



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 – 2025/2026

President	Robyn Murray	0488515311
Vice-presidents	Martyn Vries	
Secretary	John Salini	0400805236
Treasurer	Lyn Collins	0428810156
Newsletter Editor	Margaret Carnell	0427835268
Publicity Officer		
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 17th Sept: *Central Queensland Dinosaurs* with John Salini

Sunday 21st Sept: *Boonoo Boonoo National Park* with Martin and Alison

**Deadline for next newsletter
6th October 2025**

**Please note early date because the 1st
October is a Wednesday**

**Boonoo Boonoo NP
Pre Outing Report 08/09/2025**

Leaders: Martin & Alison

How to get there.

Meet up at Weeroona Park in Stanthorpe at 9AM for a departure at 9:15AM. There is ample carparking at the park.

Suggested route is Stanthorpe – Amosfield – Wilsons Downfall – BBNP. It took us about 45 mins at 90kms/hr. So arrival at approx..10AM. We suggest to have morning tea at the first parking area in the park (Morgans Gully Picnic area) before a short walk to the gorge (approx.. 250m walk in total). From here on it is all dirt road. There are various flowering shrubs and plants in this area and some beautiful little waterfalls in the gorge.

Then we drive from there to the second parking area Platypus Hole Picnic area approx.. 4 km). It is a short 30m walk from the carpark to the watering hole and there are beautiful views there. We did not see any Platypus though...

After that we drive on to the Boonoo Boonoo Waterfalls picnic area. This is about 15kms. At the picnic area we can do the Rock Pool and Waterfalls walks, which are a light grade walk with some ascending and descending walkways. Total length about 1km and it took us about 1 hr to cover it all. There were various different types of flowers and flowering shrubs to discover when we walked it and we expect that will only increase with spring and the temperature progressing.

We suggest to have lunch on arrival back at the picnic area in the waterfalls carpark after our walk. After that drive back home (approx.. 45 mins).

Rough timetable:

Depart Weeroona park: 9:15AM

Arrive Morgan Gully Picnic area: 10:00AM

Morning Tea and explore: 45mins

Arrive Platypus picnic area: 11:00AM

Explore: 20 mins

Arrive Waterfalls Picnic area: 11:30AM

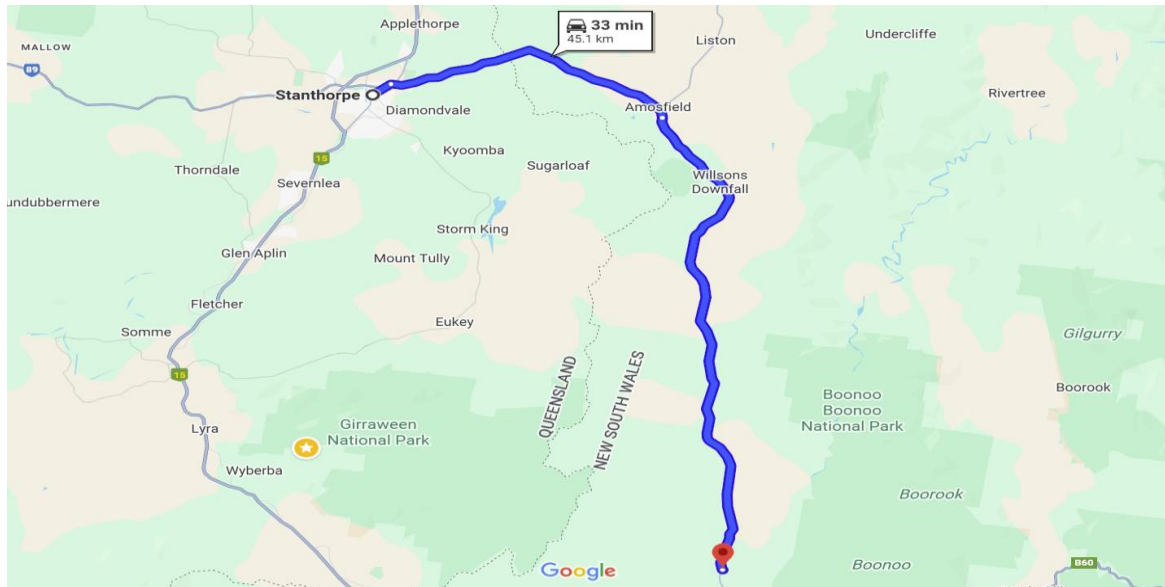
Explore Waterfalls and Rockpool area: 60 mins

Lunch: 60 mins

Depart from BBNP: 13:30PM

Arrive Stanthorpe: 14:15PM

Route:



Overview

After Banjo Patterson proposed to his sweetheart, Alice Walker, at Boonoo Boonoo Falls lookout, there was movement at Tenterfield cattle station. Word had passed around that the station owner's daughter had got away. Presumably she loved the guy, but it's possible that his charming choice of setting in which to pop the question might have helped sway her answer. Alice didn't have a chance and she and Banjo married in 1903.



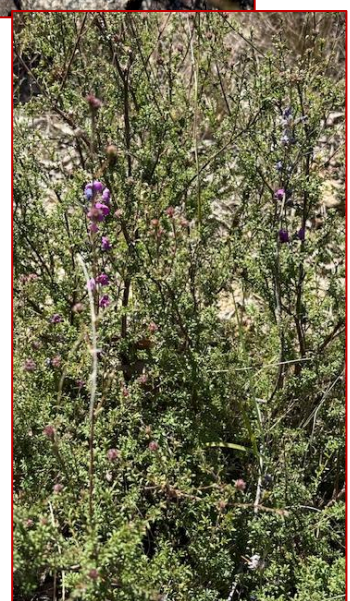
Today, Boonoo Boonoo (pronounced bunna-bunoo) is still the ultimate romantic setting, especially after heavy rain.

From the lookout is an uninterrupted view of Boonoo Boonoo River cascading over the granite cliff edge to become a spectacular waterfall that plunges 210m into the gorge below. Nearby, you'll find walking tracks and shady places to picnic. Secluded rock pools along the river, lined by wildflower-filled bushland, are the perfect way to cool off on a hot day. Animals including the endangered brush-tailed rock-wallaby, vulnerable spotted-tailed quoll, platypuses, kangaroos and wallabies can be spotted at dawn and dusk, early in the morning and late in the afternoon. There are heaps of birds to see too, including waterbirds and the glossy black-cockatoo.

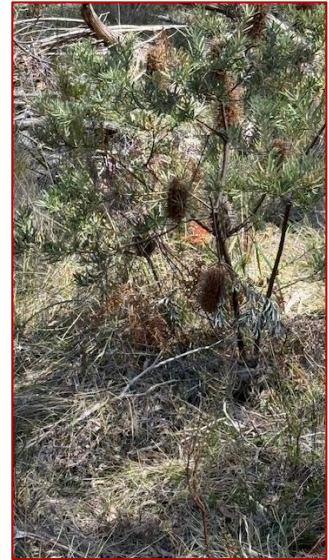


Platypus Picnic Area

Some Flowering plants seen the day:



Flowers at Morgans Gully picnic area:





Spectacular Waterfalls



Waterfall Rock Pool Area

In next month's meeting presentation on 15th October, Rob and Trish McCosker will show some of the highlights of a trip through South Australia visiting the Eyre Peninsular, Mt Wuddina, Gawler Ranges, Wilpena Pound and Innaminka including Mutawintji NP and down the Darling River along the way.

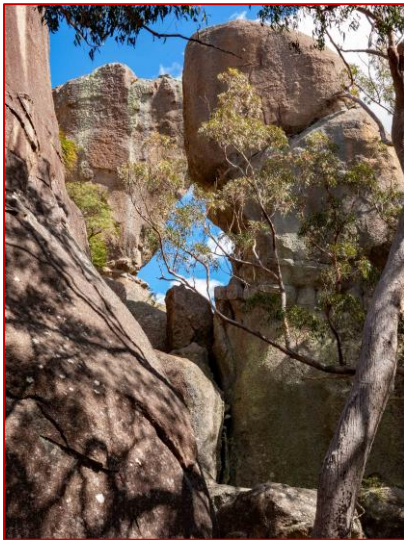
Mt Norman Outing Report 24.8.25



I consider Mt Norman to be the “Crown Jewel” of Girraween National Park attractions not only because it is the highest peak at 1267m, just 10m below Bald Rock across the border to the east, but also because of its interesting shapes, the huge area of granite slabs almost surrounding it, and the extensive variety of native plants.

Our small group of 8 people arrived at the Day use area for Morning tea at about 10am after

negotiating the track washouts and enjoying the extensive display of Showy *mirbelia* along the way. The perfect weather made for pleasant walking along the track and though not a lot of plants in flower enough to make the walk interesting. Upon reaching the massive expanse of granite slabs we were delighted with the rills of running water and shining rock pools. Our progress on the uphill section slowed in direct proportion to age – nearly all Septuagenarians! At the top of the slabs extra care was needed to negotiate the wet rock and moss to reach the granite tors, then walk around to view the Eye of the Needle.



John spotted a large pile of sticks on a large tor which turned out to be a Lyrebird's nest. Though not in use at present it looked like it had been there for a very long time. We returned to the tors on the southern side to have lunch with extensive views of Mallee Ridge and South, Middle and West Bald Rocks. As we left to return slowly down the slopes a pair of White-browed scrub wrens and a pair of Currawongs moved in to clean up any scraps. Evidently that is a popular lunch stop for hikers. Along the track on the way back we noticed a Mistletoe growing on a small Hakea tree with a long root extending almost a metre down the tree's trunk with several "suckers" which we presumed were for obtaining nutrients from its host. We arrived back at the cars at about 3.00 o'clock for a cuppa before heading home after a most pleasant day.

Rob McCosker

Mt Norman 24.8.25 Plant List

Sarsaparilla vine *Hardenbergia violacea*, Stanthorpe pea *Pultenaea hartmannii*, Prickly Moses *Acacia ulicifolia*, Wallangarra wattle *Acacia adunca*, Veiny wattle *Acacia venulosa*, *Acacia latisepala*, White Sally wattle *Acacia florabunda*, Bossiaea *rhombifolia*, Trailing hovea *Hovea heterophylla*, *Hovea graniticola*, Mountain dampiera *Dampiera purpurea*, Coral heath *Epacris microphylla*, New England banksia *Banksia neoanglica*, Snowbush *Acrothamnus melaleuroides*, *Leucopogon microphyllus*, Starflower daisy bush *Olearia microphylla*, Round-leaved phebalium *Leionema rotundifolium*, Fruit salad plant *Leionema ambiens*, Spotted mintbush *Prostanthera saxicola* var. *saxicola*, Showy mirbelia *Mirbelia speciosa* subsp. *speciosa*, Stuart's daisy *Brachyschome stuartii*, Queen of the bush *Pimelea linifolia* subsp. *linifolia*, Mouse bush *Homoranthus papillatus*, Pepper and salt *Spyridium scortechinii*, Lovely boronia *Boronia amabilis*.



Bird List – most heard not seen

White-throated Treecreeper, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Spotted Pardalote, Grey Fantail, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Brown Thornbill, Superb Lyrebird, White-browed Scrubwren, Pied Currawong.

**Minutes of SFN August 2025 Meeting
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc
Date: Wednesday 20th August 2025**

President Robyn Murray opened the August meeting at 1932h.

Attendance & Apologies: Apologies from 3 members were noted in the Attendance book; 11 members in attendance.

Minutes; Lyn asked that the July Minutes Treasurer's Report have the month June replaced by July. Minutes acceptance moved by Rob McCosker, seconded Lyn – carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes; None

Treasurer's Report; Balance as of July meeting 2025 \$2,870.79

Income; from subscriptions and Donations \$110.00

Current Balance CBA account at 20th August 2025 \$2980.79

Lyn moved that her report be accepted, seconded by Martin, carried.

Correspondence:.....John noted various emails forwarded to members, including notification of the Wattle ID Workshop on 16th August (Liz Bourne).

Motion that Correspondence be accepted; Moved...John, Seconded Trish – Carried.

Outing Report for July: Rob McCosker referred members to his detailed report on the outing to Uncle Tom's Cabin on page 3 of the August newsletter. enjoyed their lunches.

Pre-outing Report: Rob McCosker changed the outing from West Bald Rock to Mt Norman due to the wet conditions at West Bald Rock. He suggested meeting at Weeroona Park at 0900h before driving to the southern entry to Mt Norman via Wallangarra.

New Business Arising: -

Robyn asked Kris Carnell to bring forward his September talk to tonight due to the absence of Ranger Jo from National Parks. Topics for September were discussed and John offered a presentation on his Central Qld Dinosaurs trip during winter 2024.

Specimens: - None

Speaker & Topic: *The Grampians* – Kris Carnell presented many beautiful photos of the landscape and flora of the Grampians region.

Next Meeting: John will present a slide show of his camping trip to Central Qld visiting some of the Dinosaur attractions in the region.

Meeting Closed: 2000h