



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.

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

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.

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

Saturday 2nd November – Mt Norman Area –
Rob McCosker

Sunday 24th November – Warroo – Rob
McCosker

Wednesday 27th November – Monthly
meeting;

Presentation by J Campbell –
Murray River

Sunday 8th December – Christmas Breakup –
Halina Kruger's

**Deadline for next newsletter
1st December 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!

Pre-outing Reports

Saturday 2nd November – Mt Norman Area

The campout scheduled for this weekend for Sundown has been cancelled and instead we will go to the Mt Norman area. Meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am as usual and drive to the parking area at Mt. Norman for morning tea and some 'botanising', before continuing a further 2.5km along the road then heading off to the Round House, a stone building constructed in the 1970s [photo below]. We will then return to the cars and travel another 250m down the road and stop for lunch, then do a short walk over a nearby granite hill.

The walk is about grade 5, no tracks, so be prepared for scratches, and high clearance vehicles are required for the road past the Mt. Norman parking area.

On a pre-outing it appears that this area has received some rain and hopefully the beautiful display of wildflowers I saw will hold on for another two weeks.

Leader - Rob McCosker 46835371



Sunday 24th November 2013 – Warroo

As this is one of the first pastoralist properties in our region I have done some research into its history.

“Warroo” was taken up by Fred Bracker in about 1849, with an area of 20,000 acres. A German by birth, he came to Australia in 1829 with 220 pedigreed Saxon merino sheep with the aim of improving the standard of wool in Queensland. In 1842 he took over the management of the newly opened up Darling Downs property, part of the Leslie Bros. holding, which he called “Rosenthal”. His son Harry was the second white child to be born on the Downs. The move to “Warroo”, which was 20 miles from Brown's Inn, (which subsequently became known as Inglewood), saw the introduction of cattle breeding as well as sheep. Harry Bracker's involvement in breeding Shorthorn cattle resulted in him being acknowledged as one of the best judges of beef cattle in the Commonwealth.

Cattle and sheep are still raised on the property, which is still held by descendants of the Brackers, the Goodrichs, who have recently also diversified into growing a stone fruit orchard.

We will meet at Weeroona Park for a 9.00am start and drive via the Inglewood and Soldiers Settlement Roads to the orchard shed for morning tea. Rowan, the orchard manager will meet us there and give us a talk and tour of the orchard, and then we will drive to the disused Warroo gold mine, before moving on to a pleasant spot on Tin Hut Road at the Bracker Creek crossing for lunch.

After lunch we will go to the “Warroo” homestead for a look at the innovative shearing shed, the relic of the second oldest Post Office in Queensland west of the range, after Leyburn [photo at right], and the historic cemetery. It is then a 70km drive back to Stanthorpe.

Leader – Rob McCosker 46835371



Outing Reports

Mario's Property at Woodside - Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th October 2013

The weather couldn't have been better for the camp out. Although, some rain beforehand would have been nice to freshen up flowers and green up the grass. Six campers turned up on Saturday morning and after setting up camp and eating fresh mulberries from the trees they went for a walk down to the creek while I stayed behind and waited for a few more to arrive. Down on the flat a small pig and several wild goats were seen.

After lunch we all went for a walk to the mountain top behind the cabins. We walked along in a Northerly direction when we heard the sound of a generator on a neighbor's block. We followed the sound and surprised one of my neighbors (whom I had not met as yet) using a grinder and had a chat with him. He too is from Stanthorpe and is building a weekender on his 75 acre block. We returned back to camp via a cleared track and started getting our gear together for a bbq dinner. I lit the fires to heat water for showers, and a bonfire along with a fire for the bbq. After a lovely meal we all sat around the camp fire telling stories. At around 10pm we called it a night and retired to our beds.

On Sunday morning we were all up reasonably early, some an hour earlier than expected as daylight saving kicked in overnight and alarms on phones went off earlier than they were meant to.

Coffee and breakfast was had while we waited for the day trippers to arrive. Most rolled on in around 9am, morning tea was consumed and then we headed off to the lookout behind the cabins. This was a pleasant walk to a large rock that overlooks Red Rock Peak. There are many trigger plants growing in this area. From here we walked to a peak which is around 850m above sea level and from here we could look down onto the cabins. Also a pleasant view looking West onto neighboring properties. From this point we descended back to camp for lunch.



After lunch and a rest, as the weather was getting rather warm, we made our way down to Gypsies Creek; some walked and others drove down. Some of the Nats decided to just relax and sit in the shade along the creek with the rest of us taking a walk over the creek and in a South Easterly direction. Walking up the mountain was very hot as the sun was shining directly on us. The heat reflecting off the dry ground and rocks made it a rather “thirsty” walk.

Upon reaching the corner of my property and out of the afternoon sun the vegetation changed considerably with many cycads and grass trees growing.



We reached our destination, which was a rather large rock with an overhang, which we think may have been used by traveling aboriginals in the past. The rock had interesting water stains underneath it. We also discovered a rather unusual plant hanging from a tree which was 3 different mistletoes growing as one.

We took a slightly different route on the way back and had some fantastic views looking West. With very sore and tired feet when we returned, a few of us took our shoes off and soaked our feet in the cool water of the creek. We went back to camp and said farewell to two of our campers and the day tripping Nats.

The rest of us had our showers and began cooking dinner. We had a wonderful time just sitting around the camp fire telling stories and sampling Woodside Ranch beer and wine. By 9pm we were exhausted and hit the hay.

On Monday morning the remaining seven of us had a big bacon and egg breakfast cooked on the bbq, followed by several cups of coffee. We decided not to do any walks and instead we sat around the camp fire and started to plan another camp out for March/April next year.

Thanks to all who attended, Woodside Ranch is a very special place to me; I enjoyed showing it to you all and especially enjoyed everyone's company.

Mario Pennisi

Rob McCosker has supplied the bird and plant lists for the campout at Mario's.

Plant List for Woodside Ranch

For me the stand-out plant for this outing was the Dogwood as it was in full bloom and much taller than we normally see on our part of the Granite Belt.

Dogwood *Jacksonia scoparia*, Flannel flower *Actinotus helianthi*, Lady's slipper *Hybanthus monopetalus*, Bluebell *Wahlenbergia sp.*, Queen of the bush *Pimelea linifolia* subsp. *linifolia*, Poison pimelea *Pimelea neoanglica*, *Goodenia sp.*, *Plectranthus graveolans*, Mock olive *Notelaea linearis*, Mountain violet, *Viola betonicifolia*, *Hibbertia sp.* Tall trigger plant *Stylidium loricifoli*.



Cycad *Macrozamia plurinervia*

Bird List, thanks mainly to Col

Fairy martin, Dusky wood swallow, Welcome swallow, Oriole, Rufous whistler, Double-barred finch, Fire tail finch, Speckled warbler, Superb blue wren, Leather head, Spiny-cheeked honeyeater, Yellow faced honeyeater, Eastern rosella, Crimson rosella, Little lorikeet, Rainbow lorikeet, Yellow-tailed black cockatoo, Spotted pardalote, White browed scrub wren, Eastern yellow robin, Rainbow bee-eater, Boobook owl, Frogmouth, White throated gerygone, Black faced cuckoo-shrike, Kookaburra, Magpie, Currawong, Owlet-nightjar (heard), White faced honeyeater, a Flycatcher – not sure which, Mistletoe bird, Noisy friar bird, Blue faced honeyeater, Willie wagtail

Girraween Wildflower Walk to the Junction Sunday 20th October

About 50 people turned up for the last of the three Wildflower Walks organised by the Rare Wildflower Consortium. Our group of 9 Nats people set off separately from the other groups and, though we thought we would be going a lot quicker than the other two groups, we were also having to stop frequently to look at the surprising variety of flowering plants. First to demand our attention was a bright red bottlebrush *Melealeuca linearis* var. *linearis* and nearby Drumstick *Isopogon petiolaris* and Match heads *Comesperma retusum* were seen growing in a swath of *Calytrix tetragona*, which although had finished flowering, made a great display with its bright red calyx. Two other bottlebrushes seen along the track were *Melaleuca pallida* and *M. flavovirens*. The dainty cream Spider flower *Grevillea viridiflava* was shown up by the attractive red seeds of the Hop bushes *Dodonea hirsuta* and *D. falcata*. while flashes of blue were provided by *Dampiera purpurea*, Mint bush *Prostanthera saxicola*., *Dianella* and *Stypanandra glauca*. White flowers were well represented along the track with a showy Broom bush *Choretrum candollei*, Flannel flower *Actinotus helianthi*, Queen of the bush *Pimelea linifolia* subsp. *linifolia*, Daphne heath *Brachyloma daphnoides*, Grasstree *Xanthorrhoea johnsonii*, a Smoke bush *Conospermum burgessiorum*, the Finger hakea *Hakea leavipes* subsp. *graniticola*, a Wax flower *Philotheca epilosa* as well as a large swathe of waist high Tea tree *Leptospermum* sp.



Match heads *Comesperma retusum*



At one spot we commented on the Pepper and salt bushes *Spyridium scortechinii* on one side of the track and appropriately there was an Egg and Bacon *Bossiaea* sp. on the opposite side. There were two Guinea flower plants *Hibbertia linearis* var. *obtusifolia* and *H. riparia* and while we are on yellow flowers, we saw Billy buttons *Craspedia uniflora*, *Ozothamnus obcordatus*, (as well as the white version, Rice flower *O. diosmifolius*), Ivy-leaved Goodenia *Goodenia hederacea*, and *Stackhousia viminea*. The *Boronia amabilis* had almost finished flowering, while near our lunch spot at the Junction the showy *Phebalium whitei* was just starting to flower. Other flowering plants seen were Bluebells *Wahlenbergia*, Dogwood *Jacksonia scoparia*, and two Orchids *Diuris sulphurea* and *Prasophyllum odoratum* a Leek orchid with a lovely scent. _

Leek Orchid *Prasophyllum odoratum*



Pink wax flower *Eriostemon australasius*

After lunch we returned part of the way along the track then crossed the creek and scrambled up the ridge to the south, with different views of the Pyramids, then along the top of this ridge to a spot where the Pink wax flower grows, *Eriostemon australasius*. Unfortunately there were only a few remaining flowers open – the warmer winter and dry conditions had caused them to flower at least two weeks earlier than usual. We then continued over the ridge to the road and walked back to the cars for afternoon tea.

Rob McCosker

Bird list from Peter Haselgrove

Currawong, Chough, Red Wattlebird, Yellow-tufted Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, White-eared Honeyeater, Brown Thornbill, White-throated Warbler, Blue Wren, Satin Bowerbird, Leaden Flycatcher, Grey Fantail, Rufous Whistler, Sacred Kingfisher.



Yellow-tufted Honeyeater



Upstream from The Junction

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria Street, Stanthorpe on 23rd October 2013**

Meeting opened: 7.40 pm

Attendance: 19 Apologies: 3 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting:

Confirmed by S Farr seconded by M Carnell carried

Business arising from the minutes:

Further discussion on Insurance and “outing risk assessment”

Correspondence: as per folder

H Kruger moved correspondence be accepted seconded C Smallwood carried

Financial Report: \$889.46

C Smallwood moved that the financial report be accepted S Farr Seconded

Outing Reports:

Saturday outing: M Penisi’s property Camp out

Sunday outing: Rare Wild Flower Consortium - Girraween

Pre outing reports

Saturday outing: 2nd Nov - Mt Norman area R McCosker

Sunday outing: 24th Nov - “Warroo” R McCosker

General Business:

- In the financial report we have paid \$150 for a cartridge for the new printer. For this reason we are hoping that members who can receive their newsletter via the internet would do so, this would save costs such as postage, paper, ink cartridge costs as well as being serviced by someone working free for all our benefits. Your internet copy would be in colour and extra information on our site would be up to date and informative. This would also save someone delivering your newsletter, in person or postage which I believe is likely to go up next year to 70 cents. We have had 4 return letters this year for members moving away or insufficient details, we all want to waste less, this is a great way to be in a win/win situation.
- C Farr reported back on the situation of our insurance and outing risk assessment, as our insurance needs to be renewed for next year; we need to move along and decide on what course to take.
- K Carnell **moved** that Mark Thomas GBLC Tenterfield be asked to attend the November meeting to answer questions from our members regarding insurance for our club. Seconded S Farr carried
- R McCosker to make the contact with Mark Thomas.

Specimens:

Our next outing is to “Warroo”.

The holding known as “Warroo” is especially interesting, for it is one of the very few properties in Queensland to have remained continuously in the hands of descendants of the original lessee.
Ref: Jean Harseltt and Mervyn Royle. *They Came to a Plateau* (p.17)

Photos and seeds from Cycad *Macrozamia plurinervia*

Many items from the past of M Jeffries journey in Africa some 50 years before.

Next meeting: 27 November 2013 presentation by J Campbell- Murray River.

Meeting Closed: 8.15pm

Presentation: Michael Jeffries “Tsetse fly and other animals Africa”.

We had supper with Michael as he will soon be residing in Toowoomba and will be missed by all. Thank you, Michael, for trying to keep us up with technology and of course the wonderful photo presentations we all enjoyed. We will miss you.

INCOME.

EXPENDITURE.

BALANCE C/F	\$886.91		
Members Subs	150.91	Black Printer Cartridge	150.45
Visitor fee	3.00		
Interest	01		
INCOME OCTOBER	153.91		
BALANCE	\$1039.92		
Less Expenses	150.45		
BALANCE 23/10/2013	\$ 889.47.		

Michael says "Thanks"

Michael Jeffries would like to thank all those who wished him well at the last meeting and for putting on a farewell party. He says he appreciated it very much.

He would also like to point out that the elephant whose remains were seen being dissected in his photos had some nasty wounds from having been shot with a muzzle loading gun, probably hand made. The wounds were infected and probably painful, which would explain its destructive rampage before he was shot.

Toowoomba Field Nats Newsletters

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