



The Granite Belt Naturalist



Mail Address: Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, Stanthorpe Qld. 4380
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Web site <https://mysd.com.au/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



The Pyramids, Girraween National Park

Meetings: 4th Wednesday of each month at
Uniting Church, Small Hall, 113 High Street
Stanthorpe at 7.30pm

Outings: The Sunday following the 4th Wednesday
of each month

Subs: Single \$20.00, Family \$30.00 per annum, July
to June

CLUB OFFICE BEARERS – 2022/2023

President	Leon McCosker	46811737
Vice-presidents	Peter Haselgrove	46837255
	Robyn Murray	0488515311
Secretary/	Leslie Saunders	46813837
Treasurer	mobile	0403073442
Newsletter Editor	Margaret Carnell	46835268
Publicity Officer		
Librarian	Rob McCosker	46835371

**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, well-formed track, no steps, 5km or less. Clearly signposted. Suitable for wheelchairs with assistance.
2. Formed track. May have gentle hills and some steps. Clearly signposted. No experience required
3. Formed track, some obstacles, 20km or less. May have short steep hills and many steps. Some experience recommended.
4. Rough Track. May be long and very steep with few directional signs. For experienced bushwalkers.
5. Unformed track. Likely to be very rough, very steep and unmarked. For very experienced bushwalkers with specialised skills.

Coming Up

Wednesday 22nd February: Gunter Maywald

Sunday 26th February: *Piano Mill* at Willson's Downfall with Peter and Lyn Haselgrove

**Deadline for next newsletter
12th March 2023**

Pre-Outing February 26th 2023 – The Piano Mill at Willson's Downfall

Leaders: Peter & Lyn Haselgrove

Meet at Weeroona Park ready for a 9 am departure. We do not need to travel all the way in convoy and will meet again at Wylie Creek on Mt Lindesay road at the end of Sugarloaf Road.

We have not managed to do a pre-outing as we got rained out. We will try to get there before the outing. However, we will be walking mostly on a bush vehicle track, so the walk is fairly easy, though up and down.

Take morning tea to have at the cars when we arrive and lunch to carry in your pack. We do not envisage a long day.

Note: We saw on Google Maps that there are two ways of spelling Wilsons / Willsons Downfall.

Photos: Open eucalypt forest and the empty dam – we should notice some difference.



Outing Report - East Girraween – 17th November 2022



Wombat Burrow

The spur of the moment call for a short outing to see wildflowers on a ridge on the eastern edge of Girraween on Thursday 17th November attracted 10 people. After meeting at Weeroona Park at 2.00pm, on a rare beautiful spring day, we drove via Severnlea, Mt Tully and Eukey to park on the side of Pyramids Road not far from the Mt Norman Road turnoff. A short walk took us to a rocky ridge with numerous large boulders, the first of which had an active Wombat

burrow underneath it. A little

further up the ridge most of the boulders had King orchids, *Dendrobium speciosum*, on them but unfortunately few had flower stalks. Also between the boulders were several Golden

Glory pea bushes, *Gompholobium latifolium*, with their eye-catching golden 30mm pea flowers. After wandering around the bush for some time we returned to the cars and headed home – a brief but enjoyable afternoon.

Rob McCosker



Gompholobium latifolium



Diuris chrysantha

Flower list for the day

Goodenia hederacea Ivy-leaved Goodenia, *Stylidium graminifolium* Grass trigger plant, *Hibbertia aspera* Rough Guinea flower, *H. riparia* Erect Guinea flower, *Diurus chrysantha* Granite double-tail, *Gompholobium latifolium* Golden glory pea, *Dodonaea hirsuta* Hairy hopbush, *Spyridium scortechinii* Pepper and salt bush, *Prostanthera saxicola* Spotted mint bush, *Erythrorchis cassythoides* Leafless climbing orchid, *Cassinia capensis* Wild rosemary, *Ozothamnus diosmifolius* Sago bush (White form), *Dillwynia phyllicoides* Showy parrot pea, * *Senecia madagascariensis* Fireweed, *Olearia gravis* Large daisy bush, *Craspedia canens* Grey Billy buttons, *Dianella revoluta* Flax lily, *Tricoryne elatior* Yellow rush lily, *Kunzea obovata* Pink kunzea, *Actinotus helianthi* Flannel flower, *Brachyloma daphnoides* Daphne heath, *Dendrobium speciosum* King orchid.



Prostanthera saxicola



Olearia gravis

Outing Report – Bald Rock – 22nd November 2022

A small group of Field Nats met at the day use area for morning tea where we discussed the history of the park.

The park is in the New England granite belt, where about 220 million years ago an episode of granite magmatism resulted in the intrusion of the Stanthorpe Adamellite into the surrounding metamorphic and sedimentary rock. Subsequent uplift and erosion of the New England Fold Belt has seen the majority of the surrounding sediments and metamorphic rocks eroded away, with the Stanthorpe Adamellite remaining due to its resistance to weathering.

Bald Rock is 750m long and 500m wide, it's the largest granite monolith (rock) in Australia, and it rises over 200m above the surrounding landscape and 1277m above sea level.

The park was established in 1971, so 2021 marked its 50th anniversary of becoming a National Park. Due to covid-19 the celebration was held this year.

The track up the face to the top is closed due to work being carried out by the National Parks to create a wheel-chair accessible path and picnic area at the base of the rock.

Our group walked up the *bungoona track* towards the top noting the various wild flowers along the track. As we approached the top, the rain started to fall making the granite rock dangerous to walk on. So, under the shelter of granite boulders, we had lunch and fellowship until the rain eased up to head back to the carpark. Although we didn't reach the trig station at the top, a good day was had by all.

Plant list

Red Kennedy pea (*kennedia rubicunda*), white everlasting (*coronidium boormanii*), climbing guinea flower (*hibbertia scandens*), twining glycine (*glycine clandestine*), prickly moses with galls (*acacia ulicifolia*), green wattle (*acacia irrorate*) conesticks (*petrophile canescens*), erect guinea flower (*hibbertia riparia*), grass trigger plant (*stylidium graminifolium*), dogwood (*jacksonia scoparia*), false sarsaparilla vine (*hardenbergia violacea*), showy podolepis (*podolepis jaceoides*), fringed lily (*thyanotus tuberosus*).

Bird list

Yellow faced honeyeater, white throated tree creeper, rufus whistler, grey thrush.



Climbing guinea flower



Lunch out of the rain on the *bungoona track*

Christmas Breakup- 4th December 2022 – McCosker's Place

The Christmas breakup was held at McCosker's where we met for afternoon tea and talk, then went for a walk around the garden and along a track which followed a creek, which had been mined for tin in the 1920's, leaving deep channels left after the tin was removed. The walk continued along the creek, a tributary of Kettle Swamp creek to the road and back to the house.

Back at the house we had a BBQ dinner and enjoyable social interaction to end another year.



I would like to add a little to Leon and Kerry's report.

We really enjoyed our walk around their extensive garden admiring a variety of *Alstromeria* cultivars planted beneath a variety of shrubs. The vegetable garden was most impressive and the berries had a very good crop, some of which we sampled at afternoon tea. Everything was very lush and the water feature was delightful. The walk along the old mining area was made even more interesting by helping find things on the list

Holly had made for her son.

Thanks to Kerry and Leon for hosting the break-up.

Margaret Carnell

Minutes of the General Meeting
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc
23rd November 22

Meeting opened: 7.24pm

Attendance & Apologies: As per Attendance Book

Minutes of the previous meeting [amended]:

Confirmed.....Rob.....

Seconded..... Peter

Carried

Business arising from the minutes:

Photos for the website is still a work in progress. This will be reported on at the February meeting.

Correspondence: read as per correspondence book

Moved..... Lesley

Seconded.....Leon

Carried

Financial Report: Lesley presented the Treasurer's Report Current Balance \$2376.14 as at 11/11/22
Petty Cash.... \$102.25

Total..... \$2,478.39

- Again, I apologise if e-mail addresses have been forwarded from the Gmail address.

- At the meeting 2 checks were handed to me for members subs for 22/23. **Could I please ask members if subs could be paid directly into the Commonwealth Bank BSB 064-431 Acc.00902063.** Internet Banking is a way of life now and does alleviate the responsibility of physically handling other people's monies....and losing it. These monies will show up in next month's bank reconciliation.
- An invoice has been received from "abw" printers for the production of flyers for the Ananda Pali Expo. Kris will be reimbursed for his outlay of \$50. This expense will be shown on the next bank reconciliation.

Moved Lesley

Seconded.....Kerry

Carried

Outing Report: The Outing to Foxbar Falls was a great success.

Pre-Outing Report:

- Bald Rock Bungoona Track
- No outing for December
- Christmas get together at Leon and Kerry's home on 4th December at 3pm
- **Next meeting to be held FEBRUARY 22nd 2023**

General Business: There was an opening of the TIMECAPSULE that was put down in 1988 with the Lion's Club involvement. It being the 150th Anniversary of Stanthorpe town. The Field Naturalist Club made a contribution at the initial sealing of the capsule by including many of the Club's Newsletters. This material can be viewed at the International Club. A flyer has been sent to all members via Gmail with regards to the next public viewing. President Leon asked members for ideas of other material that could be included in the capsule before it was resealed. Members suggested that the booklet of "Flowers of the Granite Belt" produced by the Stanthorpe Rare Wildflower Consortium would be a perfect contribution. Who knows what changes to these species will occur in the future. Theresa will co-ordinate with Leon regarding this matter.

November Speaker and Topic: Andrew PengellyIndigenous Plants for Health
The topic was covered with many questions from members regarding edible fruits and the distillation of essential oils. Andrew also showed slides of rare and endangered species that can be found in the Torrington area.

Specimens: -

- Rob displayed a bird's nest completely formed out of dog's hair.
- Rob also displayed 2 bird's eggs.... species unknown. 1 unbroken egg, the other with a hole. Both eggs found in the same locale.
- Leon mentioned that a deceased Echidna was found on his property. There was no indication as to how the Echidna had died as the corpse was in a perfect condition

Next Meeting: Wednesday 22nd FEBURARY 2023

Meeting Closed: 8.08pm

Spottings



I had seen a ground orchid stem in a mostly untouched part of our garden, with either buds or seeds, on a couple of occasions over the years but had never seen the flower until this year, on the 11th of November, when this bright blue Sun orchid caught my eye. I think it is *Thelymitra nuda*.

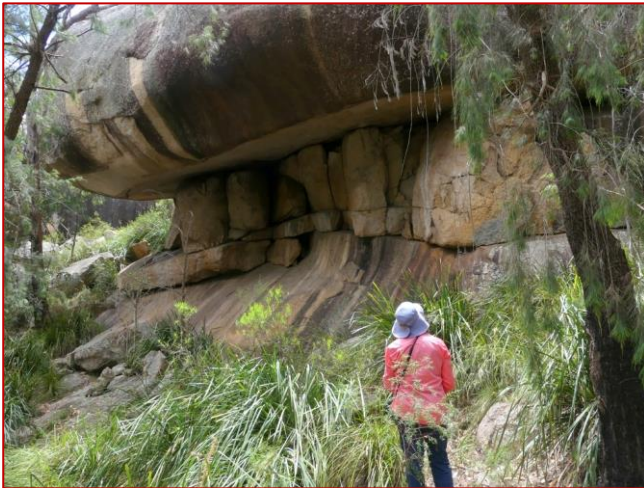
Rob McCosker



Two dragons at *Orana* in November



Cone bush and Lomandra – Bald Rock Outing - *G Rayner*



These will be our last Spottings from *Orana*, as we have sold and are moving to town.

Top Left: Bird's nest at the back boundary.

Top Right: A frustrated koel hoping to breach the netting over the mulberry tree.

Middle Left: Scaveola sp

Middle Right: Flannel Flowers

Left: Rock Overhang

Below: A view from the lower rock slab.

