

The Granite Belt Naturalist



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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 – 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 16th October: *Bhutan* with Lesley Saunders

Sunday 20th October: *Bolivia Nature Reserve* with Kris and Margaret Carnell

**Deadline for next newsletter
10th November 2024**

Pre-Outing Report – Bolivia Hill Nature Reserve – 20th October 2024

Leaders: Kris and Margaret Carnell



Bolivia wattle in bud.

The Stanthorpe Field Naturalists group’s next outing on 20th October will be to the northern end of Bolivia Nature Reserve. We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am and travel south on the New England Highway to Bolivia Hill, which should take a little over an hour. There is a truck parking area on Bolivia Hill with picnic tables and a toilet, where there should be adequate parking for our vehicles out of the way of any trucks. Morning tea will be at the cars before starting the walk and we will carry lunch and water.

The entrance to the reserve is a few metres from the back of the parking area and the first stop will be just off the creek crossing where we found a stand of Bolivia wattle, *acacia bolivensis*. It was in bud on 19th August but I don’t expect there will be any flowers left by the time of the outing. There is a tiny dam there and when we did the pre-outing there were at least two varieties of frog calling. Our next stop will be the ruin of the old shearing shed with a sheep dip and the remains of the yards – all in very poor condition. The shed is falling down, so we will not be able to enter it and we will have to take great care where we put our feet, as a lot of the fence is on the ground and there are boards lying around.



The old sheep dip

We can skip this if people prefer. A short distance along the track there is a rocky outcrop well worth exploring as it has a diversity of plants.



Xanthorrhoea johnsonii

We will then continue along the Chile Trail until we reach a junction where the trail turns right. Under the power lines, between granite slabs there are reported to be some specimens of the Bolivia boronia but in spite of searching we could not find any. Perhaps a larger group may have more success. The grass trees in this area are quite impressive and there are views to the east and south. We plan to have lunch at the junction of Chile and Patagonia Trails but it depends on what we find and how much botanizing we do.

We plan to be back at the vehicles by 3 o'clock.

Mallee Ridge Outing Report 22nd September 2024

At last! The outing to Mallee Ridge was held under perfect conditions after previous attempts were abandoned due to wet weather and park closure due to bushfires. Six members attended and were greeted with an abundance of wildflowers at the Mt Norman Day Use Park for morning tea, and progress was slow along the track with so many stops to admire the variety of flowering plants.



Admiring the remains of a dyke

After leaving the Mt Norman track we made our way over granite flag rock towards the top of the ridge but



Walking through Pomaderris

Unfortunately, as it was over 12 months since the last time I was up there, I lost the way and we did some bush bashing to access the final granite slope to the top. At least this gave us a different aspect as we walked over a series of dykes and on reaching one with suitable height for sitting we stopped for lunch with the view to the east of the prominent outcrops of Bald Rock, South Bald Rock, Middle Rock and West Bald Rock while Mt Norman dominated the view to our north.

After lunch we continued to the top to look at the natural garden beds containing the Mallee trees for which the ridge is named, Eucalyptus codonocarpa, and a variety of flowering plants including Boronia, Prostanthera, Homoranthus and Pomaderris in masses, some above head height. Continuing downhill we went past the row of massive boulders of different shapes, the remnants of a massive dyke, which someone thought looked like a herd of elephants. We went on



Lunch on Mallee Ridge

down the granite slopes to once again reach the Mt Norman track and got back to the cars at about 3.00pm for a well-earned cuppa.

Bird List – Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Grey Fantail, Brown Thornbill, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Pied Currawong, Rufous Whistler, Eastern Spinebill.



Walking carefully through *Boronia amabilis*

Plant List – 37 species

Stanthorpe pea *Pultenaea hartmannii*, Blue dampiera *Dampiera stricta*, Lady's slipper *Hybanthus monopetalus*, Small-leaved boronia *Boronia microphylla*, Lovely boronia *B. amabilis*, Granite boronia *B. granitica*, Queen of the bush *Pimelea linifolia*, Coral heath *Epacris microphylla*, Prickly Moses *Acacia ulicifolia*, Snowbush *Acrothamnus melaleucoides*, Wild iris *Patersonia glabrata*, Running postman *Kennedia rubicunda*, Large-leaved hopbush *Dodonaea triquetra*, Hairy hopbush *D. hirsuta*, Sticky hopbush *D. viscosa*, King orchid *Dendrobium speciosum*, Purplish beard orchid *Calochilus robertsonii*, Long-leaved matrush *Lomandra longifolia*, Broad-leaved hakea, *Hakea laevipes* subsp.

graniticola, Spiked mintbush *Prostanthera phyllicifolia*, Fruit salad plant *Leionema ambiens*, Round-leaved phebalium *L. rotundifolium*, Forest phebalium *Phebalium glandulosum* subsp. *eglandulosum*, Heath zieria *Zieria aspalathoides* subsp. *aspalathoides*, Pepper and salt *Spyridium scortechinii*, Heath myrtle *Calytrix tetragona*, Fairies aprons *Utricularia dichotoma*, Tall shaggy pea *Oxylobium arborescens*, Stuart's daisy *Brachyscome stuartii*, Wax flower *Philotheca epilosa*, Sago bush *Ozothamnus diosmifolius*, Hairy pomaderris *Pomaderris lanigera*, White pomaderris *P. canescens*, Tree trigger plant *Stylidium laricifolium*, Woolly xanthosia *Xanthosia pilosa*. Native sarsaparilla *Hardenbergia violacea*.

Rob McCosker

Minutes Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc

Date 18/09/2024

Meeting opened: 1930h with Robyn Murray deputising for Holly

Attendance & Apologies: Apologies from Holly Patti.

Minutes of the previous meeting: - No amendments, confirmed Rob, seconded Kris, carried.

Business arising from the minutes: Lyn and John completed the form for annual return to the Office of Fair Trading. Lyn asked for agreement to pay \$62 lodgement fee; agreed.

Correspondence:John noted several emails were forwarded to members concerning other clubs and SDRC Community notices.

Moved John.....

Seconded Trish

Carried

Financial Report: Treasurer's Report Current Balance: \$3,022.39

Membership fees of \$130 were deposited during the month.

Moved Lyn

seconded

Graham

Carried

Outing Report:

Holly reported on the Dinner at the Ballandean Tavern followed by spotlighting at Dr Robert's Waterhole. Her report was published in the September newsletter.

Pre-Outing Report:

Rob alerted members to his Mallee Ridge pre-outing report in the September newsletter. The outing is on this Sunday, 22nd September; apologies from Robyn and John who can't be there.

General Business:

There was a discussion about editing the Contacts list with personal details for the list that is stored with the First Aid kit for field outings. Some of these details may exist on the gmail Contacts account.

Speaker & Topic: - Larapinta Trail by Rob and Trish McCosker

Rob presented lovely photographs of their 6-day hike through sections of the Larapinta Trail some years ago. They did not have to carry camping equipment or food as that was provided by the tour company.

Specimens: Rob brought in a specimens of *Dendrobium kingianum*, the Pink Rock Orchid.

Next Meeting: 16th October 2024 – Topic is the Bhutan presented by Lesley Saunders.

Meeting Closed: 1958h.

Seasonal changes on my farm

by John Salini

During September, my Tiger Orchid in the dead Red Gum (*E. blakleyi*) blossomed again this Spring as did my Lemon Double Tail ground orchids just off the fire track.



The other event that I mentioned at the September meeting was this very fortunate Easter Rosella that fell in to my kitchen wood stove flue just before I went to Coolum Beach for 3 days.

I heard scratching in the kitchen as I prepared some food and a thermos of tea for the four and a half hour drive to Coolum Beach on a Thursday morning. When I returned Sunday afternoon, I heard more scratching but assumed it was Galahs trying to perch on top of the flue of the wood stove.....Next morning, Monday, I happened to open the

wood stove door and was greeted with a cloud of ash and a very frightened bird flying out!! After I found my old fish landing net in the carport, I managed to catch the bird and rinsed the ash off it before releasing it on the lawn in front of the pizza oven!!! To my surprise, the bird flew off in to nearby trees, despite being trapped inside the firebox for 4 days/nights!



Left: Lemon Double Tail *Diuris* sp.
Centre and Right: *Dendrobium caniculatum*

Spottings



Thanks to Graham Rayner for these photos taken at Girraween on a recent photo shoot with the Camera Club.

Top Left: *Isopogon petiolaris* **Top Right:** *Leucopogon biflorus*

Middle Left: Callistemon bud about to burst forth.

Middle Right: *Boronia amabilis*

Bottom Right: A well camouflaged skink.



Above Left: There were two fig birds perched on a dead tree in Denham Street when we were walking back from town.

Above Right: A pair of plovers hatched these four chicks across the road from our house in Bridge Street. They have relocated them in the last few days because the council is repairing the road and have lots of heavy machinery and noise.

Bolivia Station

There was some discussion about the naming of Boliva Station and the names of the trails on the 2012 outing. Edward Hurry was the first European to settle at Boliva where he had a sheep station. He had lived in Bolivia in South America, hence the name. A community sprang up in the area with shops, a cemetery and a school. It is the only place in the world with the same name as the country and the local community was presented with a Bolivian flag which they fly at Boliva Hall sometimes.

In 2011 Boliva Station was sold by the widow of Frank McAlary QC who had owned it since the 1970s. Frank McAlary was the dancing man on the dollar coin, issued in 2005, commemorating the end of WW2.

