



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

Sunday 23rd November: Tin Mining around Sugarloaf with Stuart Watt
Wednesday 26th November: *Two Greek Islands* with Errol Walker
Sunday 7th December: Break-up at *Shortlands*, Rob & Trish McCosker's property

Deadline for next newsletter

Program "Two Greek Islands"

Our programme starts in Athens, Greece with a quick look at the Acropolis and the site of the modern Olympic Games.

We then travel by high speed ferry to the picturesque island of Mykonos where we hire a car and travel most roads exploring the island which enjoys sunshine for 300 days of the year.

Mykonos, a bare granite island famous for its unique architecture is a photographer's paradise with 16th century windmills and brightly coloured converted fishing houses now known as "Little Venice".

Santorini, our favourite, is a half -moon shaped volcanic island with incredible cliffs and white houses draped over them like a table cloth.

From the distance the island looks it has a capping of snow.

Santorini obtained today's shape from one of the largest volcanic eruptions in the last 10,000 years. In 1650 BC the volcano erupted hurling magma 23 km into the air probably ending the Mineon civilisation on nearby Crete.

There is a buried village being excavated from a more recent eruption at the end of the 17th century BC. This island, Akroteri, is known as Greece's Pompeii.

With the advantage of our own hire car we were able to explore the island in detail but three days wasn't nearly enough.

Errol and Annette Walker

Pre-outing Report November 23rd 2014 - Tin Mining around Sugarloaf

Leader: Stuart Watt

For our outing on the 23rd November we will be looking at the various granites of the area, how they developed, what minerals of importance can be found and both shaft and alluvial mining on the property at the end of Lode Creek Road. The property is adjacent to Ruby Creek over the Border so we may find some ruby tin. To find it we will need nature to be kind so there is surface water. Bring a pan, if you have one, would be useful. Gather as usual at Weeroona Park at 9am.

Outing Report – Bolivia Nature Reserve – October 19th 2014

A group of just six Nats set out from Weeroona Park on 19th October and travelled to Bolivia Nature Reserve where we met with the ranger, Konrad who had opened the old shearing shed for us. He had photos of the restoration of the shearing shed and gave us a brief history of the shed. There is still some fleece in one of the bays and the remains of the old wool press.



Smoko inside the shearing shed

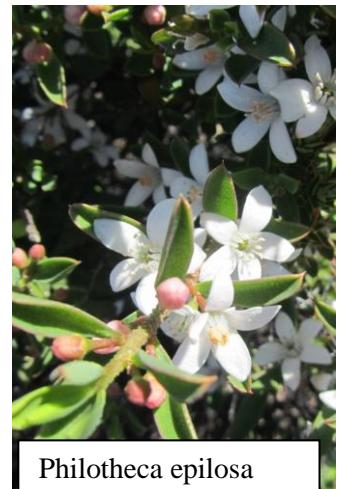
We had smoko inside before moving out to the site of the old house. There were some beautiful old eucalypts growing up towards the shed that had been used as a house, and the gully was full of hakea in bloom. The foundations and chimney of the original homestead are still there and we found a small glazed tile. There is a very sad looking old tractor underneath one of the trees.



Ozothamnus obcordatus

As there were only six of us, after lunch in the shearing shed we all set off across the cultivation to the base of the mountain and skirted along there, making use of the shade and listening to the birds calling. We saw crimson rosellas, Rufous whistlers and heard the grey shrike-thrush calling. It was quite steep and very shrubby going up the mountain but we stopped to admire the view a few times. There was a lovely

specimen of *Ozothamnus obcordatus* with a large golden head of flower amongst the rocks.



Philotheca epilosa

The first of the Bolivia wattle (*Acacia pycnostachya*) we saw had pretty well finished flowering but higher up we stopped to rest among some trees that still had flowers out. There was a good stand of Boronia, which we think was the Bolivia Hill Boronia (*Boronia boliviensis*), in full bloom. Most of us

continued to the top of the mountain where there were

beautiful rock gardens amongst the rough granite, with Fringe Myrtle, purple Kunzea, Micromyrtus and Eriostemon flowering profusely. The views from the top of the mountain were magnificent and we watched a wedgetail eagle circling above us.



Admiring the View

We wended our way down and walked close to the fence with the sheep on the other side and stopped to look at the remains of a weir that had been built across the gully. We had another cuppa at the cars before heading for home. Although there were not

many of us, we had a very successful outing.

Bird List: Sulphur-crested cockatoo, pied butcher bird, black-faced cuckoo shrike, noisy miner, magpie, white-eared honeyeater, superb blue wren, grey fantail, crimson rosella, rufous whistler, tree Creeper (call), yellow robin (call), wedgetail eagle, crow, goshawk, yellow-rumped thornbill, pardalote (call), pee wee.

Flowering Plants: *Hakea macrorrhyncha* (needlebush), *Ozothamnus obcordatus* (grey everlasting), *Leucopogon melaleucoides* (snowbush), *Lomandra longifolia*, *Prostanthera nivea* (snowy mintbush), *Leptospermum sp.* (tea tree), *Acacia* Bolivia wattle, *Boronia* (Bolivia Boronia), *Calytrix tetragona* (Fringe myrtle), *Micromyrtus sessilis* (Granite heath), *Kunzea obovata*, *Philotheca epilosa* formerly *Eriostemon* (waxflower), *Zieria compacta*, *Calandenia carnea* (Pinkies), Billy Buttons, *Brachyscome stuartii* (mauve Daisy).

Christmas Breakup 7th December 2014

The Christmas Breakup will be at

Rob and Trish McCosker's property "Shortlands"

75 Jones Road Severnlea, on Sunday 7th December.

Turn off the Highway at Severnlea at the Blue Topaz Caravan Park onto Reid Road, continue straight on until a "T" intersection with Lofaro Road and turn right, then the next left into Jones Road and number 75 is first on the left.

Come at about 5.00pm for a get-together and BBQ. BBQs will be provided and boiling water for a cuppa but please BYO chair, food and drinks. If we manage to strike wet weather we will move into the shed, as on other years, but hopefully we will have a campfire to enjoy after the BBQ.

Rob McCosker 46835371

Minutes of the Meeting of Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe Wednesday 22 October 2014

Meeting opened: 7.40pm

Attendance: 8 Apologies 9 as per attendance sheet/book

Minutes of the previous meeting:

confirmed by C Smallwood seconded by V Insall **carried**

Business arising from the minutes:

V Insall reported contact made with Harley West re work/assistance at Sentimental Rocks. He referred her to G Mathieson who has offered to assist and that he would consult with Council re certification if needed. The GBLC would have no problems with the FN working on this project and would be covered by insurance.

Correspondence: as per folder

H Kruger moved seconded C Hockings Carried

Financial Report:

No activity in the bank account balance the same as last month.

Outing Reports:

Sunday outing: K&M Carnell "Bolivia Hill"

Pre-outings:

Weekend outing: 23 November S Watt "Sugarloaf Mine"

General Business:

C Smallwood informed us that their house has been sold and that they will be moving away from Stanthorpe on the 15 November. Carol thanked everyone for their friendship, especially the leaders for the good times that she had in the Field Nats club.

We will miss Carol and Peter but wish them good health and happiness on the next step of their life's journey. The Blue Mountains will be their new home and maybe some of us will get a chance to meet again.

Best wishes from M Jeffries to the club, and thanks the club for the magazine.

Next Meeting: 26th November 2014

Next Month's Presentation: E Walker "Greek Islands"

Meeting closed: 8pm

Presentation: C Hockings "Thursday Island North Qld"

Granite Belt Naturalist Financial Statement October 2014

		Subs	Bank Interest	Income	Expenditure	
Balance c/f 30/9/2014				\$1139.07	Balances with Bank Statement 23/09/2014	
	V Insall subs	20.00		20.00	Room Rent	50.00
	Bank Interest		0.01	0.01	Stamps	70.00
				1159.08		
	Less expenses			120.00		
Balance c/f 30/10/2014				\$1039.08	Balances with Bank Statement 30/10/2014	

Pterostylis woolsii and Dendrobium speciosum



Pterostylis woolsii

I was quite excited recently when I checked on the site where we had seen *Pterostylis woolsii* previously to find three plants in bud. I kept a check on them and was delighted to find the flowers had opened in spite of the dry weather.

Not far away there is a *Dendrobium caniculatum* growing in the hollow of a dead tree. The leaves of the plant had been scorched when the neighbours were burning a fire break, but there were several sprays of bloom with the first flowers just opened.



Dendrobium caniculatum