



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	Leslie Saunders	
Newsletter Editor	K & M. Carnell	
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

Friday 12th – Sunday 14th Sept: Camp Out at Crows Nest with Jeff Campbell.
Sunday 21st Sept: TV Tower with Rare Wildflower Consortium
Wednesday 24th Sept: Lord Howe Island with Rob McCosker

**Deadline for next newsletter
7th October 2014**

Wildflower Walk Sunday 21st September 2014

Location: Passchendaele State Forest (Northern Section - TV Tower Walk 9.30 – 12.30)

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.

The Nats will have lunch after the wildflower walk and then Michael Meuller will lead us on another short walk.

Horans Gorge Outing Report – 24th August 2014

The outing on Sunday 24th August to Horans Gorge attracted 19 people including two from Brisbane who had been wanting to visit this park for some time and so were happy to join us.

Giant Kurrajong



We drove to Baldwin's property at Fletcher where Tom Dunn was waiting for us, then continued along the track to the park boundary and set off on foot. Tom showed us an enormous Kurrajong tree, *Brachychiton populneus*, which was easily mistaken for a eucalypt by its trunk. It had survived the extreme bushfire of October 2002 and had lost all trace of charred bark so that it looked more like a box, but the leaves confirmed its identity. Further along the gorge we also saw the gaunt remains of a huge exotic pine tree, probably *Radiata*, which was once quite a prominent marker, but it did not survive. Perhaps we should give thanks for small mercies, as we saw no pine tree seedlings either.

We stopped for morning tea at a rocky spot on the creek, which had no flow, however a couple of small waterholes had tadpoles. A brief search under the rocks here turned up two different geckos and a small skink. Neville Bryant was able to tell us



Morning Tea by the Creek

he used to ride his horse through the gorge from his home at Eukey when he was young, and that a number of wild horses had been rounded up from the gorge to be used at the Stanthorpe Rodeo. The gorge is named after a chap who lived in a shanty there for some time and had a small area of cultivation, and before that there was some mining activity by Chinese tin miners.

As we continued along the gorge we passed through a stand of Paper-bark trees, *Melaleuca alternifolia*, which I was pleased to see, had also survived the bushfire, though not as well as the Kurrajong. We were soon near the head of the gorge and had to watch our step to avoid stepping on



Greenhood orchids. After scrambling up the gully coming from the south we looked at a large fern we had seen on the pre-outing which turned out to be a ground fern, not a tree fern as I had thought.

Another plant nearby was thought to be *Pittosporum undulatum*, but has been identified as *Myrsine variabilis* a rainforest remnant called Muttonwood. Some people continued up the gully as far as the fence line while Carol and I climbed the ridge to the east, where we caught a glimpse of

Ballandean and found masses of Sarsaparilla flowering profusely.

We all returned to the gorge and followed the ferny gully coming from the north a little way before stopping for lunch. A number of the group then decided to continue up this gully to see where the track we had found on our pre-outing trip, led and though it took a little longer than they hoped, they finally returned to tell us they had ended up on top of Mt Dillon. We then retraced our steps back to the cars for a cuppa before heading home. I would like to give a special thanks to Tom Dunn for his help with this outing.

Rob McCosker

Plant List (Thanks to Jeff Campbell for providing most of these.)

Flowering plants -

Acacia venulosa Veiny wattle, *A. adunca* Wallangarra wattle, *A. neriifolia* Granite silver wattle, *A. pruinosa* Frosty wattle, *A. ulicifolia* var. *brownii* Prickly moses, *Correa reflexa* var. *reflexa* Common correa, *Hardenbergia violacea*, False sarsaparilla, *Notelaea linearis*, Narrow-leaved mock olive, *Dodonaea falcata* Hop bush, *Hovea graniticola*, *H. heterophylla* Trailing hovea, *Pomaderris lanigera*, *P. nitidula* Mountain pomaderris, *Leucopogon melaleuroides* Snowbush, *L. muticus*, *Lomandra leucocephala* ssp *leucephala* Woolly matrush, *Melichrus urceolatus*, Urn heath, *Patersonia glabrata* Wild iris, *Pterostylis curta* Blunt greenhood, *P. nutans* Nodding greenhood, *Acritriche aggregata* Tall groundberry, *Pimelea novaeanglica* Poison pimelea, *Cryptandra amara* var. *floribunda*, *Myrsine variabilis* Muttonwood.

Ferns-

Adiantum aethiopicum Common maidenhair fern, *Asplenium flabellifolium* Necklace fern, *Doodia* sp. Rasp fern, *Blechnum cartilaginum*, Gristle fern, *Hypolepis glandulifera* Downy ground fern, *Cheilanthes distans* Shaggy rock fern, *Davallia pyxidata* Hare's foot fern, *Pteridium esculentum* Common bracken fern.

I am sure this is only a small sample of the variety of ferns to be found in this interesting place.

Pre-Outing Report – Camp Out – Crows Nest
12th, 13th 14th September

Crows Nest Campout

12-13-14 SEPT

Accommodation

Crows Nest Caravan Park Powered Site \$29, Ensuite site \$39, Camp site #27

Basic Cabin \$65 (1 dbl, 2 bunks), Deluxe Cabin \$89

Alternatively there is a motel just across the road

The caravan park is on the highway left hand side on way in to town

Travel time is approximately 3 hours

Possible itinerary

Friday settle in, Heritage and Hartman Park walks (in town), visit Folk Museum and Village

Saturday Helidon Hills and Beutel Lookout or Murphys Creek and Spring Bluff

Sunday Visit Crows Nest National Park



Crows 'n' Nest
TOURIST PARK

René & Brenda Ansen
Owner / Managers
7558 New England Highway
Crows Nest QLD 4355
★★★★ 4 Stars

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 27th August 2014**

Meeting opened: 7.35pm

Attendance: 11 Apologies 2 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting:

L Saunders moved seconded J Campbell carried

Business arising from the minutes: Nil

Correspondence:

H Kruger moved that the Correspondence accepted seconded K Carnell carried

Financial Report: \$1132.07

L Saunders moved that the financial report be accepted seconded C Hockings

Outing Reports:

Sunday Outing: 24th Aug. R McCosker- Horan's Gorge

Pre outing report:

Sunday outing: 21st September Stanthorpe Rare Wild Flower Consortium

2nd Walk Passchendaele State Forest, Northern End

Meet at TV Tower, Passchendaele Rd Amiens 9.30

General Business:

- J Campbell informed the group of the arrangements for the Campout to Crows Nest.
- Invitation the "Co-Operative conversations practical workshop to be held Sept 10th at DAFF Applethorpe.
- Subscriptions for this year are overdue.
- GBLC application from the Community Grants Program, SDRC to be completed.

Next Meeting: 24th September

Monthly Presentation: R McCosker 'Lord Howe Is.'

Meeting closed: 8.10pm

Tonight's Presentation: K & M Carnell 'Kangaroo Island'.

Financial Statement August 2014

Granite Belt Naturalist Financial Statement				
MONTH of AUG 2014				
		INCOME	EXPENDITURE	Not yet Presented
Balance C/F 30/07/2014		\$640.30		
Membership subs 3/07		\$150.00	Room Rental Qno 497	\$50.00
Haselgrove Q		\$30.00		
Membership subs		\$330.00	Office of Fair Trading Q	\$48.25
Bank Interest 1/07		\$0.01	K Carnell Qno 499	\$123.01
Petzler Q		\$30.00		
Carnell Q		\$30.00		
Bank Interest 1/08		\$0.01		
Deposit 18/08		\$20.00		
		\$1,230.32		\$98.25
LESS EXP		\$98.25		
Balance to c/f		\$1,132.07		

Subscriptions Overdue

Subscriptions for 2014/15 are now overdue. If you have not paid by the October meeting you will not receive further copies of the magazine. However you will be able to read it on the website

The 2014-15 Program

Month	Sunday Outing	Monthly Talk	Campout
October	19 th Bolivia Hill K & M Carnell	23 rd The Greek Islands E Walker	
November	23 rd Sugarloaf Mine S Watt	26 th Thursday Island C Hocking	
December	7 th Christmas Breakup	R & T McCosker Severnlea	
February	22 nd Gilmour's Donnellys Castle R McCosker	25 th ANN Get-together 2014	
March	22 nd Poverty Point K & M Carnell	25 th ? D Wilson	
April	19 th Castle Rock R McCosker	22 nd Austria C & J Daniels	25 th - 26 th Apsey N P P & L Haselgrove
May	24 th Turner's Ck Gorge G Greenup	27 th China E Walker	
June	21 st Greenlands J Wylie	24 th Panama P Andrewatha	
July	19 th Hellhole – Swanfells K Van Tilberg	22 nd AGM Remember Last Year	
August	23 rd Basket Swamp M Meuller	26 th West Canada J Campbell	22 nd - 23 rd Basket Swamp M Meuller
September	20 th RWC Walk/ <i>Woodside</i>	23 rd South Is. New Zealand H Kruger	19 th - 20 th <i>Woodside</i> M Pennisi

Spare Outings – Boonoo Boonoo J Campbell, Girraween N of Junction R McCosker
Fassifern H Kruger

Spare Program – Morocco P Andrewatha, Norway E Walker, WA Wildflowers I Milinivic