

# The Granite Belt Naturalist



**Mail Address:** Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, Stanthorpe Qld. 4380  
stanthorpefieldnats@gmail.com

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 – 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 19<sup>th</sup> February: *The Kimberleys* with John Salini

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February: *Koreelah National Park and Queen Mary Falls* with Leon and Kerrie McCosker

**Deadline for next newsletter  
10<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Pre-Outing Report – Driving outing to Koreelah National Park and Queen Mary Falls.  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**

**Leaders:** Leon and Kerrie McCosker



Over-looking the waterfall into  
Koreelah Gorge

Meet at Weeroona Park at **8.30 am** to carpool, it will be a reasonably long day, driving more than 200 km, including approximately 15 km of gravel road, through lovely green countryside. We drive along Amosfield Road to Liston, here we will inspect the Liston Cobb and Co. and Collectables Museum.

The Museum contains a replica Cobb & Co coach built by John Burton at the age of 88, He also designed and constructed the shed with the help of volunteers, to house the coach and collectables which are clearly named. There are several information panels within the building.

Follow the Mount Lindesay Rd to Legume, turning right. At Old Koreelah, turn left into White Swamp Rd, travel for approximately 13 kms, turn left into Koreelah National Park. We drive to the day use Picnic area; this is a good spot for lunch under the shady trees beside placid pools of Koreelah creek. There is an easy walk to view the Falls and gorge, looking down the creek.

Koreelah National Park area is 5266 hectares with Wilsons Peak at 1231 metres.



Queen Mary's Falls

After lunch drive back onto White Swamp Rd, turn left into Head Gate Rd. At the tee junction turn left into Spring Creek Rd. We can stop to see the Moss Gardens and views of Wilsons Peak, a 10-minute walk. Further on to Carr's Lookout, arriving at Queen Mary's Falls for afternoon tea. Members can walk to the falls or drive back to Stanthorpe.

*Outing Report: Eriostemon Peak, Girraween 24<sup>th</sup> November 2024*

Leader: Holly Patti

Fourteen Nats met up at the main picnic ground in Girraween for a quick morning tea before heading off about 10 am. It was a hot day but perfect weather otherwise.

We headed off on the track to the Junction. There were many wildflowers still in flower including lots of Flannel Flower, Finger Flower and Pink Hyacinth Orchids. We saw a beautiful wee Willie Wagtail nest with a parent sitting on it, and an electric blue and black Botany Bay Weevil.



Botany Bay Weevil



Slender Hyacinth Orchid



Pink



Metallic Shield Bug

I had preselected a point to cross the creek that I had found to be the easiest, but on arrival a lot more water was flowing over it due to the recent rain. The granite was very slippery and not safe to cross so we continued down the creek in search of a suitable place to cross over. Unfortunately this added a bit more distance to our walk, and we had to backtrack to the original creek crossing, but it was fun wandering through a new spot that most of us had never seen.

We arrived back at the slab "the Road" and headed up. It was quite hot but there was a breeze and we chugged on our water bottles. At the top of the slab we looked at the strange concentric circles on the granite and agreed it looked to be where rocks had been placed on

the granite for some time which killed off the dark lichen underneath. At some point those rocks have been removed and white circles remain.

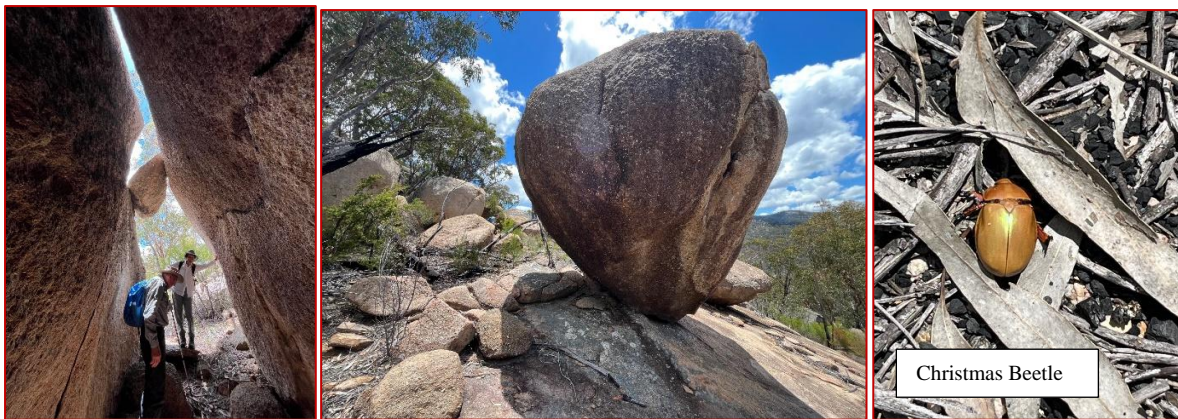
At the top of the slab we discussed our next move as we were a bit behind time. As the top of Eriostemon Peak has little view, we decided to just climb up the side where the wax flower and wombat area was.

Rob was the first to notice the waxflower but unfortunately it had finished flowering. I wasn't hopeful but amazingly some was still in flower towards the top.

We had a quick little explore around some large boulders, finding a few wombat burrows.

There was lots of wombat poo but in this area, but most appeared to be old. It would be great fun to set up a motion sensor camera up here to see what goes on after dark.

We turned around and headed back down the slab, returning along this side the creek, through the old campground and back to our cars for a well earned lunch just after 1pm.



Christmas Beetle

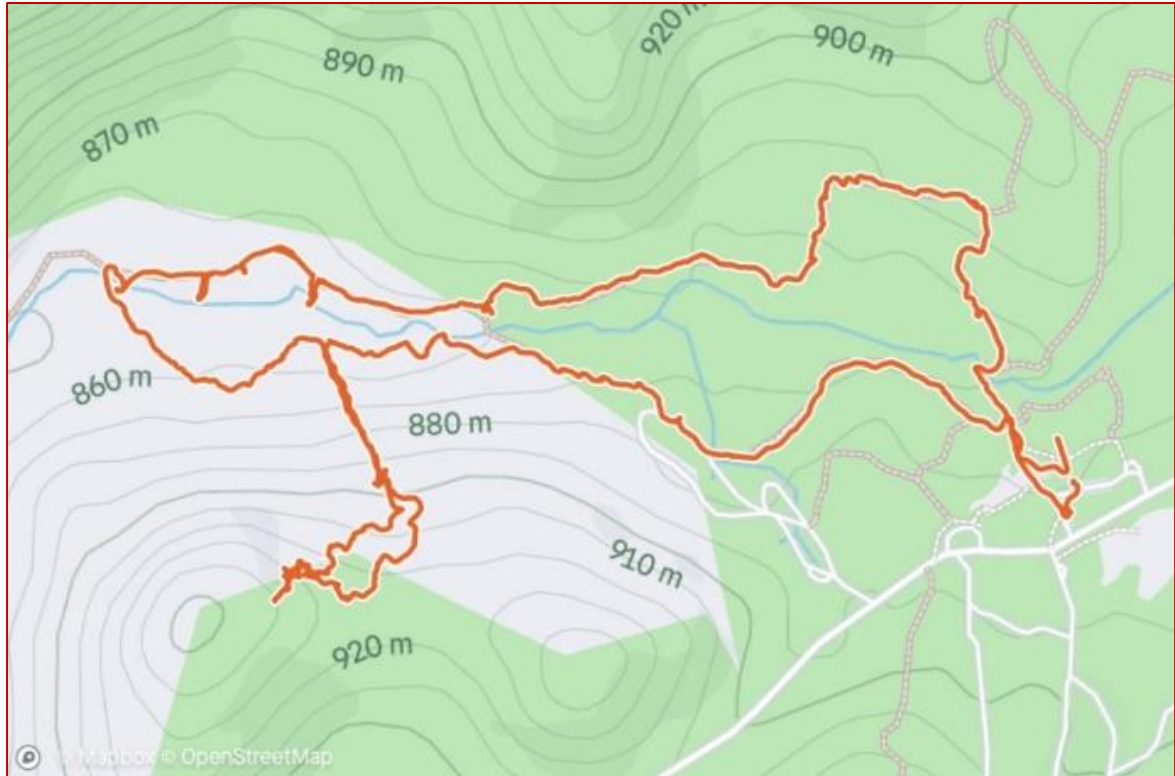
**Plant List:**

Compact Wire Lily *Laxmannia compacta*, **Granite Babingtonia** *Kardomia granitica*, Flannel Flower *Actinotus helianthi*, Finger Flower *Cheiranthra cyanea*, Daisy Goodenia *Goodenia bellidifolia*, Guinea Flower *Hibbertia cistoidea*, *Wahlenbergia sp.*, Broom Milkwort *Comepsperma sphaerocarpum*, Grass Trigger Plant *Stylidium graminifolium*, Native Candytuft *Trachymene incisa*, Mountain Dampiera *Dampiera purpurea*, Pink Waxflower *Eriostemon australasius*, Zieria sp., Slug Herb *Murdannia graminea*, White Kunzea *Kunzea bracteolata*, Showy Podolepis *Podolepis jaceoides*, Slender Hyacinth Orchid *Dipodium variegatum*, Blotched Hyacinth Orchid *D. punctatum*, Conesticks *Petrophile canescens*, Narrow Leaved Isotoma *Isotoma anethifolia*, Pepper & Salt *Spyridium scortechinii*, Matchheads *Comesperma retusum*, **Green Bottlebrush** *Melaleuca flavovirens*, Narrow Leaved Bottlebrush *M. linearis*, Narrow Leaved Spider Flower *Grevillea linearifolia*, Thread Leaved Hopbush *Dodonaea falcata*, *Hemigenia cuneifolia*, *Pimela sp.*, Snow in Summer *Melaleuca alternifolia*, Rice Flower *Ozothamnus diosmifolius*, **Speedwell** *Veronica (Derwentia) arenaria*, Fine Leaved Geebung *Persoonia tenuifolia*, Spotted Mintbush *Prostanthera Saxicola*,

**\*Near threatened**

**Bird List:**

White Throated Gerygone, Flycatcher sp., Noisy Friar Bird, Rufous Whistler, Magpie, Laughing Kookaburra, Silvereye, Willie Wagtail, Yellow Tufted Honeyeater, Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo, White Eared Honeyeater, Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoo, Superb Fairy Wren, Cicada Bird, Black Faced Cuckoo Shrike, Satin Bower Bird, Golden Whistler, White Browed Scrubwren.



Total distance covered: 6.3kms, total elevation gain: 150ms.



“the Road”

**Minutes**  
**Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc**  
**Date 20/11/2024**

**Meeting opened:** 1932h

**Attendance & Apologies:** Margaret Carnell, see Attendance book.

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

**Business arising from the minutes:** None

**Correspondence:** .....John forwarded various email from other clubs and community organisations.

Moved John.....

Seconded Trish

Carried

**Financial Report:** Treasurer's Report Previous Balance: \$2,960.29

No Expenditure, no Income during previous month (19/09/2024 to 16/10/2024)

There is meeting room rent owing of \$125

Current Balance = \$2,960.29

Moved Lyn

seconded

Kris

Carried

**Outing Report:**

Kris and Margaret reported on the Bolivia Hill Nature Reserve outing. The rare wattle had finished flowering. Kris checked with National Parks Service in Glen Innes about the alternative entrance to Bolivia Hill; Kris will keep contact with the Ranger regarding future entry.

**Pre-Outing Report:**

Holly provided some details about the walk to Eriostemon Peak in Girraween NP this Sunday.

**General Business:**

Holly reminded members of the Christmas BBQ on 15<sup>th</sup> December at her property, starting at 1500h; please bring chairs. She will send out the address via email.

**Speaker & Topic:** - Holly presented an interesting talk on the diverse frog fauna in Australia; this included frog calls.

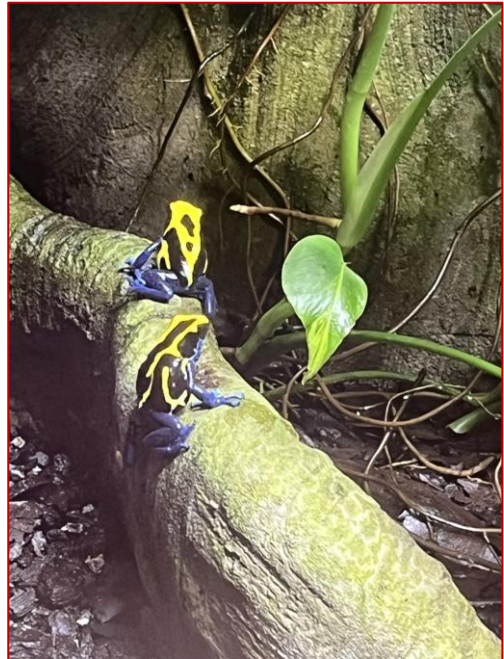
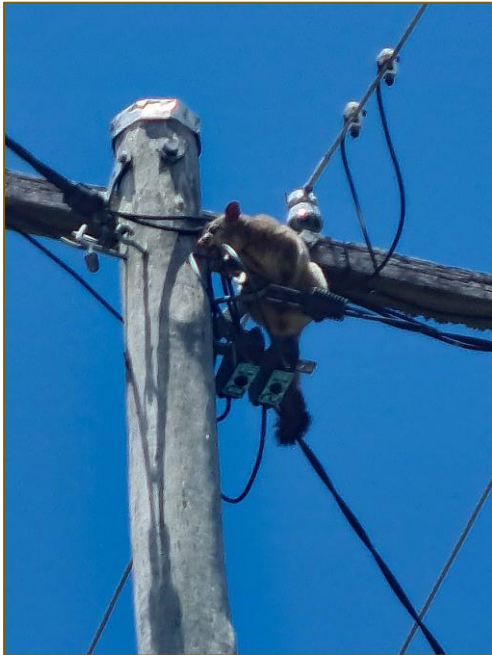
**Specimens:** A Large Moth and a spiky weevil brought in by Melanie. Rob played some dawn bird calls he recorded in August.

**Next Meeting:** 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – Christmas Breakup BBQ at Holly's house.

The first meeting for 2025 will be on 19<sup>th</sup> February with a talk on John Salini's Kimberley trip in 2017.

**Meeting Closed:** 1956h.

# Spottings



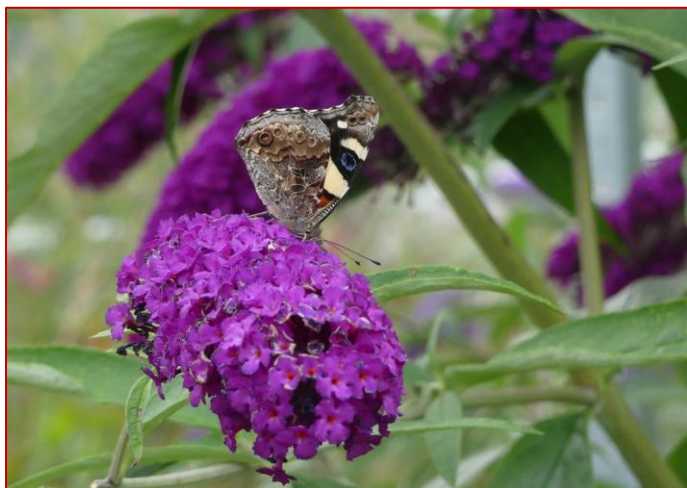
Thanks to Graham Rayner who wrote:  
I was walking down Belwood Street at  
10:53am today (2<sup>nd</sup> December) and  
heard a commotion from Noisy Miners.  
This is what it was all about - a possum,  
in the middle of the day..



Thanks to Holly Patti for these  
photos.

**Above:** Two frog photos

**Left:** A grey shrike thrush nest



The following were in our garden in Bridge Street, Stanthorpe

**Top Left:** An admiral butterfly

**Top Right:** A praying mantis eating a bee.

**Middle Left:** A katydid that has just shed its skin.

**Bottom Left:** Two robber flies mating.

**Middle Right:** Graham Rayner saw this cicada emerging on the outing to Girraween in November.