



# *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/](http://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	Leslie Saunders	
Newsletter Editor	K & M Carnell	46835268
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 24<sup>th</sup> August: Horan's Gorge  
with Rob McCosker

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August: *Kangaroo  
Island* with Kris & Margaret Carnell

**Deadline for next newsletter  
10<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

**Pre-outing Report Horan's Gorge 24<sup>th</sup> August**

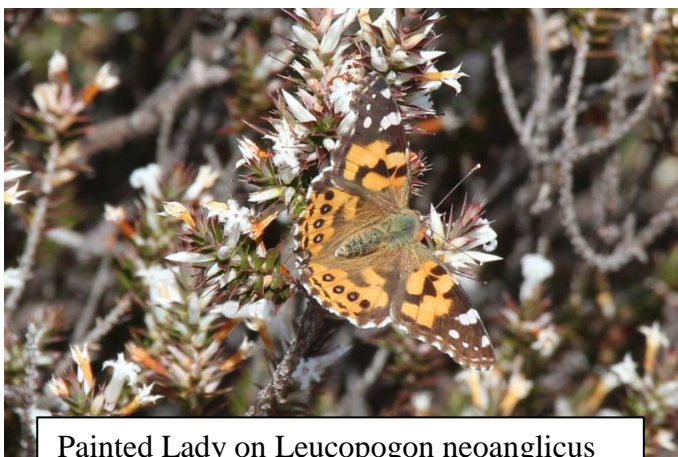
**Leader:** Rob McCosker

This outing is to the Horan's Gorge section of the Girraween National Park, and although we visited the area only last September we will see a different part of the Gorge on this trip. We will meet at Weeroona Park as usual and drive to Baldwin's property on Horan's Gorge Road, then through their place to the park boundary. This road is quite rough so 4WD vehicles are required. We will then walk along the creek flat for some distance and have morning tea at a nice spot on the creek before continuing to the end of the gorge. There are lots of ferns here and ground orchids were in bud on the pre-outing trip. We will have to carry morning tea and lunch.

There is no made track, just animal tracks to follow so once again it is a bit scratchy, through re-growth since the 2002 bushfire, and mostly gentle terrain so it is a rating 5 walk of perhaps 5km.

There is a concern that a scheduled controlled burn in the area will go astray and if so we will change our plans.

**Outing Report *Orana* 20<sup>th</sup> July 2014**



Painted Lady on *Leucopogon neoanglicus*

After a crisp frost 13 Nats travelled to *Orana* at Severnlea and assembled to walk up the mountain. We set off at a leisurely pace, stopping to look at different plants along the way. There was a creeping plant with leaves red from the frost that Ian identified as an *Eremophila debile*. The yellow-faced honeyeaters kept us entertained with their calls as we walked. A *Solanum* had some large yellow fruit on it that looked very ripe. There were some orange/red granite rocks along the track, pretty much the colour of red bricks, with flecks of mica and quartz.

We went to where there is a stand of Cayley's ironbark (*Eucalyptus cayleyi*) and made our way through small boulders to a large slab of granite. The *Mirbelia speciosa* was flaunting its beautiful reddish purple flowers and the *Leucopogon neoanglicus* was also blooming among the rocks providing



nectar for an Australian Painted Admiral and a Meadow Argus. We sat on the rock for morning tea looking across the yellow of *Acacia adunca* (Wallangarra wattle) to the view and watched a wedgetail circling. Kris explained where he and various members of the family had lived and still lived in some cases. Our house is not visible from any of the vantage points on the mountain, being hidden behind trees.



Prosanthera nivea

After morning tea we headed back to the track, taking note of two species of *Pomaderris*, until we went bush to make our way to the big rock slabs. There was a little *Hovea purpurea* in bloom, as well as *Pimelea linifolia*. In one place amongst the rocks Ian noticed the leaves of *Caleana major* and *minor* (flying duck orchids) growing together. Fortunately



Mirbelia speciosa

we had plenty of time to admire the view as we made our way higher, admiring some rock gardens with *Mirbelia* and *Cryptandra* in bloom

along with the first of the flannel flowers. When we arrived on the rock slab we looked north and north-west picking out the TV tower at Passchendaele and the towers at Dalveen and Thorndale, along with Mt Ferguson. There were a number of plants of *Prosanthera nivea* in the area and further on we saw one with a flower or two.

Our lunch stop was further around on another rock slab that was protected from the easterly breeze. As we looked down on Savina Lane Winery there was a lot of discussion about the identity of a grove of dark green trees that looked as if they had been trimmed. Kris was able to identify them when we got home as Stone Pines, by going onto the winery web site. The seeds of Stone Pines are used as pine nuts.



From our next vantage point on top of some large boulders we could see Mt Jibbinbar, The Brothers, Mt Lofty and Roberts Range. A *Parsonsia* (milk vine) was growing on one of the rocks and a *Clematis* across the "track" we followed to get there.



View to N.W. from rock slab

On the way back we walked along the southern side of the mountain, almost stepping on a *Erythrorchis cassythoides* (climbing orchid) and seeing the leaves of greenhood orchids *Pterostylis* sp. From another clump of large boulders Bald Rock was visible. When we were almost back to the track we found a large area of *Acianthus* (probably *exertus*) leaves with a couple of spent flowers. Beside the track once we had travelled a little way, three *Pterostylis nutans* (nodding greenhoods) were flowering.

Back at the house we all sat on the deck for a cuppa and watched a flock of double bars in the bird bath before heading home.

*Margaret Carnell*

**Bird List:** Yellow-faced honeyeater, white-eared honeyeater, wedgetail eagle, brown thornbill, eastern spinebill, double barred finch, superb blue wren.

**Flower List:** Acacia adunca (Wallangarra wattle, Actinotus helianthi (flannel flower), Bulbine bulbosa (Bulbine lily), Chrysocephalum apiculatum (yellow buttons), Cryptandra amara, Erythrorchis cassythoides (Climbing orchid), Hardenbergia violacea (false sarsaparilla), Hovea purpurea, Leucochrysum albicans (Hoary sunray), Leucopogon neoanglicus (New England beard heath), Leucopogon melaleuroides (snow bush), Lomandra leucocephala (Woolly matrush), Melichrus urceolatus (Urn heath), Mirbelia speciosum, Pimelea linifolia (Queen of the bush), Pimelea neoanglica (Scanty rice flower), Podolepis arachnoidea, Prosanthra nivea (Snowy mintbush), Pomaderris sp., Pterostylus nutans (nodding greenhood), Trachymene incisa (wild carrot)

**Annual General Meeting  
Stanthorpe Field Naturalists' Club Inc.  
23rd July 2014**

**Meeting opened:** 7.36pm

**Attendance:** Present 19 Apologies 5 as per attendance book

**Minutes of the previous meeting:**

H Kruger moved minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record **seconded** R McCosker

Business arising from the minutes: nil

Presidents Annual Report: R McCosker

**Financial Report:**

Associations Incorporation Form 12-1

H Kruger moved that the financial report be accepted **seconded** E Walker

**Election of Office Bearers:**

**President:**

M Carnell	<b>Nominated</b>	R McCosker	<b>seconded</b>	C Hocking	accepted
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**Vice Presidents:**

R McCosker	<b>Nominated</b>	K Carnell	<b>seconded</b>	L Saunders	accepted
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G Greenup	<b>Nominated</b>	Jeff Campbell	<b>seconded</b>	A Walker	accepted
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**Secretary:**

K Carnell	<b>Nominated</b>	H Kruger	<b>seconded</b>	L Saunders	accepted
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**Treasurer:**

R McCosker	<b>Nominated</b>	L Saunders	<b>seconded</b>	V Insall	accepted
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**Newsletter Editor:**

R McCosker	<b>Nominated</b>	K & M Carnell	<b>seconded</b>	A Walker	accepted
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**Magazine Committee:**

As there is only small number of Newsletters being sent out, there is now no position required.

**Publicity Officer:**

R McCosker	<b>Nominated</b>	M Carnell	<b>seconded</b>	L Saunders	accepted
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**Librarian:**

R McCosker	<b>Nominated</b>	T McCosker	<b>seconded</b>	L Saunders	accepted
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**Business for AGM**

L Saunders thanked all the members for their time and effort that goes into all the outings that the club is able to provide for the members.

Meeting Closed: 7.40pm

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.  
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2014**

**Meeting opened:** 7.40pm

**Attendance:** 19 Apologies 5 as per attendance sheet

**Minutes of the previous meeting:**

P Andrewartha **moved** that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record  
**seconded** K Carnell **carried**

**Business arising from the minutes:** Nil

**Correspondence:**

H Kruger moved that the inward and outward correspondence be accepted **seconded** E Walker  
**carried**

**Financial Report:** \$640.30

H Kruger moved that the financial report be accepted **seconded** M Carnell

**Outing Reports:**

Saturday outing: 5<sup>th</sup> July Blue Mountain – R McCosker 7 attended

Sunday outing: 20<sup>th</sup> July “Orana” – K & M Carnell 13 attended

**Pre-outings:**

Saturday outing: 2<sup>nd</sup> Cancelled

Sunday outing: 24<sup>th</sup> “Horan’s Gorge” - R McCosker

**General Business:**

R McCosker suggested that our Saturday outing be cancelled from now on, as there are too few members presenting the outings. We will be able to utilize Stanthorpe Rare Wildflower Consortium’s events that sometimes clashed with our own outings.

V Insall informed us of the following dates Stanthorpe Rare Wildflower Consortium events. 31 August at Amiens, 21 September at Passchendaele Forest, and 26 October at Girraween NP.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2014 the first Public General Meeting for the Stanthorpe Rare Wildflower Consortium will be held at the DPI Research Station, Applethorpe. Membership is \$10. Everyone Welcome.

Executive committee to meet to arrange new programme on Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> August at Peter and Lynette Hazelgove’s home.

E Walker suggested that our club do some volunteer work at Sentimental Rocks possibly twice a year, to help with the maintenance and invasive weeds. R McCosker also suggested that as a club we could help Granite Borders Landcare out with volunteer work, even maybe some of the invasive weeds along our roads. These projects need to be discussed further and SRDC notified, as well as Granite Borders Landcare.

**Next Meeting:** 27<sup>th</sup> August 2014

**Next Month’s presentation:** Kangaroo Island - K & M Carnell

**Meeting closed:** 8.30pm

**Presentation:** “Remember Last Year”

Late supper and chat was enjoyed by all after our AGM.

Stanthorpe Field Nats Club Inc

Presidents Report 2013-2014

Once again I am pleased to report a successful year for the Club, perhaps one of the busiest we have had, with well attended outings and meetings. In total we had 18 outings, two of which were campouts and only one cancellation due to a clash with the A & G Harvest Festival weekend. Meeting programs have included the sharing of member's travels, as well as the study of insects and geology. I am sincerely grateful to all the people who have put in so much time and effort to organise these activities.

The Club continues to run smoothly thanks to the wonderful help of our Committee members. I would like to thank Halina particularly, for her work in organising our transition to Group Membership of Landcare, and her commitment to ensuring the orderly running of meetings. To Carol thanks for managing the Club finances over the years and now that you and Peter have decided it is time to move on, we wish you all the best for the future. Thanks to Shelley for taking on the Editor's position from Michael, though briefly, and special thanks to Kris and Margaret for then taking over from Shelley at short notice, as well as doing a great job with the Club publicity. Thanks to all other committee members for their help in organising the program for the year and finally thanks to those people who have helped by leading outings and provided programs for our meetings.

Rob McCosker

## **Stanthorpe Rare Wildflower Consortium Walks for 2014**

**Wildflower Walk 1**    Date: Sunday 31st August, 2014

Location: Passchendaele State Forest, Southern Amiens Section

Meet: Amiens State School, 1337 Amiens Rd, Amiens at 9.30am then convoy in vehicles for about 2km to the starting point of the walk.

**Wildflower Walk**    Date: Sunday 21st September, 2014

Location: Passchendaele State Forest (Northern Section - TV Tower Walk)

Directions: From Stanthorpe, drive for about 12km and turn right into Bapaume Rd. Follow Bapaume Rd for about 8 km and turn left into Passchendaele Rd. Follow Passchendaele Rd to the TV tower. Park along the road, but well off the road so that traffic can still pass.

**Wildflower Walk 3**    Date: Sunday 26th October, 2014

Location: The Junction Track in Girraween National Park

Directions: Drive down the New England Highway Wyberba. Turn left into Pyramids Rd and drive to the Park. Park in the day use area and meet at the Stanthorpe Rare Wildflower Consortium sign.

**Further information** Contact the Wildflower Walks Coordinator, Liz Bourne, on:E-mail

[rwc@granitenet.com.au](mailto:rwc@granitenet.com.au) Ph: 07 4683 6374