



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



The Pyramids, Girraween National Park

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 Jun

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.



**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

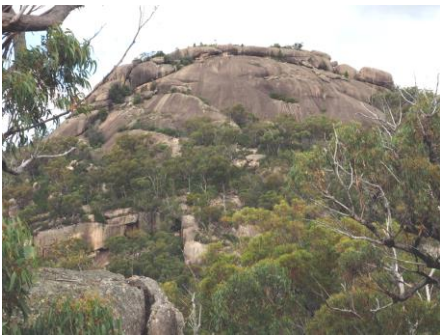
Sunday 19th April: Castle Rock with Rob McCosker

Wednesday 22nd April: *Austria* with C & J Daniels

25th - 26th April: Camp Out at *Apsey*, Inglewood with Peter and Lynette Haselgrove.

**Deadline for next newsletter
12th May 2015**

Pre-Outing Report Castle Rock 19th April 2015



We will meet at Weeroona Park as usual to depart at 9.00am for the Girraween NP, Bald Rock Creek Day Use Area where there are toilets and picnic tables for morning tea. We will then carry a packed lunch and walk to the top of Castle Rock for lunch, with one of the best views in the Park. The return trip will include a small detour to the top of a rocky ridge with a different view of Castle Rock.

Castle Rock is 1112m high but as we only have to climb about 160m of that along a little over 1.5 km of formed track I have given the day a Grade 6 on our scale of difficulty for walks. Be sure to wear sturdy shoes for walking on exposed granite, and carry water and lunch.

Leader Rob McCosker Phone 46835371

Pre-Outing Report - Weekend Camp April 25-26 Apsey, Inglewood.

Leaders: Peter & Lynette Haselgrove



Apsey's current status is Proposed National Park. The 8000 ha property, NNW of Inglewood, is surrounded by State Forest and is largely in its original condition with development limited to dams, fencing and some tracks. It is part of the Inglewood Sandstone Subregion in the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion and is covered with a woodland of eucalypt and cypress, with brigalow along some of the creeks. There are some vine thicket patches. The area is very interesting botanically.

Access is off the Inglewood/Millmerran Road via 17km of dirt road of varying condition with pot-holes and corrugations. From Stanthorpe to camp is about 128km and 1.5 to 2 hours. Suitable for 2wd with care. The proposed camp site is adjacent to this road alongside two stock dams (still in use). The water in the dams may be suitable for domestic purposes but you will need to bring drinking water.

We will arrive Friday afternoon. On Saturday we will go for a drive/walk from 10am, take lunch and afternoon tea. We will not be going to a destination with a fantastic view. We will be wandering around exploring a jump-up and any other spots that look interesting.

On Sunday morning we'll visit a rare *Macrozamia* (driving) and go for a wander along a track near to our campsite. People can then easily return to camp when they wish to pack up and head home.

There are no camping fees. A Toilet will be available for use at the campsite.

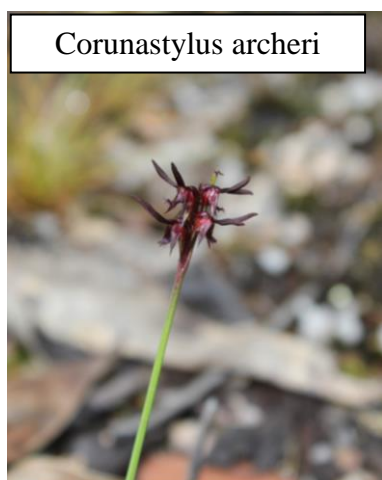
Directions: Take the turn-off to Millmerran just east of Inglewood on the Cunningham Highway - zero your trip meter here - and turn left after 3km into Thornton Road just over Canning Creek. The road heads briefly west then north to the Inglewood State Forest boundary, cross grid into the SF continuing approx north, NW and then north. At 13km over a grid, the track bends left and heads NW. At 17km another grid (Apsey boundary) and continue NW to camp at 20km (left of grid).

In case of rain the road may be impassable in spots. So please be aware that a last minute cancellation might have to be made.

Please register with us via email at eulalia-pl@bigpond.com or phone 4683 7255.

Outing Report – Boonoo Boonoo National Park - 22nd March 2015

With a weather forecast of possible severe storms and showers, eleven members presented for the field trip to Boonoo Boonoo National Park to do the Cockatoo Walk. As luck would have it the day proved warmish and fine for most of the walk, a light shower falling as we traversed the last section of the walk from Morgans Gully to Cyprus Pines Campground.



Corunastylus archeri

After smoko at the campground and wishing Mario a happy birthday for last week we set off downstream following the river for about 1 km, noting various plants on the way, the highlight for me being two species of *Corunastylus* or *Genoplesium*, whichever you prefer. Formerly they were called *Prasophyllum*. We left the River Trail and moved on to the Casuarina Trail, following it for some distance to Colongan Road. The *Spiranthes* in flower on the pre-outing were finished but we did find two more lots further on, one lot on the Casuarina Trail, the other on Girder Trail. We also found a small colony of *Cryptostylus* that had finished flowering, one of which had one flower pollinated.

Most of the group had galloped off by this stage, not to be seen again until we reached Morgans Gully for lunch. We turned right onto Colongan Road and made better time with less wildflowers to slow us down. We found a small tree in flower and berry that appeared to be a member of the laurel family but were unable to identify it.

We turned right once again on to Girder Trail where we found a note from the front group advising their lunch stop would be at Morgans Gully.



Thysanotis tuberosus

We found some flowers of interest along Girder trail although Casuarina Trail is the most prolific wildflower area on this walk. We crossed the flowing creek just before Falls Road, turning left along that round to the walking trail off to the right leading to Morgans Gully. No sign of the front group when we arrived so we decided to have lunch at the picnic site, sharing sandwiches and tea with those whose supplies were with the front group. Just before we finished the rest of the group turned up from further down the creek where they had had lunch. We crossed the creek again and set off uphill for a short distance along the old road before turning left towards the river, following it for about 1 km or so back to Cyprus Pines Campground. Two snakes were seen during the walk, one a Red-bellied black, the other shot through before we could get a good look at it. After a cuppa and chat we made our various ways home.

The following lists are a combination of the pre-outing and the walk.

Plants in flower:

Actinotis helianthii Flannel flower, *Goodenia bellidifolia* Daisy goodenia, *G. hederacea* Ivy-leaf goodenia, *Wahlenbergia graniticola* Granite bluebell, *Trachymene incisa ssp incisa* Native Candytuft, *Hypericum gramineum* Small St Johns Wort, *Bursaria spinosa* Australian blackthorn, *Hibbertia sp* Guinea flower, *Leucochrysum albicans var albicans* Hoary sunray, *Xerochrysum bracteatum* Golden everlasting, *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* Yellow buttons, *Boronia polygalifolia* Dwarf boronia, *Persoonia sericea* Silky geebung, *Phyllota phyllicoides*, *Stackhousia viminea* Slender stackhousia, *Stylidium graminifolium* Grass trigger plant, *Hybanthus monopetalus* Lady's slipper, *Pomax umbellata* Pomax, *Poranthera microphylla*, *Lobelia andrewsii* Trailing lobelia, *Spiranthes australis* Austral ladies tresses, *Calochilus robertsonii* Purplish beard orchid, *Hypoxis hydrometrica var villosisepala* Golden weather-grass, *Tricoryne elatior* Yellow rush lily, *Geranium neglectum* Swamp cranesbill, *Isotoma fluviatilis* Swamp isotoma, *Utricularia dichotoma* Fairies Apron, *Bauera rubioides* Bauera, *Platysace ericoides* Heath platysace, *Comesperma sphaerocarpum* Broom milkwort, *Brachyscome stuartii*, *Epacris microphylla* Coral heath, *Glycine clandestina* Twining glycine, *Craspedia uniflora* Billy buttons, *Drosera peltata* Tall sundew, *D. spatulata* Rosy sundew, *Banksia integrifolia ssp compare* White banksia, *B. neoanglica* New England banksia, *Lomandra filiformis ssp filiformis* Wattle matrush, *Thysanotis tuberosus* Fringed lily, *Boronia microphylla* Small-leaved boronia, *Viola hederacea* Violet, *V. betonicifolia* Mountain violet, *Conospermum taxifolium* Smokebush, *Cryptostylus sp* Tongue orchid, *Laxmannia compacta*, Compact wire-lily, *Leionema rotundifolia* Round-leaved phebalium, *Mitrasacme paludosa*, *Philothea epilosa* Waxflower, *Corunastylis archeri* Elfin midge orchid, *Corunastylis sp* Midge orchid

Ferns:

Schizaea bifida Forked comb-fern, *Pteridium esculentum* Common bracken fern, *Gleichenia dicarpa* Pouched coral fern, *Adiantum aethiopicum* Common maidenhair, *Hypolepis sp* Ground fern

Birds:

Glossy black cockatoo, Eastern spinebill, Scarlet robin, Lyrebird, Currawong, Satin bowerbird, Crimson Rosella, Grey shrike thrush, Common bronzewing, Golden whistler, Grey fantail, Fantail cuckoo, New Holland honeyeater, Quail thrush

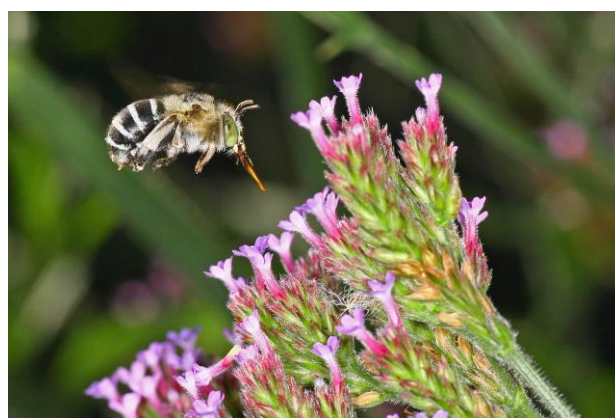
Mountain grasshopper *Acripeza reticulata* (female Mountain katydid)

We would like to thank Marc Newman for permission to use this extract from an article he wrote for a newspaper.

Native Bees

I don't wish to use technical terms but a little overview may be useful. Bees belong to the order Hymenoptera along with Saw Flies, Wasps and Ants. Bees are then divided into families of which there are 5 in Australia. Unlike Butterflies and Birds, bees mostly don't have common names so it is unavoidable that I have to use Genus and species (where possible) to give them a name.

So the first bee I want to show and probably my favourite is a "Blue Banded Bee" of which there are a number of species all around Australia. It is one that can be easily seen and easily identified by its size, colours and behaviour. The bands on their abdomen are not always blue.



The photos show a bee (*Amegilla asserta*) on a Trigger plant and Purple Top Verbena (Weed) but they also love Abelia, Buddleja, Chinese Plumbago, Salvia, Solanum (weed), Callistemon and Sacred Bamboo. The third photo is a face view showing characteristic markings.

This bee is a solitary bee which nests in the ground. While they are solitary they often nest with many other bees in the same patch of ground and love banks of soil under high set houses to the extent that owners can

become concerned about their foundations. Males usually roost overnight on twigs or grass stems (which is a great time for photography if you can find them).

While female bees can sting they are not aggressive and stings are extremely rare. Blue Banded Bees are buzz pollinators which means they vibrate their wing muscles to shake pollen loose from the anthers of certain flowers. So if you are growing Tomatoes in your vegie patch Blue Banded Bees will help you get a good crop. They are still active at this time of the year so have a look around your garden.

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

Meeting opened:

Attendance: 16 Apologies 5 as per attendance sheet

Minutes of the previous meeting:

L Saunders moved T McCosker seconded **carried**

Business arising from the minutes:

Sentimental Rocks working bee, R McCosker has been in touch with Council regarding working bee and has as yet not heard back.

Correspondence:

H Kruger moved that the Correspondence accepted E Walker seconded carried

Financial Report: \$956.32

L Saunders moved that the financial report be accepted G Greenup seconded

Outing reports:

Sunday outing: 22nd March - J Campbell Boonoo Boonoo NP

Pre outing reports

Sunday outing: 19th April – T McCosker “Castle Rock”

Campout: 25-26th April P & L Hazelgrove - Apsey NP Inglewood

General Business

Reminder about the Eucalypt workshop at DPI Applethorpe Research Station on the 12 April 9.30am start.

Next Meeting: 22 April 2015

Meeting closed: 8.04pm

Presentation: D Wilson “Seasonal New England”

Next Month’s Presentation: C & J Daniels “Europe” Austria