

# 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

*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



*The Pyramids, Girraween National Park*

### CLUB OFFICE BEARERS – 2024/2025

President	Holly Patti	0421288216
Vice-presidents	Robyn Murray	0488515311
	Kris Carnell	0407165031
Secretary	John Salini	0400805236
Treasurer	Lyn Collins	0428810156
Newsletter Editor	Margaret Carnell	0427835268
Publicity Officer	Holly Patti	0421288216
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 21<sup>st</sup> August: *Gliders* with Holly Patti

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August: *Dinner and Spotlighting* with Holly Patti

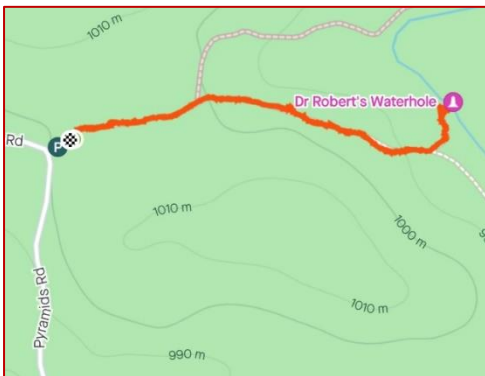
**Deadline for next newsletter  
16<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**Pre-Outing Report for Dinner & Spotlighting Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Aug 2024 5:30pm**

**Holly:** 0421 288 216

We will meet at Weeroona park at about 5:30pm to carpool if anyone needs. If we aim to leave town at 5:40pm that will get us to the Ballandean Tavern for the 6pm booking. I have attached the menu, the food was quite yummy. Ballandean Tavern is on the corner of New England Highway and Eukey Road at Ballandean, 15mins/21kms south of Stanthorpe.

After dinner we can head to **Dr Roberts Waterhole carpark** in Girraween about 20mins/ 22kms from the Tavern. (Note: this is not the main carpark in Girraween but further on)



The walk from the carpark to the waterhole is around 1.3kms return trip (see map). It is on a well-formed flat track. I have chosen this track as there are no steps. The walk will be a slow wander along and hopefully see some creatures. Cruze "spotlighted" some interesting roots of a tree that had fallen over, and insisted I include it in the pre outing report.

After the walk we will return to town the other direction to hopefully see some nocturnal creatures as we drive. We can all travel in convoy but the directions are: When leaving Dr Roberts carpark turn right on to Pyramids Road and follow it for approx. 12kms to Shatte Lane (don't turn at Parish or Breens Road). After Shatte Lane continue on Pyramids Road which turns left and travels across the bridge. Right turn onto Eukey Road then follow this back to town. It's about 25 kms and 30-45mins depending on how fast you drive, and if you stop



to look at something. We stopped to admire a beautiful Echidna plodding across the road. He decided he'd had enough of us though and buried himself.



**Things to bring:** torch/headlight, warm clothes/gloves/beanie. Binoculars/camera  
**I have booked the Tavern but need to confirm numbers three days before. If you will be coming to dinner can you please let me know latest at the meeting on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August**

STARTERS		FROM THE GRILL		PUB CLASSICS	
<b>BRIOCHE GARLIC BREAD</b> Herb, garlic butter, ADD cheese option +\$2	Member \$8 Non Member \$10	<b>200G BLACK ANGUS RUMP (GF)</b> Darling Downs Black Angus rump, choice of sides, and sauce	Member \$27 Non Member \$29	<b>CHICKEN SCHNITZEL (GF - GRILLED CHICKEN)</b> Housemade parmesan & herb crumbed chicken breast, a choice of sauce	Member \$24 Non Member \$26
<b>PARMESAN CHIPS (GF OR VEG, VISO)</b> Garlic oil, parmesan, truffle mayo	\$11 \$13	<b>300G PORTERHOUSE (GF)</b> Local Granite Belt Porterhouse, choice of sides, and sauce	\$35 \$37	<b>CHICKEN PARMIGIANA (GF - GRILLED CHICKEN)</b> Housemade parmesan & herb crumbed chicken breast, Napoli sauce, local smoked ham, cheese	\$27 \$29
<b>SALT &amp; PEPPER SQUID (GF, GF)</b> Housemade aioli, pickled radish	\$16 \$18	<b>350G SCOTCH FILLET (GF)</b> 100 day grain fed scotch fillet, choice of sides, and sauce	\$43 \$45	<b>HAWAIIAN PARMIGIANA (GF - GRILLED CHICKEN)</b> Housemade parmesan & herb crumbed chicken breast, layers pineapple, and local smoked ham, Napoli sauce, cheese	\$29 \$31
<b>PUMPKIN ARANCINI (VSG)</b> w/ truffle aioli	\$12 \$14	<b>CHEFS SPECIAL BUTCHERS BLOCK (GF)</b> See specials board for this weeks premium cut. Please allow extended wait time, available Friday - Sunday only.	SMP SMP	<b>BEER BATTERED BARRAMUNDI</b> Great Northern beer battered barramundi, chips, garden salad, tartare, lemon	\$27 \$29
<b>BUFFALO WINGS (GF)</b> Marinated crispy buffalo chicken wings, blue cheese sauce	\$16 \$18	<b>CRISPY SKIN SALMON (GF)</b> Roasted carrot puree, garden carrots, sauteed kale, lemon herb beurre blanc local greens, salsa verde Available Friday to Sunday only.	\$36 \$38	<b>BANGERS AND MASH (GF)</b> Local Italian sausages, creamy mash, mushy peas, caramelised onion, w/ gravy Available Monday to Thursday	\$24 \$26
<b>CHIP SAUCES \$2.50</b> HOUSEMADE AIOLI (GF) TRUFFLE AIOLI (GF) GRAVY (GF) BLUE CHEESE (GF) FRANKS HOT SAUCE (GF) SOUTHERN CHILI (GF)		<b>SIDES \$8</b> GARDEN SALAD (GF) LOCAL SEASONAL VEG (GF) CHIPS (GF) CREAMY POTATO MASH (GF)		<b>HOUSE MADE DESSERTS</b>	
<b>BURGERS</b> All Served With Chips & Pickled Cucumber. GF/O option available.		<b>SAUCES \$2.50</b> GRAVY (GF) PEPPER (GF) THE FOLLY TRUFFLE DIANNE (GF) CHIMI-CHURRI (GF) MUSHROOM (GF) MUSTARD (GF)		<b>STICKY DATE PUDDING</b> Served w/ salted butterscotch & vanilla bean ice cream	Member \$12 Non Member \$15
<b>CHEESE BURGER (GF + V)</b> Beef patty, cheese, lettuce, tomato, mustard, ketchup, pickles	Member \$20 Non Member \$22	<b>KIDS MEALS \$10</b> CHEESEBURGER & CHIPS CHICKEN NUGGETS & CHIPS (GF) MINI HAM & CHEESE PIZZA & CHIPS (GF) KIDS FISH & CHIPS (GF)		<b>FLOURLESS CHOCOLATE CAKE (GF)</b> Served w/ housemade choc fudge sauce, and handmade vanilla bean ice cream	\$15 \$15
<b>THE BALLANDEAN BURGER (GF + V)</b> Beef patty, cheese, lettuce, tomato, beetroot relish, caramelised onion, truffle aioli	\$27 \$29			<b>SCAN HERE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE BALLANDEAN PUB AND GET MEMBERS SPECIALS AND EVERYDAY DISCOUNTS ACROSS ALL MEALS.</b>	
<b>SOUTHERN FRIED CHICKEN CHICKEN BURGER (GF + V)</b> Texas chili BBQ sauce, lime slaw aioli, secret herbs and spices Available Monday-Thursday only	\$26 \$27				

Our commitment to our local mates: we actively try source all produce from local farmers and businesses wherever we can. We love this place!

Thank you very much to everyone who provided articles and photos for this magazine. It is very much appreciated. - Margaret

**Outing Report: The Junction, Girraween 21<sup>st</sup> July 2024**

Ten Nats (or “Brown Cows” as Kris told me) met at the Girraween picnic grounds for morning tea. It was cool with a chilly breeze but an otherwise perfect sunny day with a big, blue, cloud free sky. Welcome to two newbies, Martin and Alison, who joined us for the walk. They have just moved down to the area from Hughenden.



Mountain Orange Gum  
*E. Prava*



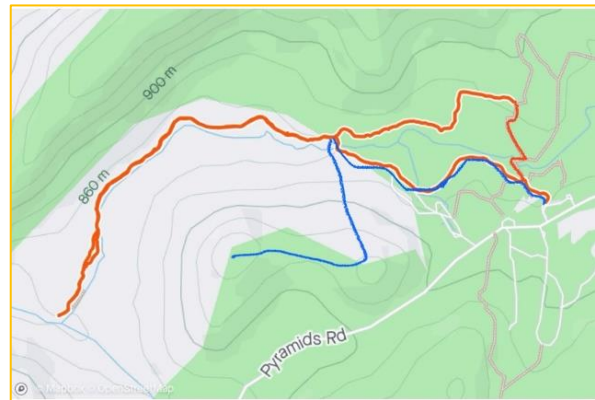
Showy Mirbelia - *Mirbelia speciosa*

There were a handful of plants flowering, with beautiful displays of Wallangarra Wattle, Pepper & Salt bush and Showy *Mirbelia*. Many plants are full of buds and will be fantastic in the Spring. The *Boronia* and *Phebalium whiteii* shouldn't be long off flowering. We saw lovely stands of Orange Gum along the track and admired how they manage to grow in such rocky areas. There were not many birds about, possibly due to the wind, but I did see a lovely group of Yellow Tufted Honeyeaters.

We looked up at the surrounding peaks as we walked along the creek, and discussed possible routes for future walks/exploring. I have included a couple of maps. Map A is the track we walked today (in red); Map B shows a possible walk for in the future (in blue). It would have a good view of the pyramid from a bit of a different angle.



Map A



Map B

After reaching the Junction there was some discussions regarding the names of the creeks. The “Junction” is the meeting of Bald Rock and Ramsey Creeks but what does the creek then become, is it still Bald Rock Creek? I looked at some maps and it appears it continues on as Bald Rock Creek until it meets with Accommodation Creek just East of the Lyra bridge before then continuing on as Accommodation Creek.



The Junction

On the return from the Junction we crossed the creek and returned via the old campground. As we rock hopped across the creek we admired the smooth erosion/polishing of the granite from the water and wondered at the time it would've taken for this to occur.

Just before the end of the walk I noticed some interesting "cocoon" in a



Egg sac of Magnificent Spider

tree with golden web. They looked like hanging Christmas tree ornaments and Margaret believed them to be from a Magnificent Spider (*Ordgarius magnificus*). As an arachnophobe, a 'magnificent spider' to me sounds like a very large, hairy and terrifying creature, yet a later google search showed it to be a tiny wee thing. Incredible it could create such a large construction. I included a photo with my hand in it for scale. We arrived back at the picnic ground around 1:30 and enjoyed a well-earned lunch.

Holly

**Birds:** Crimson Rosella, Eastern Spinebill, Yellow Tufted Honeyeater, Currawong, Magpie, Red Wattlebird



Salt and Pepper - *Spyridium scortechinii*,

**Flowers:** Granite Wattle *Acacia granitica*, Prickly Moses *A. ulicifolia*, Wallangarra Wattle *A. adunca*, *A. latisejala*, Showy Mirbelia *Mirbelia speciosa*, Snowbush *Leucopogon melaleucoides*, Urn Heath *Melichrus urceolatus*, Queen of the bush *Pimelea linifolia*, Pepper and Salt *Spyridium scortechinii*, Round Leaved Phebalium *Leionema rotundifolium*, She Oak *Allocasuarina sp.*, Lovely Boronia *Boronia amabilis*, Sundew *Drosera sp.*, Sourbush *Choretrum candollei*, Granite Heath *Micromyrtus sessilis*, Coughbush *Cassinia quinquefaria*, *Bossiaea rhombifolia*,

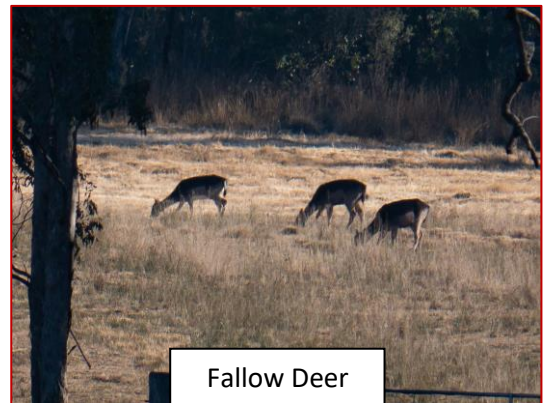
**Recent Wildlife visitors at the farm (winter 2024)**



It seems I have a local Echidna that appears around the domestic yards a couple of times per year. This one wandered over to the new Shed and came from the direction of the old tractor shed. Last year, it wandered into the tractor shed and tucked itself away in there. It will be interesting to see if this one is active again during Spring?

Although they are a feral species, I regularly see Fallow Deer around the periphery of my paddocks or in the scrub. An ex-

workmate from Cleveland visits regularly in the hope of shooting feral pigs and deer and has provided venison for my freezer over many years now. Personally, I could not shoot deer. Given I have sold off my steers and will not buy weaner steers again until Spring, the deer are free to graze in the Love Grass dominated paddocks. Lately, from my kitchen window and deck area, I see deer grazing above my Lower Dam and below the northern tree line. Curiously, they always move from east to west and presumably utilise the creek line in the middle of the property (Emu Gully



Fallow Deer

Creek)? Last week, during my brother's annual visit, we had to brake hard as six deer crossed Emu Swamp Road in front of us about 100m from my gate; they moved from west to east and entered my paddocks. Before the devastating drought of 2018/2019, my driveway was lined with around 35 pine trees, which provided pinecones for Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoos. Most of the pine trees died and only a couple remain but occasionally, YT Black Cockatoos visit to feed on the pinecones.



Sow and Piglets

Feral pigs are commonly seen around the paddocks. Despite the efforts of my Son-in-Law and friends from Cleveland in shooting them regularly, they are a constant presence and cause environmental damage around drain ways and the creek bed. Recently, after about 12mm of overnight rain, I noticed pig activity near the domestic campfire! Similarly, there were what I believe are deer droppings inside my orchard! If they are not deer droppings, then they might be sheep or goat droppings?



Deer Droppings

*John Salini*

## PARADISE RECLAIMED



On a return visit to Lord Howe Island, I was hoping to see more Woodhens than on my first visit. I needn't have worried – they were everywhere, and if they can't be seen, they can certainly be heard. It was not always so in this beautiful World Heritage listed site.

Being a flightless bird, and unafraid, having had no predators for thousands of years, they had been under siege by passing sailors, settlers and introduced feral animals for almost 200 years. In the 1970s, it was estimated there were fewer than 30 Woodhens on the island, those being confined to the

summit regions of Mt. Gower and Mt. Lidgbird.

A study attributed the decline in Woodhen numbers to feral pigs and other disruptive animals such as goats. In 1980, the eradication of pigs and goats, plus a program of captive breeding, allowed the Woodhen to recover its numbers.

The captive breeding program was established by the National Parks & Wildlife and the Lord Howe Island Board, after 2 years of research. 3 pairs of healthy Woodhens were flown down from Mt. Gower by helicopter, and within weeks were laying eggs.

Years later, with rats and mice now wreaking havoc over the island, a controversial rodent eradication program was planned, using both aerial and ground baiting.

After years of planning, this highly co-ordinated program commenced in 2019. First, an estimated 85% of the Woodhens, and many of the endemic currawongs were captured, these being the only two birds deemed especially at risk from the baits. They were placed in captivity on the island, with Taronga Park Zoo playing a vital role. Following the successful baiting program, the birds were released gradually across the island. It has also benefited the island's biodiversity in allowing species recovery.



There is now an ongoing program using cameras, wax blocks, chew cards, traps, and the regular use of Rodent Detection dogs, to keep predators in check.

Today the Woodhens are surviving very nicely. They pair for life, each pair defending their territory, and as was the case 200 years ago, they still exhibit little fear.

The Lord Howe Woodhens' future is now looking much brighter.

*Lyn Collins*

### Boronia Amabilis – Wyberba Boronia



Boronia Amabilis – Holly Patti

At the last Nats outing in Girraween, some members said that they hoped to see the “Wyberba Boronia” , boronia amabilis. Most of the Nats on the outing had never heard amabilis being called Wyberba boronia so I thought that some research on the subject might fill in some time for me. I looked in the data base of the Australian Virtual Herbarium, the Atlas of Living Australia, the Queensland Herbarium and Wikipedia. The further I went the more confusing it became and I wouldn't suggest that the following information is 100% accurate.

It appears that amabilis was first formally identified in 1963 by S T Blake as a separate species and published in proceedings of the Royal Society of Queensland. This meant that specimens that had been collected previously and incorrectly identified were now renamed. The earliest specimen I can find was by J. E. Young in 1928 and was collected in an area

between McDonagh Rd and Ferris Lane Lyra.

The earliest actual photo of a collected specimen is one by Jean Gailbraith on 31/8/1967. It is very hard to determine where most specimens have been collected as they use latitude and longitude with an uncertainty of up to 10 km. For instance one of the occurrence dots in A.L.A. shows amabilis occurring in the township of Wallangarra but when you dig further you find the actual location as being on the Junction track.

Another interesting observation is that S T Blake supplied the common name as Wyperba boronia and that name still appears on the Queensland Government website and has been used by most of the collectors but not by Wikipedia.

In 2009, a collector called M.T. Mathieson recorded 100's of amabilis in the NW corner of Girraween National Park and the same collector recorded 250+ plants in Horan's Gorge in 2015.



*Kris Carnell*



### Red-naped snake

I was recently removing corrugated iron sheets from the old chook run, which I had put there to kill the African lovegrass, when a Pied Butcherbird landed beside me to take this pretty Red-naped snake. I chased the bird away and managed to coax the snake into my hat then put it in a shoe box with some of the leaf litter so that I could get some photos. Notice that the close up photo shows a blurred forked tongue even though it was taken at 1/125s. I kept it for a couple of days hoping to show it



to the grandchildren, but it made its escape before I could do that.



I obtained the following information from the Department of Environment website. The red-naped snake is a slender snake growing up to about 40 cm. It is red-brown in colour with a shiny black head and nape, and a distinctive bright red or orange patch on the back of its head. Its belly is white or cream. It is venomous, but is regarded as 'virtually harmless' to humans. When threatened it will strike back, but usually with its mouth closed. It is nocturnal, hiding in leaf litter by day and foraging at night for skinks.

*Rob McCosker*

**MINUTES**

**Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc**

**Date 17/07/2024**

**Meeting opened: 1940h**

**Attendance & Apologies:** As per Attendance Book, 14 attendees, including new members Martin and Allison Vries.

**Minutes of the previous meeting: - Any amendments?...Minor amendment**

Confirmed Lyn.....

Seconded...Rob.....

Carried

**Business arising from the minutes:**

Updating the Club projector.

**Correspondence:** .....read as per correspondence book; /sdcc NAIDOC BALL invitation

Moved.... John Seconded...Kris

Carried

**Financial Report:** Treasurer's Report Current Balance: \$2,782.39

Income; Membership Subs

**Total as per Commonwealth Bank Account \$2,782.39**

Moved...Lyn

seconded

Marg

Carried

**General Business:**

Discuss club projector – Leon visited Harvey Norman to look at the connector cables required; to be clarified and investigated further. We may need a few adaptors.

**Outing Report:**

Robyn reported on the day and hoped we enjoyed it. Members assured her we enjoyed it and wanted more time there, had the Volunteers not needed to leave.

**Pre-Outing Report:**

Walk to the Junction in Girraween National Park leader Holly Patti. She suggested members meet at the park Day area, bring lunch.

**Speaker & Topic: -**

Remember Last Year – Kris Carnell.

**Specimens:**

**Next Meeting:** Gliders – Holly Patti.

**Meeting Closed:** 1950h

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
Stanthorpe Field Naturalists Club Inc.  
Held at Uniting Church Hall on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

**Meeting Opened:** 2000h

**Attendance:** *Rob & Trish McCosker, Leon and Kerrie McCosker, Peter Haselgrove, Robyn Murray, John Salini, Margaret and Kris Carnell, Martin and Alison Vries, Lyn Collins, Graham Rayner, EXTRA PERSON? N = 14.*

**Apologies:** Lesley Saunders, Lockwood Wilson, Lyn Collins, Graham Rayner, Andrew Pengelly,

**Minutes of the Previous AGM;** Moved Kris Carnell, seconded Rob McCosker, carried.

**Business Arising:** None

**President's Report:** Leon presented his report describing the various meeting presentations and the diverse range of outings in the past year, including the annual breakup BBQ at John Salini's farm in December. He also noted that Holly Patti produced a SFN information flyer for use as handouts. Leon moved that his report be accepted, seconded by John

**Financial Report:** Lyn presented her written report and moved that her report be accepted, seconded by John.

**Election of Office Bearers:** Leon McCosker vacated the Chair and Peter Haselgrove conducted the election of office bearers.

**President:** Leon spoke to Holly during the week and she would accept nomination for President. Seconded by Kris?

**Vice-Presidents:**

**One** Robyn Murray self-nominated, seconded by Lyn, accepted

**Two** Kris Carnell self-nominated, seconded by Lyn, accepted.

**Secretary:** John Salini self-nominated, seconded by Lyn, accepted.

**Treasurer** John nominated Lyn, seconded Kris, accepted

In addition, The Stanthorpe Field Naturalists Club account with Commonwealth Bank is to remain a two to sign account. However, the treasurer, Lynette Haselgrove, and the president, Leon McCosker are to have access to online banking. The treasurer is to have access to and be able to change the Login password.

**Newsletter Editor:** Peter Haselgrove nominated Margaret Carnell, seconded Leon McCosker, accepted.

**Publicity Facebook Manager:** Kris nominated Holly, subject to acceptance (absent from meeting).

**Librarian:** Peter Haselgrove nominated Rob McCosker, seconded Trish McCosker, accepted.

**Business from AGM:** It was decided that a committee needed to be formed to plan for meeting talks and monthly outings. This would be carried out via email by the incoming President.

**Meeting Closed:** 2021h

# Spottings



**Above L.** We saw this glowering gum in Symes Street recently. – *Kris Carnell*  
**Above R.** Rufous Whistler at John Salini's place.  
**Right:** Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo eating pine nuts. – *John Salini*  
**Below:** *Acacia adunca* at Girraween at the beginning of The Junction Walk. – *Rob McCosker*

