

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: 3rd Wednesday of each month at
Uniting Church, Small Hall, 113 High Street
Stanthorpe at 7.30pm

Outings: The Sunday following the 3rd 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-acting	Lyn Collins	
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 17th April: *Astronomy* with John Salini

Sunday 21st April: *Basket Swamp* with Kris and Margaret Carnell

**Deadline for next newsletter
6th May 2024**

Pre-Outing Report – Basket Swamp – 21st April 2024

Leaders: Kris and Margaret Carnell



Waterhole Basket Swamp

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am and travel via Amosfield Road to the Mt Lindesay Road. Mt Lindesay Road is bitumen but look out for occasional pot holes. Also keep your eye open to admire the *Banksia integrifolia* in flower. It's 50km to the turnoff into Lindbrook Road which takes us to the picnic area. The road into has been gravelled until the national park boundary. It's slow with some pot holes and whoa-boys and turns into dirt for the last bit. It takes about an hour to get to the picnic area.

We will have smoko at the picnic area before botanising between the picnic area and the creek. The picnic area is maintained by NSW Forest Service based at Coffs Harbour. When we did the pre-outing a few days ago we met two of the rangers and had a chat to them. They are planning upgrades which will include more tables with cement slabs. There are a couple of tables and a long drop toilet but no water. (We will have wipes and sanitiser).

The track to the waterhole is no longer slashed but you can still follow the wheel tracks. It is quite overgrown and rough underfoot, so wear long trousers. We found rosy sundews, a couple of *Grevillea* flowers, a few *Goodenias*, *Brachyscome* (daisies), *Banksia spinulosa* and *Banksia integrifolia*. Spring is the best time for flowers. There were clumps of fungus growing



Banksia spinulosa

where we parked. Something had been digging near the creek and we thought it might be



Timbarra Trig

bandicoots. We were unable to cross the creek at the crossing because the creek was up a bit and we didn't feel like taking our shoes off to wade through. You can walk along the creek from the crossing to the big waterhole – should be platypus there but we've never seen any.

After lunch, if there are enough 4WDs we will all drive to Basket Swamp Falls. We were unable to check the road as we don't have a 4WD any more. On Woolool Wooloolni Road there is Timbarra Trig which is well worth a look and we can all drive there and park in the turn-around loop. A couple

of plants of Prickly Moses were in bloom there and a broad-leafed wattle was close to flowering. We didn't see birds because the ranger was using a chainsaw to cut up trees that had to be culled because they were dangerous.

We came home via Tenterfield and the poplars at London Bridge were golden and some of the trees in the town were starting to colour. It is not a lot further to go that way and the road is better.

A note about the photo of Banksia spinulosa. Apparently there are a number of banksias that have been renamed that, according to the National Herbarium, formerly came under the name of B. spinulosa.

Morgans Gully Outing

As the Morgans Gully outing was postponed till last Sunday we don't have a report this month.

Hopefully it will be in the May magazine. However, John Salini has sent these photos. Thanks John.



Hike to the Second Falls in Morialta Falls National Park



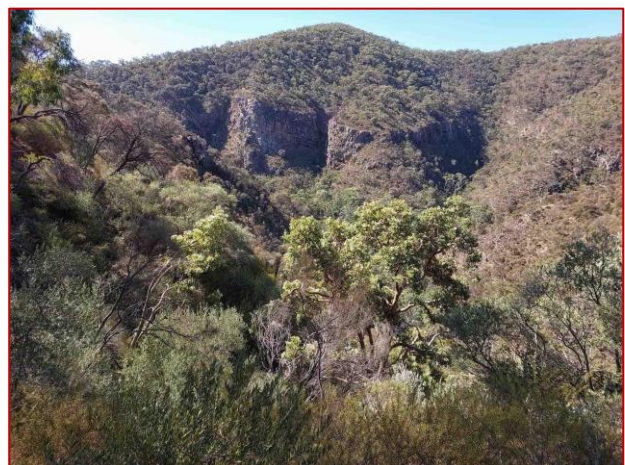
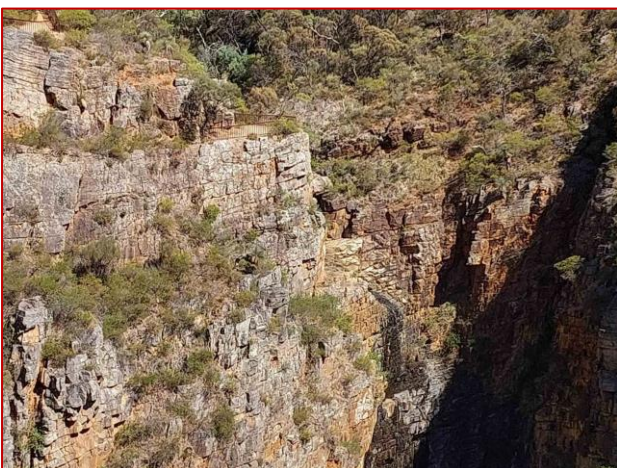
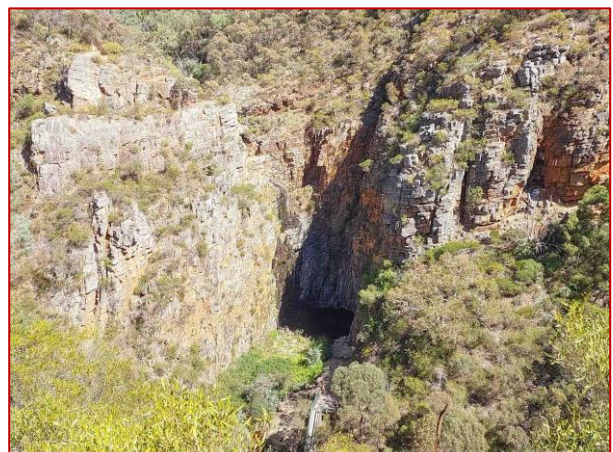
Before I scored my job with CSIRO in November 1973, I worked for 11 months with SA National Parks and Wildlife, based at Morialta Falls NP in the Adelaide foothills. It was an idyllic experience and only about 5km from our family home.

Vince and I regularly visit the park and we did so this afternoon, despite being a little hot!! It was very dry and the Groundsel shrubs/trees we were cutting out of the park in 1972, are all but replaced by an impenetrable forest of wild olive trees! Despite the aridity and harsh landscape, they thrive there.....I

wish my olives would grow as vigorously at Glen Aplin.

Despite the dry summer, there was a trickle of water making its way down Fourth Creek and over the falls. That creek used to pass beside our family home in Campbelltown. To cap it off, there was a koala up a gum tree near where Vince parked the car. It's a pity I did not have my good camera with me.....the resolution is not great on these mobile phone shots.

John Salini



Minutes of Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.

Date: 20th March 2024

Meeting opened: 7:35 pm

Attendance and Apologies: As per Attendance Book

Minutes of previous meeting: February Minutes were included in the Newsletter.

Moved: Lyn Seconded: Kris Carried

Business arising from the Minutes: Nil

Correspondence: Printed list of emails read. No PO box mail.

Moved: Lyn Seconded: Margaret Carried

Financial Report: Our bank balance is \$2,824.39, unchanged from February.

Moved: Lyn Seconded: Graham Carried

General Business arising:

Insurance Renewal – Leon & Lyn lodged the Application Form with QWaLC, which has since been acknowledged by them.

Lyn moved that the Post Office Box Account be paid. The Camera Club's half share has been paid. Seconded: Holly

Lesley asked for help in changing the format of photos on her phone, which she is having trouble sending to Kris for the newsletter. Some members offered to help her afterwards.

No Outing Report as the Koreelah Nat. Park & Queen Mary Falls outing was cancelled.

Pre-Outing Report: 24th March – Morgans Gully, Boonoo Boonoo Nat. Park. We will leave Weeroona Park at 9:00 am, and plan to have morning tea when we arrive there, where there are now tables.

Kerry suggested that members who are attending outings let the leader know they are coming, so no-one is left behind. There was also a suggestion that an RSVP be put at the foot of outing notices.

Speaker & Topic: Holly's presentation was on Regent Honeyeaters, and Swift Parrots, both critically endangered. She listed some of the dangers they faced, including habitat loss and fragmentation, altered flowering patterns due to climate change, aggressive and overabundant nectarivores (like the Noisy Miner), to name a few. The Swift Parrot, which breeds in Tasmania, also has to deal with the introduced sugar glider, a major predator of eggs, chicks and birds, then the added dangers of flying back to the mainland.

With the public encouraged to document sightings, locations, taking photos, etc. and adding them to the data base, will all help with scientific knowledge and conservation.

Specimens: Holly brought handouts on the Regent Honeyeaters and Swift Parrots. As well, Holly prepared and had printed, brochures on our club, including our aims and

activities, contact details, along with many lovely photos of hers. Holly was thanked for her efforts.

April outing: Basket Swamp National Park – Leon reported that the road is now open.

May outing: As John Salini has a presentation on Astronomy, he has suggested we have an outing to his house one evening, where we can do some serious skywatching.

Next Meeting: 17th April – David Wilson was to do the Presentation, but Leon thinks he is unable to, so he is going to see if a swap can be arranged.

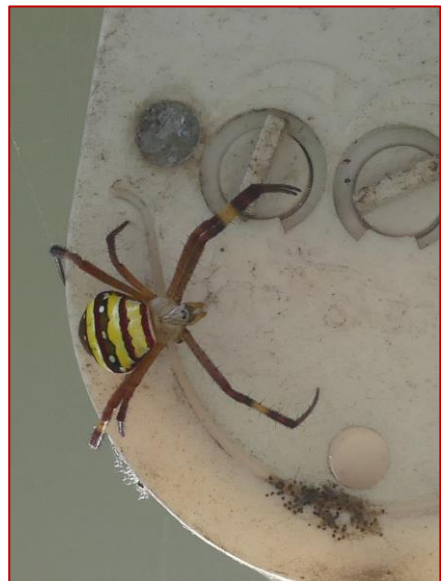
Meeting Closed: 8:00 pm

Spottings



Top: Sam Costanzo found these fungi in his yard. It looks like a fairy ring on the left.

Bottom: This ragged looking fungus appeared in our yard after the rain.



Top Left: Leaf-roll spider **Top Right:** An orb weaving spider “hiding” beside a praying mantis cocoon. **Middle Left** At night it spins its web and waits for prey. **Middle Right:** St Andrew’s Cross spider with spiderlings on a sensor light. **Bottom Left:** Praying Mantis blending in beautifully with the background. **Bottom Right:** Noisy Miner feeding in the salvia . All in the garden at Bridge St.



Top Left: Graham Rayner found this tiny colourful fungus.
Top Right: Kris Carnell snapped this one at Basket Swamp
Middle: Puff Balls near a compost bin.
Middle Left: An old puff ball.
Middle R: Fungus in the garden
Bottom L: Leslie Saunders saw this pretty faced wallaby and
Bottom R: A bee drinking

