



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

Monthly meeting, July 24th; The AGM
Sunday 21st July: Sundown NP led by the
Haselgroves
Friday 2nd August; TBA
Sunday 25th August - Allora Hill with
M Müller

**Deadline for next newsletter:
27th July 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.

Subscriptions Due and Membership Question about Outing days

At the monthly meeting on Wednesday 24th 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.

Pre-outing Reports 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 by email or by hand ASAP. Its always a great night looking back at where we have been and what we have seen. *Rob McCosker*

Sunday 21st July Sundown National Park - Old Beehive Mine Road.

Meet at Weeroona Park for a 9.00am departure and car pool in 4WD vehicles. The road in the park is a bit rocky but quite trafficable. We will gather at the Red Rock Gorge parking area for smoko at 10.30am. There is a pit toilet but no drinking water.

Carrying lunch, we will follow the old road out to the area above the Beehive Mine. It is about 1.25km and should take about 1½ hours at Nats’ pace. Lunch will be in an open grassy area with good views north and west to Nundubbermere and Jibbinbar. With a bit of scrub bashing we may be able to find some mining relics.

The walk essentially follows a road built about 1912. Naturally it is somewhat overgrown in places and so there will be a bit of pushing through peach bush and over fallen trees. So good footwear, long pants and sock covers is recommended. Gloves might also help a bit. There is plenty of spear grass. It is often

windy at Red Rock and although the lunch spot is open to the north and therefore in full sun, it still could be quite cool. We should be back at the cars by 3pm and people can then follow the track down to the lookout, if they wish.

The club has done this walk before but not for many years. We rate the walk as a Grade 7. On the day we will hand out road directions (for those who don't know the park) and a few points of interest to note along the way.

As this trip **requires** 4WD's please **register** with Peter Haselgrove by phone 4683 7255 or email eulalia-pl@bigpond.com if you need a lift or have space in your vehicle. We have two spare spots in our car.

Advance Notice - August Outing

The outing to Allora Hill on 25th August will be a joint outing with the Toowoomba Field Nats. We will leave from Weeroona Park at **8.30am sharp**. *M Müller.*

Outing Reports

Friday June 7th Outing to Girraween Lodge

The outing attracted 10 people who gathered at the verandah of the Lodge for morning tea after a little confusion about whether it was Girraween Lodge or Girraween Inn. After a cuppa and unfortunately no kangaroos to be seen, we were just too late, we set off along a track to inspect one of the lodges. There was the promise of a good spring wildflower display with *Leucopogons* and *Micromyrtus* in heavy bud and one brave flower on a *Bossiaea* bush just outside the lodge we were looking at. We made our way to the Pillows Tors, a rock formation which is an excellent example of granite weathering, then continued to the Cathedral Arch to enjoy the views to the Pyramids in Girraween N P. Along the track was a nice specimen of Blue Mountain Daisy *Olearia ramosissima* in full bloom. We returned to the Lodge by about 11.30am to conclude a pleasant morning walk. *Rob McCosker*

Geology Outing 23 June 2013



On a typical crisp mid-year morning, 25 Field Nats and visitors gathered for the geology outing accompanying Warwick Willmott's February talk, but postponed because of rain. After arranging the car-pool, the convoy first headed just east of town to an old wolframite (tungsten ore) mine. There, the BIG PICTURE of continental eastern Australia painted by Warwick was retouched, the origins of the Stanthorpe and Ruby Creek Granites (and their differences) discussed, as well as the source of the wolframite. A little specimen hunting was done, with some fine smoky quartz and wolframite crystals found.

On the next leg, members definitely found why 4WD was needed and the February outing had been postponed – Murphy's Crossing Road was INTERESTING but led to a picturesque Morning Tea venue where the Severn River spilled over large slabs of Stanthorpe Granite. Social discussion and photography was followed by discussion of xenoliths, metamorphism, joints, and dykes. By this stage, the group had gained an extra car and three more participants.



Back where Murphy's Crossing Road crosses the Dog Fence, Texas Beds (trap rock) marine sediments lie right beside Stanthorpe Granite, **without** metamorphism. Here the mega-shear described by Warwick is made obvious by the different rocks, landforms and vegetation change. And the Dog Fence makes it easy, too. At this stage, tail-end-Charlie earned his wages with five gates to close for the convoy en route to Pikedale.

The lunch spot looked at first glance like an MRD storage wasteland, but a 25 metre walk towards Pike Creek produced a cosy little grassy glade for the meal. Afterwards, slightly retracing our route brought us to the old Pikedale Mine, with the typical scorched-earth landscape of an early Australian minesite. The white encrustations of lead and zinc carbonates and the green of copper were obvious on the surface, but no trace was found of the reported gold and silver (unfortunately). Following the line of shafts south-east eventually showed the ore zone along a fault or maybe between the layers of hard sedimentary rock sloping steeply south-west. The smelter area 400 metres north of the mine had a central oven with a barrel-vault brick roof (but so buried in rubble it was difficult to see the construction or work out the method of operation), a large slag pile and bricks – many copper-stained – scattered over a wide area. A battery of puns about “a salted mine” was exhausted (as were the participants). Four hundred metres south-west of the mine was its rubbish tip, which held great interest and entertainment for some time. Focussing the attention were fallow deer, a rabbit kitten, many old soft drink bottles from different manufacturers, numerous small plants of *Indigofera australis* and an old Singer sewing machine treadle. But here, alas, no rocks.



After removing many of the minesite grass

seeds from socks, the last stop on the road back to town held a conundrum – rounded boulders of shallow-marine corals within sedimentary rocks which showed all the marks of deep-water origin. The apparent contradiction was resolved by the transport (rounding) of the coral fragments into the deep by a turbidity current which rolled down the continental slope after an earthquake. By this stage the sky had clouded over and the weather cooled down, but with no rain to dampen the end of the outing.



Thanks to Geoff McDonagh for local knowledge, Col Hockings for the research day, David Wilson for the photography. *Stuart Watt*

Additional photos from Rob McCosker and Kris Carnell were supplied and used but not room for all! *Ed.*

This is a summary taken from the Queensland Mines Department records on the Pikedale Silver Mine.

A small outcrop of ore was first found in Woolshed Gully about 1880 and the Pikedale Silver Mine was opened in late 1896, when a smelter was erected by the Pikedale Copper, Gold and Silver Mining Company. Work continued until late 1897, when operations were suspended due to smelter problems - 102 tonne of matte was sent to Europe for further treatment. The mine remained idle until 1906 and then a further 437 tonnes of ore were treated in 1907. The mine then closed. In the period between 1962 to the late 1980's several exploration efforts were made but the mine was not considered profitable.

P&L Haselgrove

The Rivertree Mines

Following on from the visit to the Rivertree area, and while we are in geology mode, it is worth noting that there is a lot of material on-line; in particular access to newspapers of the day. Both the National Library of Australia on their Trove site, (see [HERE](#) for one) and Google have newspapers from the time, see [HERE](#) for an example on Google (I am sorry, only available if you are on-line, the links are very long but searching using “Rivertree silver mine”, in quotes as written, works).

Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria st, Stanthorpe on 26th June 2013

Meeting opened: 7.33 pm

Attendance: 15 Apologies: 4 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting:

confirmed by L Saunders seconded by S Farr carried

Business arising from the minutes:

The CBA require a copy of the minutes in which the members have agreed that Treasurer and other signatories can access the account via the internet. At the last meeting some members requested that payment for subs should be available via electronic transfer.

L Saunders moved that the account be opened for internet transactions. Seconded C Smallwood. carried

Correspondence: as per folder

H Kruger moved inward and outward correspondence be accepted. seconded L Haselgrove carried

Financial Report: \$658.45

C Smallwood moved that the financial report be accepted. Seconded M Müller

Outing Reports:

Weekday outing: R McCosker - Girraween lodge

Sunday outing: Stuart Watt - Geology of Stanthorpe District

Pre outing reports

Week day outing: M Müller – West of The Summit

Weekend outing: P Haselgrove – Sundown NP

General Business:

SDRC Seniors week calendar to include August outing.

L Haselgrove informed that the Queensland Naturalist club will be in the district from 28th September to 7th October for an extended stay and will be extending an invitation for our members to participate in some of the outings.

Linda Broadhurst of CSIRO Plant Industry is studying Yellow Box, *Eucalyptus melliodora*, as it is a tree affected by land clearing while being an important shade and honey tree. She is particularly interested in more samples from this area as it is under-represented in samples so far. If you would like to contribute to this research please email Linda at Linda.Broadhurst@csiro.au.

David Entermann's 'Save Bald Rock' flyer was noted.

Members felt that pathways need to be maintained for visitors to Bald Rock area. Local materials available in the area may not be suitable and the impact the blue metal will have is unknown.

Reminder: Next meeting Annual General Meeting. Please bring a plate for supper.
Photos for 'Remember Last Year' need to be sent to R McCosker ASAP.

Next Meeting: 24th July 2013 - the **AGM**

Meeting closed: 7.58pm

This month's presentation: 30 years of National Geographic

Specimens:

R McCosker showed his collection of rocks from our outing on Sunday.
Col Hockings had a rock with coral fossils which also was collected on our outing.
C Farr bought a rock from the Burdekin district which also had coral fossils.

The printer

The application to the Queensland Country Credit Union for funds to buy a laser printer for the Club were successful!

Finally- really last words

I apologise for missing my turn on the projector at the last meeting; I hope to try again on the 28th August meeting.

As **Editor** of this esteemed newsletter for a while I record my thanks to all those who have contributed with text and photos. I am grateful for the timely submission of reports as this allows the newsletter to reach the members in a useful manner - keep it up for the new editor please! *Michael Jefferies*

