



# *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.

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

Friday 7th June -Girraween Lodge  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June - Geology - Stewart Watt  
Monthly meeting; M Jefferies  
Friday 5th July; TBA

**Deadline for next newsletter:  
30th June 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](mailto: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 Due and Membership Question about Outing days

At the monthly meeting on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April it was resolved to ask the membership whether they would prefer having outings on a Saturday. The discussion centred on the proposal to hold the walk now normally held on Friday on Saturday, and, if so, whether this should be on alternate months or some other timing. If you have views on this now is the time to express those views. It is a question on the subscription and outings form at the back of this newsletter and on the web site.

## Pre-outing Reports Friday June 7th: Girraween Lodge

Meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am as usual to go to the Girraween Environmental Lodge. Morning tea of Tea/Coffee and bikkies will be provided, on arrival, on the verandah, with views of kangaroos and Castle Rock before setting off to walk some of the tracks on the property and return to the cars by about 11.30am. Leaders Rob & Trish McCosker.

## Sunday 23rd June: Geology of Stanthorpe District Mines.

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. Stewart is hoping to have another two geologists accompanying us so we should have plenty of opportunity to learn more about the geology of our district. The trip will visit outcrops of Stanthorpe Ademetite, Ruby Creek Granite and associated mineralisation as discussed by Warwick Willmott at the meeting on Wednesday night 27<sup>th</sup> February. We also hope to visit a fossil site. Bring water, morning tea and lunch and wear sturdy shoes. As mentioned in the last Newsletter we are hoping to include a group of Warwick High School students on this outing to encourage more participation in the study of Earth Sciences, and these will be billeted in various vehicles. As this outing will entail mostly driving in convoy perhaps it is timely to remind all members of the etiquette of keeping the vehicle behind you in sight. If you lose sight of them slow down or stop and wait for them. That will bring the whole convoy to

a halt and ensure no one gets lost or left behind due to a breakdown or taking a wrong turn. *Rob McCosker* is the contact point for those offering lifts.

### AGM: Wednesday 24th July

#### A call for photos for the ‘Remember Last Year show after the AGM in July.

Could all you budding photographers in the Club please put together your photos taken on outings during the last year and get them to me for the Annual Meeting presentation. Please bring them on a memory stick to the next meeting. Its always a great night looking back at where we have been and what we have seen.

*Rob McCosker*

### Outing Reports

#### Friday 3 May:- Granite Belt Highlands Winery

Most of the ten members who turned up for our Friday outing had no idea where we were going as it was a post-meeting organised venue. Mark Winkler from Granite Belt Highland Winery kindly allowed us to do a wildflower walk on his property although he was unable to guide us around due to a prior commitment. First item on the agenda was a discussion with Mark on where to head for. This was followed by smoko to avoid having to carry it with us. We then set off towards one of the gullies then diverted uphill looking for damper areas where the majority of the orchids grow. We managed to select a rather dry area so the Orchidaceae was a lot less than abundant. Nevertheless we found quite a lot of plants in flower and had some good views across the valley towards the Felsberg Winery area. Pardalotes could be heard calling in the treetops. We managed to find some *Acianthus exsertus* in flower and rosettes of three different greenhoods.



On our way back across the paddock near the winery a Pacific Reef Heron took off from a small pond. It was disturbed by a vehicle passing along the road and our approach, so no one managed a photograph. We thanked Mark and Daphne for their hospitality and some members availed themselves of the opportunity to look through Mark's wildflower photographs.



At one stage we thought we had taken a wrong turn somewhere and ended up on Easter Island when we saw a rock formation that remarkably resembled a human head!

*Jeff Campbell*

#### Plant List, all in flower

*Pelargonium australe*, *Isotoma anethifolia*, *Lobelia andrewsii*, *Trachymene incisa* ssp *incisa* (Native candytuft), *Actinotis helianthi* (Flannel flower), *Goodenia bellidifolia* (Daisy goodenia), *Melichrus urceolatus* (Urn heath), *Wahlenbergia graniticola* (Granite bluebell), *Mirbelia speciosa* (Showy mirbelia), *Commelina diffusa* (Wandering jew), *Pimelea linifolia* ssp *linifolia* (Queen of the bush), *Brachyscome stuartii*, *Podolepis arachnoidea* (Clustered copper-wire daisy), *Hibbertia* sp, *Cryptandra* sp, *Acianthus exsertus* (Dark mosquito orchid)

Butterfly list:- Grass Yellow, Grass Blue, Meadow Argus, Monarch, Scarlet Jezebel, Grey Ringlet, Glasswing, Lesser Wanderer.

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2013; Rivertree - Leader Errol Walker**

How did **Rivertree** get its name ?

One school of thought is that if you look at a map of the area referred to as Rivertree you will see that three rivers or creeks join in close proximity to one another. The Maryland River, Boonoo Boonoo River and Koreelah Creek join to form the Clarence River. Thus you will see the branches of a tree or a river-tree. Or should that be rivers-three? You be the judge.

Our outing was held in the best possible weather with a cool start and a 9am departure from Weeroona park in seven 4WDs. Attendance 23.



We all assembled at the Liston Park where we met Mr John Burton, a local with extensive knowledge of the Rivertree area having lived in and worked the area for many years. John agreed to guide us through the Rivertree area with particular reference to the mining history. A chimney associated with the silver mine has been restored and this with the remnants of mining shafts and drives made for a very interesting few hours exploration. Morning tea and lunch were taken in the vicinity of the chimney as the location was well sheltered from a sneaky westerly wind.

Bird sitings were rare but a few of us came across and photographed a carpet snake at least three metres long. Moths were in abundance and were duly studied and photographed.

We left the chimney area after lunch to inspect an old sawmill site on the banks of the Clarence River. John pointed out the site of an old pit saw where the depression in the ground is still obvious. After that we crossed the Clarence and proceeded downstream for two km to the site of the old Rivertree cattle dip. Here there were large picturesque waterholes and red flowering bottlebrush which kept the cameras clicking.

Returning downstream we enjoyed afternoon tea at the junction of Koreelah Ck and the Maryland River. There is a hut at this junction and it is well above the river. There is evidence of recent flood waters being above the roof of the building. A sobering thought.

There was just time to visit the Undercliffe Falls on the way home and they were flowing quite strongly. We thank Mr John Burton for his time and cooperation and especially the privilege of having access to private property to enjoy the history of the Rivertree mines and the spectacular landscapes. *Errol Walker.*





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

**Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2013**

**Meeting Opened:** 7.35pm

**Attendance:** 18                      **Apologies:** 2                      as per attendance book

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

confirmed by J.Campbell      seconded by M. Jefferies      carried

**Business arising from the minutes:** nil

**Correspondence:** Newsletters received from QNC, SGAP Warwick, Chinchilla F N, Fassifern F N, and two new book titles from CSIRO Publishing.

M. Müller moved correspondence be accepted, seconded by C. Smallwood                      carried

**Financial Report:** Balance \$439.45

C. Smallwood moved that the financial report be accepted, seconded by E. Walker carried

## Outing Reports:

**Weekday outing:** J.Campbell outlined the outing to the Highland Winery at Glen Aplin.

**Sunday outing:** E. Walker reported on the Rivertree Mine outing which attracted 22 people. We were also given a brief talk by the property owner, Michelle Burton, about the chimney restoration project undertaken by a group of local people. Member Chris Farr then gave an interesting talk on the geological development of the Clarence River since pre-historic times.

### Pre-outing Reports:

**Weekday outing:** 7<sup>th</sup> June Girraween Environmental Lodge – R. McCosker

**Weekend outing:** 23<sup>rd</sup> June      Geology Tour with Stewart Watt

### General Business:

- Discussion about the availability of spare seats in 4WD vehicles for the June outing, with about 20 seats on offer.
- Upon a suggestion from members to be able to pay Annual Subscriptions by Direct Deposit into the Club's account, Carol was to arrange this with the bank. (*Details on the Subs Form; Ed.*)
- Visitor's Fees – it was proposed that we now charge visitors a fee of \$2.00 on Outings, to be collected by the Outing leader when collecting signatures from attendees.

**Specimens:**

- Jeff Campbell had an unusual spider nest resembling a piece of rope about 150mm long by 5mm thick, complete with baby spiders.
- Jeff also spoke on his collection of rocks, shells and bull kelp, including ornaments, from Flinders Island.
- Rob McCosker had a piece of the quartz from the mullock heap at the Rivertree Mine.
- Rob also showed a photo of a Craypot Stinkhorn fungi (*Phallaceae* – *Colus* sp.) sent in by Patience James and taken in her garden by son Frank.

Next Meeting: 26<sup>th</sup> June      M. Jefferies movie presentation

Meeting closed: 8.40pm

Presentation: Errol Walker gave a wonderful presentation of slides of both King and Flinders Islands ably assisted with information from Jeff Campbell who had also been to both Islands.

**FINANCIAL REPORT FOR MAY 2013.**

<b><u>INCOME.</u></b>		<b><u>EXPENDITURE.</u></b>	
<b>Balance C/F.</b>	<b>\$389.95.</b>		
Member Donation	20.00	Room Rent CWA. 2mths.	50.00
Camera Club ½ share			
PO Box rental.	49.50		
Membership Subs.	30.00		
INCOME MAY.	\$99.50	EXPENSES MAY.	\$50.00
BALANCE.	\$489.45		
Less Expenses	50.00		
<b><u>BALANCE 22/5/2013.</u></b>	<b><u>\$439.45.</u></b>		

**Apologies**

I am sorry for two errors on my part producing the May newsletter. The first was that the print version did not have a yellow cover; I forgot to change the paper in the printer when it came to printing the mail-merged front cover.

The second is for the size of the electronic version; due to the number and size of the included pictures that should have been resized before the PDF file was created. *Michael Jefferies.*

**The Atlas of Living Australia**

I am going to a symposium on the scientific uses of biological data held on line in projects such as the ALA , being held in mid-June in Canberra. I will be particularly interested in hearing how the use of volunteers to feed information into the Atlas is going and any changes that may be contemplated.

More later perhaps! *Michael Jefferies*

**Feral Animals**

I know that the problem of animal pests of increasing all the time. I found this on-line:-

“The Invasive Animals CRC creates new technologies and integrated strategies to reduce the impact of invasive animals on Australia’s economy, environment, and people. We concentrate on developing smarter tools to prevent and detect new invasions, advanced and tactical tools to strengthen integrated management strategies of carp and other pest fish, and new tools and integrated management strategies for major pests including foxes, wild dogs, feral pigs, rats and mice, cane toads, feral cats and rabbits. Australia has 56 vertebrate pest species costing at least \$1 billion annually in economic, environmental and social impacts.” They now have an App as follows:- “This app contains species descriptions, maps, photos, audio files, footprints, and resource links for 31 vertebrate pest species in Australia. Additional species will be added to future updates of this app. This app is a valuable educational resource.”

I can show it to anyone who is interested at the next meeting: by the way it is **FREE!** *Michael Jefferies*