



The Granite Belt Naturalist



Mail Address: Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, Stanthorpe Qld. 4380
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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 \$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

Sunday 22nd June: Boonoo Boonoo
with Jeff Campbell
Wednesday 25th June : *Alaska* with Jeff
Campbell
Saturday 5th July: Blue Mountain with
Rob McCosker at 9.30am

**Deadline for next newsletter
9th July 2014**

Pre-Outing Report Boonoo Boonoo – 22nd June 2014

Leader: Jeff Campbell

We will depart Weeroona Park at 8.30am and drive to Boonoo Boonoo National Park where we'll have smoko at Cypress Camp Ground.

Lunch will be carried on the River Walk towards Falls car park 6.5km away. We will walk till lunch time, approximately 2 ½ hours and return to Cypress car park. It was too wet to do a full pre-outing, but many birds were seen e.g. white-throated treecreeper, yellow-faced honeyeater, yellow-rumped thornbill, Eastern yellow robin. Quite a few plants were in flower, e.g. *Epacris Microphylla*, *Leucopogon neoanglicus*, *Banksia spinulosa*, *Banksia integrifolia*, *Stylidium graminifolium* and *Geranium neglectum*.

A \$7.00 per vehicle National Parks fee is applicable. Toilet and BBQ are available at the camp ground.

Pre-outing Report Blue Mountain 5th July

This will be a half day outing leaving Weeroona Park at 9.30am. Later start time as it is quite close to town.

Blue Mountain is the first granite topped mountain you see to the north as you head east from Stanthorpe on Amosfield Road. We will access it from private property on its northern side, off Aerodrome Road. The walk to the top is steep but not far and there are good views over town and surrounding farms etc. We will return to the cars on a more gentle route and have lunch there, or head home if you prefer.



Trig Station Blue Mountain

Directions – turn off the highway north of Stanthorpe opposite McDonalds, cross railway, turn left, take next right, Aerodrome Road, continue to 192 Aerodrome Road property “Shiralee” on right.

Rob McCosker 46835371

Outing Report - "Alum Rock" 25th May 2014



Taking a break

The balmy autumn weather attracted 20 people to drive to the property on Goldfields Road where we met Cathy Smith in her garden which was resplendent in autumn colours, particularly the massive old Gingko tree. Gordon had offered to take us, but was called away to business so Cathy led us across the creek then through the paddocks to a lovely spot beside the creek shaded by huge angophora trees, where we had morning tea. Gordon had very thoughtfully slashed the tall grass for us and as Cathy suggested the walk to the old flood gate was about an hour, we left lunch at the cars and set off, aware that we may have a late lunch.

Pikes Creek had a small flow so all the waterholes were full and a delight to walk beside in the shade of the tall sheoaks. Several interesting specimens of rock were found along the watercourse including quartz, jasper and slate. We arrived at our destination, the old floodgate, at about midday and all wished we had brought lunch! Gordon had kindly provided us with some information about the floodgate.

"The Pikedale floodgate was constructed in 1923 by a man called Burns and a team of draught horses. I presume the cost was shared between the owners of Pikedale, the Rogersons and my great grandfather Gordon Smith. It was quite a feat when one observes the size of the posts and wire cable used and the inaccessible terrain. Unfortunately the floodgate turned out to be a bit of a failure as successive floods twisted the gates and wire etc. It still serves some purpose but needs attention after every bigger flood and when water dries up. The year 1923 is written in the concrete on the left hand side."



Alum in rock

A phone call to Gordon later on revealed that we were in fact at an old floodgate site and the 1923 version was still further downstream. Perhaps another trip is required – but definitely carry lunch!

After resting in the shade for a bit, and some took the opportunity to cool their feet in the creek, we set off back to the cars and by taking a

couple of shortcuts reached them by about 1.30pm. After lunch we returned to the homestead where Cathy took us to the hill nearby which gives the property its name. A short scramble took us to the top of a very rocky ridge and further along to the west we descended to some small caves in the cliff face. Here we could see the white deposits of alum which were being dissolved out of the rock along the cracks.



Fossils found near shearing shed

On returning to the homestead Cathy showed us some rocks containing fossils found near the shearing shed and two pairs of deer antlers found by Gordon's grandfather. The antlers are complete and entwined so tightly they cannot be separated, indicating that the unfortunate bucks must have fought to the death. We then took a short walk through the horse pen to view the impressive waterhole behind the homestead before thanking Cathy sincerely for allowing us access to their property and for her hospitality to make another memorable Nats Outing.

Bird List: Wood duck, Pacific black duck, Galah, Magpie, Crow, Eastern rosella, Wedgetail eagle, Restless flycatcher, Speckled warbler, Golden whistler, Willie wagtail, Red-browed finch, Superb fairy wren, Grey fantail, Azure kingfisher, Currawong, Yellow robin, Mistletoe bird, Red wing parrot, Red-rumped parrot, King parrot, Lorikeet, Quail, Grey butcherbird, Noisy minor, Apostle bird. - Rob McCosker

Outing Report Tenterfield Park and Dam



Bird Watching

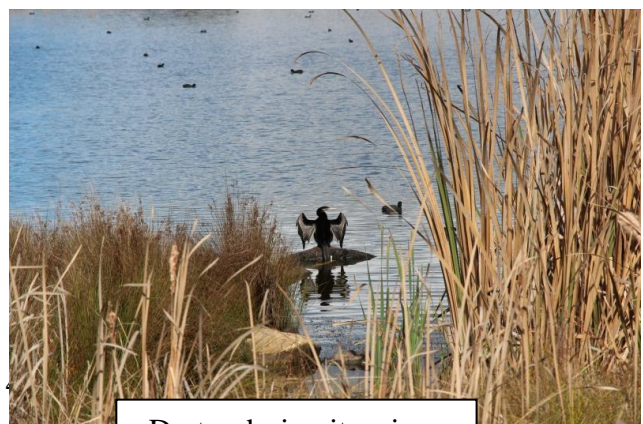
On Saturday the 7th June our group visited Tenterfield Park which is on the southern side of Tenterfield. Eleven members spent the morning exploring the flora and bird life of the park. Some had not been to the park in the last couple of years and were able to observe and comment on the changes that have taken place. The weather was pleasant but had chill factor which was evident at different times of the day, especially when the sun was behind a cloud. The top of the park has many newly planted seedlings that will hopefully grow out to enhance the parks restful setting.

Gazetted in 1888 as a public park, it was developed into the town's first golf course from 1913 -1934. During World War II, Tenterfield was earmarked as a key battleground if the Japanese should invade Australia. During 1942 thousands of soldiers were set up in emergency camps, unbeknown to the locals, to cope with such an event. Some areas of the park were used by the army for camping and training. Over the years gravel has been quarried; rubbish dumped, cattle and horses grazed and rabbits trapped. More recently the lower park was used for horse trail rides and by the local pony club.

In 2004 the Tenterfield Naturalist Inc. club was formed and a small group of members have taken on the challenge of changing an unattractive area into a focal point for local woodland flora and fauna. The plants are growing and the bird life is increasing to the pleasure of our members. The area is being slowly transformed into water features to



Correa



Darter drying its wings

attract wildlife, nesting boxes to encourage the habitation of birds and small mammals. As the park evolves we will endeavour to keep visiting and appreciating the fruits of their labours.

We then visited to Tenterfield Dam which has a very busy and contented bird life population. Identification of the water birds kept our group entertained.
A very pleasurable time spent with likeminded friends.

Halina Kruger

Bird List: Eastern spinebill, Eastern yellow robin, scarlet robin, white-eared honeyeater, yellow-faced honeyeater, superb blue wren, magpie, grey fantail fire-tailed finch, buff rumped thornbill, spotted pardalote, striated pardalote (call), Rufous whistler, kookaburra, sittella, wedgetail eagle, king parrot, crimson rosella, eastern rosella, currawong, noisy miner, coot, darter, black swan, pelican, pied cormorant, black cormorant, masked lapwing, purple swamp hen, dove (possibly diamond dove). –
Margaret Carnell

Flower List: *Callistemon sieberi*, *wahlenbergia sp*, *banksia integrifolia*, *banksia spinulosa*, *leucochrysum albicans*, *senecio* (fire weed), cat's paw, *goodenia sp*, *dianellas sp*, Cootamundra wattle, darwinia, correa (2 species), grevillea rosemarinafolia, grevillea (cream flower 2 species), leptospermum (pink flower), pittosporum angustifolia (seeds), grevillea (toothbrush flowers), Chrysocephalum apiculatum (yellow buttons), westringia sp – *Margaret Carnell*

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 28th May 2014**

Meeting opened: 7:36 pm

Attendance: 10 Apologies 0 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting:

moved K Carnell seconded P James **carried**

Business arising from the minutes:

Nil

Correspondence:

H Kruger moved that the Correspondence accepted seconded J Campbell **carried**

Financial Report:

C Smallwood moved that the financial report be accepted seconded C Hockings

Outing Reports:

Saturday outing: - 3rd May – R McCosker – Girraween Lodge

Sunday outing: - 25th May - R McCosker – Alum Rock Goldfields – Pike Creek

Pre- outing reports 2014

Saturday outing: 7th June - H Kruger – Tenterfield park

Sunday outing: 22nd June – J Campbell – Boonoo Boonoo

Saturday outing: 5th July – R McCosker – Blue Mountain

General Business:

We have been asked to assist in a “Sparrow” study group. Unfortunately our members could not come up with a site large enough to help out.

Next Meeting: 25th June 2014

Next Month's Presentation: J Campbell “Alaska”

Specimens/ Items of interest: SA rock samples

Meeting closed: 8:40 pm

Presentation: R McCosker “South Australia”

Financial Statement for May

Income		Expenditure	
Balance C/F	\$690.27		
Interest	.02	Room Rent CWA 2mths.	50.00
Balance	\$690.29	Expenditure for May	\$50.00
Less expenses	50.00		
Balance 28/5/2014	\$640.29		

Cash book balance of \$690.29 reconciles with the Bank Statement of 16/5/14 showing a Balance of \$690.29.

Carol Smallwood.

PHOTOS FOR REMEMBER LAST YEAR

If members have photos of outings from the last twelve months, suitable for showing at the Annual Meeting could you please email them to Rob McCosker at robinmcc@bigpond.com

Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. 2014/2015

Subscriptions and Program for 2014/15.

Subscriptions are due for the next 12 months from the end of June,

Subscriptions for 2014-2015 : Family \$30.00 – Single \$20.00

Please complete your correct name and address details below and bring or send to the Treasurer

Name (including preferred title please)

Postal Address:

Post-code **State**..... **Payment made \$**.....

Circle payment method please: **CASH** **CHEQUE** **DIRECT DEBIT**

If paying by cash at the meeting please put your money in an envelope with your name on the **outside** to make it easier for the Treasurer. At the June meeting there will be some time allotted for the treasurer to write receipts between the end of the meeting and the beginning of the program.

PAYMENT METHODS

1. **Present with your subs.** to the meeting in an envelope with your name on the outside.
2. **Post to:** Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, STANTHORPE Q 4380.
3. **By Direct Debit** to Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. BSB 064-431 Acc. 00902063

I would like to receive my magazine by **POST** **EMAIL** (please circle)

As quite a few of our members have Email we would like to have your email address if you are agreeable. Sometimes it is convenient to contact as many members as possible about a change in arrangements at short notice, and this can be a convenient way to do it.

Email address:-

The monthly newsletter is distributed electronically by email and by post.

It is also posted on the website in the Documents folder.

Names and addresses are only used for posting the magazine and are not passed on to anyone else.

NEWSLETTER: The Editor welcomes comment on the newsletter and also is happy to include articles for it AND/OR the web site. If anyone does not want their name mentioned in outing reports could they please advise the editor Margaret Carnell, at fieldnats@granitenet.com.au

WEBSITE: The Editor welcomes comment on the website and is open to suggestions and material for inclusion. Please send a note, preferably by email to fieldnats@granitenet.com.au

PLEASE add your suggestions for next year's program overleaf.

Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. 2014/15

The committee once again asks for your assistance to provide a wide range of outing activities and meeting programs for the coming twelve months.

Please jot down your suggestions below, and indicate if you would be prepared to lead an outing or provide a meeting program. All suggestions will be considered at a special committee meeting to be held shortly after the AGM.

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Name: Outing: (Place or area, duration, time of year)

1)

2)

3)

Campout: (Place, duration and dates)

Meeting subject: (Title and brief description)

1)

2)

3)

Other comments and suggestions:

Thank you.