow the fence along the northern side of the property, taking care to step around a couple of deep mine shafts. A small tree growing in a trench near here was, sadly, a young Camphor Laurel but it was good to see two healthy Tree ferns growing nearby.



Leaving the fence line we made our way through the remnant eucalypt forest where many trees were adorned with vines, mostly Monkey Vine *Parsonia straminea*, but also Headache Vine *Clematis glycinoides*, which one member demonstrated its use to clear the sinuses by sniffing the crushed leaves – but beware the serious burning effect on the skin.

We returned to the cars and made our separate way home with two members electing to travel on to have lunch at the Undercliffe Falls.

Plant list – *Acacia floribunda*, *Caladenia*, Tree Fern *Cyathea australis*, Camphor Laurel *Cinnamomum camphora*, Beard heath *Leucopogon lanceolatus*, Sarsaparilla *Hardenbergia violacea*, Monkey Vine *Parsonia straminea*, Wonga Wonga Vine *Pandorea pandorana*, Headache Vine *Clematis glycinoides*, Twining glycine *Glycine clandestina*, Mountain violet *Viola betonicifolia*, *Caladinia carnea*.

Some of these plants were not in flower but I thought it was interesting to note them and that there were five different vines.

Butterfly: One brown butterfly was seen and caught as it would not rest long enough for a photo. It turned out to be a Forest Brown, *Argynnina cyrila* which is shown as occurring in northern NSW at the edge of its range and not recorded from Queensland.

Bird List – Firetail finch, Superb blue wren, Australian grebe, Striated pardelote, Yellow robin, White-throated gerygone, Grey fantail, Crimson rosella.



### Mt Norman Through-walk September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2012



We don't often have outing days when the weather is just right, but this was one of them and 17 people turned up to make the most of it. After the usual meet-up at Weeroona Park we drove to the Girraween NP and left two vehicles at the Castle Rock camping area, which was filled to capacity with campers, then travelled on to have morning tea at the Mt. Norman Day-use area.

The 30 odd mm of rain during the week before the outing freshened up the bush, though it came too late for some plants, and in spite of the previous dry spell we were

greeted with quite a display of wild flowers. The *Boronia* and pea flowers at the base of Mt. Norman put on a wonderful show. We spent a little time contemplating the geological origin of the Eye of the Needle before continuing along the track, past a large swathe of *Pomaderris* and then stopping for lunch with a view down to Castle Rock and the Pyramids.

A little further down the track we were grateful to another group of walkers who pointed out an Echidna which had ambled across the track in front of them and was seen huddled against a rock in a typically defensive manner. Upon reaching the Castle Rock camping area again the two cars left there were used to take the drivers back to retrieve their vehicles and return to the Girraween Day-use area for afternoon tea, some of which was shared with a rather bad mannered Kookaburra, which stole the cake from my hand as I was raising it to my mouth!



#### Plant List

Wild iris *Patersonia glabrata*, Small leaved boronia *Boronia microphylla*, *B. amabilis*, *Bossiaea* ?, Snowbush *Leucopogon melaleucoides*, *L. lanceolatus* var. *lanceolatus*, Lady's slipper *Hybanthus monopetalus*, *Caladenia carnea*, Starflower *Olearia microphylla*, Wrinkled Kerrawang *Rulingia hermanniifolia*, Prickly Moses *Acacia ulicifolia*, Sally wattle *A. floribunda*, Wallangarra wattle *A. adunca*, *A. latisepala*, Veiny wattle *A. venulosa*, Rupp's wattle *A. ruppiae*, Granite wattle *A. granitica*, Common hovea *Hovea granitica*, Trailing hovea *H. heterophylla*, *Lomandra longifolia*, *Leionema rotundifolium*, Fruit salad plant *L. ambiens*, *Phebalium glandulosum* subsp. *glandulosum*, Queen of the bush *Pimelea linifolia* subsp. *linifolia*, Mouse bush *Homoranthus papillatus*, Mint bush

*Prostanthera phyllicifolia*, Tall shaggy pea *Oxylobium arborescens*, *Pomaderris lanigera*, *Zieria laevigata*, Tall trigger plant *Stylidium laricifolium*, Narrow leaved mock olive *Notelaea linearis*, Wild broom *Choretrum candollei*, Pink kunzea *Kunzea obovata*, Showy mirbelia *Mirbelia speciosa* subsp. *speciosa*, Finger hakea *Hakea laevipes* supsp. *graniticola*, *Indigofera australis*, *Logania albiflora*, Spider flower *Grevillea viridiflava*, Coral heath *Epacris microphylla*, Blunt leaved heath *E. obtusifolia*, *Hibbertia riparia*, Sarsaparilla *Hardenbergia violacea*, Twining glycine *Glycine clandestina*.

Bird List ( Thanks to Peter Hazelgrove)

Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Rufous Whistler, White-throated Gerygone, Spinebill, Leaden Flycatcher Grey Thrush, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Brown Thornbill, Grey Fantail, White-throated Treecreeper Rufous Fantail, Spotted Pardalote, White-winged Chough, Red Wattlebird, Satin Bowerbird

Rob McCosker.



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.**

Wednesday 26 September 2012.

Meeting opened 7.40pm.

Attendance: 14 Apologies 2 as per attendance book.

Minutes of the previous meeting : accepted on the motion of L. Saunders, seconded by K. Carnell. Carried.

Business arising from the minutes: nil.

Correspondence: Incoming: CSIRO publishing: 9<sup>th</sup> Collection of Australasian Nature Photography and Australian Lizards, Newsletters from Qld. Naturalists Club, SGAP Warwick, Chinchilla Field Nats, Fassifern Field Nats. New cheque book and September bank statement from Commonwealth Bank. Membership subscriptions from Narelle Crawford and Sue Francis.

Outgoing correspondence: nil C.Smallwood moved the correspondence be accepted. Seconded by K. Hazeldine . Carried.

Financial Report. Balance \$1046.87.

C.Smallwood moved that the financial report be accepted. Seconded by T. McCosker. Carried.

Outing Reports. Rob McCosker reported on Wiley Creek and Mt Norman to Castle Rock Car Park thru walk. Details in the newsletter.

Pre-outings: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October. Mt Marley. Contact Michael Jefferies. 46812389

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October, Girraween North Fence. Carol Smallwood. 46811034.

Details in the newsletter.

General Business. Two visitors were welcomed to the meeting and we hope they will be able to join us on future outings.

Specimens of Interest; Kris brought in a black/ deep iridescent blue long feather thought to be a tail feather from the King Parrot.

Meeting closed 8pm.

Next Meeting: 24<sup>th</sup> October: Presentation by Peter Kerr “ Pilbara Parks.”

Evening Program. Peter Andrewartha showed a photo slide show of a recent trip to Turkey in the winter; certainly a very different view of the well known tourist destinations in Turkey. Interesting geological features, amazing architecture and an archaeological treasure house makes Turkey a great place to visit.

**FINANCIAL REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER,2012.**

**INCOME.**

**EXPENDITURE.**

Balance C/F \$946.86

Subscriptions 140.00

Projector Hire 10.00

Interest .01

INCOME SEPT \$150.01

BALANCE \$1096.87

Less Expenses 50.00

BALANCE 26/9/12 \$1046.87

Room Rent 2 months \$50.00

EXPENDITURE SEPT \$50.00

Cash Book balance of \$946.86 reconciles with the bank statement 15/9/12 of \$946.87 with 0.01 interest added. *Carol Smallwood.*

End note:- for anyone who has missed out the program for the current year is on the web site or on the back of last month's newsletter.