



# *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/](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	
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 22<sup>nd</sup> February: Gilmours Property and Donnelly's Castle with Rob McCosker  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February: ANN Get-together 2014 in Tasmania with Rob McCosker

**Deadline for next newsletter  
1<sup>st</sup> March 2015**

**Pre-outing Report February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2015 Outing to Donnelly's Castle Area**



Granite Weathering

We will depart from Weeroona Park at 9.00am as usual and drive to Donnelly's Castle for a brief walk around the boulders before returning to the cars for morning tea. We will then drive next door to Terry and Sue-anne Gilmour's property. Terry will show us around their Permaculture garden then, after collecting our backpacks etc for lunch, he will take us for a walk through their "back yard". This area is higher than Donnelly's Castle

with similar large boulders and an interesting range of plants including orchids, staghorns and monkey vine. There is also a large granite slab with unusual "doughnut" weathering. We plan to have lunch here before returning to the cars. This walk is about grade 5 but not very long.



Mon key Vine

**Leader** Rob McCosker Phone 46835371

**Outing Report to Sugarloaf Mine 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2014**

The outing started with some confusion as, after departing Weeroona Park as usual, our leader Stewart Watt was waiting for us at one place while the rest of us took a different route and missed seeing him. Consequently a lot of time was wasted while we regrouped at an interesting granite outcrop along Lode Creek Road where Stewart gave a fascinating description of the origin of our Granite Belt, the different types of granite and the formation of pockets of minerals.

We continued on to the old mine site which was last worked in the 1980s and still looks like a moonscape. From there we walked up to an old hand dug mine shaft estimated to be 20m deep and some pieces of highly mineralised rock were found on the mullock heap. On the return to the cars Stewart pointed out some outcrops of beryl and we investigated a sluice used to catch the tin as the soil was washed through it.

After lunch plans to continue to another mine shaft were cancelled as a large storm cloud approached and the decision was made to return home early. We were very grateful to Stewart for the interesting outing and look forward to another sometime in the future.



Sugarloaf Mine Shaft



Sugarloaf Mine

With the extreme hot dry weather there were not many wildflowers to be seen. A few Kurrajong trees, *Brachychiton populneum*, were in flower as well as two species of Goodenia, a Trigger plant *Stylidium grammifolium*, a Dianella, Whalenbergia, two Leptospermums, a Grass tree and over a dozen spikes of Hyacinth orchid *Dipodium rosea*, on a rocky mound near our lunch spot.

Rob McCosker.

### Christmas Breakup 7<sup>th</sup> December.

With such a lot of storms leading up to our Breakup who would have thought we would have such a perfect afternoon and evening. We gathered on the lawn under the White cedar tree, where I showed my method of controlling the White cedar moth larvae *Leptocneria reducta*. These little nasties will build up to huge numbers and eventually defoliate a tree. They like to gather in a mass at the base of the tree during the day then swarm up to eat the leaves at night, so I provide them with a safe refuge a little above the ground – a piece of old carpet held on the trunk with rope. Every morning I remove the carpet and brush the caterpillars into a bucket and replace the lid so they all eventually die and are added to my compost pile. Nev told us that a more simple method to solve the problem is to spread a thick layer of Camphor-laurel sawdust around the tree trunk. The carpet also

becomes a refuge for other insects – I have seen several different beetles, cockroaches, millipedes and several spiders including a White-tailed spider.



Enjoying the Barbeque

As night fell I turned on some lights so we could see what was cooking on the BBQ then after enjoying our repast washed it down with billy tea brewed on the campfire. The light, a double fluoro suspended in the tree, attracted millions of flying insects, mostly termites and black ants. The branch beneath the light was completely covered



with a moving mass of insects. Needless to say our chairs were some distance away! There was also the droning of larger beetles and with torch light we were able to see the swarms of Christmas beetles, *Anoplognathus porosus*, and other scarabs feeding on the Eucalypt foliage. I was interested to read in the Museum notes, that since more land has been cleared for cultivation in the last 200 years there is more food available for the Christmas beetle larvae, which eat grass roots, so there is a boom in Christmas beetle numbers, and consequently more pressure on the Eucalypts, as the adults eat the Eucalypt leaves. Several different spiders had their webs up making the most of the insect bounty as well as a large striped frog.

I am sure everyone enjoyed the night. The almost full moon rising behind the illuminated gum tree was a bonus and the inevitable storm which the hatched out insects were predicting didn't arrive till after midnight!

*Rob McCosker*

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.**  
**Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

**Meeting opened:** 7.35pm

**Attendance:** 15 Apologies 3 as per attendance book

**Minutes of the previous meeting:**

K	Carnell	moved	C Hockings	seconded	<b>carried</b>
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**Business arising from the minutes: Nil**

### Correspondence:

H Kruger moved that the Correspondence accepted E Walker      seconded      carried

**Financial Report:** \$1109.09

H Kruger moved that the financial report be accepted                      A Walker                      seconded                      carried

### Outing Reports:

Sunday outing: Sugar Loaf Mine S Watt (14 Members and guests attended)

**Pre-outings:**

Sunday outing: 22nd February 2015 Donnelly's Castle

**General Business:**

Reminder Christmas party 7<sup>th</sup> December R & T McCosker's

R McCosker reported on the Tasmanian Trip.

K Carnell needs toner to be purchased

**Next Meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2014**

**Specimens/ Items of interest:** Wombat skull from Tasmania, Rock samples.

**Next meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

**Next meeting presentation:** R & T McCosker - Tasmania

**Meeting closed: 7.55pm**

**Presentation:** E Walker Greek Islands

**Granite Belt Naturalist Financial Statement November 2014**

Income		Expenditure
Balance b/fwd		1039.08
F & N Cilas subs	30.00	
MM Compton subs 2014	20.00	
MM Compton subs 2015	20.00	
Bank Interest	0.01	70.01
		\$1109.09

Balances with Bank Statement 24/01/2015

The following information was provided by Valerie Insall. Further information to follow.

**An Introduction to Hand-held GPS and its use!**

Learn how to :-

- record your position
- record item locations or points of interest as “waypoints”
- navigate you to locations
- record co-ordinates for farm mapping & planning

Applications include:-

- Mark locations e.g. rain gauges; soil sampling; new fence-line locations; paddock layout/management; farm roads; farm features for maps; plant locations (natives & invasive species); hunting; fishing etc.
- Mapping with Google Earth

**Chrysocephalum apiculatum (Yellow Buttons)**

The two *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* pictured are growing side by side at our place. The one on the left has much finer leaves and smaller, paler flowers. I presume they are variations of the same species. – Margaret Carnell

