



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 Müller	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 21st April- Sundown - P Haselgrove

Monthly meeting talk by R McCosker on CQ
NPs

Friday 3rd May -TBA

Sunday 19th May; Rivertree mines - E Walker

Deadline for next newsletter:

3rd May 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 online, 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

Outing to Sundown National Park: Sunday 21st April 2013 led by Peter Haselgrove

We will meet at Weeroona Park and car pool if people wish. We would like to leave the park by 9am at the latest. We will travel via the Texas Road to the Broadwater section of Sundown. Morning tea can be in the camping area (pit toilets available, but no water). The morning walk will be up Ooline Creek exploring as far as the group wishes. We probably should take lunch with us, just in case we're late back.

Ooline Creek contains remnants of ooline (*Cadellia pentastylis*, a rare species) and other dry vine thicket species normally associated with more western areas. The walking is stony with river rocks but is not difficult with care.

After lunch we thought we might follow the relatively new Western Walk which can take as little as one hour or up to two hours. People can follow the track at their desired speed and leave for home when they wish (after letting the leader know that they are leaving the group). The Western Walk track passes through cypress regrowth in much drier country. There is a fair bit of uphill walking which takes us high up on the western boundary of the park with good views across the southern end of the park and south into NSW. The track then heads down across the slope and along the flat, back to the camping area.

More information on the Ooline is on the links below; the second reference shows the distribution.

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspeciesapp/profile.aspx?id=10118>

<http://bie.ala.org.au/species/Cadellia+pentastylis> Ed.

Friday May 3rd: TBA

Meet at Weeroona Park at 9am as usual. Details will be on the web site.

OUTING REPORT : KWIAMBAL NP CAMPOUT 23rd and 24th MARCH.

The weather report was favourable so 10 members ventured the 200 odd kilometres to the Kwiambal National Park, 25km north west of Ashford, NSW. The Park covers an area of 7,157 hectares and has dry area rainforest, grassy plains and open forest. The park includes the junction of the Severn and McIntyre Rivers which flow through deeply eroded granite gorges towards the west. Outcrops of limestone occur along Limestone Creek and were mined in the past for the cement industry.

The unsealed road from Ashford into the park was well maintained with only a few kilometres of corrugations near the Lemon Tree Flat campground. Three emus and several water dragons were seen along the road while in the campground, a resident goanna roamed the campsites and wallabies grazed the grass. The camping area fronts Severn River and is quite extensive with plenty of shade provided by large river gums. The area is flat and suitable for caravans, camper trailers and tents. There are three pit toilets, tables and barbecues and wood is provided. Access to the river is limited due to heavy infestation of cobbles peg along the river bank but several mowed tracks did allow some access for water. At the far end of the camp ground there is access to the rock pools and rock hopping along the river bank. A ribbon marked track leads from here up to a newly opened camp ground being developed upstream several kilometres away.

I arrived Friday afternoon and four members had already set up camp and explored the area including the new campground upstream. The weather was fine that evening as we sat around the campfire but cloud developed later in the evening and by midnight I was woken with the sound of rain on the roof of the tent. The rain continued for most of the night with thunder and lightning in the early hours of the morning. Luckily there was no wind and the rain ceased with a fine but humid day to follow.

Five of us decided to walk the Junction Track, 8km return, along the Severn River to the junction where it meets the McIntyre River. The track roughly follows the river, but along the top of the granite gorge with deviations into the open forest. The terrain was undulating with some steep sections; track maintenance was poor with quite a few fallen trees across the path and many introduced weeds including various prickly pear and cacti. There were many elevated viewing points into the gorge itself and the surrounding

forest, complete with two white feral goats on the other side of the gorge at Dungeons Lookout. We met several groups of walkers en route to the junction. The area at the Junction had been mowed and there are wooden tables provided. Again there was no access to the rivers due to the heavy weed infestations along the river banks. We walked back along the park's vehicle access track to the campground for a well earned lunch after our three hour walk. Meanwhile, three more members had arrived at the campsite.



In the afternoon we did the short drive to the McIntyre Falls. Three walks can be accessed from the parking area so the first stop was to view the falls, just a short distance from the car park. The park provides some very substantial viewing lookouts that give visitors unimpeded views of the river and the incredible sculptured granite rock formations along the river banks. The different colours in the eroded rock add to the artistry of the granite cliffs and the size of the rocks along the river course complements the grandeur of the terrain. Not a place to get lost in! Our next walk was a 3km round trip down to Slippery Rocks. The track winds along granite slab rock then down steeply to the river via steps to a series of pools and gentle water slides. Around the granite slab rock, growing in abundance, were *Scaveola ramosissima* and *Stylidium*. The pools at the base of the track were shallow but there were deeper and bigger pools beyond the gently falls at Slippery Rocks. Refreshed after our swim we returned to the car park then headed along the 600 metres down more steps to the Plunge Pool, a deep circular pool about 100 metres diameter, with the McIntyre Falls entering a one end. There was only one access point to the water from a sloping rock as the rock sides are steep and slippery with moss and algae. Beautiful swimming hole but colder than the other pools. Cooled off, we returned to camp, had dinner and had a pleasant evening chatting around the camp fire. That afternoon two more members arrived and then we were 10.

Thunder and storm clouds greeted us the next morning so it was a very busy campground with most of the campers packing up and leaving after breakfast. There are at least 10 causeways on the road into the park so most people were keen not to have to drive through water on the way out. Our group packed up and met at the Limestone Cave close to the entrance to the Park. The cave system is quite extensive and the bat droppings were mined for fertiliser in the past. At the entrance to the cave, on the roof, are the mud nests of swallows. Further inside the caves are insectivorous bats which we disturbed with our torches when we started to explore. There are stalactites and stalagmites and some very colourful mineral veins running through the limestone which looked very pretty in the torchlight. Sadly, there was plenty of graffiti there too. Outside it was bird watchers paradise with numerous species feeding on the gum blossoms. Morning tea was had on the wooden tables provided before we headed our different ways back to Stanthorpe. Thank you fellow campers for your companionship and knowledge of the area; made for a great weekend.



Carol Smallwood

BIRD LIST including birds seen to and from the park.

Spotted and swamp harrier, whistling kite, nankeen kestrel, noisy miner, sulphur crested cockatoo, rainbow and little lorikeet, willy wagtail, galah, restless flycatcher, grey fantail, currawong, magpie, pee wee, kookaburra, little pied cormorant, wood and welcome swallows, white fronted tree creeper, brown

tree creeper, emu, eastern yellow robin, eastern spinebill, white eared honeyeater, yellow faced honeyeater, white plumed honeyeater, fire tailed finch, common and bronze winged crested pigeons, bar shouldered dove, white winged chough, apostle bird, Richard's pipit., superb blue wren, duck, thornbills, possible red-rumped parrot, turquoise parrot, noisy friar bird, fuscous honey eater.

FLOWERS. *Wahlenbergia* sp. bluebell; *Goodenia bellidafolia*, daisy goodenia; *Callistemon* red bottlebrush; *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, yellow buttons; *Hypericum gramineum*, St Johns wort; *Plectranthus parviflorus*; *Portulaca filiflora*; *Stylidium laricifolium*, tree trigger plant; *Hibbertia* sp.; *Cassinia* sp.; *Commelina cyanea*, wandering jew; *Melichrus urceolatus*, urn heath; *Scaveola ramoisissima*, fan flower; *Swansonia* sp., purple Darling pea; *Hypoxis hygrometrica*, golden weather-glass; mauve daisy; five petalled open mauve flower with hairy serrated leaves; brown box; holly-leaf birds eye berries; large shrub with clusters of white cream flowers like *Pomaderris*. Introduced; catspaw, zinnias, cobblers peg, tree pear fruit, verbena, aristera.

BUTTERFLIES. Monarch, lesser wanderer, skipper, grass blue, common grass yellow, meadow argus, orchard butterfly, white migrant.

The White or Common or Mottled Migrant Butterfly - *Catopsilia pyranthe*



These were seen on the campout, several photos were shown at the last meeting, and I thought I'd add some notes as this species is very variable in numbers from year to year with none some years and lots in others.

The adults are easily identified underneath; the normal view as they usually rest with wings shut. There is no other butterfly here with the faint brown marbling on both wings as seen on this one. There is sometimes a tinge of green.

The caterpillars feed on *Cassia* and *Senna* species and the adults are strong flyers and feed readily on flowers. The species is also in SE Asia as far as India; I have seen it in Hong Kong Botanical

Gardens.

Michael Jefferies.

The link is to the Atlas of Living Australia pages.

<http://bie.ala.org.au/species/Catopsilia+pyranthe#overview>

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

Meeting opened: 7.38pm

Attendance: 19 Apologies: 0 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting:

confirmed by C Smallwood seconded by E Walker carried

Business arising from the minutes: nil

Correspondence: as per folder

H Kruger moved correspondence be accepted seconded M Carnell carried

Financial Report:

C Smallwood moved that the financial report be accepted seconded T McCosker

Outing Reports:

Weekday outing: 3rd March Sunday Stewart Watt – Geology cancelled due to rain

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

Pre-outings reports:

Week day outing: - 5th April- Quart Pot Creek - Sentimental Rocks

Weekend outing: 21 April - -Sundown NP - P Haselgrove

General Business:

Newsletter Editor is leaving us soon and Shelly Farr has agreed to take on the job.

A new mono laser printer is to be priced for our Newsletter mail outs. This will be investigated and reported.

A change to the monthly outings will be considered, maybe to have one month on a Saturday and following month on a Sunday. This will be discussed further.

Next Meeting: 24th April 2013

Meeting closed: 8.10pm

Presentation: “McDonald Ranges” with Peter Kerr. Splendid series of pictures of this area.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR MARCH 2013.

INCOME.

BALANCE C/F \$613.90.

EXPENDITURE.

CWA Room Rent 50.00

P.O box renewal fee 99.00

INCOME MARCH Nil
BALANCE \$613.90

Less Expenses 149.00

BALANCE 27/3/13 \$464.90

EXPENDITURE \$149.00

Cash book balance carried forward reconciles with bank statement of 16/3/13 of \$613.90.

From the wilds of Germany



Michael Müller sent the following pictures from a trip to the Hartz mountains recently!

Spring is a bit slow in Europe this year.

Lastly, please remember it makes the Editor’s job much easier if the text comes in plain packages, not as Word or Pages documents, and the pictures are sent separately. It helps to conserve bandwidth too!