



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 – 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 19th November: Paul Revie
founder of Quoll Society

Sunday 23rd November: *Billy Goat Hill*
with Rob McCosker

Sunday 7th December: *Break-up* –
Martin and Alison's place – see below
for details

**Deadline for next newsletter
9th February 2026**

Pre-Outing Report - November 23rd Outing to Billy Goat Hill

Meet at Weeroona Park as usual for a 9.00am start and drive to Eukey then turn left into Parishes Lane then right into Pyramids Road then left into Mt Norman Road. This junction would be a good place to join us if travelling from Wyberba. We will drive about 9km along Mt Norman Road to stop at the Paling Yard Creek crossing for morning tea then continue to a parking spot near the base of Billy Goat Hill. The climb up and back will probably take about two hours so we will carry lunch to have on top, with its magnificent views of the surrounding peaks and the large Gnamma or rock hole to study. It has plenty of water at present so we should be able to spot the seldom seen Clam Shrimps as well as tadpoles and other water loving creatures.



The road had been closed for some time until repair work was recently completed by Council but it is no highway, very rough and requiring high clearance 4wd vehicles. Take it slow and see if you can do a count of Macropods – we saw dozens of Eastern Grey kangaroos and several wallabies as well, which seemed quite unconcerned by our intrusion.

After walking back to the cars there is the option of continuing to Mt Norman Day Use area where there could be the chance of seeing more wildflowers, or returning via Wyberba and stop at the newly constructed information centre for afternoon tea.

This walk is Grade 4 on our Scale of Difficulty as shown in the Newsletter.

RSVP if coming so I have an idea of numbers and include a mobile number for last minute itinerary changes.

Leader *Rob McCosker 0410 024 383 mcoskerr@gmail.com*

November Guest Speaker

Our Guest Speaker for November is Paul Revie, founder of the Quoll Society.

It was the disappearance of the spotted-tailed quolls from the coastal parts of southern Queensland that spurred the creation of the Quoll Society of Australia in 2016. The Society works with a range of partners to manage threats to quolls, restore habitat, and raise awareness.

Although found in other pockets of Australia, spotted-tailed quolls, classified as 'endangered', have been found in the Southern Downs region, namely Girraween, Sundown and Main Range National Parks.

Hear how the quoll population is being monitored in Girraween, and how with the help of volunteers and landholders, programs have been implemented to restore habitat, to help secure a future for our spotty friends.

Come along and listen to an inspiring story.

Pre-Outing Report – Break-up – 7th December 2025

Sunday 7 December from 3 pm BBQ at our place.

Each to bring their own drinks and nibbles.

We'll provide a garden salad, coleslaw, cold ham and roast chicken and lamb on the BBQ spit.

BBQ available for cooking own meat if needed.

All welcome to bring food/nibbles to share.

RSVP by Thursday 4th December please so we know the numbers. Chairs, tables and shade available.

Address: 2127 Pyramids Road Wyberba (next door to Heavenly Chocolate).

Martin Vries (0408 938 482)

Outing Report – Bolivia Hill Nature Reserve – 19th October 2025



View from the dam

Ten Nats met at Weeroona Park for the outing to Bolivia on a sunny morning with a breeze, cooler than the previous day. We were a few minutes late leaving as some members helped a young man whose car wouldn't start. Unfortunately, the jumper leads didn't help.

As we drove along the highway Kris and I came upon a mischief of magpies holding a conversation on the road, who rather reluctantly moved out of the way. I checked on the name for a group of magpies and I

liked mischief best. The others listed were tiding, tribe, parliament and charm. I thought a parliament was owls and a charm finches. The other unusual incident was a small plane flying across the highway at the Lyra Straight to land. We often wondered if the landing strip was ever used and now we know.

We met at the rest area on Bolivia Hill where we had smoko and listened to the bird calls. We saw a white-throated tree creeper, rufous whistler, fairy wrens, brown thornbill, yellow-faced honeyeater, and heard a spotted pardalote. There were also birds in a flowering eucalypt but we couldn't be sure what they were, possibly noisy miners. We also noticed a mistletoe growing on a rough barked apple *Angophora floribunda*.

Unidentified grass



It was a few minutes' drive over the hill to the track into the southern end of the nature reserve where we had a key to enter and were able to drive close to the rocky area we wanted to explore. On the way we saw white-winged choughs and fairy aprons near a dam. The tea trees were blooming profusely. We were able to park in the shade and start botanizing looking for the Bolivia boronia in particular. Although we didn't find any there were several different ferns and grasses, as well as a few flowers, including a

Pig Damage lovely specimen of *Clematis aristata*. There were two *ghania* grasses and one that Peter found that caused a lot of interest as we didn't know what it was. In one of the grassy areas a red-bellied black snake was basking on the track and stayed quite still as I passed. We were appalled at the amount of pig damage, in the grassy areas and around the woolshed.

We moved from one gully to another and Trish and Rob went over the hill to our lunch spot. They found a *zieria* that had just finished flowering and it looked very much like *zieria involucrate* which is found in the Blue Mountains at Katoomba and some other sandstone areas. It would be interesting to find out if it is the same or maybe a sub-species.

Having finished lunch we wandered down to the site of a small dam where a brick wall had been built across the gully to collect water to water sheep we think. There was no water but a couple of fairly large clumps of swamp isotoma, *Isotoma fluviatilis* and the view was lovely. There were yellow-faced honeyeaters and grey fantails serenading us the whole time.



Our next stop was the shearing shed which we were able to enter and explore. We were very appreciative of the National Parks for allowing us access to the reserve and shearing shed and also for mowing around the shed to make it easier for us. The shed was restored about 10 years ago and is in good condition.

Shearing Shed – G Rayner



There was a piece of machinery down the paddock which caused a lot of interest to some of us, although we were unable to work out what it was. After exploring the shed, the steel dump was a must. It was there we noticed a mummified bandy-bandy snake.

Most of the group walked to the shed where an old Fordson tractor is located, along with a lighting plant and a couple of other things. There was a noisy miner harassing a butcher bird and when our group

approached the butcher bird took a dislike to Robyn and kept swooping her. Lyn and I walked to the culvert that is beautifully made from bricks made locally as the railway line was built. Helen Hartman led an historical outing from Tenterfield to Bolivia many years ago and we were told that the brickworks were shifted as the line progressed, using local clay. If you continue along the highway you will cross Brickyard Creek.



We called again at the rest area and had another cuppa, then everyone else headed home while Kris and I walked in to see if there was any Bolivia wattle still in bloom. We were able to photograph a couple of flowers but most of them had already fallen. All in all it was a pleasant outing.

Margaret Carnell

Bird List: white-throated tree creeper, rufous whistler, superb blue wren, spotted pardalote (heard), brown thornbill, yellow-faced honeyeater, crow, white-winged chough, grey fantail, currawong, butcher bird, noisy miner, eastern rosella, crimson rosella.

Other: wanderer butterfly, meadow argus, grass blue butterflies, other unidentified butterflies, red-bellied black snake.



Ranunculus lappaceus – G Rayner

Flower list: *Leptospermum sp.*, *hibbertia sp.*, *Calotis dentex*-white burr daisy, *Brachyloma daphnoides* - daphne heath, *Leucopogon melaleucoides* - snowbush, *Viola hederacea*, *Viola bentonicifolia*, *Ranunculus lappaceus* – buttercup, *Oxalis corniculata*, tiny white flower amongst grass, *Pimelea* (maybe neoanglica), *Isotoma fluviatilis* – swamp isotoma, *Drosera hookeri* – sundew, *Leucochrysum albicans var albicans* – hoary sunray, *Utricularia sp.* – fairy aprons or bladderwort, *Clematis aristata*, *Lomandra longifolia*, *Lomandra multiflora*, small pink flower could be a weed, *Acacia* - Bolivia wattle

Ferns: Photos below: *Pteridium esculentum* – common bracken fern, *Adiantum aethiopicum* – maidenhair fern, *Asplenium flabellifolium* – necklace fern, *Davallia pyxidata* – hare's foot fern, *Pyrrosia rupestris* – rock felt fern (no photo), *Platycerium surpebuml* – staghorn or *Platycerium bifurcatum* - elkhorn.



Bolivia Wattle

Minutes of SFN October 2025 Meeting Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc

Date: Wednesday 15th October 2025

President Robyn Murray opened the October meeting at 7.32pm.

Attendance: Fourteen in attendance as per the attendance book

Apologies: Lesley Saunders

Minutes; Lyn noted that she sent her report to the President because of her anticipated absence from the October meeting. Margaret moved that her Minutes be accepted; seconded Rob, Carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes; None

Treasurer's Report;

Balance as at 17/092025	\$3,030.79
Expenses	\$62.10 to Office of Fair Trading
Current Balance at 15/10/2025	\$2,969.69

Correspondence: John noted the 3 emails forwarded to members. Motion that correspondence be accepted; Moved John, Seconded Martin - carried.

Outing Report for September: Martin and Alison reported on the Boonoo Boonoo outing last month as reported in the October newsletter. They visited Morgan's Gully first, the Platypus Waterhole and Waterfall.

Pre-outing Report: Kris and Margaret provided a pre-outing report for the Bolivia Nature Reserve on Sunday as per the October newsletter. They have the key for the gate; there was some flowering when they visited there last week. Meet at Weeroona Park before 9am.

New Business Arising: - It was reported that the walk to The Junction in Girraween National Park, is now covered with Boronia flowers.

Specimens: - Rob showed an image of an orchid.

Speaker & Topic: *Central Qld Dinosaurs Trip* – John Salini presented a slide show of the camping trip he undertook in June 2024. The images of Hughenden and surrounds provoked extra discussion from Martin who had worked on the Solar Farm there.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 19th November – the talk on Quolls will be presented by Paul Revie Lyne moved that the SFF donate \$100 to the Quoll society founded by Paul, seconded by Kris – carried.

Meeting Closed: 7:52pm