



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 20th July: Walking at *Orana*
with Kris & Margaret Carnell
Wednesday 23rd July: AGM *Remember
Last Year*

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

Pre-Outing Report 20th July 2014 - Walking at *Orana*

Leaders: Kris & Margaret Carnell

The July outing will be to Kris and Margaret Carnell's property, "Orana" at Severnlea. Meet as usual at Weeroona Park at 9.00am and travel to Severnlea. Carry morning tea and lunch and wear long clothes as it could be scratchy in parts. We will start our walk along a made fire trail and then take a short



Looking North

detour to our morning tea spot where we have good views to the north. Near here there are *Eucalyptus caleyi* which are unusual in the area. After morning tea we will continue along the trail until the saddle. We then walk up along the ridge until we reach our vantage spot where we have views of more than 180degrees from East of Stanthorpe to West of Glen Aplin. No made track as such, but no over hard going and plenty of time to admire the view at the steep spots. Lunch can be had at a convenient spot.

From there we descend into another saddle where there are lots of mountain casuarina. From here on the walk gets a little harder and there is an alternative route home for those who don't want to continue. The rest of us will go to the far SW corner of the property to another vantage point where there are views of the Roberts Range and the Sundown area. There is then about 400 metres of thick undergrowth to traverse down the southern side until we reach the end of the fire trail. On the pre-outing we saw ground orchid buds in this area. The walk home is then along a made fire trail. The complete walk is a little over 4 km.

On the pre outing there were lots of wildflower buds and provided the dry cold spell hasn't checked them too much we should see a good variety.

Kris Carnell 46835268

Outing Report – Boonoo Boonoo National Park 22nd July 2014

Kangaroos were in plentiful supply en route to Boonoo Boonoo National Park, probably encouraged to be out and about during the day following the overnight rain. Twenty members and friends arrived at the Cyprus Pine Camp Ground for the River Walk. During smoko Graham presented a lovely



birthday cake to Karen to everyone's surprise and delight.

After smoko we headed off downstream along the River Walk towards the Falls car park, the intention being to walk until lunchtime then return to the vehicles. It did not take long for the group to fragment with groups of fast walkers, medium walkers and slow walkers. The track is clearly defined having been mowed or whipper-snipped, with guide posts here and there, where other walking tracks turn off.

Despite the time of year we found many plants in flower and fungi were in abundance as well. The slow group managed to cover over 4km by lunch time and had lunch in a nice spot on the rocks beside the river. After lunch we split up again with some walking along the road while the rest returned to the vehicles with the intention of picking up the others along the road. In the event, by the time the drivers caught up the rest of all the groups were at the Falls car park. Some had already been to the Falls Lookout, some had smoko and then went to the lookout.



After lunch the various groups experienced different weather conditions. The one or two people at Cyprus Pine Camp Ground had a light shower, the drivers of the slow group a slightly heavier shower, the slow walkers were bombarded with pea size hail and the fast group larger hail.

Bird List

Bird life was not as prolific or varied as on the pre-outing. Those noted included New Holland Honeyeater, White-naped Honeyeater, White-browed Scrub Wren, Crimson Rosella, Scarlet Robin, Eastern Yellow Robin, Kookaburra, Pied Currawong, Eastern Spinebill, White-throated Treecreeper, Superb Fairy Wren, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Spotted Pardalote, Brown Thornbill, Striated Thornbill and Wedge-tailed Eagle.

Plants

Plants identified, most in flower, included *Epacris microphylla* Coral Heath, *Acacia adunca* Wallangarra Wattle, *A. ulicifolia* Prickly Moses, *A. floribunda* Sally Wattle, *Hybanthus vernonii ssp scaber*, *Leucopogon biflorus* Twin-flowered Beard Heath, *L. neoanglicus* New England Beard Heath, *L. melaleucoides* Snowbush, *Actinotus helianthus* Flannel Flower, *Brachyscome stuartii*, *Viola betonicifolia* Mountain Violet, *Geranium neglectum* Swamp Cranesbill, *Utricularia dichotoma* Fairies Aprons, *Hardenbergia violacea* False Sarsaparilla Vine, *Craspedia uniflora* Billy Buttons, *Boronia microphylla* Small-leaved Boronia, *Stylidium graminifolium* Grass Trigger Plant, *Banksia integrifolia* White Banksia, *B. spinulosa* New England Banksia, *Pimelea linifolia* Queen of the Bush, *Hibbertia sp*, *Melichrus procumbens* Jam Tarts, *Pterosylis ?vitreus*, *Bursaria spinosa* Australian Blackthorn, *Drosera spatulata* Rosy Sundew, *Lomandra longifolia* Longleaved matrush, *Gahnia aspera* Short Saw Sedge,

Themeda triandra Kangaroo Grass, *Gleichenia dicarpa* Pouched Coral Fern, *Blechnum nudum* Fishbone Fern, *Pteridium esculentum* Austral Brackenfern, *Adiantum aethiopicum* Common Maidenhair Fern, *Hypolepis* sp Ground Fern.

Outing Report to Blue Mountain 5th July 2014

Leader: Rob McCosker

Granite flags & view from Blue Mt.



The outing attracted seven people on a fresh clear morning after the fog rolled away. A little after 9.30am we drove the 5km to the property on Aerodrome Road and enjoyed morning tea on a picnic table beside the dam, before setting off up to the summit of Blue Mountain.

Near the top the trees and

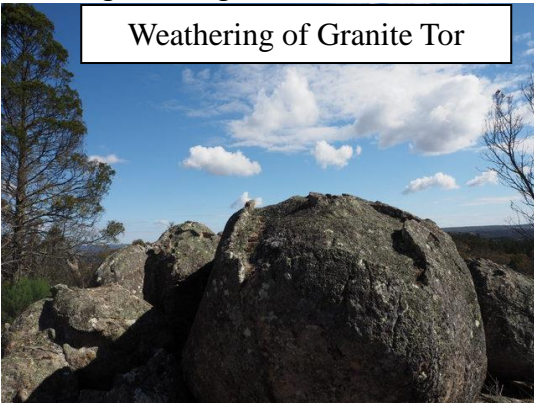


Trig Station on Blue Mt

scrub gave way to granite flags and interesting tors with the predominant vegetation of tea tree and tall trigger plant, *Stylidium laricifolium*, with a few in flower, and Wallangarra wattle *Acacia adunca*, just starting to flower. Cattle graze on the slopes and feral goats live on the rocky mountain top so evidently, the trigger plants are not palatable. There were several gnamma holes still full of water since the last rain and a couple of Fig trees

Ficus sp., clambering over the large boulders. The Trig station at the top, now obsolete since the introduction of Global Positioning Systems, is still in fair condition, and Ian recounted how he used to take sightings from similar Trig stations to establish locations when he was training to be a Surveyor. The views to the horizon were quite clear and we could see Mt Lindsay and Mt Barney to the north east, Bald Rock and Mt Norman to the south east as well as Sailor Jack and Mt Donaldson to the south. Mt Marley and Stanthorpe were seen well below us to the south west and the hectares of hail netting and irrigation dams were shimmering in the sunlight to our north.

Weathering of Granite Tor



We made our way back down the mountain to a saddle then continued along a ridge to another outcrop of granite boulders. Here we inspected a cave supposedly once inhabited by a hermit. There were the remains of a fireplace and granite table outside, and small rock slabs had been placed around the base of a large boulder to stop the wind from blowing through the "cave".

Continuing down the ridge, with spring flowers of Snowbush *Leucopogon melaleuroides*, *L. neo-anglicus* and *Cryptandra amara* beginning to open, we followed a fence line back to the cars and enjoyed lunch at the picnic table before heading home.

Minutes of General Meeting Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.

Held in QCWA Rooms 25th June 2014

Meeting opened: 7.40pm

Attendance: 12 **Apologies:** 2 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting: moved by L.Saunders seconded by K.Carnell Carried

Business arising from minutes: nil

Correspondence: nil

Financial report: no transactions but 1c interest to give a balance of \$640.30 Moved by C. Smallwood seconded by P.Haselgrove Carried

Outing Reports: 7th June Tenterfield Park – as reported in the last Newsletter. 22Nd June Jeff Campbell reported the 20 people enjoyed the walk down the River track at Boonoo Boonoo N. P.

Pre-Outings: 5th July R. McCosker – Blue Mountain Half day 9.30am start from Weeroona Park 20th July K. & M Carnell – 9.00am start to visit their property at Severnlea.

General Business: R.McCosker gave information about a new book compiled by the Rare Wildflower Consortium describing Eucalypt and Angophora species of the district. The book is available for \$25 from Print n Copy or e-mail rwc@granitenet.com.au

K.Carnell's request for additional toner and paper for the club printer was approved.

P.Haselgrove outlined a concern made to him by G.Greenup about the Southern Downs Regional Council's proposal to review all Reserves in the shire with a view to releasing some of them to private land. After some discussion, particularly about Donnelly's Castle, K.Carnell moved a motion that – A letter be sent to Council objecting to any change to the Donnellys Castle and Sentimental Rocks Reserves. Motion was seconded by P.Haselgrove and carried.

Next Meeting: 23rd July Annual General Meeting and Remember Last Year photos.

Meeting Closed: 8.20pm

Evening Presentation: A wonderful journey through the frozen beauty of Alaska and the Inside passage with J.Campbell and G.Mathison.\\

Financial Report for June 2014

Income		Expenses
Balance C/F	\$640.29	
Interest	.01	Nil Expenses.
BALANCE 25/6/2014	\$640.30	

Bank Statement 16/6/2014 reconciles with the Cash Book balance of \$640.30.
Carol Smallwood.

Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.

Financial Statement 1/7/2013 to 30/6/2014

Income		Expenditure	
Balance b/f	688.45		
Members Subscriptions	620.00	New Printer	220.00
Donations	20.00	Room Rent	250.00
Grant Qld Country			
Credit Union (for Printer)	200.00	Insurance	50.00
PO Box fee ½ share from			
Camera Club	53.50	Magazine Costs	283.15
Bank Interest	.10	Office of Fair Trading	46.60
Visitor Fees	15.00	PO Box Hire	107.00
Total	\$1597.05	Total	\$956.75
		Balance c/f	\$640.30
Total	\$1597.05	Total	\$1597.05

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
& Election of Officers**

23rd July 2014 at 7.30pm
QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe
Program: *Remember Last Year*
Please bring supper

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.