



# 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 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 24<sup>th</sup> May: *Flinders Ranges* with David Wilson

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May: Morgans Gully and Boonoo Boonoo Falls area.

**Deadline for next newsletter  
19<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

**Pre-Outing Report 28<sup>th</sup> May - Morgans Gully and Boonoo Boonoo**

The outing on the 28<sup>th</sup> will be to the Boonoo Boonoo area. Unfortunately, when Kris and Margaret went to do the pre-outing, they found the park closed for bridge repairs. As they are no longer able to lead the outing, various members are helping out on the day.

Meet at Weeroona Park at 9 a.m. and travel to Morgans Gully, about 50km. After morning tea we will explore the area where a hand dug water race was cut through the rock to wash for gold. After that the area downstream will be explored. You will not need to carry lunch. If time permits we will also go to Boonoo Boonoo Falls.

In 1882 Frederick, Edwin (Ned) and Thomas Morgan pegged out a gold mining lease at Ironstone Mountain which was later named Mt Morgan. I understand that Morgans Gully is named after the same Morgans or one of them.

At the moment there is an alert for 1080 baiting in the National Park. Visitor Fees apply.

**Outing Report for Bundanoon Outing 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023**



On top of Mt Kong Haakon 785m

Nine people were undeterred by the risk of showers to drive the 65km west of Stanthorpe to the Quoll Island of 30000 acres, 12000 acres of which are contained on "Bundanoon", where we met our host for the day Ade Larsen. The Larsen family have owned the property for over 50 years, originally as a sheep and cattle enterprise, but since completely de-stocking in recent years with the aim now to restore it to an ecological natural haven. The 30000 acre Quoll Island has a watershed running north-south through the centre which creates two riparian

feeder systems, one feeds the Dumaresq River to the west and the other Bracker Creek and Coolmunda Dam.



Mt Jibbinbar

After car pooling into four vehicles we drove from the homestead past the shearers quarters built in the early 30's and the 3 stand shearing shed built in the late 20's and continued up to Mt Kong Haakon (750m ASL) where we got a wonderful view and a chance to explore some of the surrounding remnant forest. Tumbledown gums were starting to flower so many birds were seen, particularly Honeyeaters. We had morning tea here and soaked up the views with Mt Jibbenbar to the east, Paschendaele Tower and the growing number of towers at the Karara wind farm to the

north. To the north west was Mt Bulaganang and Michael pointed out the tower on The Magistrate to the south as well as Torrington NP.

We then continued on a scenic bush track up to a lower peak called Pine Cloud where we observed remnant Callitris (Black and White Cypress spp) and the Cochineal effectively killing the velvet tree pear. The next stop was an open area where we saw the grave of a two year old child of shepherds who ran sheep in this small cleared area. Next to the grave were the remnants of a Cypress saw mill where logs were trimmed with crosscut saws before being carted to a building site. We had lunch here before heading on past a Southern Cross windmill and it's hand dug well with a nearby stone and concrete tank and water trough.

We drove along a rocky creek to an aboriginal occupation site where we witnessed an old shield tree and spear head sharpening stone which was found recently by one of the local Aboriginal Rangers. Ade told us that the shield was cut for one side of a burial casket and further along the track we saw aboriginal seed grinding stones.

Along the way we saw some wonderful old growth Eucalyptus trees of various species, including a Mugga Eucalypt forest and Box Gum Grassy Woodland. Interspersed with Cypress and Iron Bark country, paused to look at a salt lick site used by native animals including macropods and emus and finished off with a peaceful walk down to a small ravine, before returning to the homestead having driven along about 20km of bush tracks.



Ade Larson at the Shield Tree

Rob McCosker

#### Plant list – plants seen in flower

Poison pimelia *Pimelea neoanglica*, Curry bush *Cassinia laevis*, Black wattle *Acacia leiocalyx* subsp. *leiocalyx*, Tumbledown gum *Eucalyptus dealbata*, Peach bush *Olearia elliptica* subsp. *elliptica*, Mayne's pest *Glandularia aristigera* (Feral weed), Bluebell *Wahlenbergia planiflora* subsp. *longipila*,

Spiny kangaroo apple, *Solanum amblymerum*, Native St John's wort *Hypericum gramineum*. Ade sent me this quick Eucalypt list: Yellow Box, White Box, Grey Gum, Hill Gum, Mugga and Narrow Leafed Iron bark spp,

#### **Bird List – thanks to Sue Francis**

Little Eagle, Yellow-tufted Honeyeater, Noisy Friarbird, White-plumed Honeyeater, White-naped Honeyeater, Silver eye, Rainbow Lorikeet, Little Lorikeet, Lewin's Honeyeater, White-eared Honeyeater, Brown Honeyeater, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, Scarlet Honeyeater, Currawong, Magpie, Red-winged Parrot, King Parrot, Grey Fantail, Welcome Swallow, Willie wagtail, Emu.

#### **Other sightings – unfortunately no Quolls.**

Eastern grey kangaroo , Swamp wallaby, Young echidna - crossing road on drive home.

#### **Chris Moon's talk on Tektites**

Chris and his wife Sue, now live in Tenterfield. They have lived in West Australia where Chris spent a lot of his time on aboriginal out stations. This is where he collected many of his tektites in the claypans.



Tektites are small pebble-like glassy objects of Earth material that have been melted by meteorite impact, splashed up into our atmosphere and fallen to Earth.

There are four tektite fields in the world: Asia, Ivory Coast, Germany, and North America.

Chris showed us his extensive collection of Tektites of all shapes and sizes, many he had found and some he had bought. Ian and David also brought along specimens of tektites.

We thanked Chris for his very interesting talk on Tektites.

Chris Moon with Tecktites on display

#### **Minutes of the General Meeting Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc** **April 26<sup>th</sup> 2023**

**Meeting opened:** 7.35pm

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

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

Confirmed.....Leon.....

Seconded..... Lesley

Carried

#### **Business arising from the minutes:**

- Photos for the website is still a work in progress. This matter will be deferred to next month.
- Prickly Pear information ably covered by Holly's comprehensive article in the last Newsletter.
- Rob to attend the Landcare AGM 26<sup>th</sup> May and report.
- National eDeposit of Field Nats Magazines explained. This is a legal requirement that the club needs to fulfill. The Newsletters are sent electronically to Brisbane and an annual acknowledgement is sent to the club. Publications can be discoverable through Trove. Thank you, Kris, for attending to this matter of which I was unaware.



The Granite Belt Naturalist May 2023 Vol. 558

- The Wildflower Consortium is running a fire ecology workshop on 27<sup>th</sup> May at the Glen Aplin Hall. Registration is required <http://trybooking.com/CHHD> and a fee of \$10 will be necessary. Ian and Theresa stated they may attend. ....to be reported at June meeting.
- Discussion on being included in the "My Directory" publication. To increase awareness of club's existence and encourage more membership.....Leon to investigate and report at next month's meeting
- The current Secretary reminded club members that she intends to VACATE this position at the end of the financial year. WITHOUT A SECRETARY THE CLUB WILL FOLD! Please consider nominating for this position to ensure the continuation of the running of the club.

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

Moved..... Lesley

Seconded.....Lyn

Carried

**Financial Report:** Lesley presented the Treasurer's Report Current Balance \$2237.14 as at 19/04/23

Petty Cash.... \$102.25

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

Moved ..... Lesley

Seconded..... Lyn

Carried

**General Business: -**

- Holly gave a brief report of her attendance at a Regent Honeyeater information seminar recently. She was impressed by the captive breeding programme information and a presentation given by an expert on Mistletoe also. Thank you, Holly.

**Pre-Outing Report:** Bundanoon Station 30<sup>th</sup> April led by Peter. He reminded members to car pool where appropriate. A text will be made if rain cancels the trip.

**Outing Report:** Covered in the Newsletter

**Next Outing Report: -** 28<sup>th</sup> May.... Ooline Creek at Sundown National Park..... trip to be led by Peter Hazelgrove.

**April Speaker and Topic:** Chris Moon.....Tektites, glassy objects from meteoric impacts. A very informative talk with a myriad of examples of Tektites from 3 Australasian strewn fields. Many questions were ably answered from the participants at the meeting. Many Thanks to Chris.

**May Speaker and Topic: -** Davis Wilson...." Flinders Ranges".

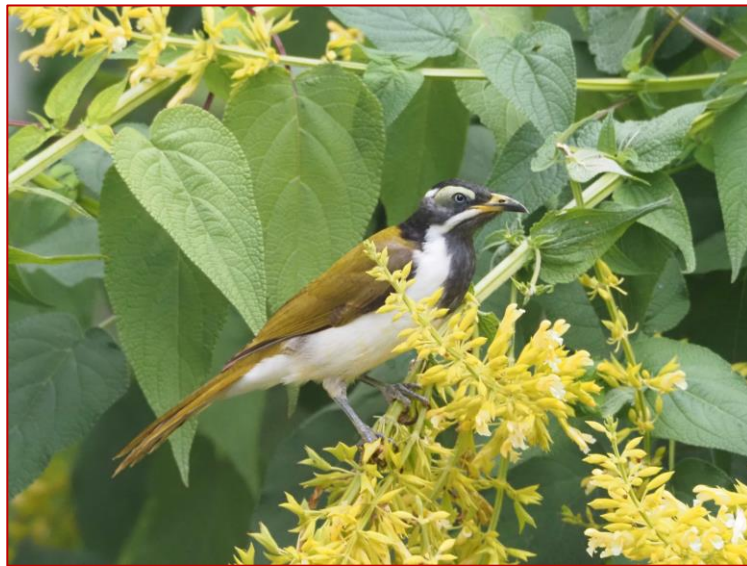
**Specimens: -** Trish brought in a sample of "wool" found captured on a fence line. Trish was not convinced the sample was sheep's wool and asked for comments. A discussion was forthcoming re deer/koala/possum/rabbit? No consensus was formed. Sorry Trish.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023

**Meeting Closed: 9.25pm**

I must apologise for the magazine being late this month.  
Life got in the Way.  
*Margaret*

# Spottings



**Top Left:** A clump of *Pterostylis ampliata* Large Autumn Greenhood at Mt Patti

**Top Right:** *Pterostylis ampliata*. Photos by Holly Patti

**Above Centre:** A blue-faced honeyeater feasting on Yellow Salvia blossom  
Photo by John Salini