



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, (Saturday 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
	Jeff Campbell	
Secretary:	Halina Kruger	46835206
Treasurer:	Carol Smallwood	46811034
Newsletter Editor:	Shelley Farr	0417736024
Magazine C'mtee:	M Müller &	46811421
	P Andrewartha	46812913
Publicity Officer:	Lynette Haselgrove	46837255
Librarian:	Trish McCosker	46835371

Management Committee: President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer.

The Club thanks the Queensland Country Credit Union for their donation that enabled us to buy a printer.

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 15th September – with Rare
Wildflower Consortium at Cannon Creek

Sunday 22nd September – Horans Gorge
Kris and Margaret Carnell

Wednesday 25th September – Monthly
meeting;
Presentation by Errol Walker –
The Rockies, USA National Parks

5th – 6th October – Campout at Mario Pennisi's
Property

**Deadline for next newsletter
29th September 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, high level of fitness

This document is on the website above for download. If there is anyone who would prefer to get their copy online, 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 could reach you by post. Also, you get it in full colour!

New Program Out Now

Be sure to check the last page of this newsletter for the latest program. Tear it off for future reference. This page is available on the documents page of our website.

Travelling to Other Parts of Australia?

If you would like to connect up with other Field Nats or Natural History Clubs and join them on their outings or meetings, you can access the latest [Australian Naturalists Network - Register of Clubs](http://www.granitenet.com.au/groups/environment/fieldnats/links) at the Links page on the Stanthorpe Field Nats website - <http://www.granitenet.com.au/groups/environment/fieldnats/links>. The register gives the contact details for the clubs (55 of them), including email addresses and websites.

New Publicity Officer

Thanks to Margaret Carnell who has stepped up to take on the job of Publicity Officer for the Club. Many thanks also to previous publicity officer, Lynette Haselgrove, for a job well done.

Queensland Field Nats

Due to an overwhelming response within the Queensland Field Nats Club, they are no longer able to invite us to join them on their Campout at the end of the month.

Friday Walk 6th September has been cancelled

There will be no scheduled Field Nats walk on Friday.

Pre-outing Reports

Sunday 22nd September 2013 – Horans Gorge

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9 am and travel to Horans Gorge Road Fletcher. Most of the day's activities will be on a private property at the end of the road. Morning tea will be at a pretty spot beside Horans Gorge Creek. There are ground orchids in the area at the right time of the year.

We will then follow the fire trail to the edge of the Horans Gorge reserve. At this point we will leave the vehicles and walk north up a ridge along the fire trail. At the top of the ridge, we will turn east and walk through the bush towards Mt Dillon. At different points, there are good views to the north. There were lots of Blue Mountain Daisies flowering earlier this year.

Depending on the fitness of the members, we can either retrace our steps when we feel we've gone far enough or we can bush bash our way down the side of the gorge to the creek and then back to the cars. Or we can split up and do both.



After lunch at the cars we will drive about half way back to the house and then walk up along a quad bike track to a north facing slab of rock which on the pre-outing had Boronia flowering. The large flowered Eriostemon grows in the area. It is very hard to predict what wild flowers will be out on the day, but it is very good wildflower country. Afternoon tea will be wherever we are at the appropriate time.



The walk along the ridge toward Mt Dillon is easy going and apart from scrub bashing down the side of the gorge if you want to, or going bush at morning tea, the rest of the walking will be on made tracks. You will probably want to stop and admire the view and catch your breath walking up the first ridge but we can take our time, there's no deadline.

The track from the house to the reserve doesn't require 4WD but high clearance would be an advantage. We can car pool at the house on the way in.

Kris and Margaret Carnell 4683 5268

15th September – Cannon Creek

We will join the Rare Wildflower Consortium in their walk at 124 Barker Lane, Cannon Creek. The walk starts at 9.30 am.

5th – 6th October Campout at Mario's

Mario Pennisi is offering his property west of Tenterfield for a campout on the long weekend in October – the night of Saturday 5th, and Sunday 6th if anyone wants to stay longer. Mario asks that members and guests phone or email him to let him know how many will be coming. There are a number of beds in the cabins, if anyone is interested. There is a barbecue plate available and a bush shower and toilet.

Directions are: Follow New England highway through to NSW, take the Sunnyside-Platform road to the right, follow to Bruxner highway, turn right, drive for approx 5 kms to Woodside Road turnoff to the left, follow for 10 k's and you will see a rock painted white on left of road, turn left here and follow "Nats" signs to the gate. Mario's contact details can be found in the Granite Belt Informer.

Outing Reports

Friday 2nd August 2013 - property of Halina Kruger



On Friday 2nd August we started with a beautiful morning, 8 members and 1 visitor making the outing. We arrived at the Glen Aplin end entrance to Kruger's property and drove along the long driveway for our cuppa. We left the cars and walked along the pine forest where we could see deer rubbings along the bottom of the tree. Moving along past the yabbie dam we could see a good display of wattle. At the top of the road there was another dam with a very steep side overlooking Glen Aplin toward Emu Swamp. Along the wall there were fungi, different coloured lichen on the rocks as well as large boulders and many rocks to clamber over to the top for the best view. There were some flowers along the way. We could see Fig trees desperately trying to grow between the rocks. We walked up the internal road that ended yet another dam giving us an even better view of the valley below. Along the wall of the dam we started our decent walking through the casuarinas, cypress pines, gums and of course more rocks, as well more deer rubbings along the way. Our journey took us down through an old orchard block with glorious display of Granite silver wattle. We weaved our way through the bush back to the cars, some members staying on for lunch.

Plant list: *Acacia nerifolia*, *Melichrus urceolatus*, *Allocasuarina littoralis*, *Hovea heterophylla*, *Callitris endlichera*, *Pimelea linifolia*, *Solanum amblymerum*, *Clematis microphylla*, *Xanthorrhoea johnsonii*
Halina Kruger



Saturday 3rd August 2013 – Survey walk to Wallangarra Ridge

A lot less bush bashing than a few years ago and the interesting option of scrambling up the shoulder of Turtle Rock makes the trip to these set of impressive rock slabs a rewarding bushwalk. It will come up as an outing in the near future.

Michael Müller

Sunday 25th August 2013 – Allora Hill Reserve and Ghost Gate

Allora Mountain is a flat topped hill rising 110 metres above the surrounding area, reaching 772 metres above sea level. The Flora and Fauna Reserve covers most of the top and side slopes. Flora and Fauna surveys conducted in 2002-2003 and 2013 show evidence of the successful efforts of the Allora Landcare group, who care for the Reserve.

A large group of over 30 Nats from Stanthorpe and Toowoomba met at Dalrymple Creek Picnic Area for our combined outing. After morning tea on the lower slopes of the hill, we walked up to the extensive flat plateau which is still occasionally used for grazing. Many 'Scar Trees' show evidence of past aboriginal presence.

The bird and plant list has been kept by our friends from Toowoomba and will be available shortly.

After lunch we enjoyed the view of the full extent of Allora Mtn, from a slope south of Goomburra Road, approximately 10 km. distant. We also could clearly make out the high hills of Leyburn State Forest on the western horizon. We proceeded to the Ghost Gate Owl monument on a nearby saddle. In the old days the stockmen were often spooked at night when the gate would open, seemingly of its own accord. It turned out that the reason was that when the owl sitting on the gate flew off, the delicately balanced gate was given the slightest push from the owl as it took off.



Field Nats members read the plaque at the Ghost Gate monument

After a final stop with a good view east to the Main Range the two groups parted for the trip home. A special thank you goes to Margaret Compton from Toowoomba Field Nats for her big part in the organisation of the outing.

Michael Müller

And, from Trish Gardner of the Toowoomba Field Nats:

The “plant of the day”, for me, was the hairy anchor plant *Discaria pubescens*. A lucky meeting with Allora Landcare member Ken McCray led Ben and me to one of the two sites where this rare plant occurs in the reserve. As further luck would have it, it was flowering its little heart out, looking its annual best.



It is called “anchor plant” because of its neatly paired stiff thorns, each pair having a vague resemblance to an anchor. Unfortunately for the long term survival of the species, the thorns probably make it quite unpopular with those who come into contact with it. Anchor plant was once fairly widespread on the Darling Downs, but has now been listed here as “near threatened”, a term implying that it depends on conservation measures for its survival.

Patricia Gardner

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on 28th August 2013**

Meeting opened: 7.31 pm

Attendance: 17 Apologies: 2 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting as per printed newsletter:

confirmed by J Campbell seconded by M Müller carried

Business arising from the minutes:

The executive committee agreed to change the Friday outing to Saturday unless otherwise advised.

Correspondence: as per folder

H Kruger moved correspondence be accepted seconded M Carnell carried

Financial Report: \$896.95

C Smallwood moved that the financial report be accepted Seconded M Jeffries

Outing Reports:

Weekday outing: H Kruger Home Block

Sunday outing: M Müller Combined outing with Toowoomba FN Allora Hill

Pre-outing reports

Saturday outing:

Sunday 15 September 2013 with Stanthorpe Rare Wildflower Consortium.

Starting time is 9.30-12.30 at 124 Barkers Lane Cannon Creek.

Hosts Mark Carter and Donna Kennedy.

Sunday outing: K Carnell – Horans Gorge Reserve

General Business:

- C Farr would like members to get in touch with him by email chrisandshelly4@bigpond.com about the hazards and dangers associated with outings, so that he can compile a risk assessment for the club.
- C Farr would like to invite as many members as possible to attend a BLOG meeting on Saturday 21 September that will be at the Granite Border Landcare Office in Tenterfield to find out about their activities. Mark Thomas and others will be speaking about their projects and how BLOG members are part of GBLC. Chris feels that we as a club can benefit by saving on our insurance by being associated with the local Landcare group.
- L Haselgrove would like to retract the invitation for Stanthorpe FN from participating with The Queensland Naturalists annual campout as planned, due to heavy bookings so far from their members. The visitors numbers will only make it more difficult for activities being planned with an already large member group.

Next Meeting: 25th September 2013

Next months presentation: E Walker

Meeting closed: 8.09pm

This month's presentation: M Jeffries "Kunming China" as well a demo iPad version plant identification.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR AUGUST 2013.

INCOME.

EXPENDITURE.

BALANCE C/F. **\$683.85.**

Members Subscriptions 60.00

Donation 20.00

Grant from QLD Country Credit

Union for the printer. 200.00

AUGUST INCOME 280.00

BALANCE \$963.85

LESS EXPENDITURE 66.95

BALANCE 28/8/2013 \$896.90.

Magazine paper. S.Farr 66.95

AUGUST EXPENDITURE 66.95

Subscriptions are Overdue

If you haven't paid your subs yet, it is now time to do so. The [subscription form](#) can be downloaded from the website, or see Carol at a meeting.

Cheque Received from Queensland Country Credit Union

The Queensland Country Credit Union has kindly approved a grant of \$200 to the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club. QCCU manager, Alan Cameron, recently handed over the cheque to Newsletter Editor, Shelley Farr.

The grant has been used to purchase a laser printer.

The club sends a monthly newsletter to those who do not have the facilities to access an email version. We have been operating for more than 40 years and we do have senior members, some of whom are founding members, who can stay in touch by having their newsletter delivered in the mail. Hard copies are also posted to libraries and the Museum of Queensland.

Information on the wealth of treasures studied over the club's history has been passed on to current members. Lucky for us, we do have a depth of knowledge that is shared each time an observation is made in the field. Members enjoy rediscovering rare, or even common species that inhabit this beautiful landscape. To have this at our doorstep and people to share it with is a gift.



Help Needed to Identify Hazards

Here is a request to provide some of the fruits of your knowledge. I am in need a list of dangerous situations, animals, insects, flora etc. on the Granite Belt. It doesn't have to be unusual or life threatening; even the most obvious dangers small or large will be valued.

I have given myself a project to collect a comprehensive list of the dangers one could encounter in the natural areas of the Granite Belt. Once I have what appears to be a comprehensive representation, I will order them into the degree of danger posed (severity) and perhaps include ways to reduce exposure to these dangers.

I am hopeful this will form the basis of a risk assessment process for our club. I can do some of it without assistance but I do not have the knowledge to build a comprehensive list alone.

So please keep your ideas rolling in. Send them to chrisandshelley4@bigpond.com. If you don't have internet access, you could ask someone to help with that at GraniteNet which is diagonally opposite the Post Office. Of course, you could also post your information - Chris Farr, PO Box 1082, Stanthorpe, Qld, 4814.
Chris Farr

Landcare, could they help us?

On Saturday, 21/09/2013 the Border Landcare Organic Group will be attending an event hosted by Mark Thomas of Granite Border Land Care. The purpose of the event will be to inform member groups of how they fit under the Landcare umbrella, and what the benefits of these relationships are.

The event will be held at the GBLC office in Martin Street, Tenterfield at 10:00 for morning tea before a 10:30 start.

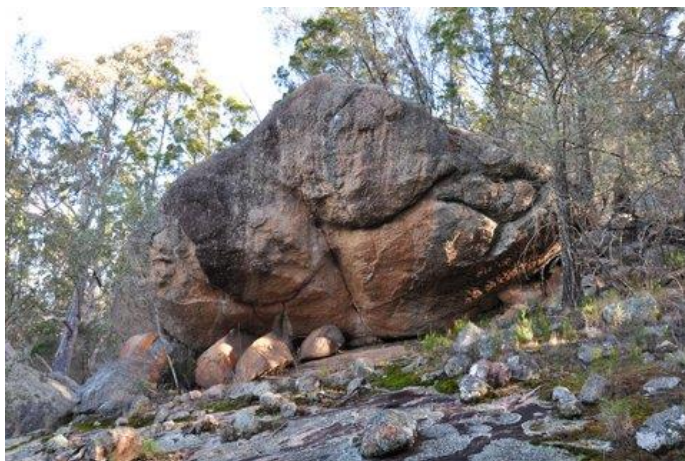
Could Landcare help the Field Nats? The insurance they purchase on behalf of each group could, not only offer protection for members and provide public liability, but could be purchased at a much more competitive rate. So much so that our membership fees could be reduced as well as providing the benefits above. Our current insurance is only for public liability and does not extend to participating members and guests.

I have more questions than answers on this issue and I will use this BLOG day to get as many answers as I can.

I invite interested Field Nats members to attend this function to help ask the questions or just listen to the answers. These events are usually held on the basis of bring a plate to share for lunch or morning tea.

Also bring a plate, cutlery and a cup for tea.

Chris Farr



Boulders at Halina's

The 2013-2014 Provisional Program

Please note that this may change due to circumstances that arise after the program is drafted

Month	Saturday Outing	Sunday Outing	Monthly Talk	Campout
October	5 th M. Pennisi's Property	20 th Rare Wildflower Consortium Girraween	23 rd Michael Jeffries	5 th to 6 th Mario Pennisi's property west of Tenterfield
November	2 nd Sundown – Western Circuit P Haselgrove	24 th “Warroo” R. McCosker	27 th Murray River J. Campbell	2 nd – 3 rd Western Circuit P Haselgrove
December	8 th Christmas Breakup – Halina Kruger's			
2014				
February	8 th Bluff River R. McCosker	23 rd Tooloom G. Greenup	26 th Grampians K & M Carnell	
March	8 th Murphy's Crossing C & S Farr	23 rd Warwick Fossils S. Watt	26 th Geology S. Watt	
April	5 th “Maryland” G. Greenup	27 th Sheepstation Ck P. Haselgrove	23 rd TBA	
May	3 rd Girraween Lodge R. McCosker	25 th “Alum Rock” R. McCosker	28 th South Aus. R. McCosker	
June	7 th Thorndale H. Kruger	22 nd Boonoo Boonoo J. Campbell	25 th Alaska J. Campbell	
July	5 th Blue Mountain R. McCosker	20 th “Orana” K & M Carnell	23 rd AGM Remember Last Year	
August	2 nd Mt. Dillon K & M Carnell	24 th Sugarloaf Mine S. Watt	27 th Kangaroo Is. K & M Carnell	
September	6 th Whiskey Gully C. Smallwood	21 st Bolivia Hill K & M Carnell	24 th Lord Howe Is. R. McCosker	13 th Crows Nest J. Campbell