



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](http://www.granitenet.com.au/groups/environment/fieldnats/) 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:	Margaret Carnell	46835268
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 20th October – Rare Wildflower
Consortium - Girraween

Wednesday 23rd October – Monthly meeting;
Presentation by M. Jeffries –
The Tsetse Fly

Saturday 2nd November – TBA

**Deadline for next newsletter
27th October 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!

Are You Unfinancial?

Have you forgotten to renew your subscription? If so, please do it as soon as possible.

The November Newsletter will not be coming your way if you do not renew your subscription. The subscription form and details on payment, which include direct transfer, can be found on the website [here](#). Or send a cheque to the address on the front page (\$20 Single, \$30 Family).

Articles for Newsletter

If you come across any interesting articles or other information that you think might interest other members, please forward them on the editor. Photos are also welcomed.

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.



Smoko at Horans Gorge

Outing Reports

Sunday, 22nd September 2013 – Horans Gorge

Leader: Kris Carnell

Sunday 22nd September was a perfect day for a Nats Outing. We met at Weeroona Park and travelled south along the highway to Horans Gorge Road and onto Dell and Les Baldwin's property. Many thanks to Dell and Les and to Tom Dunn who had offered to guide us on our walk.

Twenty-four of us drove along a track to a delightful spot beside the creek where we had morning tea. There was a beautiful specimen of *Pomaderris lanigera* flowering beside the creek [photo at right]



We climbed back into the vehicles and travelled further along the track until we reached a spot where we could park the vehicles and start our walk. The track had some steep sections, but there were plenty of flowers to stop to admire while catching your breath. There were a couple of eggs and bacon pea flowers about - *Aotus subglauca* and *Davesia latifolia*, as well as *Olearia gravis* blooming profusely. In one spot there was a *Davesia* with much paler flowers and somewhat longer leaves. The flannel flowers, *Actinotus helianthi*, were just starting to come out.



We were quite excited to see green beak orchids in bloom. They are much rarer than brown beaks, but according to David L Jones are variations of the same plant, *Lyperanthus suaveolens* [photo at left]. Further along we saw several climbing orchids, *Erythrorchis cassythoides* at the base of trees.

After leaving the track we scrub bashed towards higher ground where there were good views towards Sundown and Sailor Jack [photo below]. We passed a lyrebird's mound on the way, as well as some pig rootings. A few of us took

a wrong turn and walked into a narrow passage between the rocks and had to turn back. However, above our heads were several beautiful sprays of tongue orchids, *Dockrillia linguiformis*.

Some members decided to go over the edge of the gorge and down to the creek while the rest of us retraced our steps.

Those who took the more difficult route were rewarded by the sight of a large king orchid, *Dendrobium speciosum* on a boulder as well as quite a large patch of *Boronia* flowering amongst the *Pomaderris*. We were able to find some shade to sit in while we ate, although we were in two or three groups. A specimen of the *Boronia* caused quite a bit of discussion, as to whether it was *B. amabilis* or *B. granitica*. We decided it was *amabilis*.

Our afternoon walk was to a rock slab where there were *Philotheca epilosa* (formerly *Eriostemon*) in bloom. On



the way we stopped to watch a spotted pardalote flitting in the tree. We think we disturbed it from its burrow. Beside the rock slab *Bertya recurvata* grows, although there were no flowers out. This was a very quiet, peaceful place with lovely views across the gorge. On the way back we saw a shrub with mauve flowers which I thought was a *Prostanthera* or *Westringia*. On looking in *Wildflowers of the Granite Belt*, I have tentatively identified it as *Hemigenia cuneifolia*, because of the leaves and placement of the flowers.

We ended the day with a cuppa in the garden before heading for home. Altogether a lovely day!

Bird List – Horans Gorge

Grey shrike thrush, kookaburra, spotted pardalote, fantailed cuckoo, Rufous whistler, *Accipiter* sp. (goshawk or chicken hawk), grey fantail, currawong, eastern spinebill and maybe a kingfisher.

Plants in Flower – Horans Gorge

Acacia sp (broad leaf pale flowers), *Actinotus helianthi* (Flannel Flower), *Aotus subglaucula*, *Boronia amabilis*, *Brachyscombe macrocarpa* (mauve daisy), *Calytrix tetragona* (Fringe myrtle), *Choretrum candollei* (Sour bush), *Dampiera purpurea*, *Dendrobium speciosum* (king orchid) *Dockrillia linguiformis* (tongue orchid), *Hemigenia cuneifolia* (?), *Hibbertia* sp. (Guinea flower), *Glossodia major* (Wax lip orchid), *Glycine clandestina*, *Hakea laevipes*, *Hardenbergia purpurea* (Sarsparilla), *Hypericum gramineum* (small St John's wort), , *Leonema rotundifolium*, (Round leafed Phebalium), *Leptospermum* sp., *Leucopogon melaleucoides* (Snowbush), *Leucopogon muticus*, *Melichrus urceolatus* (urn heath), *Olearia gravis*, *Ozothamnus diosmifolius* (Rice flower), *Patersonia glabrata* (wild iris), *Philotheca epilosa* (wax flower) *Pimelea linifolia* (Queen of the Bush), *Pimelea neoanglica* (scanty rice flower), *Pomaderris lanigera*, *Pomaderris* sp., *Pultenea hartmanii* (Stanthorpe pea), *Pomax umbellata*, *Rhytidosporum procumbens* (white, 5 petals small shrub), *Solanum amblymerum* (Kangaroo Apple), *Stylidium laricifolium* (Tree trigger plant), *Stylidium graminifolium* (Grass trigger plant), *Stypandra glauca* (nodding blue lily), *Vilosa betonicifolia* (purple violet), *Zieria compacta*, small yellow pea prostrate plant veined obovate leaf.

Margaret Carnell



King Orchid - *Dendrobium speciosum*



Wax Flower (*Philotheca epilosa*)

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

Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria Street, Stanthorpe on 25 September 2013

Meeting opened: 7.44 pm

Attendance: 15 Apologies: 6 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting:

Confirmed by L Saunders seconded by P Andrewartha carried

Business arising from the minutes: to be reported at General Business

Correspondence: as per folder

H Kruger moved correspondence be accepted seconded L Haselgrove carried

Financial Report: \$866.91

H Kruger moved that the financial report be accepted Seconded E Walker

Outing Reports:

Saturday outing: Wild Flowers consortium

Sunday outing: K & M Carnell - Horans Gorge

Pre outing reports

Saturday outing: M Pennisi's property Camp out

Sunday outing: Wild Flower Consortium - Girraween

General Business:

Chris Farr reported about our possibility of Insurance with the Landcare Group. Further information and discussion to follow.

Chris Farr to contact Liz Bourne re "Outing risk assessment".

M Jeffries – prelude to presentation next month.

Next Meeting: 23rd October 2013

This month's presentation: E Walker Rockies and other National Parks in the US

Meeting closed: 8.13pm

Is Landcare for us? – Chris Farr

At our last meeting I gave an outline of the impacts on the club should it reorganise its structure under Granite Borders Landcare (GBLC), so here it is in writing for you all to assess the pros and cons of this idea.

Financial impact

Current situation:

For our public liability insurance we currently pay \$473

With GBLC:

The current cost for a group per year is \$60

This includes public liability insurance (same type of cover we currently have)

Financial result - we would reduce our costs by \$413 per year.

We currently have 27 paid up members, there are some members that have not yet paid yet are likely to re-join; we should end up with at least 32 members for this year.

Using this estimate, a shift to GBLC would represent a savings of \$12.9 per member.

Administration impact

1. Essentially we would be adding "under GBLC" to the end of our name.
2. We would also need to establish an outing sign-on sheet that would include a risk assessment and a GBLC logo. Note - I am certain our sign on procedure needs to be upgraded to include a risk assessment and indemnity all on the same sign on sheet, so I do not regard this as an extra requirement.
3. Our current structure would remain, both for historical reasons and protection of our committee.
4. We would need to send (email) our program to GBLC to keep them informed of our activities.
5. We would also need to send (email) our sign-on sheets to GBLC which would include our risk assessments.

GBLC are currently in the process of establishing their risk assessments. While we currently only have an indemnity at the front of our sign on book, it is important that we do more than this. We need to demonstrate our duty of care for our members and guests. A risk assessment will show this duty of care. Whichever structure we come under, I believe we will need to update our sign-on sheet to include risk assessments and indemnity on the same sheet. I will endeavor to have an upgraded draft sign on sheet completed for your comments by the next meeting. Liz Bourne has also kindly offered to assist with the preparation of the risk assessment material.

Other known organisations that are under the umbrella of GBLC

Stanthorpe Rare Wildflower Consortium

Border Landcare Organic Group (BLOG)

Tenterfield Fieldnats

Mark Thomas (GBLC) is happy to attend one of our meetings to inform us and answer any questions we might have regarding this idea.

Landcare is a worthwhile organisation that can do more for us as a group or as individuals. The Tenterfield reserve and the Sunnyside preservation projects are testament to what a little assistance can do for small groups. Not that I am suggesting we should launch ourselves into a project, but if in the future anyone from our group is interested in this type of participation Landcare will be there to show the way. I report this as it is now with no guarantees for the future but I also see we have nothing to lose and plenty to gain.