

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

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



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 18th: *Larapinta Trail* with Rob McCosker

Sunday 21st: *Mallee Ridge* with Rob and Trish McCosker.

**Deadline for next newsletter
7th October 2024**

Pre-Outing Report - September 21st 2024 – Mallee Ridge



We will meet at Weeroona Park for a 9.00am start and drive to the Day Use Area at Mt Norman for morning tea, then set off on the Mt Norman track carrying lunch to have on the top of Mallee Ridge. I rate the walk as Grade 3.

The name Mallee Ridge comes from the New England mallee *Eucalyptus codonocarpa*, which only grows in a couple of places in Girraween and the New England area

of NSW. There should be a range of wildflowers blooming in the area as well. The ridge is also renowned for the dramatic granite formations created by weathering of a large dyke formation and of course, dramatic views of the prominent Girraween peaks. Dyke formations were created when cracks in the cooling mass of magma allowed fresh molten magma to rise through the cracks and cool much more quickly, allowing much smaller crystals to form as it cooled resulting in a harder more weather resistant rock to form.

We walk along the Mt Norman track for some distance then follow some flag rocks and pass through some bush and another uphill granite slope to the ridge top. Some of the walk is off-track and a bit steep in places but we will have plenty of time to take it easy. Trish and I did a pre-walk one afternoon, starting at 1.30pm and returned to the car by 5.30pm however for the outing we intend to be back to the car park by 3.00pm, allowing a 4.00pm return to Stanthorpe.

**Rob McCosker
0410024383**

Outing Report: Ballandean Pub Dinner & Dr Roberts Waterhole Spotlighting 25th August '24

17 Nats met up at the Ballandean Pub at 6pm for a lovely dinner and catch up. We sat outdoors on the deck with perfect weather. Everyone seemed to enjoy dinner with Lesley saying her kale was the best she'd ever tasted and wished there had been more on her plate.

Unfortunately, it didn't cross my mind to get a photo of the group!



We headed down to Girraween about 7:30 and met up at the Dr Roberts waterhole car park.

We all turned off our torches & headlights to look at the wonderful starry sky out of reach of city lights.

We then wandered off down the track to the waterhole, a very gentle meander as most of the time was spent looking up into the trees.

Many of us saw microbats zipping around as we wandered along. We could hear a Boobook Owl calling for most of the walk, sometimes from different directions (maybe two different owls or maybe the same owl moving from place to place??) Philipp saw the eye shine of a spider on the ground but on closer inspection it disappeared into a hole in an ants nest.

At the waterhole Kerri told me about a lyrebird's nest that had been previously seen in the large boulders and could possibly still be there. I will have to have a look in the daytime sometime...

On the return from the waterhole Margaret spotted a possum, hooray! It was a sweet wee Ringtail Possum. We all had a quick look and then left him to his nightly activities.



Regrettably we didn't see any other possums, gliders or thylacines and we headed back to our cars.

Some members drove back via Ballandean and some the back way past Storm King Dam. We did get a very brief glimpse at a Brushtail Possum scampering across the road just outside of the National Park.

Leon & Kerri sent me these photos of their Grandson standing with the Lyrebirds nest at Dr Roberts Waterhole. (See page 5. Ed.)

Holly Patti

Minutes
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc
Date 21 /08/2024

Meeting opened: 1931h with Holly thanking Leon for his service as President

Attendance & Apologies: Apologies from Lock Wilson, David Wilson and Peter Haselgrove; 17 in attendance, including new member Phillip Kirsch and visitors Paul and Jenny Lister, others recorded in the Attendance Book. Frank and Kath Truscott membership renewal for submitted with note offering SFN to join them camping in the Bunya Mountains in January 2025.

Minutes of the previous meeting: -

AGM Minutes, moved by John, seconded Kris, carried.

OGM Minutes, Moved they be accepted by John seconded by Leslie, carried.

Business arising from the minutes: Purchase of SFN projector put on hold for now.

Correspondence:John noted several emails concerning SDRC Community Grant Guidelines and information regarding club insurance as part of the Qld Water and Land Carers (QwaLC). Membership renewal from Frank & Kath Truscott; information about the Lanikai Bird Camp

Moved John.....

Seconded Leslie,

Carried

Financial Report: Treasurer's Report Current Balance: \$2,922.39

Discussion about SFN annual reports to Office of Fair Trading; as a comparison, Lyn has sent the Camera Club reports in annually – does the SFN need to report? Divided opinion on this.

Moved Lyn

seconded

Leslie

Carried

General Business:

The discussion about annual reporting to the OOFT continued as General Business.

Rob reported on the bird walk at his and Trish's property on Jones Road, Severnlea; 38 species recorded.

Speakers for 2024/25 to be finalised; Tony Dutton will talk on Lunar Geology in May 2025.

Member details to be updated with the form handed out tonight.

Kirs to upload the August newsletter to the MYSD website.

Outstanding subscriptions are now due.

Holly purchased a new HDMI cable for use with the old projector.

Outing Report:

Holly reported on the outing to The Junction in Girraween NP; good weather although a little windy. The wattles were starting to blossom.

Pre-Outing Report:

Holly on the Dinner and Spot lighting afterwards at Dr Robert's Waterhole in Girraween NP this Sunday, 25th August. She called for a show of hands for the dinner. Meet at the Tavern by 1800h.

Speaker & Topic: - Australian Possums and Gliders with Holly Patti

There are 26 species in Australia including some small, isolated populations of Pygmy Possums in northern Qld. Those in attendance thanked Holly for her informative talk.

Specimens: No specimens reported

Next Meeting: 18th September 2024 – Topic is the Larapinta Trail by Rob McCosker; Robyn Murray to chair it; the hall keys were passed on to Rob.

Meeting Closed: 1959h



Lyre Bird Nest at Dr Robert's Waterhole

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Upon initial observation, koalas may not appear to share many similarities with humans. However, closer examination of their hands reveals fingerprints remarkably similar to our own. In fact, the resemblance is so striking that in Australia, there have been discussions as to whether koalas can potentially compromise crime scenes.

FUNFACT **DO YOU KNOW**
THE FINGERPRINTS OF KOALA BEARS ARE ALMOST INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM THOSE OF HUMANS?



A koala bear is shown in a mugshot-style photograph. It is positioned in front of a height chart that ranges from 2'6" to 6'6". The koala is holding a black sign that reads "POLICE DEPARTMENT 32510552 DISORDERLY CONDUCT".

HUMAN

KOALA



The image compares human and koala fingerprints. A human fingerprint is shown at the top right, and two koala fingerprints are shown below it. The koala fingerprints appear very similar in pattern to the human fingerprint.

Spottings



Thanks to Lesley Saunders for these photos taken at a house where she was pet sitting.

Top: A brush-tail possum making itself comfortable.

Bottom Left: This spider that was found laying her eggs on a window pane. She spent the night with her eggs and then promptly disappeared at dawn. Lesley thinks she is a grey house spider.

Bottom Right: The spider eggs on the window pane.