



# The Granite Belt Naturalist



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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 – 2023/2024**

President	Leon McCosker	46811737
Vice-presidents	Holly Patti	
	Robyn Murray	0488515311
Secretary	John Salini	0400805236
Treasurer	Lynette Haselgrove	0409006063
Newsletter Editor	Margaret Carnell	0427835268
Publicity Officer	Theresa Clifford	0413008602
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 25th October:** *Social History Through the Farm Tip* with Chris Moon

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October:** Mallee Ridge with Rob McCosker **Please Note: this is a Saturday Outing**

**Deadline for next newsletter  
13<sup>th</sup> November**

**Pre-Outing Report October Outing Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> – Mallee Ridge**



**Note the changed date for this month –**

Saturday, due a clash with the RWC Walk on Sunday to the same venue.

We will meet at Weeroona Park for a 9.00am start and drive to the Day Use Area at Mt Norman for morning tea, then set off on the Mt Norman track carrying lunch to have on the top of Mallee Ridge. I rate the walk as Grade 3.

The name Mallee Ridge comes from the New

England mallee *Eucalyptus codonocarpa*, which only grows in a couple of places in Girraween and the New England area of NSW. There should be a range of wildflowers blooming in the area as well. The ridge is also renowned for the dramatic granite formations created by weathering of a large dyke formation and of course dramatic views of the prominent Girraween peaks. We walk along the Mt Norman track for some distance then follow some flag rocks and pass through some bush and another uphill granite slope to the ridge top. Much of the walk is off-track and a bit steep in places but we will have plenty of time to take it easy. Trish and I did a pre-walk one afternoon, starting at 1.30pm and returned to the car by 5.30pm however for the outing we intend to be back to the car park by 3.00pm, allowing a 4.00pm return to Stanthorpe.

*Rob McCosker*  
0410024383





**Platypus Survey Outing Report – 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023**

**Leader:** Holly Patti



Platypus Pool – G Rayner

Altogether 20 members met for the Platy Project Survey at Boonoo Boonoo National Park, NSW.

We began with morning tea at the platypus water hole before heading up the creek for a look at the flora.

It was a lovely day, but hot and dry, and there was a noticeable change to the vegetation in the two weeks since I had been for the pre outing walk. Everything looked like it needed a good soaking rain.

Amazing lots of orchids were out including several stands of dotted sun orchid. (below)

Lunch was back at the waterhole.

Unfortunately, no Platypus sighting today, and in hindsight it probably wasn't the ideal day as it was a long weekend on school holidays, with people swimming in the waterhole.

Some nats finished the day here and the rest continued downstream to look at the terrain and flora.

Although there was no sighting today I still submitted the results as it helps with data collection.



**Fauna:**

**Birds:** Wedge Tailed Eagle, White Throated Gerygone, Yellow Faced Honey Eater, White Throated Tree Creeper, Fan Tailed Cuckoo, Currawong, Grey Fantail, Brown Thornbill, Kookaburra, Crimson Rosella, Welcome Swallow, New Holland Honeyeater, Superb Fairy Wren, Nankeen Kestrel, Grey Shrike Thrush, Rufous Whistler, Spotted Pardalote.

**Flora:**

*Thelymitra ixioides* Dotted Sun Orchid, *Caladenia carnea* Pink Fingers Orchid, *Diuris sulphurea* Tiger Orchid, *Schizaea bifida* Forked Comb Fern, *Ozothamnus diosmifolius* Rice Flower, *Hardenbergia violacea* Native Sarsaparilla, *Conospermum burgessiorum* Smokebush, *Patersonia sericea* Purple Flag, *Banksia spinulosa* New England Banksia, *Boronia microphylla* Small Leaved Boronia, *Pimelea linifolia* Queen of the Bush, *Kunzea obovata* Pink Kunzea, *Wurnbea biglandulosa* Early Nancy, *Epacris microphylla* Coral Heath, *Leucopogon lanceolatus* Lance Beard Heath, *Brachyscome* sp., *Hibbertia acicularis* Prickly Guinea flower, *Calytrix tetragona* Heath Myrtle, *Mirbelia confertiflora*, *Drosera spatulate* Rosy Sundew, *Leptospermum* sp.,



Mirbelia confertiflora

*Homoranthus sp.*, *Aotus subglauca*, *Acacis graniticola* Granite Wattle, *Allocasuarina sp.*, *Poranthera microphylla*, *Micrantheum hexandrum*, *Hybanthus monopetalus* Lady's Slipper, *Spyridium scortechinii* Pepper and Salt Bush, *Acacia viscidula* Sticky Wattle, *Philotheca epilosa* Wax Flower, *Prostanthera nivea* Snowy Mintbush,

### Platy Project

This year, more than eight thousand nature lovers signed-up to explore their local creeks, rivers and waterways in search of the elusive platypus – from the tropics of northern Queensland all down the east coast to temperate Tasmania and southern South Australia.

With 70 local events and over 1,000 platypuses being sighted, our communities were able to find platypuses in locations across Australia where they had not been seen in decades.

What they found has changed what we know about the platypus and will help researchers, campaigners and community members better understand where platypuses live and how we can better advocate for the protections they need.

### Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023

#### Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc

**Meeting opened:** 7:30pm

**Attendance & Apologies:** As per Attendance Book, 17 including several visitors

**Apologies:** Kris and Margaret Carnell

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

Confirmed...John

Seconded...Peter

Carried

**Business arising from the minutes: None**

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

Moved...John

Seconded...Peter

Carried

#### **Financial Report:**

Opening Balance 1 July \$2,237.14

Income for July \$310

Balance as per bank \$2,547.14

Petty Cash \$102.25

Available Funds \$2,649.39

Moved ...Lyn

Seconded...Lesley.....

Carried

#### **General Business Arising:**

1. Newsletter editor – email address [editorsfnc@gmail.com](mailto:editorsfnc@gmail.com)
2. Lyn noted that the Fassifern Field Nats are visiting Undercliffe; they noted that they will be following the Mingoola Heritage Trail; a brochure is available at the Tenterfield Landcare office

**Outing Report:** Lyn reported on the Mt Marlay and Sentimental Rocks outing – members gave favourable praise for the day.

**Pre-Outing Report:** Holly provided printed handouts for the Platypus survey at Boonoo Boonoo National Park on Sunday. She reported that it would be best to park vehicles at the campground as there were only a few parks near the large Platypus Waterhole. Meet at Weeroona Park 9am Sunday morning.



**Speaker & Topic:**

Holly Patti – Platypus and Echidna.

**Presentation:** Holly described their life histories, favoured habitats and noted that Echidnas occurred all over Australia while Platypus were restricted to eastern Australia. She also provided printed handouts of her presentation.

**Specimens:** - Rob brought in 2 bird nests found on his property. John Salini brought in a fungus collected off the ground at Sentimental Rocks on the September outing.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October – Social history through the farm tip. By Chris Moon

**Next Outing:** Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> October – Mallee Ridge led by Rob McCosker.

**Meeting Closed:** 7:52 pm

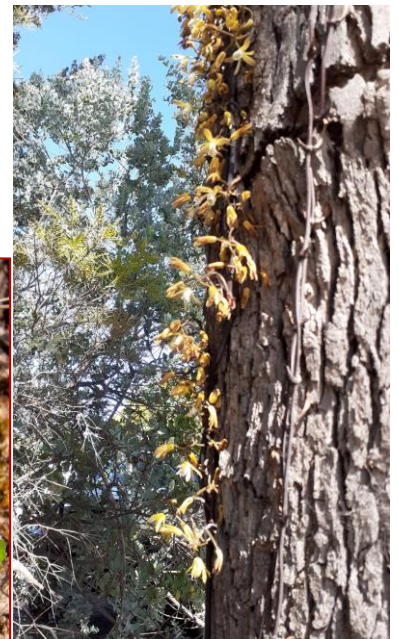
## Spottings



**Above:** Lesley says the Itsy Bitsy Spider Isn't itsy bitsy anymore.

**Above R:** I saw this dead ringtail on the road in Derwent on the same morning I saw the dragon below.

**Centre Below:** Rosy Sundew at Boonoo Boonoo – G Rayner



Climbing orchid  
at Walls Concrete