

# 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

*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 19<sup>th</sup> March: *Plants of Gibraltar Range* with Andrew Pengelly  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March: *The Creek Trail, Girraween* with Kris and Margaret Carnell

**Deadline for next newsletter  
8<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**Pre-outing Report – The Creek Trail, Girraween – 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025**

**Leaders:** Kris and Margaret Carnell

Originally we were planning to go to The Desert at Basket Swamp but when we did the pre-outing we decided it was a spring outing. We thought we would do the Creek Trail at Girraween instead. Unfortunately, when we went to do the pre-outing on 5<sup>th</sup> March, the National Park was closed because of cyclone Alfred until 14<sup>th</sup> March, so we are uncertain of distances and the time required to do the walk. We did see a number of wallabies on our way out to the parking area.

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am and travel along Sugarloaf Road into Eukey Road then down Parish's Lane to Pyramids Road, turning into Mt Norman Road. Smoko will be at the car park before starting our walk along the trail. We will carry lunch and find a suitable spot to have it. Sorry we don't have more details for this outing but we will have to play it by ear. If we do have further information you will be advised by email.

**Outing Report – Driving to Koreelah NP and Queen Mary Falls 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2025**



Mural on Cobb & Co Coach & Collectable Museum - Liston

We left Weeroona Park at 8.30 am to meet at the Cobb & Co Coach & Collectables Museum, Liston. At the age of 89, John Burton took 2 years to build the replica Cobb & Co 7-seater coach from scratch. The horse and coach are housed in the museum, which he specially designed and constructed. The building has glass all around to see the vast number of named collectables. Information boards give the history of Liston and being a horse changing station for Cobb & Co in the 1800s.

Leaving Liston, we drove through lovely green countryside and past some well advanced hardwood plantations. Stopping at the Maryland River bridge, we caught up with David and Narelle and enjoyed morning tea by the river.

Driving to Legume turning right following Mt Lindsay Rd to Old Koreelah, turning left onto White Swamp Rd, at approximately 10 km turn left into Koreelah National Park. We stopped at the information board to learn about the NP and then parked in a couple of vacant camp sites. We walked along a pathway to the falls and head of the gorge. Returning for lunch under the shady trees beside the placid pools of Koreelah Creek. We were visited by a couple of lace monitors.



Falls on Koreelah Creek

Back on to White Swamp Rd turning into Head Gate Rd and left into Spring Creek Rd where we stopped at the Moss Gardens. A gentle walk through moss-covered trees, shrubs and the border fence to a lookout over the valley to Wilsons Peak. Next stop at Carr's Lookout over-looking the Condamine River headwaters and views to Mt Superbus, site of the 1955 plane crash.



Looking at Wilsons Peak through a moss-covered tree at the Moss Gardens.



Queen Mary Falls

Finally, we stopped at Queen Mary Falls where most members walked to the Falls Lookout, David and Narelle walked further along the track looking for orchids. We returned to the picnic area for afternoon tea and departed for home after a big day out.

*Leon and Kerrie McCosker*

### Minutes of February 2025 Meeting Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc

Date: Wednesday 19<sup>TH</sup> February 2025

**Meeting opened:** 1938h with Robyn Murray chairing the meeting.

**Attendance & Apologies:** Holly Patti, Rob and Trish McCosker, Margaret Carnell; As per Attendance Book; 15 members and visitors (Ian and Lyle Kirkegaard) attended.

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

Confirmed Kris

Seconded Leslie

Carried

**Business arising from the minutes:** None

**Correspondence:**.....John reported that he forwarded many emails from other clubs to members. One email was a reminder that our annual report should be submitted by the end of February. He submitted one letter from the Post Office regarding our PO Box renewal, to the Treasurer.

Moved John

Seconded Leslie

Carried

**Financial Report:** Treasurer's Report Current Balance: \$2,960.29 as at 19February 2025

Room Rent	<u>\$125.00</u>
Income (Membership)	\$20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,855.29</b>

Moved Lyn

seconded Leslie

Carried

**Outing Report: Robyn annotated from** Holly's report in the newsletter of the "Eriostemon Peak" outing Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

**Pre-Outing Report:** Leon McCosker, Koreelah Drive, Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2025; Leon described a recent reconnoitre of the route and reminded members of the distances involved. He described the locations to be visited, including the Cobb and Co museum at Liston with morning tea at Maryland Bridge, after which we take Swamp Road to Koreelah NP. Platypi have been spotted there recently. On towards Killarney to the Moss Gardens, Carr's Lookout and Queen Mary Falls. Meet at Weeroona Park at 0830h; some members would travel direct to Liston and join the outing from there.

**New Business Arising: -**

Need to confirm Andrew Pengelly as speaker for March meeting – Robyn will follow up with Holly. Holly will be absent for the April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting; Robyn will chair the meeting.

Kris Carnell suggested that the March outing to The Desert near Basket Swamp; he and Graham visited the location recently and concluded that this really needed to be a Spring outing to see all the vegetation in blossom. He suggested two options: 1) Bald Rock NP or 2) The Bike Trail within Girraween NP; he and Margaret will check it out beforehand.

**Speaker & Topic: -** John Salini "The Kimberleys"

**Presentation:-** John asked who has been down the Gibb River Road; surprisingly, Leon and Kerri did that trip around 20 years ago and Lock Wilson also negotiated the trip with a caravan in more recent years. Consensus is that the unsealed road is not as bad as the reputation suggested but needs to be treated with caution. John described the camp grounds he and friends visited and some of the attractive waterways and gorges accessed along the 600 km route. The highlight was crossing the iconic Pentecost River with the spectacular backdrop of the dramatic Cockburn Range escarpment.

**Specimens: -** John brought along several books and 4WD magazines featuring some of the locations described in his talk.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025

**Meeting Closed:** 1958h, followed by the slide show talk.

# Spottings



*Tisiphone regalis* –  
Sword Grass Brown

## Sword Grass Brown Butterfly

In February when we did the pre-outing for The Desert with Graham for company we stopped at what used to be the Bark Hut picnic area beside Bark Hut Creek for morning tea.

There were several clumps of giant Ghania grass and I noticed a butterfly flying about a metres above the ground, going from one clump to another. I was able to identify it as a Sword Grass Brown (*Tisiphone regalis*) and take some photos . This one occurs in the New England region and is the largest of the Sword Grass Browns. It was very vividly coloured, almost glowing in the mist.



Bark Hut Swamp – G. Rayner



Giant Ghania Grass Clumps – G Rayner



**Bottom Left:** Red Dragon Fly at Koreelah Falls



**Bottom Right:** A moss covered tree at the Moss Gardens.

Both by Graham Rayner



**Top Left:** Praying Mantis. Holly was able to watch it catch an insect.

**Top Right:** Young Ring Tail Possum – Holly Patty

**Middle Left and Right:** Holly saw this large stick insect. The photo on the left gives some indication of how big it is.

**Bottom Left:** Lichen in bloom at The Desert – Graham Rayner

**Bottom Right:** Mallee blossom at The Desert – Graham Rayner