



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

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 April: *Strezlecki Track and Birdsville* with David Wilson

Sunday 20th April: *Bald Rock* with John Salini.

**Deadline for next newsletter
12th May 2025**

Pre-outing visit to Bald Rock National Park

Leader: John Salini



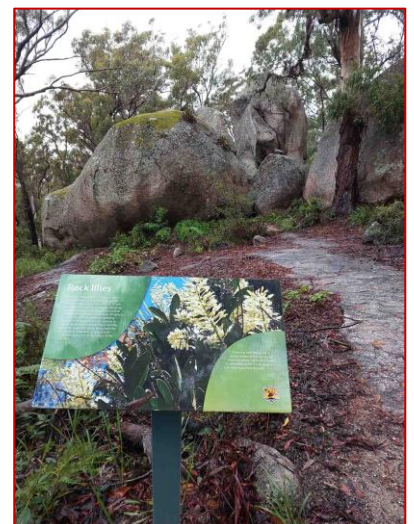
On a drizzly Thursday morning, I collected Graham Rayner and drove to Bald Rock National Park. Fortunately, it was no longer drizzling during the 2 hours of our visit.

We walked from the picnic grounds along a bitumen path to the start of the Bungoona Walk skirting the southeastern side of the rock on an easy path; you can find a description of the walk at <https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/walking-tracks/bungoona-walk>.

Although conditions were wet, the track was easy and

safe for walking. All gutters and creek lines contained flowing water with many groups of wallabies and kangaroos seen along the way. These were clearly not intimidated by walkers and could be approached for photographs.

Large New England Blackbutt, Grey Gum and Sugar Gum trees lined the beginning of the path, along with many Acacias and other smaller native shrubs. We saw one *Callistemon* flower in total. The path brought us on a gradual rise to some rock formations referred to as 'Granite Titans' similar to Granite Arch in Girraween NP. One large rock formation hosted a 'Lily Rock Garden' that featured many clusters of King Orchids and other orchids and plants growing on the rocks. Eventually, we reached the main rock face but decided against walking



the last 50 metres due to the risk of slipping on the wet granite. The view to the east was restricted by mist and low clouds. With good clear weather on the 20th April, this view should be strikingly different. We encountered one other walker during the 2 hours or more of our visit.

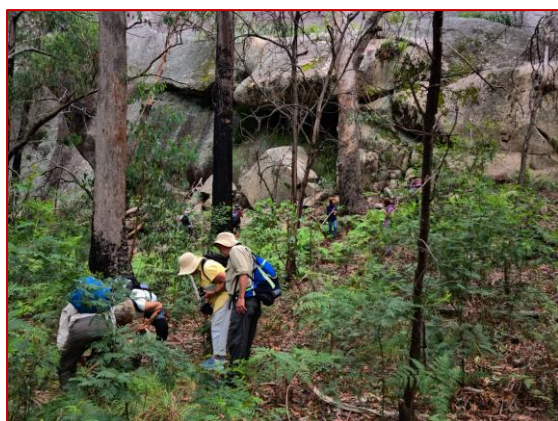
Outing Report – Creek Trail, Girraween N.P. – 23rd March 2025

Twelve Nats left Weeroona Park at 9.00am and travelled via Sugarloaf and Eukey Roads to the carpark on Mt Norman Road where Peter was waiting for us. Along the way we noticed the *Banksia integrifolia* blooming well and as we were in the first car, we saw a red-necked wallaby highailing it to safety.

On arrival we had the obligatory cuppa and admired the *Eucalyptus deanii* (Grey Gums) in the area of the car park. They are beautiful trees and we only saw them in that area, nowhere else on our walk. We set off at Nats pace and the first interesting thing we saw was a grey kangaroo resting on an outcrop of rocks. It was quite unworried about our presence and sat up and had a good scratch while we took photos. A little further on where there was a waterhole beside the track, we heard frogs saying “bonk” and saw what we took to be frog spawn on the top of the water.



Grey Kangaroo
G Rayner



Orchid spotting near overhang
G Rayner

As we walked along we noticed a number of different fungi and quite a few different flowers, including *Tricoryne elatior* (yellow rush-lily), Dandelions and *Leucochrysum albicans* var. *albicans*. There was also a bird's nest in a clump of mistletoe overhanging the track. Unfortunately there were quite extensive pig rootings in the moist parts. We walked off the track to

explore an interesting rock formation where rocks had broken away and left an overhang. A grey fantail was flying

from a tree to the rock overhang and back again. It seemed quite agitated so we wondered if it had a nest nearby. Adrian lay down amongst the rocks to birdwatch with ease. There were a lot of orchid leaves on the forest floor amongst the fallen leaves and one had a bud. On the way back to the track a brown spider was sitting in the middle of its web waiting for a meal.



Orb Weaver Spider
G Rayner

We were intrigued by an *Exocarpus* (native cherry) that was growing as a more open tree than the ones we are used to. Nearby was a *Zieria* with a pleasantly scented leaf and some Elderberries and more types of fungus along the track. One was a quite large white bracket fungus on a tree right beside the track. As we approached the junction of the track where we turned to the creek crossing, there was quite a variety of toadstools ranging from bumpy yellow to smooth yellow to orange and

white, along with the odd greyish coloured ones. There was *Micromyrtus sessilis* and *Banksia neoanglica* in the swampy area. We had passed some *Banksia integrifolia* in full bloom previously.



Lunch Break

While we sat on the rocks eating our lunch we saw a Wedgetail, Yellow-faced Honeyeaters and heard Fairy Wrens. It was probably the Yellow-faced Honeyeaters that Kerry noticed swooping into the water and out again having a bath upstream of the crossing. There were also spitfires (sawfly larvae) in a small gum tree.

The trail continued across the swamp and then we turned to go back to the parking lot. Three grey kangaroos hopped along beside the track then came out ahead of us and turned to watch us approach, before disappearing into the scrub.

There were more fungi to admire on and beside the track, especially some orange ones growing at the base of a tree and Kris noticed a witches' broom on a *Jacksonia scoparia* (Dogwood), caused I believe by gall wasps. I was able to confirm that the two brown butterflies we saw on the pre-outing were Eastern ringed Xenicas and Common Browns, although there were far fewer on the outing.

When we arrived back at the car park Rob dropped his backpack to the ground and disturbed a very large earthworm that caused a lot of interest. After a cuppa we headed home at our own leisure.



Bird's Nest in Mistletoe

Margaret Carnell

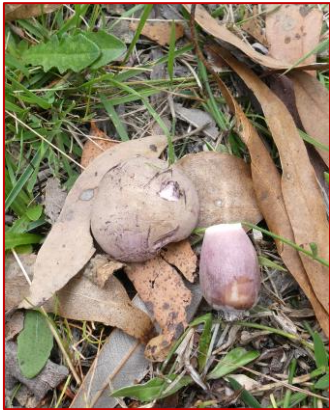
Bird List: Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Tree Creeper, Grey Fantail, Wedgetail Eagle, Fairy Wren, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Red-browed Finch, Willy Wagtail (on Pyramids Road).



Murdannia graminea -
G Rayner

Flowering Plants: *Banksia integrifolia*, *Banksia neoanglica*, *Calotis cuneifolia* (Burr Daisy), *Coronidium boormanii* (I would call this a white everlasting but it has no common name in *Flora of the Granite Belt*), Dandelion, *Eustrephus latifolius* (Wombat berry fruit), *Geranium neglectum*, *Goodenia hederacea*, *Hypericum gramineum* (Small St John's wort), *Isotoma anethifolia*, *Leucochrysum albicans albicans* (Hoary Sunray), *Murdannia graminea*, *Ozothamnus diosmifolius* (Sago Bush), *Podolepis jaceoides*, *Polmeria calycina* (Slender bindweed), *Solanum ditrichum*, *Trachymene incisa* (Wild parsnip), *Tricoryne elatior* (Yellow Rush Lily), *Wahlenbergia* sp. (Bluebell), *Xerochrysum bracteatum* (Golden Everlasting).

Fungi – Creek Trail







All the Fungi photos are by Margaret or Kris Carnell

Spottings

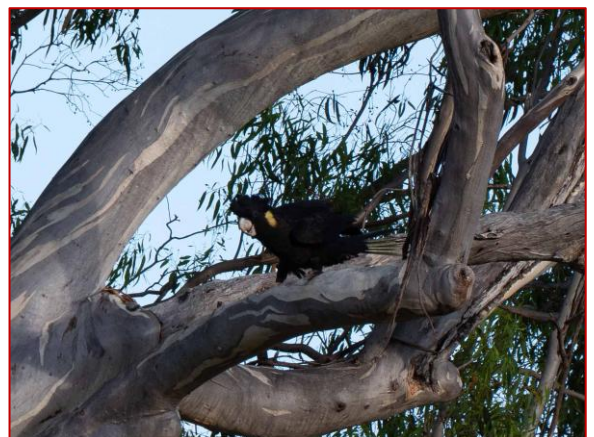


Above L Peter Haselgrove saw this cuckoo bee amongst the herbs. Sorry the photo is not really sharp as it was moving.

Right: Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo at John Salini's place



Left: This crested pigeon was in the garden in a rather dazed state. There were breast feathers underneath the corner of the clothes line so I think it must have collided with it. You can see a line down its breast. It flew off after quite some time.





Holly and Rob being interviewed by 10FM local radio station to talk about the Field Nats on 20th March.

Minutes of March 2025 Meeting
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc
Date: Wednesday 19TH March 2025

Meeting opened: 1938h with Holly chairing the meeting.

Attendance & Apologies: Lyn Collins, Margaret Carnell, Lock Wilson; Visitor Doland Nicholls from Tenterfield. As per Attendance Book; 13 members and visitors attended.

Minutes of the previous meeting: - Any amendments? None

Confirmed Kris

Seconded Leslie

Carried

Business arising from the minutes: None

- Thank you, Robyn, for chairing the last meeting at late notice

Correspondence:.....John forwarded many emails from other clubs to members.

Moved John

Seconded Rob

Carried

Financial Report: Presented by John on behalf of Lyn

Treasurer's Report Current Balance: \$2,855.29 as at 19March 2025

Income: PO Box half share from SCC

\$79.50

Total

\$2,934.79

Moved John

seconded Martin

Carried

Outing Report: Kris Carnell will report on the Creek Trail (Girraween NP) walk on Sunday 23rd March 2025; It was a pleasant day with lunch at Bald Rock Creek on the rocks. There was a great attendance of around 13 people.

Pre-Outing Report:

John Salini: On a drizzly Thursday morning, I collected Graham Rayner and drove to Bald Rock National Park.

We walked from the picnic grounds along a bitumen path to the start of the Bungoona Walk skirting the southeastern side of the rock on an easy path; you can find a description of the walk at <https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/walking-tracks/bungoona-walk>.

Although conditions were wet, the track was easy and safe for walking. All gutters and creek lines contained flowing water with many groups of wallabies and kangaroos seen along the way. These were clearly not intimidated by walkers and could be approached for photographs. Large New England Blackbutt, Grey Gum and Sugar Gum trees lined the beginning of the path, along with many Acacias and other smaller native shrubs. We saw one Callistemon flower in total. The path brought us on a gradual rise to some rock formations referred to as 'Granite Titans' similar to Granite Arch in Girraween NP. One large rock formation hosted a 'Lily Rock Garden' that featured many clusters of King Orchids and other orchids and plants growing on the rocks. Eventually, we reached the main rock face but decided against walking the last 50 metres due to the risk of slipping on the wet granite. The view to the east was restricted by mist and low clouds. With good clear weather on the 20th April, this view should be strikingly different. We encountered one other walker during the 2 hours or more of our visit. Meet at Weeroona Park at 0900h.

New Business Arising: -

Holly has swapped her presentation day with David Wilson; David will present his talk at the April meeting.

Holly will be absent for the April 16th meeting; Robyn will chair the meeting.

Holly reminded the meeting that the 2025/2026 Agenda Schedule must be prepared after the AGM and has called for suggestions for Talks and Outings.

She was also going to be interviewed by Sam Costanzo on local radio on Thursday (20th March)

Speaker & Topic: - Andrew Pengelly "Plants of the Gibraltar Range and Boonoo Boonoo NP" Andrew showed numerous images of the vegetation observed during his visits to the park. There was much interest in the aromatic 'Strawberry' gum tree leaves he brought along with him. He said that he uses iNaturalist for plant identifications. He noted that the Gibraltar Range contained different Eucalypts to those found in the Granite Belt region.

Specimens: - Alison reported finding a juvenile male wren that had probably fallen out of its nest. Rob showed a dead cuckoo that had crashed into Trish's car windscreen.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 16th April 2025; speaker is David Wilson

Meeting Closed: 1958h, followed by Andrew's informative slide show talk.