

# The Granite Belt Naturalist



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Web site <https://mysd.com.au/fieldnats/>

Please send contributions to the magazine to [editorsfnc@gmail.com](mailto: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:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at  
Uniting Church, Small Hall, 113 High Street  
Stanthorpe at 7.30pm

**Outings:** The Sunday following the 3<sup>rd</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 (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 19<sup>th</sup> June: *Blue-green algae* with John and Barbara Bowyer.

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June: *Texas Rabbit Museum* led by Robyn Murray

**Deadline for next newsletter  
16<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

**June Meeting**

John and Barbara Bowyer will be guest speakers for our June meeting. John will give a talk on Blue/Green Algae, the subject he did for his papers in university in 1968. This is a complex organism and should be an interesting talk.

**Pre-Outing Report – Texas Rabbit Museum- 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024**

**Leader: Robyn Murray**



The Texas Rabbit Museum has confirmed that they can accept a group booking for Sunday, 23 June. If we leave from Weeroona Park at 9am, we should be there by their opening time of 10am. Suggest everyone bring their own morning tea and lunch as there might not be anywhere open in Texas on a Sunday. There will be an admission fee.

The Texas Rabbit Works records the history of rabbit industry in Texas, which is credited with saving the town during the depression years. The rabbit industry in 1929 was the largest employer in Australia. At its peak the Australian rabbit industry was worth the equivalent of \$10 billion in today's money.

The Texas Rabbit Works includes photographs, displays and videos covering the history of the rabbit works.

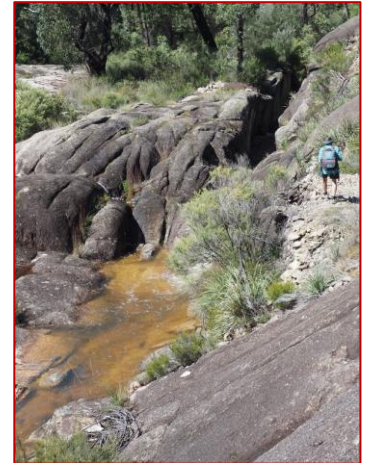
**Morgan's Gully Outing – 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024**



This outing was postponed from 24<sup>th</sup> March to 7<sup>th</sup> April and looked in doubt again with a week of unsettled weather right up until the Sunday morning, but I made the decision to go ahead with it, and was so pleased to have perfect weather. There were 6 members in attendance and we met at the Morgan's Gully carpark for morning tea at a rather soggy picnic table.

We then walked to the cutting, hand made through granite as a water diversion channel to

create a race where gravel was washed for the gold mining operation which began after the discovery of alluvial gold in the area in the late nineteenth century. We continued past the cutting to explore the bush along the track from the picnic area in the hope of seeing ground orchids but only their leaves were present. We returned along the Gully then and continued downstream to view where it joined the Boonoo Boonoo River and enjoyed the scene with dazzling sunshine and sparkling water.



Back at the picnic table we appreciated some shade for lunch and then went back down to the river a little upstream from the junction to inspect a large dyke formation which ran down to the water and continued on the opposite bank. Returning to the cars some of us decided to drive on to look at the Boonoo Boonoo Falls, which were flowing well after the recent rain, before heading home.



**Plant List**

Granite daisy *Brachyscome stuartii*, Trailing lobelia *Lobelia andrewsii*, Wild parsnip *Trachymene incisa*, New England banksia *Banksia neoanglica*, Cockspur flowers (Wild mint) *Plectranthus suaveolens*, \*Fireweed *Senecio madagascariensis*, Common pea bush *Phyllota phyllicoides*, Ivy-leaf goodenia *Goodenia hederacea*, Mitre weed *Mitrasacme paludosa*, Granite Bluebell *Wahlenbergia sp.*



*Rob McCosker.*

**Minutes of Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.**

**Date: 15th May 2024**

**Meeting opened:** 7:32 pm

**Attendance and Apologies:** Sixteen people attended, as per Attendance Book; The President welcomed a new member, Fern. Peter Haselgrove sent his apologies.

**Minutes of previous meeting:** April Minutes were included in the Newsletter with no amendments.

Moved: Kris      Seconded: Holly      Carried

**Business arising from the Minutes:** None

**Correspondence:** John reported that he forwarded emails received via the SFN gmail account consisting of other Field Naturalist clubs and related information from Granite Belt Land Care and Southern Downs Council. He noted there were no letters in the Post Office box; Lyn Collins confirmed there were none when she checked the box too.

Moved: John      Seconded: Rob      Carried

**Financial Report:** Our April bank balance was \$2,901.39; less the PO Box fee of \$154.

May bank balance is \$2,747.39

Kris suggested we check when the annual hall lease is due....it is about \$250 per annum.

Moved: Lyn      Seconded: Holly?      Carried

**General Business arising:** David Wilson brought his own electronic projector to the meeting; John asked about the cost of it (around \$3,000) and whether we should investigate updating our club projector. He offered to research costs of various models.

**Outing Report:** John reported there were 12 members at his farm for the comet observing and inspection of the observatories. After a cuppa on the deck, we moved into the paddock with the three observatories. The various telescopes in each observatory were described. Most of the attendees saw comet 12P Pons-Brooke through binoculars. We then returned to the farmhouse and observed craters on the crescent Moon. No further observations were possible due to the lack of battery power to the telescope mount and its 'red dot finder'. The attendees departed around 7:30pm.

**Pre-Outing Report:** A visit to the Texas Rabbit Museum.

**Speaker & Topic:** David Wilson presented a wonderful talk on his travels in Central Australia, enhanced by his beautiful photos. His knowledge of the local geology provided an enriched appreciation of the rocks and topography of the region. Some members spoke of their own travels to Central Australia. Leon thanked David for his talk and invited members to show their appreciation.

**Specimens:** Rob McCosker brought along some Angophora leaves showing evidence of insect damage. [*Leon, I missed some of this information....maybe you can add some details?*]

**Next Meeting:** 19th June – John and Barbara will present a talk on Blue Green algae.

**Meeting Closed:** 8:06 pm

## Spottings



**Above L:** Kris took this photo of a cloud that looked exactly like a feather on 4<sup>th</sup> June at 4.40pm. There were some other interesting formations but we didn't get good photos of them.

**Above R:** I picked up this leaf when I was walking one day and, although it is not a native I thought it showed beautifully what happens as the chlorophyll is drawn out of the leaf in autumn.



**Left:** Northern Jezabel butterflies that have just emerged and are waiting for their wings to plump out and dry. Photo by Cassie Lancuba taken at Phil Carnell's place at Amiens on the 10<sup>th</sup> June. A single one hatched the day before this photo was taken Northern Jezabels lay their eggs on mistletoe plants or other parasitic plants such as sandalwood.

### Remember Last Year

At the July meeting the program will be *Remember Last Year*. If you have any photos of outings could you please send them to Kris Carnell at [carnellkris@gmail.com](mailto:carnellkris@gmail.com)

**Subscriptions and Program for 2024/25.**

Subscriptions are due for the next 12 months from the end of June,

**Subscriptions for 2024-2025: Family \$30.00 – Single \$20.00**

Please complete your correct name and address details below and bring or send to the Treasurer

**Name (including preferred title please) .....**

**Postal Address: .....**

**Email address:- .....**

**Post-code .....4380      State..... QLD      Payment made / /2024**

Circle payment method please:    **CASH                      CHEQUE                      DIRECT DEBIT**

*If paying by cash at a meeting please put your money in an envelope with your name on the outside to make it easier for the Treasurer.*

*If paying by Direct Debit please make sure you have your name on the deposit so the treasurer knows who has paid.*

**PAYMENT METHODS**

1. **By Direct Debit** to Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. BSB 064-431 Acc. 00902063
2. **Present with your subs.** to the meeting in an envelope with your name on the outside.
3. **Post to:** Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, STANTHORPE Q 4380.

**The monthly newsletter is distributed electronically by email and also posted on the website in the Nats Magazine folder.**

**The committee once again asks for your assistance to provide a wide range of outing activities and meeting programs for the coming twelve months.**

**Please jot down your suggestions below**, and indicate if you would be prepared to lead an outing or provide a meeting program. All suggestions will be considered at a special committee meeting to be held shortly after the AGM.

**Name: Outing: (Place or area, duration, time of year)**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

**Campout: (Place, duration and dates)**

**Meeting subject: (Title and brief description)**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

**Other comments and suggestions:**

**Thank you**