



The Granite Belt Naturalist



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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 \$20.00, Family \$30.00 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

Wednesday 23rd April : *Adventures in the South Sea Islands* with Errol Walker
Sunday 27th April: Sundown National Park – Peter & Lynette Haselgrove
Saturday 3rd May: Girraween Lodge with Rob McCosker

**Deadline for next newsletter
12th May 2014**

Programme by Errol Walker on April 23rd 2014

Adventures in the South Sea Islands

Annette and I visited Vanuatu on a Nats outing some years ago. More recently we revisited Vanuatu on a cruise which also included visits to Noumea, the island of Lifou and a couple of ports in Fiji.



Looking into the volcano just before eruption

Many of the Nats will not have heard of our adventures on the Island of Tanna in Vanuatu where we had the dubious thrill of climbing an active volcano only to have it hurl volcanic 'bombs' of lava over our heads. All of this in the dark! We survived only to find out after our experience that three people had died from the same event some years earlier

Our cruise experience was a different matter and we had a great time with the luxury and organisation that only a well-run ship can offer.

We have put together the best pictures of our volcano adventures and life around the islands. There will be some snippets of shipboard life which will amaze you.

Errol and Annette Walker.

Pre-Outing to the southern section of Sundown National Park 27th April 2014

Leader: Peter and Lynette Haselgrove.

For those wishing to camp you can book a site via http://nprsr.qld.gov.au/experiences/camping/camping_bookings.html Peter will be camping at The Broadwater (West) Camping Area for the weekend.

Members who are going for the day only meet at Weeroona Park to carpool, if you wish. You should leave Stanthorpe by 8am. Morning tea will be at the camping area at 9:15 am with lunch on the walk. The walk will start at the Broadwater Camping Area along the Western

Circuit track until reaching Camping Ground Creek at which point we will head west up the creek and then up a short stiff climb to the western boundary fence. We will follow this fence along the firebreak back to the Western Circuit track and then follow it back to the camping area. Lunch will be at a scenic spot.

We plan to be back at the cars by 3pm. Walk grade 7.

However for those staying overnight we can extend the walk a bit by heading towards the river and following it back to the house. For those going home, we will not leave you until you are on a clear track or road for the last kilometre back to the cars. If anyone would rather stay on the beaten track, Lynette is happy to take you along the Western Circuit to the western boundary fence and then along the firebreak to meet the group for lunch.

Directions to the Broadwater Camping Area:-

Km

0.0 Texas Road (Connor Street) at Britannia Street. Route 89.

34.0 Inglewood turn-off. Keep left to Texas.

65.0 At junction, keep left to "Glenlyon Dam".

79.0 Left at signpost "Sundown National Park 4 km" - Permanents Road.

(Bitumen ends at grid)

83 Park Headquarters and house.

84 app. Camping area

Outing Report 24th March 2014 – Fossils between Dalveen and Warwick

Leader: Stuart Watt



Looking for Fossil Bed

The Stanthorpe members assembled at Weeroona Park and travelled to Dalveen to meet with Warwick members and students accompanying Stuart. We travelled to a paddock at Dalveen where the 30 of us spread out looking for the fossil beds in the limestone outcrops. Some fossils were found in the creek, but we failed to find the main beds. We did however find evidence of more recent life, with a couple of white man's graves.

After smoko above the railway tunnel, we walked down the steep road and walked through the tunnel. There was olivine in the rocks used as ballast. It was quite difficult to see once we were more than halfway through, but we could see the light at the end of the tunnel. A climb up a steep embankment brought us back to the cars where we saw wanderer and lesser wanderer butterflies.

Next port of call was a limestone quarry where there were quite a number of corals, including a good specimen of a *Heliolite*, and crinoids in the rocks. One large boulder was full of different fossils.

Connolly Dam was the venue for lunch before moving on to another site where there were fossils of shellfish that had lived in fairly still water. Unfortunately this site had been damaged by



Fossil of Shell



Fossil Hunting

irresponsible people removing fossils, but there were still plenty to see. There were good examples of banded chert and conglomerates on our way to the fossil bed. Our final stop was an area where there were shells embedded in the rock. The water had been much more turbulent in this area, so they differed from those at the previous site.

Margaret Carnell



Shell Fossil

Outing Report – Maryland Station – 5th April 2014

Leader: Graham Greenup

Twenty-nine Nats and visitors enjoyed a fascinating historical outing to Maryland Station on Saturday 5th April. After meeting at Weeroona Park we drove to Thulimbah and along Maryland Road till we reached the property.

Graham met us and raised the flag at the museum before we sat on the verandah for morning tea with the blue wrens flitting through the shrubs in the garden. Graham read us a short history of Maryland Station, written by his father. The property was settled by Matthew Henry Marsh after he camped there in 1842. Alfred Greenup came as manager in 1868 and stayed there until M.H. Marsh's death in 1881 when the property was sold. The Greenup family acquired *Maryland* in 1905

After smoko we split into two groups with one going to the museum and the other going with Graham to the shearing shed, old killing shed and the Osage orange trees that were planted as a hedge to keep the stock out of the orchard. Hanging from the ceiling of the shearing shed are hundreds of prize ribbons for the Poll Dorset Stud. Graham runs Dorset and Dorper sheep. Because the Dorper sheep have hair as well as wool, the bales of Dorset fleece have to be branded to indicate that there may be hair present. On the wall of the shed is a brand which was used on the bales to show that Maryland wool had won medals in Paris in 1855 and London in 1862.



Kris with rainfall records

The museum is filled with all sorts of memorabilia from buttons to button-up boots to service uniforms, and probably most precious of all rainfall records from when the station began and ledgers with accounts of wages and purchases from the station store. On the page opposite the rainfall records are all sorts of interesting notations about people who visited and were employed.

On the wires outside the museum and also on some of the cars were large numbers of welcome swallows. Perhaps they were congregating prior to

migrating for the winter. A couple of diamond fire-tailed finches flew from a tree near the shearing shed.

We were interested in the wires used to stretch rabbit skins for drying before they were sold. The rabbits were trapped in the winter when the fur was thick. It was not worthwhile in the summer. The carcasses were also sold. Ironically, there was a fresh rabbit burrow below the killing shed where the wires are kept. Everyone was taken with the Osage orange fruit which is not a citrus at all, and Graham had a sample of the very dense timber of the tree.



Looking at Osage Orange

After lunch we all climbed into high clearance vehicles and went for a drive along the road to Maryland National Park. The first part of the road is along the old Cobb and Co coach road which runs between the homestead and shearing shed. We travelled about 12 kilometres, most of it along the border fence, with numerous gates to open. At one of them a mob of horses thought it a good chance to get into the next paddock, but Mario and Col dissuaded them. As we moved further into the national park the timber became much thicker. It had obviously been logged at some stage in the past so we were travelling through regrowth. Four motorbikes loaded with gear met us on the way.



Chiloglottis

When we reached the other end of the National Park we stopped and looked at two types of *Solanum* in bloom and a *Chiloglottis*, as well as several different fungii. A shrub caused quite a bit of interest but we were unable to identify it. Most vehicles kept going to go home via Cullendore Road, but after a cuppa, three of us turned back the way we came.

Graham stopped in one spot and found the yellow-flowered passionfruit growing wild. There was a very green passionfruit on it as well as the flowers. When we arrived back at the homestead, two-sulphur crested cockatoos perched on a dead tree against the late afternoon light just asking to be photographed. It was a very interesting and enjoyable outing.

Margaret Carnell

Outing to Girraween Lodge 3rd May

We will meet at Weeroona Park to depart at 9.00am as usual and drive to the Girraween Lodge which is well sign posted off Pyramids Road, Wyberba. It is the last driveway on the right before Girraween National Park. After meeting up at the Lodge we will drive on to the Shareholders Camp on a rough track which will require high clearance vehicles so some car pooling may be needed.

We will have morning tea and I can give a bit of the history of the property before setting off on a walk to explore a rocky ridge to the North. This has no track and is fairly scrubby so I rate it at a low 8 - wear good shoes and longs to avoid scratches and of course carry water.

There are views of Castle Rock, Mt Norman and Turtle Rock from the top, and there are some wonderful granite tors to explore.

If you do not wish to come bush bashing there are plenty of made tracks on the Lodge property to explore and I will have a map of these tracks available. I am intending to return to the vehicles for lunch and then perhaps do another walk in the afternoon if there is interest.

There is a bush toilet at the Camp and tank water of dubious quality and I should point out that the Lodges will be fully booked for the weekend as it is the Rotary Opera weekend, so I will not be able to show people through a Lodge.

Rob McCosker
Ph 46835371

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 26th March 2014**

Meeting opened: 7.35pm

Attendance: 17 Apologies 2 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting:

C Smallwood moved L Saunders seconded carried

Business arising from the minutes: NIL

Correspondence:

H Kruger moved that the Inward Correspondence be accepted and outward adopted K Carnell
seconded

Financial Report:

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

Outing Reports:

Saturday outing: Cancelled due to Apple and Grape

Sunday outing: 23 March - S Watt – Fossils between Stanthorpe and Warwick (attendance 30)

Pre-outings:

Saturday outing: 5th April - G Greenup “Maryland”

Sunday outing: 27th April - Peter Hazelgrove - Sundown NP

General Business:

Jeff Campbell presented information on Scrub itch, and the mite that is responsible.

Next Meeting: 23 April 2014

Presentation next month: E Walker – South sea Island adventures

Specimens/ Items of interest:

Many rock specimens from our fossil outing.

Meeting closed: 8.00 pm

Presentation: Stuart Watt -The life of Stanthorpe’s past

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR MARCH 2014

INCOME.

Balance b/f. \$859.50

Interest .02

Income March .02

Balance \$859.52

Less Expenditure 115.75.

Balance 26/3/2014 **\$743.77.**

EXPENDITURE.

Magazine paper and stamps 65.75

Room rent 2 months CWA 50.00

Expenditure **115.75**

Bank Statement at 16/3/14 of \$793.77 reconciles with the cash book balance before the Rent was deducted. *Carol Smallwood.*