



The Granite Belt Naturalist



Mail Address: Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, Stanthorpe Qld. 4380
fieldnats@granitenet.com.au

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. Encouragement of a spirit of protection towards native birds, animals and plants
4. To assist where possible in scientific research
5. To publish a monthly newsletter and post it to 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)
Subs: Single \$15.00, Family \$25.00 per annum, July to June

CLUB OFFICE BEARERS - 2013/2014

President	Rob McCosker	46835371
Vice-presidents	Kris Carnell	46835268
	Jeff Campbell	
Secretary	Halina Kruger	46835206
Treasurer	Carol Smallwood	46811034
Newsletter Editor		
Magazine Committee	M Mueller	46811421
	P Andrewartha	46812913
Publicity Officer	Margaret Carnell	46835268
Librarian	Trish McCosker	46835371

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 purchase of a data projector.

Stanthorpe Field Naturalists is a group member of Granite Borders Landcare.

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



**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

Coming Up

Sunday 23rd March : Fossil sites
between Stanthorpe and Warwick
Wednesday 26th March: *The Life of
Stanthorpe Past* with Stuart Watt
Saturday 5th April: Maryland Station

**Deadline for next newsletter
10th April 2014**

OUTING REPORT FOR SLIP ROCK VIA THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY, GIRRAWEEEN N.P. 8th FEBRUARY.

The exploratory walk along the northern boundary of Girraween N.P. to Slip Rock lived up to its title; quite a hard walk over rugged terrain in hot weather conditions. Thirteen members started the walk, leaving the cars on Pyramid Road just inside the Parks northern boundary fence. We followed the fire



trail up a series of steep hills for several kilometres, stopping for a morning tea break on the way, looking north and east with views of Main Range and Bald Rock N.P.

As the temperature increased, four members decided to head back to the cars, while the remaining group headed “cross country” once the fire trail headed north into private property. We walked south east over large areas of slab rock, interspersed with huge granite boulders and thick

scrub, up towards the top of the ridge line. It was in this area that members found an unidentified plant that aroused their interest and a desire to return later to check it out. We reached the top of the ridge line with the aid of GPS and topographic maps knowing that we were close to Slip Rock.



Hyacinth Orchid

A welcome rest and lunch was taken on the ridge line with views of Bald Rock, Mt Norman and the area around Dr Robert’s Waterhole. It was only a short walk after lunch to our destination of one of the highest points in the Park, Slip Rock, at 1168 metres. On such a clear day we were rewarded with views as far north as Dalveen and Passchendaele and west to Ballandean before heading down the rock to the “intrusion” area known as the Roman Road. We returned back to the cars along fairly open areas of slab rock until we reached the fire trail .



Taking a break

Only a few plants were in flower at this time of the year but we did see some interesting fruiting bodies and seed pods on many of the plants. A variety of birds were seen and heard and a swamp wallaby was sighted. Thank you to those members who guided us to our destination using maps and GPS; not an easy walk in summer and the cars were a very welcome sight on our return.

Plant List. *Acacia latisepala*, *Lagenophora stipitata*, *Trachymene incise* (wild turnip), *Hibbertia*, *Isotoma*, *Pimilea*, *Pomax*, *Micromyrtus*, *Dipodium variegatum* (Hyacinth Orchid), *Westringia*, *Santalum obtusifolium* (sandlewood).

Bird List. Scarlet Robin, Varigated Wren, New Holland Honeyeater, Green Satin Bowerbird., Kites, Dollar Bird, Crimson Rosella, Wedgetail

C.Smallwood.

Outing Report – Tooloom – 23rd February 2014

Our Tooloom outing on the 23rd February saw our Stanthorpe group get underway at around 8:10am on what turned out to incorporate a driving tour that circumnavigated the Tooloom National Park. We met up with 6 more field naturalists at Legume and were soon heading away from Legume on the Mt Lindesay Road. Farms along the way were growing soy beans, while the pasture was green. It looked as if it had recently grown, probably as a result of recent storms.



Figs

We crossed Koreelah Creek and turned right onto Tooloom Road. This was not as I had planned it, and I am sorry that we did not set foot in Tooloom as it is a place that has for many years fascinated me. As our convoy snaked its way over the mountain pass we were driving through the Gondwana world heritage area. We climbed to around 850 metres before descending. With Tooloom Creek to our right, we arrived at the lovely village of Urbenville. Here the decision was made to drive on to Woodenbong for a cuppa and toilet break

before proceeding to Jim and Fran's.

Only a short drive and we were on Mt Clunie Road. Arriving at Jim and Fran's we were greeted by an amazing display of flowering *Grevillea* gardens planted by Jim and Fran. Jim and Fran have very good views to Mt Lindesay from their veranda, which was enjoyed by all, but the giant stinging tree beckoned and was most certainly a mission I wanted to complete. After having a look at the cabins further up the hill, we had a short 4WD drive on a damp mountain road to our base camp, one might say.



Nats at the giant stinging tree



Angle Headed Dragon

We walked up a gentle incline in a rainforest environment which is also a world heritage area noted for its Hoop Pine. The weather was a blessing - not hot and not raining. We were warned about the stinging trees that we would encounter along the way. We passed through an area where the Walking Stick Palm had established itself. The red, edible berries of this palm were in abundance. We crossed the old logging track which is only identifiable by the row of young Hoop Pines that were planted in the middle of the road once logging had ceased. Beside this road a nest was found that

Fran thought could have belonged to the Pitta which inhabited the area. We also saw an angle-headed dragon that obliged us with plenty of time for photos. I had a go at entering the centre of a strangler fig which had not yet closed its webbing.

Small, basalt rocks covered the forest floor indicating we were close to a dormant vent. The beautiful lace of the Stink Horns lit up the damp leaf litter. At last, the extra-large giant stinging tree. This was majestic; if 12 men could have linked around this tree they would also have had to be extra-large men. Our party of more than 20 only occupied one third of the base of this tree.

Back to base camp for lunch and a chat and then we were on our way down an old logging road that was on the property owned by Jim and Fran. We walked back to the veranda when someone saw the time. A late departure, but the end to a successful day. Tooloom will have to wait.



Lace Stink Horn

Graham Greenup

Pre-Outing Report Sunday 23rd March – Fossils between Stanthorpe and Warwick

Leader: Stuart Watt

Our outing on the 23rd will be a fossil outing. We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9 am and then travel to Dalveen to meet our leader Stuart Watt and the Warwick contingent at the first site just north of Dalveen on the Old Stanthorpe Road. From there we will travel to Wildash, Elbow Valley and finish up on the Cullendore Gate Road. Stanthorpe members can then travel home via Cullendore Gate Road and Mt Lindesay Rd. or via O’Dea’s Road and the Old Stanthorpe Road. Back home by 5 pm.

Program Wednesday 26th March 2014 - The life of Stanthorpe’s past with Stuart Watt

No, not the neighbour from Hell from a few years ago; not even the claim jumper from Granddad’s tin-mining days. But lots of diverse beasties from about 400 million years of the area’s history – and what they suggest happened along the way. But not a dinosaur in sight.

This talk backs up the Outing on Sunday 23 March which visits a number of the interesting fossil sites between Stanthorpe and Warwick.

Pre Outing Report for Saturday 5th April – Maryland Station

Leader: Graham Greenup

The outing on the 5th April will be chance to see Maryland station. We will leave Weeroona Park at 9.00 am and travel to Maryland to meet our host Graham Greenup. After having morning tea we can spend a couple of hours looking around the historic station. After lunch there may be the possibility of driving along a road scheduled for closure to the Maryland National Park. Return either by retracing our route or via Cullendore Gate Road.

April Outing

Because of the Easter long weekend, the Sunday outing in April will take place on 27th after the meeting on 23rd. The outing has been changed to the Western Circuit in the bottom end of Sundown National Park. We will leave Weeroona Park, Stanthorpe at 8.00am. If anyone is interested in camping from Friday 25th April in a group, please contact Lynette and Peter Haselgrove as soon as possible so that they can book the larger group site.

Phone 46837255 or email: eulalia-pl@bigpond.com

Minutes for the General Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria st, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 26th February 2014

Meeting opened: 7.38pm

Attendance: 21 Apologies 0 as per attendance Book

Minutes of the previous meeting as per newsletter

L Saunders moved K Carnell seconded carried

Business arising from the minutes:

R McCosker did not contact the Office of Fair Trading and I was advised to continue with Insurance with Granite Border Landcare (GBLC) in December 2013.

Correspondence:

H Kruger moved that the inward correspondence be accepted seconded M Carnell carried

Financial Report:

C Smallwood moved that the financial report be accepted seconded E Walker

Outing Reports:

Saturday: 8th Feb. Northern Boundary Girraween NP – C Smallwood (attendance 13)

Sunday: 23rd Feb. Koreela NP/Mt Clunie – G Greenup (attendance 24)

Pre-outings:

Saturday: 8th Mar. Murphy's Crossing **Cancelled due to the Apple and Grape Festival**

Sunday: 23rd Mar. Warwick Fossils – S Watt

General Business:

- Our club will take up the offer from GBLC of having our Newsletter printed and posted to members who do not have access to a computer each month. Secretary will follow through with details for the next newsletter.
- Due to the changes and members being away from time to time, we need to detail duties of office bearers so that are club runs smoothly and we don't double up on transferring information.

- K Carnell **moved** that we have a management meeting before the next general meeting to define duties and procedures of elected position in the club. **seconded** L Hazelgrove
- Timing of our newsletter will also be discussed

Next Meeting: 26th March 2014

March meeting presentation: Geology - S Watt

Specimens/ Items of interest:

Col Hockings made an invitation to the club members to attend the release of his Dad's new book on the 26th March 2014. F. David Hockings AM 'PESTS, DISEASES and BENEFICIALS'.

G Greenup brought in a Bunya pine cone.

Meeting closed: 8.25pm

February Presentation: 'The Grampians NP, Victoria' - K & M Carnell

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2014.

INCOME.		EXPENDITURE.	
BALANCE C/F	\$909.48		
Interest	.02	Granite Boarders Landcare Insurance	50.00
INCOME FEBRUARY	.02	EXPENCES FOR FEBRUARY	\$50.00
BALANCE	\$909.50		
Less Expenditure	50.00		
BALANCE 26/2/14	\$859.50		

Cash book balance reconciles with Bank Statement of 16/1/14 showing a balance of \$859.50.

C.Smallwood.

Travelling in Convoy

At the outing on 23rd March we will be travelling in convoy. This is a reminder that when travelling in convoy you keep the person **following** in view. If they stop; you stop and thus the whole convoy comes to a halt. That way if someone has a problem they are not left behind to cope by themselves.

Newsletter Changes

If you receive your newsletter by email, you will have noticed that this month it came as a PDF attachment. This is because Shelley has resigned as newsletter editor and Kris and I agreed to produce it this month. It is easier for us to do it this way and we feel some people prefer to receive the newsletter as an attachment, rather than having to download it. The newsletter will still be available to be viewed on the Nats website. At the February meeting it was decided to send the newsletter about 10 days before the Sunday outing with pre-outing reports for that outing and the Saturday one at the beginning of the following month.

Margaret Carnell