

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/

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 22nd March: Boonoo Boonoo
with Jeff Campbell

Wednesday 25th March: David Wilson
with *Seasonal New England*

**Deadline for next newsletter
8th April 2015**

Pre-Outing Report Boonoo Boonoo 22nd March 2015

Leader: Geoff Campbell



Glossy Black Cockatoo

Depart Weeroona Park 9.00am via Amosfield, Mt Lindsay and Boonoo Boonoo Roads to Cypress Park Camp Ground. Have smoko and toilet stop here then take the River Trail for approximately 1 km, then turn right to follow the Cockatoo Walk sign along the Casuarina Trail. Turn right on to Colongon Road and follow to Girder Trail. At the Boonoo Boonoo Falls Road, turn left and follow the road to the next Cockatoo Walk sign which leads to Morgans Gully. Cross the creek below the old road and rejoin the old road for a short distance before diverging towards the river. Follow the trail back to the Cypress Pine Camp Ground. It took us just over 4 hours. It is posted as 6.5 km but it seemed a lot longer. I grade it between 2 and possibly 3, undulating without steep hills, dappled shade most of the way.

Carry lunch and water. The lunch stop will be a little rough as there aren't any really good spots along the way. Wildflowers were in abundance during the walk. There should be ample time to visit the falls afterwards.

Vehicle entry fees apply

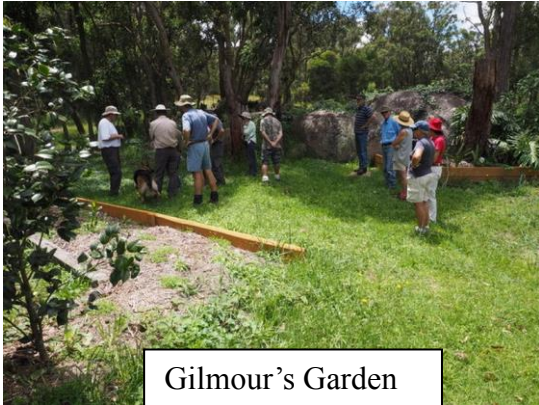


Spiranthese australis

Outing Report Donnelly's Castle 22nd February 2015

We met at Weeroona Park as usual and drove to Donnelly's Castle where two members were waiting for us, making the total for the day 13 members. We took the short walk to the lookout and then the caves before returning to the cars for morning tea. There were at least four different ferns growing on and around the boulders looking very lush after the summer rain.

After morning tea we drove next door to Terry and Sue-ann Gilmours' property where we were given a grand tour of their extensive Permaculture garden, planted with a wonderful range of edible and useful plants, including a group of rainforest species. We then shouldered our packs and set off through the bush to a large granite slab where we stopped for lunch, before returning to the cars on a different route. Fortunately we arrived back just as a shower of rain started.



Gilmour's Garden

I did not expect to see many wildflowers at this time of year but was pleasantly surprised, with the Lobelia display being the stand-out.



Maytenus silvestris



Granite Rock Slab

Plant List Donnelly's Castle Outing

Podolepis arachnoidea Copper wire daisy, *Parsonsia straminea* Monkey vine, *Isotoma anethifolia* Narrow leaf Isotoma and *I. Fluvialalis subsp. Borealis* Swamp Isotoma, a Chenopod with red berries, *Maytenus silvestris* with yellow berries, *Eustrephus latifolius* Wombat vine with berries, *Platynerium bifurcatum* Elkhorn ferns, old and juvenile on a rock, *Lobelia gracilis*, *Calotis dentex* White daisy, *Stackhousia viminea* Slender stackhousia, Small succulent – *Portulaca bicolor*, *Correa reflexa* var. *reflexa*, *Acacia* sp, *Trachymene incisa* Native candytuft in abundance, *Tricoryne elatior* Yellow rush lily, *Brachyscombe stuartii*, *Goodenia hederacea* Ivy-leaved goodenia and *G. bellidifolia* Daisy goodenia, *Styphelia viridis* subsp. *breviflora* Five corners, *Cassinia quinquefaria* Wild rosemary, *Senecio lautus*, *Pelargonium australe*, *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* Yellow buttons, *Murdannia graminea* Slug herb, *Viola betonicifolia* Mountain violet, *Glycine clandestina*, *Plectranthus suaveolens*, *Bursaria spinosa* Blackthorn, and finally an interesting plant which Terry was keen to find the identity of which resembled Sacred bamboo but with no red on its leaves. Our plant sleuth, Col, has found it, with help from his father David Hocking, to be a *Polyscias sambucifolius* or Elderberry panax, and how fitting for Terry to have a real Elderberry flowering in his fabulous Permaculture garden.

Rob McCosker

Bird List thanks to Peter Hazelgrove

Spotted Pardalote, Kookaburra, Brown Thornbill, Magpie, Little Lorikeet, Wonga Pigeon, Grey Butcherbird, Silvereye, Spinebill, Grey Thrush, Currawong, White-throated tree-creeper

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 25Feb 2015**

Meeting opened: 7.40pm

Attendance: 15 Apologies 3 as per attendance sheet

Minutes of the previous meeting:

L. Saunders moved K.Carnell seconded carried

Business arising from the minutes: Nil

Correspondence:

Newsletters from ; Fassifern F N, Murrumbidgee F N, QNC, SGAP Warwick, CBA Statement, Invoice from Kris for Printer Cartridge.

L. Saunders moved that the Correspondence accepted, M. Carnell seconded carried

Financial Report: Bank Balance \$1104.12

L. Saunders moved that the financial report be accepted, A. Walker seconded carried

Outing Reports:

Sunday outing: 22nd February R. McCosker reported on the outing to Donnelley's Castle and Gilmour's property next door, 13 attended

Pre-outings:

Sunday outing: 22nd March J. Campbell to lead a trip to Boonoo Boonoo NP

General Business:

Errol enquired about Club proposal to maintain tracks on Sentimental Rocks as they are in need of attention. He suggested a working bee with about 6 people is required. President to ask Valerie and SDRC what progress has been made with Club access.

Kris asked about the GPS Workshop being organised by Valerie. Rob said he would check with Valerie but he thought there were enough takers and that the workshop was to be run soon.

Errol advised that the Council was bringing ABC Gardner Jerry Coleby-Williams to a free Sustainable Living Workshop at the Civic Centre on March 14th.

Rob mentioned the item shown on ABC Catalyst regarding Mammalian tick allergy and suggested we should consider if it is possible to add the recommended tick removal treatments to our First Aid Kit.

Specimens/ Items of interest:

A selection of photos of past outings from Millie Marsden.

Rob showed a birds nest made of neatly wound pieces of couch grass stems and suggested it may have been a Bower birds nest.

Next Meeting: 25th March

Meeting closed: 8.00pm

Presentation: Jeff gave a presentation of the Australian Naturalist Network Get-together held in Hobart last October and attended by six of our members.

Next Month's Presentation: D Wilson "Seasonal New England"

Field Nat's Income/Expenditure as at 30th January 2015

TOTAL FOR NOV	\$70.00	\$0.01	\$70.01	\$1,109.09		\$1,109.09
TOTAL FOR DEC	\$25.00	\$0.01	\$25.01	\$1,134.10	\$60.00	
TOTAL FOR JAN 2015	\$30.00	\$0.01	\$30.01	\$1,164.11		\$1,104.11

Imperial Blue Butterfly (*Jaimeus evagoras*)

This year we have once again discovered Imperial Blue butterflies breeding on Black Wattle *Acacia neriifolia*. When we saw last them some years ago they were on *Acacia pruinosa*.

*The larvae and pupae of the Imperial Blue are attended by ants belonging to the genus *Iridomyrmex*. The larvae have tiny glands which secrete nectar and a nectary organ which the ants use to "milk" the caterpillar. The larvae 'talk' to the ants by scraping 'teeth' in the abdomen against a series of ridges to produce grunts, hisses and drumming. When ants were excluded from a tree where caterpillars were feeding researchers found that the caterpillars attended by ants had a 500 times greater survival rate than those left to fend for themselves.

* Information from ABC Science Online



Imperial Blue Butterflies mating



Larvae with attendant ants



Pupae with ants



Larva, Pupae and Butterfly with ants