



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.

PDF version

Can be downloaded from the web site above on the Documents page.

Please let us know if you have any comments or contributions.

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

Campout- March 23/24th Carol Smallwood.

Monthly Meeting talk, 27th March - The McDonnell Ranges, Peter Kerr.

Friday 5th April - Sentimental Rocks, Glenys Mathieson

Sunday 21st April- E Sundown - P Hazelgrove

Deadline for next newsletter:

5th April 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 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

CAMPOUT at 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 Ashford-Wallangra Rd to the Limestone Rd turnoff, and then north 19km to the Lemon Tree Flat campgrounds. The park is signposted from Ashford. *There is a map, photos and more detail on <http://www.ashfordonline.com.au/TOURISM/kwiam.html> (Ed.)*

Weather and Park conditions should be suitable this time of the year for our campout but as the wet season appears to be a little later than usual, could prospective campers please contact me on 0746811034 the Thursday before the weekend. I will check the Park conditions with National Parks prior to going out Friday 22nd March.

Carol Smallwood.

Meeting Program Wednesday 27th March

Peter Kerr on the McDonnell Ranges & Alice Springs

Friday 5th April Walk

Meet at Weeroona Park or the Information Centre. We will walk from the Information Centre to the Red Bridge along the creek and back, viewing the considerable effects of floods in the past two years on the vegetation. On return to the Information Centre we will go to my place for morning tea and then walk round the Sentimental Rock area just up the road, all very easy walking.

Glenys Mathieson

Sunday 21st April; Eastern Sundown with Peter Hazelgrove.

More in the next next newsletter.

Outing Report- visit to Frank & Nancy Cilas' property, Amiens

Although their home is at Pomona on the Sunshine Coast, Frank & Nancy spend as much time as they can at their property at Amiens and have done an enormous amount of work establishing a house and extensive gardens. There is a huge variety of fruit, nut and ornamental trees as well as chicken enclosures, fencing for the alpacas and netting to keep the birds out of the vegetables and orchards. We were happy to be able to sample a lot of the fruit (and berries) of their labour.

An extensive layout of tracks have been cleared through the native bush which provide access to a large area of granite slabs and a rock formation dubbed "Elephant Rock". As we returned to the cars Frank showed us his water harvesting system where rain is collected from a granite slab and piped to a holding tank.

Only 4 people went on the outing as it clashed with the Stanthorpe Show which meant some members were unable to attend. However Frank and Nancy are happy to host another visit some time in the future.

Outing Report – Little Bald Rock – 24th February 2013

The sky was overcast but there was no rain as twelve people gathered for our outing to Little Bald Rock. We travelled via Amosfield Road and at Willsons Downfall saw a flock of Crimson Rosellas beside the road. Because of the rain over the last couple of weeks, everything was green and lush. There was a wallaby beside the road as we drove in.



After the usual cuppa, we headed up the track towards the border fence. There were frequent stops to photograph flowers and fungi, as well as two dead crimson rosellas. There were quite a number of different species of fungus, ranging from a bright red, star shaped *Aseroe rubra*, to tiny orange umbrellas and several different toadstools. I think one sturdy, russet coloured one was a *Boeletus*, but my attempts at identification failed, because I didn't have spore prints to go by. One of them was a light brown umbrella that looked as if it had been tooled around the top and another

brown one had been broken in half, so that you could see how thick the white gills were.

There were white everlastings (*Coronidium boormanii*) growing beside the track and some bright orange off to the side proved to be the seed pods of the wombat berry (*Eustrephus latifolius*). There were also open seed pods on *Hibbertia procumbens* (the climbing Hibbertia with large yellow flowers). When we arrived at a rocky part where the fence was lying on the rock, there were rock gardens of mauve daisies (*Brachyscombe stuartii*) and the rock isotoma (*Isotoma anethifolia*). From there the vegetation changed a little and we rounded a corner to views of Girraween National Park. Kris noticed an ironbark beetle and Col saw two quail thrushes beside the track and most of us saw yellow-tailed black cockatoos.



We arrived at the base of the rock around midday, so we walked a little way up the rock and sat looking at the view to eat our lunch. Before continuing up the rock we explored the crevices between the rocks and were rewarded by the sight of masses of *Bulbophyllum exiguum* growing on the rock face. There must have been thousands of blooms on this tiny orchid with small green pseudobulbs, which creeps across the rock and sends out sprays of pale yellow flowers. The stems appeared to be pink, so that looking from the top, the yellow was less noticeable. This was the most exciting

find of the day, as none of us had ever seen this orchid blooming so profusely, if at all. There were also a number clumps of king orchids (*Dendrobium speciosum*) and pineapple orchids (*Bulbophyllum elisae*) not in flower.

Continuing up the rock there were more mauve daisies and a couple of us noticed a prostrate shrub with yellow flowers with six rounded petals, bright green leaves, small with a short spine. I thought at first it was a *Phebalium*, but David Hockings very kindly identified it as *Micrantheum hexandrum*. It may be prostrate because it was growing in a crack on top of the rock. Unfortunately neither of my photos is very sharp.



There was a way down to the track by a bit of scrambling which shortened the distance back. There was a fringed lily (*Thysanotus tuberosus*) blooming right in front of a cone bush which provided a perfect background to show it off. It started to drizzle a little and we thought we might get wet, but it held off and we were able to have our cuppa back at the picnic area before heading home. Kris and I went to look at Boonoo Boonoo Falls on the way home and they were quite spectacular. The river bed is clear of vegetation from the floods of 2011 so you get a good view of the rocks and water.

Margaret Carnell

Flower List: *Acacia* sp, *Allocasuarina* sp., *Banksia integrifolia*, *Brachyscome stuartii* (mauve daisy), *Bulbophyllum exiguum* (Tiny creeping orchid), *Bursaria spinosa* (Australian blackthorn), *Casuarina* sp. (She-oak), *Centaurium erythraea* (pink flowered herb introduced), *Coronidium boormanii* (White everlasting), *Eustrephus latifolius* seeds (Wombat Berry), (*Daisy goodenia*), *Hibbertia dentata* seeds (Trailing Guinea Flower), *Hypericum gramineum* (Small St John's wort), *Isotoma anethifolia*, *Leucopogon* sp., *Lobelia dentata*, *Ozothamnus diosmifolius* (Rice Flower), *Pelargonium australe*, *Phebalium* sp., *Podolepis jaceoides*, *Poranthera corymbosa* (small shrub with creamy umbels of flowers), *Pratia purpurascens* (White root), *Solanum* sp. (with a broad leaf), *Spiranthes sinensis* (Austral Ladies Tresses, *Stackhousia viminea*, *Styphelia viridis* (Five-corners), *Thysanotus tuberosus* (Fringed lily), *Trachymene incisa* (Wild carrot), *Tricoryne elatior* (Yellow rush lily), *Viola hederacea* (Violet purple & white), *Xerochrysum bracteatum* (Golden Everlasting), *Micranthemum hexandrum*, Catspaw (weed).

Other: Iron bark beetle, wallaby. **Birds:** Yellow-tailed black cockatoo, superb blue wren, crimson rosella, grey shrike thrush (call), grey fantail, quail thrush, white-throated tree creeper (call).

Margaret Carnell

Micranthemum hexandrum



Micranthemum hexandrum belongs to the Picrodendraceae family and is an evergreen shrub growing to about 2 metres high. It has pale yellow male and female flowers on separate bushes. The one we saw on Little Bald Rock is a female, hence the lack of stamens. It was first discovered in Queensland by David Hockings at Wyberba. The Atlas of Living Australia has a number of records in the Girraween area, towards Sundown and over the border in Boonoo Boonoo, down to west of Casino and north along the Border ranges. PlantNet NSW says it is common

on granite on the Tablelands. *Margaret Carnell with added notes by Ed.*

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 27th February 2013**

Meeting opened: 7.38pm

Attendance: 23 Apologies: 4 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting:

confirmed by C Smallwood seconded by M Jefferies carried

Business arising from the minutes: nil

Correspondence: as per folder

H Kruger moved correspondence be accepted seconded T McCosker carried

Financial Report:

C Smallwood moved that the financial report be accepted seconded L Saunders

Outing Reports:

Weekday outing: 1st February Frank Cilas' property Amiens

Sunday outing: 25th February K Carnell – Little Bald Rock

Pre-outings reports:

Week day outing: 3rd March Sunday Stewart Watt – Geology

Weekend outing: 23-24th March Weekend Campout to Kwiambal NP leader C Smallwood

General Business:

M Jefferies has started to compile an e-book of his favorite butterfly collection. A wonderful collection of photographs and information on local butterflies. We were given a little look at what Michael does best.

Next Meeting: 27th March 2013

Meeting closed: 8.05 pm

Presentation: Warwick Willmot "Geology of the Granite Belt" - an excellent description of the Granite Belt's geological history, origins of the landscape and mineral resources.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR FEBRUARY.

INCOME.

BALANCE C/F. \$583.89.

Subs 30.00

Balance \$613.89

EXPENDITURE.

NIL.

BALANCE 27/2/13 \$613.89
carried forward. Carol Smallwood.

Bank Statement 16/2/13 shows balance of \$583.90 which reconciles with the balance

WANTED:-

Newsletter Editor and website maintenance from the next AGM in July. As the current Editor is moving away in the next few months a newsletter editor is needed. A timely nomination will allow for handover and provide training in the web site maintenance and the methods used that underpins the electronic and paper production of the news. This is not an onerous position but does require up to a day a month.