



# The Granite Belt Naturalist



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



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 26<sup>th</sup> April: *Tektites* with Chris Moon

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April: *Bundanoon* with Peter and Lyn Haselgrove

**Deadline for next newsletter**  
**12<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

**Speaker for April Meeting**

Chris Moon, our guest speaker will be talking about *Tektites* which are glassy objects found from meteorites. Chris calls himself an amateur geologist and archaeologist who has spent a lot of time in Western Australia where he has found many Tektites. He requests if anyone has Tektites, bring them along to the meeting for identification and discussion. This will be an interesting talk.

**Pre-Outing Report 30 April 2023 – Bundanoon**

**Leaders: Peter and Lyn Haselgrove**

Phone: 0409 006 063

PLEASE NOTE: DATES HAVE CHANGED. The April outing was in the calendar to visit Sundown and the May outing was to Bundanoon.

In April, we are visiting a private property on Traprock with ironbark box woodland. Bundanoon is on the top of the catchment of Bracker Creek. On the property, we will drive to a couple of different areas and then explore on foot. Wear long pants and walking shoes/boots. We should be able to get to a high point with nearly 360° views.

We will have smoko when we arrive and Ade, the owner, will tell us a bit about his property and surrounds. Take morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.

Meet at Weeroona Park at 8:15 a.m. We'll give road directions on the day. Four-wheel drive vehicles will be needed to move around the property, so it will be best if we can carpool at Weeroona Park.

- Please RSVP by 23<sup>rd</sup> April, so that we know that everyone has a seat in a 4WD vehicle. Email: [pely95@gmail.com](mailto:pely95@gmail.com)
- Would those with a 4WD please let us know how many extra passengers you can take?
- Anyone who needs a seat in a 4WD vehicle please let us know when you RSVP.

**Outing Report, Girraween, March 26 2023**



You can see why Holly did the bird list

As with most of the outings the Carnells have led lately, what was planned for the day wasn't what happened. At 8 a.m. it was bright sunshine in Warwick, showery at Stanthorpe and Severnlea and raining east of Storm King Dam. It was decided to go ahead with an outing but not to climb the rock slab because of the danger of slipping on wet rocks and also the possibility of rain.

We met on Mt Norman Road just past the intersection with Pyramids Road and had our obligatory morning tea. At this stage the weather was fine but we decided to play safe and walk along Mt Norman Road. For a start there wasn't a

lot to see but we did see a passionfruit vine and Rob sampled the fruit. We also saw the plant that is the food source for the Monarch butterfly. When we got to the turnoff to the Creek to Peak trail we decided to follow the trail for a while. The pace slowed down as there was lots more to interest us. David noticed a different type of rock in a culvert and his comments on that are elsewhere in the magazine. When we reached the fork in the trail it was decided to backtrack to the cars and go to the day use area for lunch. Before leaving some of us walked back along Pyramids Road to look at the Parson's Bands orchids that Teresa had spotted earlier. Between the Mt Norman turn off and the Dr Roberts waterhole carpark there were some impressive displays of Banksia trees in bloom. After lunch we walked along the junction track. There was a good flow in the creek and it was pleasant walking. It was interesting to note that there were a number of wildflowers blooming out of what we would have said was their normal season. Just before we reached the spot where you can cross the creek to return to the day use area Charles Naylor, our new member from Brisbane, left us to return home. It was good to have his company and contribution for the day but a very long day for him. After we crossed the creek we noticed the second green bottle brush we had seen for the day. This one was *flavovirens* and the first one on Mt Norman road was a creamy-green one. A leisurely walk back to the day use area and a final cuppa and we went our separate ways. It turned out not a bad day.



*Kris Carnell*



**Rock in Culvert**

The rock pictured raised some interest as it did not match rocks typically found in Girraween. Many would know that the park is crisscrossed with dykes. As the magma slowly cooled deep underground, it allowed time for large crystals to grow. These crystals are typical of local granite. As the magma cooled and hardened, it contracted with cracks subsequently forming. Magma later squeezed into these cracks and cooled much more quickly than the rock into which it



intruded. Consequently, the crystal structure of the dykes is typically much finer. The chemical composition is the same or very similar to the surrounding rock.

What is unusual about the rock in the photo is that the dyke contained in the specimen appears to have a different composition from the granite into which it intruded. Such a rock is of a type unlike any rock type that I have so far seen in Girraween. Being much darker, this suggests it does not contain much, if any, of the pink orthoclase feldspar that is typical of granite. It also does not include much of the lighter coloured plagioclase feldspars. It raises the question of the rock's origin. As it was in an area where work was done to stabilise a culvert, it is most likely to have been brought in from somewhere else on the Granite Belt. Maybe some members have knowledge of rock with this texture and may know of local quarries where it may be found.

#### Granite 101

You may have noted on geology maps the mention of adamellite and wondered what it is. Granite tends to be used as a generic term by most of us, but geologically speaking, true granite is pink and contains primarily pink orthoclase feldspar and quartz. Stanthorpe sits on true granite. Adamellite is a pink grey granite which is typical of much of the granite belt, including Girraween. It has a mix of quartz and pink orthoclase along with the white grey form of plagioclase feldspar. Where the pink orthoclase is missing from the granite, called by some, grey granite, this rock is correctly referred to as granodiorite. This rock is quite common across large areas of the New England. As the granite becomes darker with the composition containing the darker minerals including biotite mica, pyroxene and hornblende, it often takes on the name of black granite. This is a magnificent rock. Its correct name is gabbro. This dense rock is a much rarer rock than its more buoyant lighter coloured relatives and by comparison, rarely reaches the surface.

*David Wilson*

#### **Bird List 26/03/23:** Thanks to Holly Patti for supplying most of this list

Eastern rosella, Wedge tail eagle, Musk lorikeet, Pied Currawong, Red wattlebird, Crimson rosella, Yellow faced honeyeater, White naped honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Grey fantail, White eared honeyeater, Eastern yellow robin, White browed scrubwren, Black faced cuckoo shrike, White throated gerygone, Satin bowerbird, White throated tree creeper, Magpie, Rainbow lorikeet, Yellow tufted honeyeater, Australian Raven, Fairy wren species (female), Red browed finch, Willie wagtail, Pied butcher bird, Grey Crowned Babbler, Noisy minor, Red wattlebird, Striated pardalote, unidentified raptor, Magpie.

#### **Flowering Plant List:** Thanks to all members who supplied photos and information for this list.



*Acacia granitica*, *Actinotus helianthi* Flannel Flower, *Bursaria spinos*, *Cassinia quinquefaria*, *Cassinia wyberbensis*, *Comesperma retusum* Matchsticks, Milkweed, Yellow Rush Lily, *Dodonaea falcata* – fruit Hop Bush, *Isotoma anethifolia*, *Lobelia purpurascens* White Root, *Solanum sp.*, *Pimelea neoanglica*, Peach Bush, *Bulbine semibarbata*, *Plectranthus sp.*, Climbing lily (old flower stalks), *Brachyscome macrocarpa* (underside of leaf purple), *Brachyscome stuartii*, *Murdannia*

*graminea*, *Glycine clandestine*, *Melaleuca* sp. (cream flowers, narrow leaves), *Melaleuca flavovirens*, *Olax stricta*, *Ozothamnus diosmifolius* sago bush, *Podolepis jaceoides*, *Eriochilus cucullatus* Parsons Bands, *Micromyrtus sessilis*, *Styphelia breviflora* Five Corners, *Trachymene incisa* wild parsnip, *Wahlenbergia* sp. Australian Bluebell, *Xerochrysum bracteatum*, Golden Everlasting, *Banksia integrifolia*, *Allocasuarina* sp., Purple Top, Stinking Roger, There were also a number of fungi.

**Minutes of the General Meeting**  
**Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc**  
**22nd March 23**

**Meeting opened:** 7.30pm

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

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

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

Seconded..... Lesley

Carried

**Business arising from the minutes:**

- Photos for the website is still a work in progress. This matter will be deferred.i.e. May 23
- Gmail problems resolved
- Time capsule filled and sealed

**Correspondence:** read as per correspondence book. A new member Charles Naylor has been received into the club and subs received. Welcome Charles. A newsletter from the Queensland Naturalist Club Journal was tabled for members to peruse. [ Lynette stated that she and Peter were attendees and the trip was excellent and very informative].

Moved..... Lesley

Seconded.....Holly

Carried

**Financial Report:** Lesley presented the Treasurer's Report Current Balance \$237.14 as at 19/03/23

Petty Cash.... \$102.25

**Total..... \$2339.39**

All cheques have been presented. The Camera Club's contribution for P.O. Box hire and subs for C Naylor have been included in this amount.

Moved ..... Lesley

Seconded..... Teresa

Carried

**General Business: -**

- Leon brought us to the attention of National Eucalypt Day 23<sup>rd</sup> March 23
- There has been a request for a small branch of the Prickly Pear plant from Charles Naylor. There was a spirited discussion re the differentiation between Prickly Pear/Tree Pear if indeed there is one. ***Holly volunteered to find out more information regarding this matter plus the spread/eradication and Cactoblastis activity to enable the information to go into the next magazine. Thank you, Holly.***
- The AGM of the Border Land Care group is due soon [05/05/23] at the Tenterfield Golf Club. Rob kindly volunteered to RSVP and be this club's representative at that meeting. Thank you, Rob.

**New Business Arising: - Nil**

**Outing Report: -** The outing to the Piano Mill was held on a beautiful sunny day. The hosts were congenial and gave an informative talk on the background of the establishment of the Piano Mill concept. The local botanists were invaluable to the owners with their knowledge of the diversity of plant life on the property.

**Outing Report:** - Kris gave a brief pre-outing report about “Autumnal Girraween Rock Slab” on 26<sup>th</sup> March.

**Next Outing Report:** - 30<sup>th</sup> April. *Bundanoon* a trip to be led by Peter Hazelgrove.

**February Speaker and Topic:** Lesley Saunders...” Walking in the footsteps of Ghosts”. A trip along the Kokoda Trail. Completed in 7 brutal days in 2012. She survived the walk with many memories.... Good, bad and heartbreaking.

**April Speaker and Topic:** - Chris Moon .....Tektites, glassy objects from meteoric impacts.

**Specimens:** - Leon displayed information with regards to the Time Capsule.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023

**Meeting Closed:** 7.55 pm

## Spottings

Thanks to Theresa Clifford for these interesting photos and information

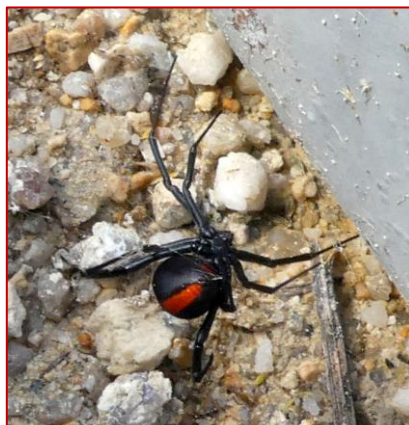


While walking my dogs around the block a few days ago, I noticed an insect flying in and around a conifer. I thought it looked a bit different, so stopped to try and get a photo. Only had my phone and trying to hold dogs still was not easy.

It appears my ‘insect’ was something I have never seen before. My app identified it as a *Porismus* which I then looked up on ALA and it looks like it is a *Porismus strigatus* (Pied lacewing).



Amazing what you find just in a normal sized backyard. This was on my clothes line this morning, I think warming up and drying out in the sun as he/she was facing the sun rising. I believe an *Acraea andromacha* – Glasswing butterfly. It was another first for me.



Kris Carnell spotted these two visitors to the backyard in Bridge Street.

**Far Left:** A handsome Blue Tongue.

**Left:** Red-backed spider that was hiding between two planks