



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.

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 Pyramids

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.

Stanthorpe Field Naturalists is a group member of Granite Borders Landcare

COMING UP

Saturday 8th February – (Change from Program) Northern Boundary Girraween N.P.
– Carol Smallwood

Sunday 23rd February – Taloom – Graham Greenup

Wednesday 26th February – Monthly meeting;
Presentation by K & M Carnell –
The Grampians

**Deadline for next newsletter
2nd March, 2014**

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!

Australian Naturalists Network 2014 Get-together

Here is an opportunity to meet like-minded naturalists from around Australia and double up with a holiday in Tasmania. But you need to plan now.

The Australian Naturalists Network 2014 get-together based at The Lea Scout Centre is being hosted by the Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club. It will run from 17th to 24th October, 2014. The Lea Scout Centre is a 10-minute drive from the centre of Hobart. The Hobart Bush Cabins on site are booked out, but there are other accommodation options available at the Centre, including camping and bunk huts. Meals are provided (continental breakfast, cut lunch or BBQ and catered dinner) as part of the cost, which will be finalised in early 2014.

The program consists of daily excursions such as Tahune Airwalk/Arve Valley, Chauncy Vale Wildlife Sanctuary, which offers a number of bush walks, and the Tasman Peninsula. Evening guest speakers will be covering a number of topics e.g. orchids, furry things, and Tasmanian snails, jellyfish and bats.

If you want to book a hut and a bottom bunk, now is the time to do it and you can contact the secretary (Genevieve Gates) via the event email address ANN2014@tasfieldnats.org.au.

More information can be found at the Tasmanian Field Nats web site - <http://tasfieldnats.weebly.com/australian-naturalists-network.html>.

Pre-outing Reports

Saturday 8th February – Northern Boundary Girraween N.P.

An exploratory walk along the northern boundary of Girraween following the fence line for several kilometres and then heading south west to ascend to a rocky outcrop close to Slip Rock. We will be following the fire trail along the fence line and then walking up to a kilometre “cross country” to climb the rock outcrops towards Slip Rock. It will be up to the group as to how far we explore this area as I have only gone as far as the first ridge on a previous explorative walk. The walk is graded 7 to 8. Bring plenty of water as there is no water available en route.

We will meet at 9 am Weeroona Park and 9.20 at the Parrish Lane / Eukey Road turnoff for those members not wishing to drive into Stanthorpe. This will be an all-day walk so bring morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. Leech protection may be necessary at this time of the year as well as sunscreen and hats. Long pants are recommended.

Leader – Carol Smallwood

Carol also says "bring your togs if you feel like a swim in Dr Robert's Waterhole after the walk." *Ed*

Sunday 23rd February - Tooloom National Park

Leader - Graham Greenup 07 46832371

This will be the second outing for 2014 and we are off to Tooloom National park which is approximately 70 km from Stanthorpe via Liston and Legume.

Meet at Weeroona Park at 9:00 am as usual. Warwick members and their guests will find it more convenient to meet at the Legume Post Office by 9:55 am (Queensland time). You will be able to join the convoy here after signing on. On the day, you can Phone Shelley on 0417736024 should you be wondering why the convoy is late etc. The Group will not leave the Legume PO before 9:55 am.

An exciting addition to the outing will be a visit to a local property which is owned by Jim and Fran, friends of club members, Peter and Lynette. Here we will see extensive plantings of native shrubs and trees that Jim and Fran have been working on. We will also have morning tea here. On this property there is an area of native rainforest that we will also visit.

We will then drive to the National Park where we will have lunch and discover some of the wonders of this park before returning home before 5:00pm, all going well.

A feature of the day will be a giant stinging tree with a circumference measured in men! Twelve men can stand around the trunk of this tree; I will leave that to your imagination, but I think one will need to be there to find out how big this actually is.

This will be another great chance to catch up with fellow club members and visitors alike on what should be an interesting and enjoyable day.

Written by Chris Farr in consultation with Graham Greenup.

Outing Reports

Saturday 2nd November – Roundhouse near Mt Norman

A total of sixteen people attended the outing. We drove to the Mt Norman parking area via Bald Mountain Road, and stopped briefly at the railway overpass bridge with its views to the prominent granite peaks overlooking Wallangarra. We made use of the tables, and toilet, at the parking area where we had morning tea, and found quite a few flowering plants, including two orchids.

We continued along the road with its remarkable display of wildflowers, although not as good as on the pre-outing, with masses of *Boronia*, *Dillwinia* and *Conospermum*. The latter, *C.burgessiorum* is on the Rare plants list and is a very showy plant with red stems, long green leaves and masses of white flowers on the top of the stems. Col was able to show us a spot where it seems this plant has made a natural hybrid with the smaller species, *C.taxifolium* which has very small leaves, to create a plant with medium length leaves. All three species were flowering quite near to each other.

After parking off the road we set off to the Roundhouse along a disused road which soon became so overgrown we had to make our way through the bush. The two story house of stone was built about 40 years ago but was only occupied for a few years before the land became part of the National Park in 1979. While we were there, a Superb lyrebird could be heard calling quite close to us.



The return trip to the cars was via a different track and after we had lunch in the shade, we set off to climb the nearby granite tor to the east. This was an easy walk with good views to Mt Norman, Twin Peaks and Billy Goat hill while the valley of Racecourse Creek in the foreground had a substantial waterhole which looked inviting in the heat of the afternoon.

An exciting find here was a Flying duck orchid *Caleana major* growing in a very exposed spot in some leaf litter. We returned to the cars and headed home, some deciding to continue along Mt Norman Road to Girraween.

Plant List – Flannel Flower *Actinotus helianthii*, Daphne heath *Brachyloma daphnoides*, Dampiera *Dampiera purpurea*, an Egg and Bacon pea flower, *Dillwynia sp.*, *Boronia microphylla*, *B. amabilis*, *Hibbertia elata*, Smokebush *Conospermum burgessiorum*, *C. taxifolium*, Trigger plant *Stylidium graminifolium*, Queen of the bush *Pimelea linifolia*, Wild iris *Patersonia glabrata*, Drumsticks *Isopogon petiolaris*, Yellow rush lily *Tricoryne elatior*, Match heads *Comesperma retusum*, Slender onion orchid *Microtis parviflora*, Ivy-leaved Goodenia *Goodenia hederacea*, Daisy Goodenia *G. bellidifolia*, Yellow-eye *Xyris sp.*, Alpine bottlebrush, *Melaleuca pityoides*, Green bottlebrush *Melaleuca flavovirens*, Lemon bottlebrush *M. pallida*, *Phyllota sp.*, White Kunzea *Kunzea bracteolata*, New England tea tree *Leptospermum novae-angliae*, Hyacinth orchids in bud *Dipodium variegatum* and *D. punctatum*, Wax flower *Philothea sp.*, Mauve daisy *Brachyscome stuartii*, *Cassinia sp.*, Flying duck orchid *Caleana major*, Little duck orchid *Paracaleana minor*, Grass tree *Xanthorrhoea johnsonii*, *Dianella sp.*, Dogwood *Jacksonia scoparia*, three species of *Persoonia* not in flower and two orchids with spent flowers – Tiger orchid *Diurus sulphurea* and Bearded orchid *Calochilus robertsonii*.



Bird List – Lyrebird, Brown Thornbill, Golden Whistler, Rufous Whistler, Spotted Pardelote, Yellow Robin

Rob McCosker

Sunday 24th November 2013 – Warroo

After meeting at Weeroona Park as usual at 9.00am we drove out to the Warroo orchard via the Stanthorpe Inglewood Road and Soldiers Settlement Road. Our host Bim Goodrich was waiting for us and opened the amenities block at the shed for our convenience. While we enjoyed morning tea on the verandah, with views to Mt Bullaganang, Bim outlined the operation of the orchard to us. The Queen Garnet plum was developed at the Applethorpe Research Centre and has such a high antioxidant content it will be processed as a health supplement when the orchard is in full production. After a look at the trees, which had a nice crop of fruit although only three years old, we moved on to the Warroo Gold mine. Water which came into the hole left from the mining venture was one of the reasons the orchard was started, but unfortunately didn't supply the volume required so other sources have been found. The gold bearing material removed from the mine was crushed and put in a pile on a plastic waterproof membrane, and then a cyanide solution was sprayed on top. The gold was leached out into a collection pond where it was recovered from the solution. Bim took us up on top of the leaching pile where we could readily see how the process worked. We also had a good view back to the orchard.



We headed off to our lunch stop and on the way Bim stopped to show us the stand of timber which has been made a conservation area of some 80 acres. The land was originally quite clear before European settlement, in fact one could easily see up and down the creek, but ironically now can only be used for one week a year to shelter sheep in case of emergency, such as a cold wet spell after shearing. Lunch stop was the Bracker Creek crossing on Tin Hut Road and the recent rain had blocked the pipes under the bridge, as usual, so we had a lovely clear waterhole to sit beside and plenty of bird life.

After lunch we drove on to the Warroo homestead and Bim took us a tour of some the property antiquity. The Post Office with slab walls and shingle roof is now safely housed under a shed roof, the old Store where Bim said up to 40 people would be in line waiting to be served and the Blacksmiths shop with the forge and bellows still in place.



Looking around at all the buildings it wasn't hard to imagine the bustling community that must have been here in the early 1900s. Our next stop was the shearing shed where Bim explained the innovative changes he had made to improve the work flow, and then we walked to the cemetery to see the historic grave sites of the early settlers. We thanked Bim for giving us his time and knowledge for a most interesting day then had afternoon tea in the shade near the shearing shed before heading home via "Terrica" on the Cement Mills road.

throated gerygone, Varied triller, White-browed scrubwren, Grey shrike-thrush, Willie wagtail, Brown treecreeper, Eastern yellow robin, Dusky woodswallow.

Bird list- Restless flycatcher, Superb blue wren, Rufous whistler, Azure kingfisher, Magpie-lark, Rufous songlark, White
Rob McCosker

Granite Borders Landcare Membership

It was decided at the last meeting that, as long as there were no issues that would affect our incorporation status, then the club should elect to join Granite Borders Landcare as a group member. President, Rob McCosker investigated and no problems were found, so at a meeting of the Club's executive committee, the decision was confirmed.

Granite Borders Landcare became incorporated in 1997 in response to the community's desire to coordinate Landcare activities in the area. Since then, the organisation has grown to link many landcare groups, local government organisations and numerous schools and individual community members across our region. Granite Borders Landcare Committee (GBLC) is a cross border, cross catchment umbrella group representing Landcare groups sharing a common interest in the region. Here is a link to their website where you can find more information - www.graniteborderslandcare.com.au.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on 27th Nov 2013

Meeting opened: 7.35 pm

Attendance: 17 Apologies: 4 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting:

confirmed by L Saunders seconded by G Greenup carried

Business arising from the minutes:

Insurance to be discussed in General Business

Correspondence: as per folder

H Kruger moved correspondence be accepted seconded K Carnell carried

Financial Report:

C Smallwood moved that the financial report be accepted Seconded T McCosker

Outing Reports:

Saturday outing: 2nd Nov Girraween NP Round House - R McCosker

Sunday outing: 24th Nov - Warroo - R McCosker

Pre outing reports

Saturday outing: 8th February Bluff River - R McCosker

Sunday outing: 23rd February Tooloom - G Greenup

Christmas Breakup

8th December - 3.00pm L&H Kruger's property, 107 Kruger Lane Stanthorpe. Phone: 4683 5206

How to get there: From Stanthorpe – out along Texas Rd, past Broadwater School left at Thorndale Rd, ahead on Nicholson Rd, left into Kruger Lane, straight ahead through the gate up to the house.

From Glen Aplin: Turn right before the Glen Aplin School, follow the road up, left at Hoey Lane, wind around to the T junction, left into Kruger Lane, straight ahead through the gate up to the house.

Bring your own food, chair, hat and drinks.

As a special treat we will venture to the Granite Gardens for a look around at about 3.30pm.

General Business:

Monthly Newsletter of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. January 2014 – Vol 455

Insurance: Mark Thomas was unable to come to the meeting to answer questions, but left a list of items for discussion.

Our insurance is due at the end January, so a decision has to be made before our next meeting.

K Carnell moved that before we commit our club under the umbrella of Granite Border Landcare Group we contact the Office of Fair Trading re our Constitution and incorporation.

Seconded by G Greenup motion carried.

R McCosker to contact the Office of Fair Trading with the results to be reported at the Christmas Breakup.

Next Meeting: 26th February 2014

This month's presentation: Murray River – J Campbell

Meeting closed: 8.40pm

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR NOVEMBER, 2013.

INCOME.		EXPENDITURE.	
BALANCE C/F	\$889.47		
Membership subs	70.00	Room Rent CWA 2 mths	50.00
Bank interest	.01		
INCOME for November	70.01		
BALANCE.	\$959.48		
Less Expenses.	50.00		
BALANCE 27/11/2013	\$909.48		

Bank Statement Balance 16/11/13 of \$919.48 reconciles with Cash Book balance C/F with \$30.00 member Sub added. C.Smallwood



Bracker Creek, Waroo