



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 21st June: Greenlands with
Jeanie Wylie

Wednesday 24th June: *China* with
Errol Walker

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

Pre Outing Report - Greenlands – 21st June 2015.

Leader Jeanie Wylie

Meet at 9am at Weeroona Park. Take the Texas Road to the junction of Texas Road and Cowies Lane. Turn left into Cowies Lane. Stop at the junction of Cowies Lane and Minasi Lane. Regroup into 4WDS as there is a short but very stony section of road we need to travel over to Forestry Road

There is a morning walk and an after lunch walk.

The morning is on tracks and on large flattish rock faces. (4) There is also some off track sections which are rougher, steeper and have thick undergrowth. We will take our morning tea and stop at several lookouts and at an old mine site. This is an easy circuit.

We will return to the cars and drive a short distance to water hole/fossicking site for lunch. After lunch we will take a short drive (4WD) to another part of the forest. This walk starts on a track and then goes across country (easy walking) to the top of a steep gully. We can walk along the top for a while, climb down to the creek or people can choose to stay on the track. The track goes to a small creek and we return the same way. There is a small creek to cross but unless we have had heavy rain it's a shoes on job.

Outing Report - Turners Creek Gorge - 24th May 2015

On a reasonably pleasant morning twelve of us departed from Weeroona Park at 9 am. Another three joined us at the junction of Glentana and Crystal Mount roads, en route to Ross McCorquodale's property "Crystal Mount".

The gorge was reached via an 8 km drive along a rough track, after which we partook of smoko at the lookout which afforded us good views of the gorge. Most of us then took the strenuous walk/climb down to the gorge where we enjoyed seeing the waterfall and other features, there



being a good flow of water in Turners Creek. The waterhole below the waterfall is 25 feet deep and is the only waterhole in the "Crystal Mount" section of the gorge never to have dried up since the McCorquodales purchased the property in 1948.



Some of had lunch in the gorge while others waited until we returned to the lookout, ascending from the gorge some distance downstream of where we had entered it. Not a great deal of bird life was observed, but a wedgetail eagle was seen down in the gorge and some of us later saw its nest in a dead tree in a side gully of the gorge.

Thanks to Ian Milinivoich for compiling the plant list.

Graham Greenup

Plant List for Turner Creek Gorge

Flowering plants seen included - *Rostellularia adscendens*, *Brachyscome* sp., *Calotis lappulacea* Yellow burr daisy, *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* Yellow buttons, *Leucochrysum albicans* Hoary sunray, *Vittadinia meulleri*, *Hibbertia linearis* var. *obtusifolia*, *Goodenia hederaceae*, *Plectranthus graveolens*, *Sida* sp., *Acacia falcata*, *Melaleuca linearis* (*Callistemon*) Narrow leaved bottlebrush, *Solanum nemophilum*. There were two exotic weeds seen – *Elandularia aristigera* Mayne's pest, and *Zinnea* and other plants of interest were – ground orchid rosettes, possibly *Pterostylis hamata*, *Cheilanthes distans* Shaggy rock-fern, *Alphitonia excelsa* Red ash or Soap tree, although we could not encourage it to make a lather with water, *Disaria pubescens* Australian anchor plant, and seen most prolifically across the paddocks the Bulloaks *Allocasuarina leuhmannii*.

Ian Milinovich

Identification of Ladybird

Thanks to Peter and Lynette Haselgrove who had the ladybird beetle seen at Apsey identified. It is the **Orange-spotted Ladybird *Paraprius australasiae***; identification confirmed by ladybird guru Bernie Franzmann.



TRIBUTE TO JEAN HARSLETT 6/9/1925 – 22/5/2015

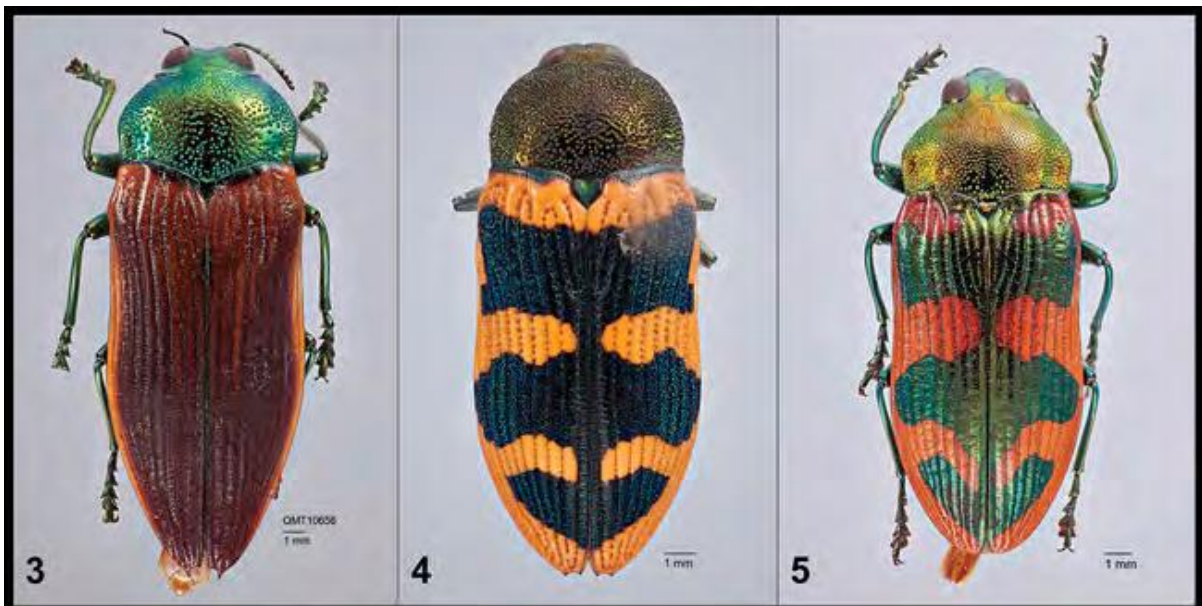
The following article comes from the April 2014 edition of the Entomological Society of Queensland News Bulletin and is used by permission of G Monteith

GEMMELL & HARSLETT INSECT COLLECTION COMES TO QUEENSLAND MUSEUM

In February Susan and Jeff Wright and Chris Burwell spent four days at Amiens, near Stanthorpe, selecting specimens from the notable Australian insect collection of Alec Gemmell for transfer to the Queensland Museum



L to R: Alec Harslett Jnr (Jean's son), Jean Harslett, Susan Wright and Chris Burwell at Jean's house in Amiens selecting the specimens for the QM collection (Photo: Jeff Wright).



Figs 3-5. Jewel beetles named for Alec and Jean. 3. *Castiarina jeaneae* (Barker, 1983) . 4. *Castiarina alecgemmelli* (Barker, 1987). 5. *Castiarina harslettae* (Deuquet, 1957)



Sketch of Alec Gemmell drawn in 1944 by his brother-in-law, Robert Emmerson Curtis, who also lived in the Stanthorpe district and joined in collecting trips.

Alec, a Scottish-born WWI veteran, who developed a fruit farm, "Braemar", near Glen Aplin, became an avid beetle collector and was one of the pioneer collectors who first explored the rich *Leptospermum*-blossom beetle fauna for which the Stanthorpe area is still famous. He loved the jewel beetles (Buprestidae), and while he did not publish himself, he supplied many new species for description by coleopterists of the time, especially H.J. Carter in Sydney. His daughter Jean was born in 1925 and would have been just one year old when a devastating bushfire in November 1926 destroyed every orchard and building on the farm. Only their car survived, driven to safety by Alec. They rebuilt from the ashes with a small insurance payout of 750 pounds.

Jean absorbed nature from her family and, after receiving Waterhouse's recently published *What Butterfly is that?* for her twelfth birthday, she went on to become an independent collector of butterflies and beetles. In 1951

she married Robert Harslett and went to live on his family fruit and vegetable farm, "Mountain View", near Amiens in the same district, where she remains to this day having been widowed some years back. When her father died in 1965 his collection passed to her. She recognised its value at that time and in 1967 she donated a synoptic set of species to ANIC in Canberra, including no less than 256 species of Buprestidae. The rest was merged with her growing collection.

Jean became a pillar of the Stanthorpe community and a nationally recognised naturalist and historian. She is best known as an author of Stanthorpe's definitive history (Harslett & Royle 1980) which ran to several editions, and in 2004 the **Jean Harslett Research Centre** was opened at the local museum with 16,000 of her historical photographs. She was a founder of the *Stanthorpe and District Field Natural-Club* and was passionate about birds and butterflies. She is featured in the Queensland Museum's 1997 book, *Brilliant Careers-Women Collectors and Illustrators in Queensland* (Monteith 1997).

The best and most important specimens from the collection, a total of 2738 including some paratypes, were selected for transfer to Queensland Museum where they are currently undergoing conservation treatment before being incorporated into the main collection. Many are of species now rarely seen in the area. The Queensland Museum now has representatives of the three striking buprestids that have been named after Jean and her father Alec (**Figs 3-5**).

References

HARSLETT, M.J. & ROYLE, M. 1980.
They Came to a Plateau: the Stanthorpe Saga. 213 pp, International Colour Productions (Stanthorpe)

MONTEITH, G.B. 1997. Jean Harslett.
pp.67-68. In McKay, J. (ed.) *Brilliant Careers: Women Collectors and Illustrators in Queensland*. 80pp, Queensland Museum (Brisbane)



Jean Harslett and her butterfly net, 1996
(Stewart Rayner photograph, courtesy of Jean Harslett)

As well as her love for entomological subjects, Jean was a lover of all things to do with nature. To quote one example, when we discovered "*Senna odorata*" on our property and needed an identification, Jean told us what it was and then looked in her trusty exercise book and told us that she had noted it at Glen Aplin in 1949.

In the book "The Orchid Man" by Lionel Gilbert, it describes how Rev. Rupp made the acquaintance of the Gemmell sisters, Jean and Dorothy in 1945. Over the next 6 years many specimens were sent with Rev Rupp saying "the Gemmell specimens usually reach me perfect, packed in a peculiar spongy lichen of the granite." Jean maintained her records and concluded that at least 104 orchid species grew on the Stanthorpe granite belt. Rev Rupp also described Dorothy's "coloured drawings of flowers" "almost too good to be true"

Kris

Bee Hotels

Of the nearly 2000 species of native bees in Australia, approximately 70% nest in the ground and 30% nest in wood. This is not surprising as bees have evolved from ground nesting wasps. The wood nesting bees either create their own holes such as the carpenter bees, use hollow reeds or hollow stems of plants such as the reed bees or use existing holes of longicorn beetle larvae or similar for example the resin bees.

In addition to having bee friendly plants around your yard you can further benefit some of these wood nesting bees by providing them with nesting holes or "Bee Hotels". There is a lot of information on the net about bee hotels and how to make them. I have made a number of bee hotels for myself and for friends and am still experimenting with different types.

The easiest thing to do is to get a block of wood, a short length of 75x50mm timber will do and drill holes with different sizes, say 5mm to 8mm, randomly in one face to a depth of 50 to 60mm. Place the block in a protected position, carport, deck or verandah or similar and watch for bee activity. Not much is going to happen until next Spring as resin bee activity appears to have finished for this season, at least at Ballandean.

My most successful "hotel" is located on our deck so I can watch activity whilst enjoying my morning or afternoon cuppa. I have wasps nesting as well as bees and often see parasitic wasps hovering in front of the hotel trying to lay her eggs in an occupied bees nest hole. This I discourage as I want to build up my population of bees.

The next easiest thing to do is to cut bamboo into 120 to 150mm lengths with hole sizes from 4mm to 12mm in diameter and pack a bundle into a length of PVC pipe. My "hotels" are housed in a purpose built enclosure for weather protection and located near a bee popular Buddleja two feet above the ground. (Photo attached)

Some of our bees are very small and they will nest in screw holes and I have even seen photos of bees nesting in pop rivet holes. As I write this I had just come in from lunch on our deck and a bee thought my ear would be a good place to nest, the message being don't sit still for too long ha ha.

The second photo is of a resin bee, a *Megachile aurifrons* or Golden-Browed Resin Bee, finishing off her nest with a plug of resin mixed with some organic material. She has nested in one of my straw lined hotels, the purpose of which is to enable easy extraction at the end of season for over winter storage of the larvae and easy sterilisation of the wooden components of the hotel against parasites ready for the next season. Although some bees are active all year around mostly they are seasonal. Having a bee hotel is a rewarding experience so if you are at all handy, how about making one and returning to these wonderful pollinators some of their lost environment? And don't forget about planting bee friendly plants.

Should anyone wish to do so I can be contacted at marcjan@tpg.com.au

Golden Brown Resin Bee



Bee Hotel

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria st, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 27th May 2015**

Meeting opened: 8:40 pm

Attendance: 18 Apologies 2 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 T McCosker seconded **carried**

Financial Report: \$763.89

L Saunders moved that the financial report be accepted P James seconded **carried**

Outing Reports:

Sunday outing: 24th May – G Greenup – Turners Creek Gorge

Pre-outings:

Sunday outing: 21 June – J Wylie – Greenlands

General Business:

Memorial Service for Jean Harslett

Outcome of the discussion about our yearly subscription it was decided that they stay the same as last year.

Next Meeting: 24th June 2015

Next Months Presentation: P Andewartha – Panama Canal

Specimens/ Items of interest:

Plants from Turners Creek Gorge outing.

Specimen of a Calcium fossil.

Common Egg fly, is a species of nymphalid butterfly. *hypolimnus bolina*

The upper side of the wings is jet black, offset with three pairs of white spots, two on the forewing and one on the hind. These spots are surrounded by purple iridescence. In addition, the upper side of the hindwing bears a series of small white dots.

Meeting closed: 7:57 pm

Presentation: R McCosker - Tasmania

Subscriptions and Program for 2015/16.

Subscriptions are due for the next 12 months from the end of June,

Subscriptions for 2015-2016 : Family \$30.00 – Single \$20.00

Please complete your correct name and address details below and bring or send to the Treasurer

Name (including preferred title please)

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If paying by cash at a meeting please put your money in an envelope with your name on the **outside** to make it easier for the Treasurer.

PAYMENT METHODS

1. **Present with your subs.** to the meeting in an envelope with your name on the outside.
2. **Post to:** Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, STANTHORPE Q 4380.
3. **By Direct Debit** to Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. BSB 064-431 Acc. 00902063

I would like to receive my magazine by **POST** **EMAIL** (please circle)

As quite a few of our members have Email we would like to have your email address if you are agreeable. Sometimes it is convenient to contact as many members as possible about a change in arrangements at short notice, and this can be a convenient way to do it.

Email address:-

The monthly newsletter is distributed electronically by email and by post.

It is also posted on the website in the Documents folder.

Names and addresses are only used for posting the magazine and are not passed on to anyone else.

The committee once again asks for your assistance to provide a wide range of outing activities and meeting programs for the coming twelve months.

Please jot down your suggestions below, and indicate if you would be prepared to lead an outing or provide a meeting program. All suggestions will be considered at a special committee meeting to be held shortly after the AGM.

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Name: Outing: (Place or area, duration, time of year)

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Campout: (Place, duration and dates)

Meeting subject: (Title and brief description)

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Other comments and suggestions:

Thank you