



The Granite Belt Naturalist



Mail Address: Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, Stanthorpe Qld. 4380
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Please send contributions to the magazine to editorsfnc@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 – 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 22nd November: *Gibraltar Range* with Kris Carnell

Friday 24th November: *Mole River Arsenic Mine and Mole Station Native Nursery* with Kerry and Leon

Please Note this is a Friday outing.

Sunday 10th December: *Break Up* hosted by John Salini, 146 Emu Swamp Road, Glen Aplin. From 2.30pm. Bring food for BBQ and a chair.

Deadline for next newsletter
12th February 2024

Pre-Outing Report – Mole River Arsenic Mine and Mole Station Native Nursery
Friday 24th November

Leaders: Leon and Kerry McCosker

We meet in Weeroona Park at **8.00 am.** travel down the New England Highway turning right at Sunnyside onto Sunnyside Platform Rd, then right onto the Bruxner Hwy, and left into Mole Station Rd. after crossing Mole River, turn left to Potters Rd, the Mole Station campground is on the left, where we meet David and Sarah and have morning tea.

David will take us for a tour through the relics of the mine. Lunch will either be back at the campground or down at the nursery.

After lunch Sarah will talk about the nursery and walk through the nursery polytunnels to see the huge range of hundreds of seedlings.

The Mole River Arsenic Mine is on Mole Station owned by David and Sarah Caldwell. The mine was operated as shafts and underground workings from 1889 to 1938. The mine produced arsenic, which was used as an herbicide for Prickly Pear cactus, from 1923-40. The mine also produced an estimated 2500 tonnes of tin concentrate and 2000 tonnes of white arsenic from 1882 until 1905. Several attempts to reopen the mine failed, and mining operations ceased in 1957.



Mole River Arsenic Mine



Mole Station Native Nursery

Pre-outing Report – Break-up – 10th December 2023, 146 Emu Swamp Road, Glen Aplin

The break-up will start at 2.30pm for a cuppa, then a walk around the observatories and up the fire track. I have a decent size deck where we can enjoy afternoon tea. I will provide tea, instant coffee, milk and some biscuits and probably a Panettone.



Brachychiton populneus flowering

I have a barbeque so members can bring their own food for a late afternoon BBQ. There are ample lights under the deck and under the awning roof over the pizza oven/BBQ area, but it would help if members brought chairs.

I was hoping to walk members along parts of Emu Gully Creek where it is easily accessible from the fire track on the western side of the creek line. But a lot of the interesting waterholes are almost dried up – the pigs have had a great time in the soft mud and only a couple of the larger waterholes up the top (about 800m away from the house) have water in them.

I have been planting out my 44 native plants I ordered from Dalveen SS and Stanthorpe Ag Society Plant Drives over the last couple of weeks. I resorted to manually digging each hole – I'm sick of digging holes – hopefully the plants will survive?? We can see how they're faring.

John Salini



Nine Shrubs Planted 8 Nov



Eucalypts 7 Nov

Spottings



Thanks to Ian Milinovich who sent these spottings and wrote: I have a couple of items of interest. Firstly I have noticed many leafless climbing orchids (*Erythrorchis cassthoides*) this spring, due to a wetter period following drought (dying trees). One particular plant has 'learnt' to grow up our outback dunny the previous season, only to treble growth this time with two extra flowering stems extending from the gum onto the wall!

A male koala has reappeared in the same Blakeley's Red Gum as it did exactly 3 years earlier. These are their most favoured feed tree in this district, which would explain why most sightings have been at the lower slopes (best stand of these trees) at edge of Greenhood Ridge Refuge. Prior to this we had a pair in this zone for two months in winter 2016, with another male earlier that year, and a male late 2011. This brings the tally to 5 live Koalas, with a further 3 skull – partial skeletons found in the last 21 years here at Tully Park. (see photos below)





I recently saw this fly sitting very still on the wall of the house (above).

The same morning I saw the blue tongue (above right) in the garden. There was another blue tongue, much lighter in colour, beneath a piece of grass thatch against the back fence. I think I disturbed it by digging in the garden there, as it has shifted camp. The photo (right) was taken of that one in April and appeared in the April magazine. I thought it showed the difference in colour quite well

The young noisy miner (right) was waiting to be fed. It flew down into the yard next door before the parent reappeared. I'm glad I'm not its parent. It is very demanding and never keeps quiet.

Margaret Carnell



Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting, 25th October 2023
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc

Meeting opened: 7:30pm

Attendance & Apologies: As per Attendance Book

Apologies: Kris and Margaret Carnell

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

Confirmed...Rob

Seconded...Holly

Carried

Business arising from the minutes: None

Correspondence: read as per correspondence book; CommBank letter, Qld Government Annual Return, \$60.05 to pay

Moved...John

Seconded...Holly

Carried

Financial Report:

Opening Balance 1 July \$2,809.39

Income for July \$310

Balance as per bank \$2,889.39

Petty Cash \$

Available Funds \$

Moved ...Lyn

Seconded...Lyn.....

Carried

General Business Arising:

1. Outing Report
2. Newsletter editor – email address editorsfnc@gmail.com
3. 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: Platypus Count Boonoo Boonoo NP

Holly reported there were no sightings of platypus; the weather was ideal and dry with many plants in flower along the river bank including Sun Orchids

Pre-Outing Report: Visit to Mallee Ridge (Girraween NP) Rob McCosker reminded members to meet at Weeroona Park by 0900h.

Speaker & Topic:

Social History Through the Farm Tip – Chris Moon

Presentation: Chris produced a diverse number of items salvaged from tips all around Australia, including from Kalgoorlie, WA. Items included glass items/bottles, domestic ceramic containers, old toys and even an Indigenous grinding stone ‘mortar and pestle’.

Specimens: - Rob McCosker brought a specimen of Owl scat from his paddock. 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 22nd November – Kris Carnell will present a talk on the Gibraltar Range.

Next Outing: Saturday, 28th October – Mallee Ridge led by Rob McCosker.

November Outing: We shall aim for Friday 24th November, Mole River Arsenic Mine and Nursery (weekdays only)

Meeting Closed: 7:55 pm