



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/>

Please send contributions to the magazine to: margaretcarnell76@gmail.com

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	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 26th July: AGM and *Remember Last Year* followed by supper
Sunday 29th July: Stone House at Mt Norman with Rob McCosker

Deadline for next newsletter
13th August 2023

AGM AND *REMEMBER LAST YEAR*

WEDNESDAY 26TH JULY

**PLEASE BRING A PLATE FOR SUPPER AND
YOUR OWN CUP.**

If you have any photos of outings for the last 12 months could you please send them to Kris Carnell at carnellkris@bigpond.com or contact him to arrange for him to put them on a USB

Pre-Outing Report - the Stone House - 30th July 2023

Depart Weeroona Park at 9.00am and meet at the Mt Norman Day Use Area for botanising and morning tea. We will then car pool and drive back to the Arch, as there is a very limited parking area there.

We will carry lunch and walk up the track to the house, then after inspecting it, walk on to a stony hill with, hopefully, some early wildflowers. We will return to the Stone House for lunch then head down the track for a bit and if time permits, detour to inspect a group of very large granite tors then return to the cars and drive back to the Day Use Area.

My memory of the history of the Stone House is pretty vague but I think it was built by Ky Kneiling in the early 1970's, as a dwelling and stables to run a horse riding venture using the many tracks put in by wood cutters who carted cord-wood to the Meatworks in Jennings. Much of the construction help

was from friends who came and stayed on site or a little further along the track in a bush camp with large granite slab tables and fireplaces. Ky drove a Jaguar car and I imagine it would have suffered lots of damage with the condition of the roads back then!



The first photo, courtesy Errol Walker, shows the interior, after the house had been abandoned for some time following the purchase of the property by the government in the 1980's. The other more current photo was taken on our visit twelve months ago.



There is a gully with a couple of waterholes near the house, and the area has regenerated well since the last bushfires so bring binos and remember to carry lunch and water. The track rating is about Grade 3, mostly vehicle tracks, except for botanising and the detour to the granite boulders.

Leader *Rob McCosker*
0410024383 mccoskerr@gmail.com

Outing Report – Girraween Rock Slab – 25th June 2023



Golden Everlasting

Four intrepid Nats met at the rock slab along from the corner of Mt Norman and Pyramids Road on a cool clear morning for a cuppa before beginning the walk. We were able to discard jumpers and set off admiring the views in the beautiful clear winter air. There were still some golden everlastings with colour, although they were starting to disperse their seeds.

As we made our way up the slab we noticed exfoliation that left bare white patches on the rock and the occasional daisy growing in a sandy hollow. The fruit salad plant (*Leionema ambiens*) bud and *Leionema rotundifolium* (Round-leafed phebalium) had a few flowers out. We headed to the south west of the slab and found one *Keraudrenia* (*Seringia hillii*) flower still hanging on along with a seed pod. The *Spyridium scortechinii* was in bloom as well as *Mirbelia speciosa* and one *Acacia adunca* (Wallangarra Wattle) with a sprig of bloom. On the way down we saw one beautiful bloom of *Banksia spinulosa*.

The wind had increased considerably as we ascended, so our lunch spot was in the shelter of a stand of wattles not yet in bloom, with some interesting boulders behind them. So far I have been unable to identify the wattle and will have to make another trip in a week or two to see it in flower.



Mirbelia speciosa



Acacia adunca

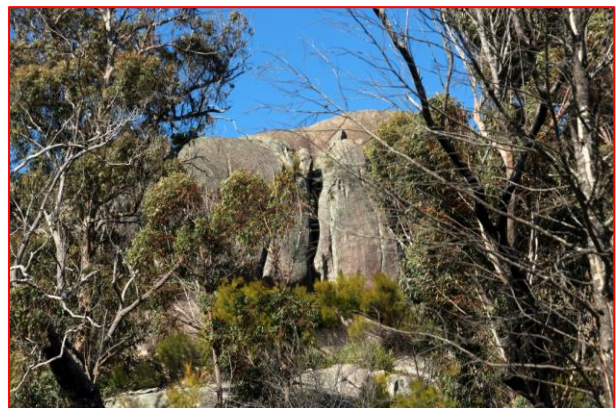


Banksia spinulosa

We were all excited to see the number and size of some Xenoliths in the rocks. According to *Wikipedia* a Xenolith (foreign rock) is a fragment that becomes enveloped in a larger rock during the latter's development and solidification. To be considered a true xenolith, the included rock must be identifiably different from the rock in which it is enveloped. The ones we saw had cooled more quickly than the surrounding granite and were fine grained. Some of the granite had very pink wolfram grains in it.



Xenoliths



After we arrived back at the cars Narelle led us to the site of some leek orchids that she had been monitoring. We found leaves but it was too early for flowers. We walked to the site of a waterfall that was not flowing before heading home from a very enjoyable outing.

Margaret Carnell

Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc

Date 26th June 2023

Meeting opened: 7.36pm

Attendance & Apologies: As per Attendance Book

Minutes of the previous meeting: - Any amendments.....None

Confirmed.....Lesley

Seconded.....Rob

Carried

Business arising from the minutes:

- **Discussion on My Directory.....** President Leon stated the registration with this entity should be delayed until after the swearing in of the new committee.
- **What's in the Sky.....**A report on this item was missed from the meeting's discussions.
- **Remember that the AGM meeting is part of the next meeting. Lynette Hazelgrove has expressed interest in taking over the position of Treasurer for the next financial year. Lesley Saunders has stressed that she will be vacating the position of Secretary. Please consider nominating for this position as the club will fold if this position is left vacant.**

Confirmed.... Lesley

Seconded.... Rob

Carried

Correspondence: read as per correspondence book

Moved..... Lesley

Seconded.....Rob

Carried

Financial Report: Lesley presents the Treasurer's Report with no change from last month's report being: -

Current Balance: \$2237.14

Petty Cash \$ 102.25

Total \$2339.39

MovedLesley

Seconded.....Kris

Carried

Pre-Outing Report: - Kris reported a very eventful outing despite the low number of attendees.

New Business Arising: - None

June Speaker & Topic: - At a last minute due to the cancellation of the scheduled speaker Liz Bourne gave a presentation of the formation and works achieved by The Granite Belt Rare Wildflower Conservation Group. Really amazing achievements by passionate personnel.

Next Speaker: - "Remember Last Year" Kris has requested any photographs taken on outings that have not been published in the year's Newsletters.

Specimens: - Margaret presented a sprig of an unidentified Acacia.

Next Outing: - July 30th Led by Rob McCosker..... Stone House Mt Norman

Meeting ended: - Approx 8pm

Spottings

Send photos to margaretcarnell76@gmail.com



Kris and I went for a walk along the creek recently and we saw Pacific Black Ducks feeding with three Moor Hens on the downstream side of Folkestone Street bridge amongst the debris. Only one Moor Hen wanted its photo taken (top right). The coot (bottom right) was near Carnarvon Bridge.

This Masked Lapwing was feeding in a vacant block but we had noticed how road savvy these birds are. One in Folkestone Street crossed from one lane to the other when a car came and along Bridge Street they ignored the traffic when they were on the footpath quite close to the road.

Margaret.