



# The Granite Belt Naturalist



Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc., PO BOX 154, Stanthorpe, QLD 4380  
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. Encourage a spirit of protection towards native birds, animals and plants
4. Assist, where possible, in scientific research
5. Publish a monthly newsletter for the information of members.

PDF version

Can be downloaded from the web site above on the Documents page.

Please let us know if you have any comments or contributions.

*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, (Friday outings as pre-arranged).

NOTE; the latest status of any outing is posted to [the website](#) as soon as possible.



*The Pyramids*

## CLUB OFFICE BEARERS - 2012/2013

President:	Rob McCosker	46835371
Vice-presidents :	Kris Carnell	46835268
	Michael Müller	46811421
Secretary:	Halina Kruger	46835206
Treasurer:	Carol Smallwood	46811034
Newsletter Editor:	Michael Jefferies	46812389
Magazine C'mtee:	M Müller &	
	P Andrewartha	46812913
Publicity Officer:	Lynette Haselgrove	46837255
Librarian:	Trish McCosker	46835371

Management Committee: President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer.

The Club acknowledges the support of the Gambling Community Benefit Fund in the production of this newsletter and the purchase of a data projector.

## COMING UP

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May -TBA

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May; Rivertree mines - E Walker

Monthly meeting; Errol Walker

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June; TBA

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June - Geology - Stewart Watt

**Deadline for next newsletter:**

**31<sup>st</sup> May 2013**

## 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.

This document is on the website above for download. If there is anyone who would prefer to get their copy on-line, please email [fieldnats@granitenet.com.au](mailto:fieldnats@granitenet.com.au) for inclusion on the email newsletter list. This will ensure you have the document as soon as it is finished and before it reaches you by post.

## Membership Question about Outing days

At the monthly meeting on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April it was resolved to ask the membership whether they would prefer having outings on a Saturday. The discussion centred on the proposal to hold the walk now normally held on Friday on Saturday, and, if so, whether this should be on alternate months or some other timing. If you have views on this now is the time to express those views. It will be a question on the subscription and outings form in next month's newsletter.

## Pre-outing Reports

**Friday May 3<sup>rd</sup>: TBA**

Meet at Weeroona Park at 9am as usual and see where we go!

### Rivertree mines – Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup> 2013 - led by Errol Walker

Rivertree is a very scenic area 30 km east of Liston and is historically significant with the remnants of the mining industry still visible today. Of particular note is the chimney which was erected in 1895 to carry fumes from a silver smelter. The chimney fell into disrepair after the mine closure and its base suffered from animals licking the bricks as well as the effects of people peppering it with shotgun pellets endeavoring unsuccessfully to bring it down. Restoration work and fencing it off from cattle in 2011 has brought it back to its former glory. The mines are on private property and we are privileged to be able to use 4WD tracks to access the area. Without the 4WD access we would have to wade across the river and from past experience I can assure you that it is uncomfortable with cold water around the ankles.

This area was visited frequently by the Nats in earlier years and was always a favorite. As we have seen many new members since the early 70s it seems appropriate to revisit this interesting site. Some of the original members will notice a big difference to the landscape since the floods of recent years.

We will leave Weeroona Park at 9am sharp. The landowner has agreed to accompany us on the outing and we will be collecting him at Liston on the way. He is a wealth of information on the area and can relate much of its history as well as the story of the restoration project. Bring lunch as well as smokos for the day. There are no rest rooms with the last facility being at Liston. 4WDs are essential if you don't want to walk about 2 km each way or tackle the cold water with a river crossing. We can usually arrange seats in 4WDs at Weeroona Park before we leave but it



may pay to make some arrangements before the outing. It won't be a big day and the walking is easy.

### **Changes for the June 23<sup>rd</sup> Outing - please note and act.**

Stewart Watt has offered to take the Geology of Stanthorpe Mines outing which was postponed due to wet weather in March, in place of the scheduled outing to Warroo.

An exciting extra for this outing is the offer by Stewart to pay our Club an amount of \$200 to \$300 if we can provide transport for about 12 Warwick High School students on the outing. The money is from a fund, which Stewart administers, and which was set up by a past Warwick High student, now Emeritus Professor of Geology, to foster interest and study in Earth Sciences since these studies are no longer provided in the school curriculum. As Stewart will arrange transport from Warwick to Stanthorpe, we need to be able to provide spare seats in 4WD vehicles for the outing from Weeroona Park. Could any members who can help out please let me know as soon as possible and anyone requiring transport also let me know so we can work out how many spare seats are available.

Rob McCosker 46835371 [mccoskerr@gmail.com](mailto:mccoskerr@gmail.com)

### **Outing Report Friday 5 April**

After rounding up members waiting at Weeroona Park we drove to the Information Centre where others were waiting. In all 14 members presented for the outing. We crossed Quart Pot Creek on the footbridge in front of the Information Centre very carefully as the increased flow from the recent rain was just lipping the top of it. We left the new concrete path as we entered the bushland and moved on to the old path which is no longer maintained and enjoyed the natural rock and paths while taking in the fairly fast flowing water. We saw some pacific back and wood ducks and a little pied cormorant. There weren't many birds about as it was a little windy.

Rob kindly filled us in on the history of the Red Bridge and the little red bridge, the former not so red now as it has been painted silver and the latter missing the middle sections which were washed away in the 2011 floods and has not been replaced This area is a lovely natural granite rock and water area which in Spring has many lovely wildflowers. We walked back along the new path visited the garden and seat area dedicated to Ray Marsden and also the garden and signpost area organised buy our Field Nats Club. Last stop was the historic Time Capsule shown to us by Ken.



We returned to the cars and drove to my place in Jardine Street where we had morning tea on my back outdoor area (everyone enjoyed the scones and jam provided, J.C.). We then walked up Jardine Street to Sentimental Rocks and wandered through the large granite formations and pathways. We found a large variety of plants, some in flower or seed though not large amounts. Of special interest was the large tongue orchid, *Dockrillia linguiformis* var *linguiformis*, thought to be about 300 years old (apparently a very slow growing species) growing on a very large granite rock. *Glenys Mathison*

Plant list:- Sentimental Rocks

*Styphelia viridis* ssp *breviflora*, Five corners (in flower); *Indigofera australis* var *australis*, Australian indigo; *Correa reflexa* var *reflexa*, Common correa (green form, in flower); *Pelargonium australe* (in

flower); *Solanum amblymerum*, Spiny kangaroo apple; *Isotoma anethifolia* (in flower); *Exocarpos cupressiformis*, Native cherry; *Eustrephus latifolius*, Wombat berry (in berry); *Billardiera scandens*, apple dumpling; *Wahlenbergia* sp, Blue bell (in flower); *Lomatia ?silaiifolia*; *Persoonia cornifolia*, Broad-leaved geebung; *Commelina diffusa*, Wandering jew (in flower); *Goodenia hederacea*, Ivy-leaf goodenia; *Hardenbergia violacea*, False sarsaparilla vine; *Adiantum silvaticum* (maiden hair family); *Clematis* sp; *Hoya* sp.

### Outing Report - Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April

In beautiful fine autumn weather, 19 members and visitors met at the Broadwater camping area in Sundown National Park. After smoko the group visited the information hut where we were able to view a map showing our proposed route and learn about the origins of the planking used to build this hut. We then followed the Permanent Track upstream to the junction of the river and Ooline Creek, walking beside an old boundary fence dating back to the original subdivisions. The fence was constructed of two grades of netting with two strands of barbwire on the top constructed in a flexible way so when kangaroos hit it they would be thrown back rather than breaking the fence.

We wandered up Ooline Creek naturalising along the way. Ooline, a rare and threatened tree, and other dry vine scrub species were identified along the creek banks. Most of us had a good view of a Yellow-faced Whipsnake, Rose Robins and numerous butterflies. We followed upstream until lunch, which was enjoyed on the rock cushions amidst the vine thicket growing in the gorge. A number of bird species were seen and heard. After lunch half of the group continued upstream to the falls whilst the rest wended their way back to the camping area for afternoon smoko.



The good season has meant that the native grasses, too many to name, were all in seed head and provided a wonderful understory to the woodland. As it was getting late we decided to leave the Western circuit for another time.

Plants seen:-

Silverleaf ironbark, white cypress, river oak, Ooline (*Cadellia pentastylis*), whalebone tree, hollyleaf birdseye, red ash (soap tree), tiny *Rostellularia* plants flowering all along the creek.

Margaret and Kris camped at the Broadwater for a few days and greatly added to the bird list.

### Bird List:- Sundown National Park 19/4/2013 to 21/4/2013

As Kris and I camped at Sundown on Friday and Saturday nights, this list includes some birds that were not seen on the outing on Sunday.

Magpie, peewee, crow, kookaburra, currawong, noisy miner, wedgetail eagle, apostle bird, duck (unidentified), grey-crowned babbler, eastern rosella, crimson rosella, galah, grey butcherbird, white-winged chough, wonga pigeon, welcome swallow, superb fairy wren, pied cormorant, dusky moor hen, red wattle bird, blue-faced honeyeater, white-plumed honeyeater, silver-eye, yellow-faced honeyeater, spiny cheeked honeyeater, striated pardalote, spotted pardalote, Jacky winter, rose robin, black-faced cuckoo shrike, restless flycatcher, grey fantail, , willy wagtail, red-browed firetail finch, white-throated treecreeper, brown treecreeper, grey shrike thrush, golden whistler, spangled drongo.

Yellow-faced Whipsnake, *Demansia psammophis*

**Butterflies:** greenish grass dart, grey ringlet, wanderer, lesser wanderer, common brown, cabbage white, grass blue, green striped blue, grass yellow (2), meadow argus, orchard butterfly, yellow admiral.



**Other organisms:** leech, water snails, yabby, black snake, yellow-faced whipsnake (above), kangaroo, deer, echidna. The last two were not seen on Sunday. *Margaret Carnell*

*Halgania brachyrhyncha* Peter G Wilson 1990  
formerly *H. preissiana*

About six years ago Glen and Jenny Holmes visited Orana and Margaret showed them a sample of a plant she had pressed, which she thought might have been a weed. It is a small plant with a rather insignificant blue flower. They identified it as *Halgania brachyrhyncha* (Boraginaceae). When we looked for it we could only find one small plant, although Margaret had seen numerous specimens previously. Recently they contacted us again to see if they could check the identity of the plant.

We went for a walk to the area where we had seen the plant. To our surprise, we found numerous plants in an area that had been burnt in a mosaic burn last August. The plants only grow in rocky conditions on a Northern slope and were mainly in the burnt area. The plants had come up and flowered since the fire. Further up the mountain in the unburned area, we found smaller plants all the way to the top. The Holmes estimate that there are over 1000 plants in an area 500 metres by 200 metres. There are no other records of *Halgania brachyrhyncha* occurring in the Granite Belt.

*Kris Carnell*



(On the Atlas of Living Australia there are records from the South coast S

of Moruya; N of Mittagong in the Nattai NP; N of Lithgow; a number of sites W of Denman in the Goulburn R and Wollemi NPs; W of Grafton near the Washpool NP; and W of Tenterfield; all in NSW. In Queensland it is recorded W of the Erringibba NP, west of Tara; and a number of sites from just N of Miles to east of Isla Gorge NP. Ed.)

[Link to ALA page for the species is HERE](#)



Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.

Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2013

Meeting opened: 7.35 pm

Attendance: 21 Apologies: 1 as per attendance book

**Minutes of the previous meeting:**

confirmed by L Saunders seconded by T McCosker carried

**Business arising from the minutes:** nil

**Correspondence:** as per folder

H Kruger moved correspondence be accepted seconded M Jefferies carried

**Financial Report:** \$390.50

H Kruger moved in the absence of C Smallwood that the financial report be accepted  
Seconded L Haselgrove.

**Outing Reports:**

**Weekday outing:** 5<sup>th</sup> April- Quart Pot Creek - Sentimental Rocks

**Sunday outing:** 21 April -Sundown NP - P Haselgrove

**Pre outing reports**

**Week day outing:** 3<sup>rd</sup> May – to be advised – R McCosker

**Weekend outing:** 19<sup>th</sup> May – Rivertree mines & Chimney – E Walker

**General Business:**

Printer has been researched and chosen for the printing of the Newsletter. An application has been placed with the Queensland Country Credit Union Community Grants Scheme for the same.

K Carnell moved; J Campbell seconded

That a notice be placed in the newsletter for members to decide if our short outings early in the month could be changed from Friday to Saturday. Our Sunday full day outings will remain.

J Campbell requested clarification on future of current Crown Land reserves. R McCosker to follow up Manager in Stanthorpe Council Office

**Next Meeting:** 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013

**This month's presentation:** Central Queensland National Parks – R McCosker

Meeting closed: 8.20pm

**FINANCIAL REPORT FOR APRIL 2013**

<b><u>Income</u></b>		<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>	
Balance c/f	613.90	CWA Stanthorpe	
		(room rent	50.00
		Post Box Renewal	99.00
	613.90		149.00
<b>Balance 24/04/2013</b>	<b>\$464.90</b>		

**Advance notice**

I am booked to do the talk at the June Field Nats meeting. I recently got back my video camera which has been with my daughter Louise and family for a number of years. It has enabled me to load onto my system a set of videos made around Kunming in China in 1998. These show some aspects of life in China not on the tourist agenda and some unpleasant to our eyes so be prepared! *Michael Jefferies*