



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.

The downloaded edition

This edition is available on our website as a PDF

Please let us know if you have problems with it
on fieldnats@granitenet.com.au

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

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

February 1st, Frank Cilas' property, Amiens
Sunday February 24th, Little Bald Rock with K
Carnell

Friday March 1st CANCELLED

Sunday March 3rd, Geology, Stewart Watt.

Campout- March 23/24th Carol Smallwood.

Deadline for next newsletter:

8th March 2013

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.

Vale Tom Archer

We were saddened by the recent passing of long time member Tom Archer, who with his wife Dot attended club activities and helped with outings almost since the club's inception. Tom was active on the committee and will be remembered for his quiet nature and keen interest in all aspects of nature but particularly in geology.

Meeting Program Wednesday 27th February - Geology of the Granite Belt

Presented by Warwick Willmott who is a geologist who has worked with the Geological Survey of Queensland in a variety of fields. He likes to bring geology to the public, and has written several booklets on Rocks and Landscapes of Queensland, given talks and guided public excursions.

Pre-outing Reports

PLEASE NOTE: there are significant changes in the program in February and March so read and note carefully.

1st February: Frank Cilas' property, Amiens.

Meet at Weeroona Park at 9am for a gentle walk round Frank Cilas' place and orchard at Amiens.

Little Bald Rock 24th February 2013

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am and travel along the Mt Lindesay Highway to Bald Rock Day Use Area where we'll have morning tea before commencing our walk. We will carry lunch and water. We started early for the pre-outing and saw a dozen or more Red-necked Wallabies as we drove in.



It is 3km or 3.8km to the top of Little Bald Rock, depending on which sign you look at, and it takes about 3 hours return. There is a fairly steady climb to the border fence, through stringy bark woodland, then a few ups and downs but not as steep. When we did the pre-outing we disturbed dozens of brown butterflies that were in the grass on the track and they jinked about so that it was very difficult to see them clearly. From a rather fuzzy photo we identified them as Klugs Xenica, *Geitoneura klugii*. There was a Rufous Fantail near the path, which we saw again

on the way down, as well as Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos. In all we saw twelve species of bird. As you get closer to the rock, the vegetation changes with more shrubby undergrowth and there are views of Girraween National Park. There were a few wildflowers in bloom, including White everlastings, *Podolepis jaceoides*, *Leucopogon*, a broad-leafed *Acacia* with pale flowers, some beautiful specimens of *Dipodium punctatum* (Hyacinth Orchids) and *Kunzea ericoides*. In the crevices between the rock slabs there were clumps of *Bulbophyllum elisae* (Pineapple Orchid), one with a couple of flowers, and *Bulbophyllum globuliforme*, which has very tiny pseudobulbs. On top of one of the slabs the King Orchid, *Dendrobium speciosum* had sprays of seed pods which had shed their seed and were hanging like lanterns from the stem.

The climb to the top of Little Bald Rock is not difficult, although the wind was blowing a gale as we went up. We passed Eucalypts in bloom with thick, creamy blossom, which we thought may have been a type of Mallee until we looked at the bark which was like Stringybark and there is a *Kunzea* which has been sculpted by the weather. On the way down we walked through a sheltered area a little to the west, where there were white-eared honeyeaters in the bushes. From the top of the rock you can see South Bald Rock, West Bald Rock, Mt Norman and Castle Rock just peeping over the horizon. To the south there is Mt Mackenzie just west of Tenterfield and the Roberts Range sweeps past Wallangarra.



We should be back at the cars by afternoon tea time and can return to Stanthorpe via Tenterfield or the way we came. **Leaders:** *Kris & Margaret Carnell*

Geology Outing, Sunday 3rd March.

Due to a conflict of activities with our trip leader the programmed February outing is to be held on the first Sunday of March, that is the weekend following the February meeting. This will be a mostly driving outing, starting from Weeroona Park at 9.00am and returning at 4.00pm. Our leader will be **Stewart Watt**, a school teacher from Warwick, who has had a lifetime interest in geology. The trip will visit outcrops of Stanthorpe Ademellite, Ruby Creek Granite and associated mineralisation as discussed by Warwick Willmott at the meeting on Wednesday night 27th February. We also hope to visit a fossil site. Bring water, morning tea and lunch and wear sturdy shoes.

KWIAMBAL NATIONAL PARK. 23rd - 24th MARCH, 2013.

Kwiambal NP has an area of 7,157 hectares and lies 160 km west of Stanthorpe and 90 km north of Inverell. The area was home to the Kwiambal Aboriginal people of the Ashford area and today their descendants assist in the park management. European settlement saw the area used for grazing (Eena Property), tobacco farming, and later, bat droppings in the caves were mined for fertilizer. The building industry around Armidale created a demand for cement and the limestone caves in the area were mined in the 1940's. The park was created in May 2000 and includes the junction of the Severn and McIntyre Rivers.

The vegetation in the parks consists of open grassy plains, white Cyprus pines, box gums and iron barks interspersed with patches of rainforest in protected pockets. The park contains 15% (200 hectares) of all dry area rainforest in NSW. The vegetation supports kangaroos, wallabies, koalas, possums, squirrel gliders, reptiles, fish and 140 species of birds.

The attractions provided by the park, centre around the many walking tracks for all levels of fitness, swimming, canoeing, fishing, mountain biking, bird watching and scenic views from the lookouts scattered through the park. The rivers offer plunge pools, sandy beaches and scenic waterfalls. Limestone outcrops occur for about 10 km along Limestone Creek with one cave 200 metres long open to public access. Several bat species can be seen in this cave.

The main camping area is located at Lemon Tree Flat on the Severn River. Tables, wood barbecues and pit toilet facilities are provided. Tank water is available but should be boiled before use. There is no vehicle fee and camping charges are \$5 adult and \$3 for children per night. There are no rubbish bins in the park. Groups can be accommodated in Bat House which has kitchen facilities, slow combustion stove, flush toilet, hot showers and air con in the warmer months. Fee \$144 per night and the house is located away from the main camping area.

Summer temperatures average 17 to 30.6 C and the annual rainfall is 750 mm with the heaviest rain falling during January. Directions to the park from Stanthorpe are; head west along the Bruxner Highway for about 1 hour. Turn south just before Bonshaw to the town of Ashford. From Ashford head west on the sealed Wallangra Rd to the Limestone Rd turnoff, and then north 19km to the Lemon Tree Flat campgrounds. The park is signposted from Ashford. Carol Smallwood.

Outing Reports

Friday 2 November 2012. 214 Dalcouth Road.

On a warm sunny morning 13 gathered at Ken Hazeldine's Land For Wildlife property for a quiet meander amongst the rocks & bush on the 36 acres. A fair proportion of the block was covered & even a couple of sights I had never seen - old dry dam near the North top boundary being one. Every time I go up there I find something new. There are signs of old ring barking, possibly done to encourage pasture growth many years ago & I was able to rediscover a large almost wheel like rock I had been trying to find again for about the last 4-5 years!

Approximately 1 1/2 km were walked, as well as going up a couple of the higher rocks where one can catch glimpses to the West, down to Mt. Marley, Diamondvale etc. through the trees. Return was made along part of the neighbours track which runs through to the Reilly Road property of their family. Then continued down the Southern boundary to the dam & home for morning tea.

Many plants were observed including: *Acacia* spp., *Angophora floribunda*, Rough-barked apple; *Banksia spinulosa*, New England banksia; *Brachychiton populneus*, Kurrajong; *Brachyloma daphnoides*, Daphne heath; *Brachyscome stuartii*, Daisy; *Callitris endlicheri*; Black Cypress; *Cassinia*; *Dianella* spp., Flax lily; *Dipodium* sp., Hyacinth Orchid; *Dodonaea viscosa*, Sticky hop bush; *Erythrorchis cassythoides*, Leafless climbing orchid; *Eucalyptus* spp, Stringybark; *Eucalyptus melliodora*, Yellow box; *Jacksonia scoparia*, Dogwood; *Leucopogon melaleuroides*, Snowbush; *L.*

neoanglicus, New England beard heath; *Lomandra longifolia*, Long-leaf matrush; *Ozothamnus diosmifolius*, Rice Flower; *Patersonia glabrata*, Purple flag; *Persoonia cornifolia*, Broad-leaved geebung; *P. tenuifolia*, Fine-leaved geebung; *Plectranthus*,; *Pomax umbellata*, *Prostanthera nivea*, Snowy mintbush; *Wahlenbergia* sp., bluebell; *Xanthorrhoea johnsonii*, Grass tree; *Xerochrysum bracteatum*, Golden everlasting; *Platycerium* sp. Staghorn.

Birds seen and heard included:- Bronzewing pigeon; Eastern & Crimson rosellas; King parrot; Magpie, White-winged chough; White-browed treecreeper; Dollarbird; Red wattlebird; Red-browed finch; Superb blue wren, Bassian Thrush.

Ken Hazeldine

Sun 25 Nov 2012 : Boonoo Boonoo River Crossing

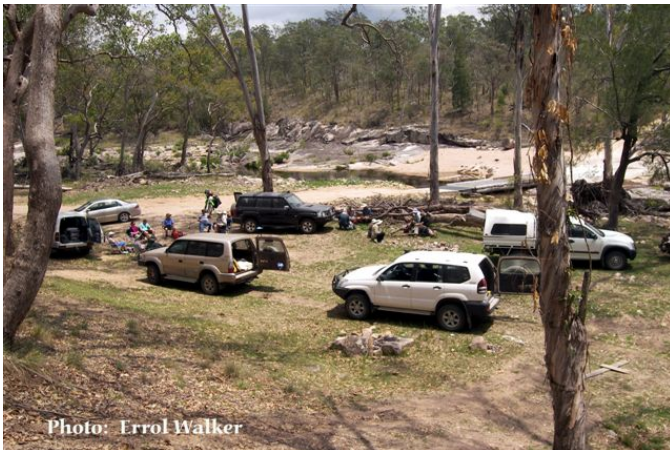


Photo: Errol Walker

A warm day with forecast thunderstorms greeted members and guests when we left Weroona Park at 9am on schedule. Car pooling was arranged before we left to tighten up the convoy. A few other vehicles joined us along the Mt Lindsay Rd.

The steep gravel road east down the escarpment was in fair condition considering the storm rains a week or so earlier. A couple of stops along the way presented views of Bald Rock on the southern horizon and a peep

through trees at the white ribbon of the Boonoo Boonoo Falls cascading off the escarpment some km distant. To the north, Rivertree and the magnificent surrounding ranges came into view. (A venue for a future outing). The vegetation changed from open eucalypt to scrub and back again with the change in elevation of over 300 metres. Turpentine trees were scattered throughout the bush. Much discussion ensued about the wonderful properties this tree's timber in ship building and applications where it is exposed to the elements.

We eventually reached the Crossing where morning tea and catch-up conversation kept us busy before we set off downstream along a ridge beside the river to admire cascades and waterholes. We wondered at the forces of nature which only a year ago had scoured the riverbed removing 10 metre trees and depositing sand and rocks to fill what had been deep holes. A thunderstorm then had us scurrying back to the cars.

After lunch we walked back along the road for a short distance before dropping down to the river to view a long waterhole with the hope of a swim or paddle to cool us down. This was not to be, so after a little photography and botanical study we rock hopped up the river bed only to be chased by another storm with heavy rain. It looked like continuing so, at 2.30pm, we headed home. Driving back up the escarpment and along the Mt Lindsay Rd. We encountered an unusual ground fog. Soon we saw hail banked up around logs and the roadside. It was like a light snowfall. An interesting finale to the day.



Photo : Robin Mc Cosker

It was a nice easy day for the last outing for the year. Surprisingly this was a new area for most of those attending. *Errol Walker*

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 28th November 2012**

Meeting opened: 7.36 pm

Attendance: 16 **Apologies:** 1 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

H Kruger moved correspondence be accepted seconded T McCosker carried

Financial Report: \$583.89

C Smallwood moved that the financial report be accepted A Walker seconded

Outing Reports

Weekday outing: 2nd Nov. Dalcouth Rd, Ken Hazeldine's patch

Sunday outing: 25th Nov. River crossing Harrigan's Lane, E Walker

Pre-outings reports:

Week day outing: to be advised

Weekend outing: 20th Jan 2013 Steward Watt - mining Amiens area

General Business:

Christmas Breakup 9th Dec.

Next Meeting: 23rd January 2013

Meeting closed: 7.55 pm

Next Meetings Presentation: Warwick Wilmot

Tonight's Presentation: Mt Buffalo Vic by E Walker

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR NOVEMBER, 2012.

<u>INCOME.</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
BALANCE C/F	\$1086.87		
INTEREST	.02	CWA ROOM RENT	50.00
SUBSCRIPTION	20.00	CGU INSURANCE	473.00
NOVEMBER INCOME	\$ 20.02	NOVEMBER EXPENSES	\$523.00
BALANCE	\$1106.89		
LESS EXPENSES	523.00		
<u>BALANCE 28/11/02</u>	<u>\$ 583.89</u>		

Cash book balance of \$1086.87 reconciles with the Bank Statement 16/11/12 of \$1086.89 with 0.02cents of interest added.