



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 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 July: AGM and *Remember Last Year* followed by supper.

Sunday 21st July: *The Junction* with Holly Patti.

Deadline for next newsletter
14th August 2024

AGM and Remember Last Year
Followed by Supper

Wednesday 17th July 2024

Please bring some food to share and a cup as there is no crockery on site.

Pre-Outing Report - The Junction – 21st July 2024

Leader: Holly Patti

Due to weather and work I have not been able to do a recce on the Broadwater section I wanted to explore, there is a lovely open heath area there which may be better suited for Spring anyway when it may have orchids and a lot more wildflowers.

I have thought a lot and decided to have a walk to the Junction, yes an oldie but a goodie! There is a good chance of early wildflowers out there and hopefully the lovely *Acacia Ruppia* will be out (Rupps Wattle). I will do a pre outing walk down there next week and then can report my findings at the meeting the Wednesday before.

Meet at Weeroona Park at 9am, then travel half an hour to the Girraween main carpark. We can have a cuppa here if everyone wants. The walk to the junction is a pleasant easy walk on a graded track. 2.5kms one way (5k return) It takes approximately 45 minutes one way depending on how often you top to admire things. We can choose to have lunch at the junction or back at the picnic ground when we return.

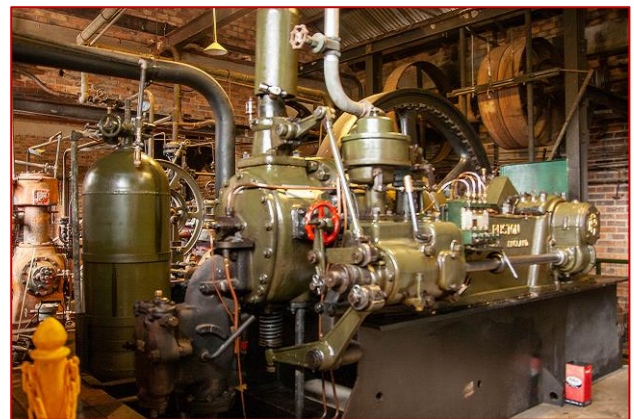
Outing Report – Texas Rabbit Museum – 23rd June 2024



Ten Nats met at Weeroona Park on 23rd June to car pool and travel to Texas which took a little over an hour. On the way we noticed that there was less prickly pear along the roadside than there used to be. We had forgotten how windy the road is and found it slower than expected to get there. The closer we got to Texas, the more wattle was coming into flower and there was quite a lot of mistletoe in flower as well. On the way home we managed to take some photos of the wattle but couldn't stop for the

mistletoe as it was all where there were double lines.

When we arrived at the museum morning tea was waiting for us so we all got out cuppa and sat to listen to a history of the museum. It was cold inside – not surprising as it used to be a freezing works. We followed a map, starting with the Wison Collection and progressing through old household goods utensils, including a stove from Arcot Station, then on to school desks with inkwells that brought back memories. The butter churns created a lot of interest, as did the



Goldsborough Mort veterinary cabinet.



We passed outside to see the coils from the freezing works with the water flowing over them and then back inside to view the beautiful old Ruston engine and other equipment. We watched a film that was made by the ABC about the rabbit trade and the end of it by the introduction of Myxomatosis. Then we continued to see how Akubra hats are made using rabbit fur and saw collections of rabbit traps and a rabbit trapper's bike.

Unfortunately we couldn't stay any longer as the volunteers who opened the museum for us had other commitments, so we drove to the park where we had lunch before returning home. Thank you very much to Robyn Murray who organized this interesting outing for us.

Margaret Carnell



MINUTES
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc

Date 19 /06/2024

Meeting opened: 1936h

Attendance & Apologies: As per Attendance Book, 14 attendees, including John and Barbara Bowyer.

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

Confirmed Kris..... Seconded...Lyn..... Carried

Business arising from the minutes:

Updating the Club projector. Leon followed up on potential grants for a projector; John sent Leon details of two projectors he viewed at Officeworks Toowoomba, around \$1,000.

Correspondence:read as per correspondence book

Several emails forwarded to Members from the SFN gmail account.

Moved...John... Seconded...Kris Carried

Financial Report: Treasurer's Report Current Balance: \$2,474.00

Income; Membership Subs \$20.00

Expenditure:

Room rent to Uniting Church \$125.00

Total as per Commonwealth Bank Account \$2,642.39

Moved...Lyn seconded Rob Carried

General Business:

Discuss club projector – Decided to delay a decision and review our funds

Outing Report:

Outing to Night Sky Viewing at John Salini's Farm:

Clear night with an inspection of the observatories on the farm, followed by binocular viewing of comet 12 Pons-Brooke in the Western sky. Most members saw the comet. Members then viewed craters on the Moon through John's C5 (125mm diameter telescope).

Pre-Outing Report:

Visit to the Texas Rabbit Museum – Robyn Murray; Robyn requested numbers coming along on Sunday to advise the Museum for purposes of catering (morning tea provided as part of the tour).

Speaker & Topic: -

John and Barbara Bowyer talking on Blue/Green Algae. John and Barbara provided an interesting talk tracing the archaeological history of BG Algae in the early history of life on Earth. There were several questions and active discussions at the end. Leon thanked John and Barbara for their presentation.

Specimens: Leon brought along several 'Yucan' fruit for members to sample; a ground tuber that tastes sweet with a crunchy texture.

John presented several books and flyers from various museums visited during his 2 week tour of Dinosaur country in Central and Northern Qld.

Next Meeting: AGM - Remember Last Year. Leon and Kris asked members to send photos of the year's activities to Kris or Margaret. The AGM will include a cuppa, bring your own cup.

Meeting Closed: 2000h

Spottings

Many thanks to Holly for sending this interesting article about the rare birds to the Spottings page.



You may have seen the bird world excitement on the news regarding the Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot making appearances in Toowoomba in the last fortnight. The odds of two critically endangered birds turning up in Toowoomba at the same time is incredibly remote, and people have been travelling from everywhere up to Toowoomba to see them.

I was rostered onto work for eight days so thought I was going to have to miss out, surely they were not going to hang around long. My first chance to get up there I rushed up. The weather was MISERABLE. Cold, raining, foggy. It was bucketing down the whole entire time, I figured my chances of seeing anything was negligible. I had a mud map for the area around Highfield Falls provided to me by a fellow bird nerd who had been up the previous week. That map was now a saturated, soggy mess with the ink all dribbling off. I thought maybe I might run into another bird fanatic and could get some tips but not even the keenest birders were out in this weather.

I wandered along not even bothering with the map as it was a mess and too hard to get out in the rain. I could hear lots of Yellow Faced Honeyeaters in a flowering gum so thought I'll give it a whirl and then give. Well, a Regent Honeyeater was there and I got to watch him for some 20 minutes. Everything was wet and I had about two seconds viewing before my binoculars fogged up. I ran out of

dry T shirt to dry them each time. Photography was even harder, I had taken a towel with me to keep the camera dry but in my excitement I had dropped it in the mud and was actually trampling on it. I had to make do with a few evidence shots only. I am still amazed that I just happened to see a bird that has possibly only 300 remaining, very, very special.

The rain was ridiculous so although I would have liked to watch him longer I headed back to the car and onto Picnic point where I had more directions to where to find the Swifties. I parked on Tobruk Drive and bang there they were, having a wonderful time in the flowering gums. It would have been wonderful viewing had the weather been favorable but unfortunately again the rain made it difficult, so I escaped to the Picnic Point cafe for breakfast which was quite delicious. All in all a successful, and special, adventure.



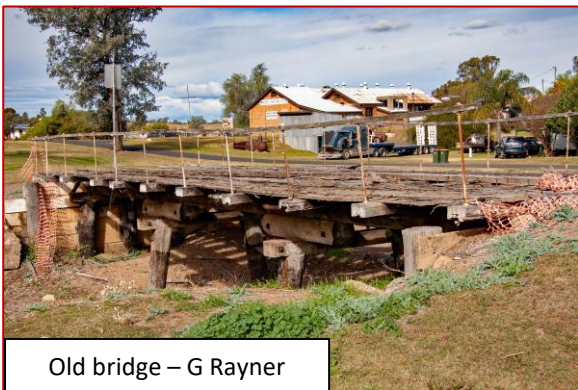
Thanks to Lock Wilson for these photos of a frog. I think it's Lesueur's Tree Frog *Litoria lesueurii*



Golden yellow tree – G Rayner



Acacia sp.



Old bridge – G Rayner



Potential Rabbit Trappers

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-code4380 State..... QLD Payment made / /2023

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