



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 24th May: Turners Creek Gorge
with Graham Greenup

Wednesday 27th May: *Tasmania* with
Rob and Trish McCosker

**Deadline for next newsletter
10th June 2015**

Pre-Outing Report 24th May 2015 – Turners Creek Gorge

Leader: Graham Greenup

We will meet at 9.00am at Weeroona Park and travel to Dalveen. Turn west onto Sorrento Road, then north onto Glentana Road; travel to the intersection with Crystal Mountain Road. Regroup there and meet any Warwick members who have come along Crystal Mountain Road. Travel to the Crystal Mountain Homestead and car pool as we will need high clearance vehicles for the rest of the trip. It is 8km to the gorge. Smoko when we get there.

The gorge is 60 metres high and is a paddock of 600 acres that has stock excluded for the past 15 years. We will probably break into different groups. There are ample opportunities for those who want a strenuous walk down into the gorge to the waterfall. Others can go to the lookouts and botanise around the top of the gorge.

Program 27th May with Rob and Trish McCosker

This month's program will be our trip to Tasmania, excluding the ANN get-together. We travelled some 3700 km around the island visiting lots of waterfalls, several National Parks and some brilliant spring gardens.

Outing Report Castle Rock 19th April 2015



Morning Tea in the shelter

Wet.

Eight hardy souls met at the park and we decided to go on to Girraween and hope for the best. Unfortunately, though we enjoyed an extended morning tea under the shelter at the Day Use Area, waiting for the rain to stop, we finally gave in and went home.

When Trish and I got home we discovered we had left a backpack at the shelter so off we went again to retrieve it and by the time we got there the rain had stopped, so we



Parson's Bands Orchid

went on to a quiet spot on the creek near the Mt Norman Road for our lunch. This area was burned in the severe fires of October last, and since the good rain this year there was lush regrowth. The creek had a small flow and is interesting as it flows over a granite slab, with a small waterhole backed up behind, then tumbles over a series of small waterfalls and disappears beneath more granite slabs and a sand bar, only to reappear a little downstream as it gurgles to the surface of another small pool. Across the creek we found a few pink Parson's Bands orchids, *Eriochilus cucullatus*, and then followed a vehicle track for some distance before

returning to our car, fortunately just as the rain started again.

It was disappointing not to get to Castle Rock but I now have another good spot for a future outing. The wildflowers should be good next spring and there are some interesting boulders to explore.

Rob McCosker

Outing Report Apsey Camp Out – 24th – 26th April

Nine members camped at Apsey on the weekend of 24th - 26th April. The weather on Friday and Saturday was perfect. Sunday was fine but cold and windy.



Campsite

Saturday morning was spent at the NE side of the park exploring the lateritic high country. Although late in the season a few plants were flowering and even though it is not our local area, we were able to tentatively identify some species including a *Calandrinia*. The area should be extremely good later this year in spring.

On Saturday afternoon we saw the rare macrozamia, *Macrozamia machinii*, on the western side, where we also saw *Budgeroo*, *Lysicarpus angustifolius* and Woody Pear, *Xylomelum cunninghamianum*. There were some lovely patches of Comet grass, *Perotis rara* in the area showing a delicate shade of purplish pink colour, but almost impossible to photograph.



Calandrinia



Ladybirds at Apsey

Sunday dawned cold with an early south-westerly wind and whilst two people had to leave early the rest of us walked along an old track until after smoko. Following lunch back at camp we all packed up to return home.

The area is typical inland woodland with quite a variety of box, ironbarks and gums with a grassy understory, small herbs and a scattering of wattles. The two evenings were extremely pleasant with the intense quiet only found in the inland and all members found the camp really enjoyable.

Birds were plentiful with 42 species seen or heard. A group of four diamond sparrows was seen near camp and four turquoise parrots seen just outside the area. Glossy black cockatoos were heard.

Peter Haselgrove

Dawson's Burrowing Bee – *Amegilla dawsoni*

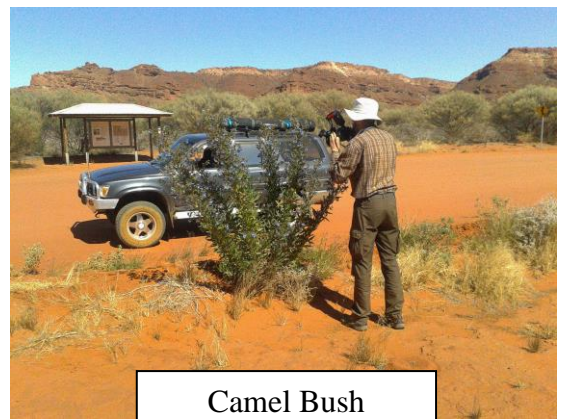


Dawson's Burrowing Bee

Some of you may have watched the "Life" documentary by David Attenborough on insects on ABC TV. Part of this documentary was devoted to Australia's largest native bee, Dawson's Burrowing Bee. If you missed it, the bit on the bees can be seen on YouTube by googling "Dawson's Burrowing Bees BBC" and clicking on the YouTube video. It's worth a watch. David made a small mistake in his narrative when he said the male bees sting their competition to death. Male bees can't sting but they do have powerful mandibles.

Last month I talked about Blue Banded Bees of the Genus *Amegilla*. Dawson's bee is from the same genus and its full scientific name is *Amegilla dawsoni*.

This bee is so magnificent that I took two trips to WA to find it. The first trip was too late in the season but with my German friend, Bernhard Jacobi, in early August last year we managed to track them down and get some great photos. Actually we found them in two locations, once at Babbage Island near Carnarvon, WA and the second at the Kennedy Ranges. They are often found nesting in large numbers in clay pans and their favourite tucker is the Camel Bush (*Trichodesma zeylanicum*), see photo.



Camel Bush

At Babbage Island they were nesting in a little used dirt road where we observed male bees casing the area looking for newly emerging females and fighting between themselves over the female. Once a male and female coupled they would high-tail it to the nearest cover (a bit of grass beside the road) presumably so they don't get eaten by an unfriendly bird. Mating was unexpectedly lengthy. The female has conspicuous white fur on the thorax, whereas the male has orange brown hairs. The female has scopa (bristly hairs to carry pollen) on her hind legs. They have long tongues to reach nectar at the base of tubular flowers.

At Kennedy Range we didn't find any nesting sites though we checked out some clay pans, nor did we see any Camel Bushes.... until we were leaving. Bernhard saw one lonely bush directly opposite the information booth at the park's entrance. It was in full flower and was buzzing with bees so we had a ball with our cameras.

Marc Newman

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 22 April 2015**

Meeting opened: 7.40 pm

Attendance: 15 Apologies 3 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting:

L Saunders moved J Campbell seconded carried

Business arising from the minutes:

Nil

Correspondence:

H Kruger moved that the Correspondence accepted C Hockings seconded carried

Financial Report: \$811.32

L Saunders moved G Greenup seconded

Outing Reports:

Sunday outing: R McCosker – Castle Rock

Pre-outings:

Sunday outing: G Greenup – Turners Creek Gorge

General Business:

K Carnell reported that he has had a few problems with Granite Net website at the moment.

Next Meeting: 27 May 2015

Specimens/ Items of interest: Nil

Next meetings presentation: R McCosker “Tasmania”

Meeting closed: 8.03 pm

Presentation: John and Cecily Daniels “Austria”

Bank Reconciliation to 30/4/2015

Balance C/F 30/03/15				\$ 976.32	Balances with Bank Statement as at 30/03/2015	
	Bank Interest	\$ 0.01		\$ 0.01	CWA Rental Q 505	\$ 50.00
				\$ 976.33	P O Box Rental	\$ 115.00
	LESS EXP			\$ 165.00		
Balance C/F 30/04/15				\$ 811.33	balances with Bank Statement as at 30/04/2015	