



# The Granite Belt Naturalist



**Mail Address:** Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, Stanthorpe Qld. 4380  
stanthorpefieldnats@gmail.com

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 4<sup>th</sup> 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	0427835268
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 22<sup>nd</sup> March: *The Kokoda Track* with Lesley Saunders

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March: Autumn visit to Rock Slab with Kris Carnell

**Deadline for next newsletter**  
**15<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

As we have changed our address and other details, could you please send contributions for the magazine to [margaretcarnell76@gmail.com](mailto:margaretcarnell76@gmail.com)  
Thank you.

**Pre-Outing Report – Autumn Visit to Rock Slab in Girraween – 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**Leader:** Kris Carnell ph 0407165031

We will meet as usual at Weeroona Park at 9 a.m. Our meeting spot for morning tea will be a short distance along Mt Norman Road from the intersection with Pyramids Road. After morning tea we will climb the rock slab out to the south carrying our lunch. We will be looking for changes to the environment since we were last there in October 2022. Instead of doing a loop walk we will be exploring further to the south than our previous visits. The return trip will be retracing our steps and we plan to back at the cars for afternoon tea. If we have spare time we will look at the area on the western side of Pyramids Road.

**Outing Report – The Piano Mill – 26<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

Our February outing was to The Piano Mill just south of the Mt Lindesay Road where fifteen members were joined by a couple from the Tenterfield Nats club and the owners and friends of The Piano Mill.

The day was beautiful, very little cloud or wind and a comfortable walking temperature. We had smoko at The Mill site whilst Bruce and Jocelyn, the owners, spoke to us about the history of their project. We carried lunch and walked around a slashed track identifying plants and birds. around a slashed track identifying plants and birds. We stopped for lunch at the main dam area before completing the circuit back to the cars.

The area visited on top of the Dividing Range just west of the scarp and fairly level, has been grazed and logged in the past but is now in a fairly pristine condition. Bruce and Jocelyn have included all uncleared areas of the property in a future Conservation Reserve in perpetuity. With an easterly/southerly aspect the area has fairly moist climate and is covered with tall eucalypt forest with emergent rainforest species in the gullies.

Our route had been slashed recently and was easy walking, with a descent into a deep gully and an easy climb back up to the higher ground leading to the lunch spot by their dam and picnic area. After lunch a short walk led back to the cars.

Birds were not plentiful but nice sightings were a black-faced monarch (a summer visitor) and a large-billed scrubwren in the gully. A group of very enthusiastic botanists compiled a large plant list. Some members of the party were attended by leeches (one member for the very first time) but all in all it was a very nice day. We were finished before 3pm.

At the dam site, a large log was balanced on a post such that it could be revolved quite easily. There were metal tubes hanging from the log which hit upstanding rocks placed on the ground at various distances from the pivot point so that different notes played as the log was revolving.

106 plant species have been identified so far, which is available to any member who wants it. We only ended up with eight birds seen or heard on the day. Peter identified a greater number of birds on a previous visit to The Piano Mill.

Rufous Whistler, Golden Whistler, White-throated Treecreeper, Black-faced Monarch, Yellow Robin  
Lewin's Honeyeater, Large-billed Scrubwren, Grey Fantail

These lists will be forwarded to Bruce and Jocelyn.



**Top Left:** Starting our walk with The Piano Mill in the background.

**Top Right:** Lunch at the dam

**Left:** Punk Rock in the rainforest.

**Minutes of the General Meeting**  
**Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> February 23**

**Meeting opened:** 7.38pm

**Attendance & Apologies:** As per Attendance Book

**Minutes of the previous meeting** taken as read

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

Seconded..... Kris

Carried

**Business arising from the minutes:**

Photos for the website is still a work in progress. This matter will be deferred for 3 months ..i.e. May 23

**Correspondence:** read as per correspondence book.

There has been a problem with forwarding information from the Gmail account. This matter should be resolved shortly.

Moved..... Lesley

Seconded.....Leon

Carried

**Financial Report:** Lesley presented the Treasurer's Report Current Balance \$2406.14 as at 20/2/23  
Petty Cash.... \$102.25

**Total..... \$2508.39**

The Treasurer has received communication from the Commonwealth Bank that the bank is phasing out the use of cheque books as of 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2023. New paperwork will be required to be signed to allow the treasurer to use online facilities from June 23 onwards i.e., transfer monies from our account to another i.e. paying rent and settling invoices etc. Internet Banking is a way of life now and does alleviate the responsibility of physically handling other people's monies....and losing it.

Two cheques were made out \$125.00 room rental and \$148.00 for Post Box rental These cheques have not yet been presented and will show up on next month's reconciliation. An invoice for half the Post Box rental has been sent to the Camera Club.

In response to the plea in last month's Newsletter Lynette Hazelgrove has offered to take over the position of Treasurer at the end of this Financial year.....Many thanks to Lynette.

Moved ..... Lesley

Seconded.....Margaret

Carried

**General Business: -**

TIMECAPSULE...Field Naturalist Newsletters from Issue no. 1 in 1969 on USB stick and on DVD were laced therein together with a brief typed history of the club written by Rob McCosker. See Attached. (This will be sent separately as it is a PDF file and cannot be attached to the newsletter)

**New Business Arising: -**

An email request from Brisbane resident and frequent visitor to this region Charles Naylor to join the March outing was forwarded to president Leon...who replied in the affirmative.

Rob phoned the secretary with regards to the club's Insurance. It appears that a survey form needed to be completed and sent to the QWaLC...[Queensland Water and Land Care] by the end of February. No monies change hands but a Certificate of Currency is issued by AON Insurance to cover the club against any liability. This survey form has now been completed within the time frame. A copy of the survey form with the relevant User Name and Password is held in the file containing Insurance details held by the secretary for future reference..

Loen tabled a brief outline of the club's activities over the past year given to The Granite Borders Landcare Committee Inc. Please see attached.

(This will be sent separately as it cannot be attached)

**Xmas Breakup: -**

An enjoyable get together to finish up the year.

**Pre-Outing Report: -**



The visit to The Piano Mill will go ahead as scheduled ...rain or shine. Please meet at Weroona Park to leave 9am sharp. A reminder re this has been sent to all members.

**February Speaker and Topic:** Gunter Maywald with his topic on “Bugs”. A fascinating topic with amazing slides. At times you could hear a pin drop we were all absorbed in the information presented.

**Next Outing Report:** - 26<sup>th</sup> March Kris Carnell .... Autumn Girraween Rock Slab.

Meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00 am to travel to the rock slab at the corner of Mt Norman and Pyramids Road. We will have smoko before climbing the slab and will carry lunch.

**March Speaker and Topic:** -

Chris Moon .... Tektites, glassy objects from meteorite impact.

**Specimens:** - Leon brought to the meeting objects that looked like “truffles”. A species of fungus found under an oak tree at the Community Gardens in Stanthorpe town.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023

**Meeting Closed:** 8 pm

## Spottings



**Above Left:** This critter was in the bathroom of the house we are renting just after we moved in. Theresa identified it as a house centipede. *Margaret Carnell*

**Above Right:** Insect on hibiscus flower

**Below Right:** Caterpillars at base of a tree near the Red Bridge

**Below Left:** This water dragon was defending its territory beside Quart Pot Creek *Kris Carnell*







Kris Carnell spotted these whilst walking along Quart Pot Creek.

**Top Left:** White-faced Heron

**Top Right:** One of many corellas

**Above Left:** Wood Ducks preening

**Above Right:** These red-backed parrots blended perfectly with the grass until they moved.

**Right:** Leaf Roll Spider