

# The Granite Belt Naturalist



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## **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 – 2025/2026**

President	Robyn Murray	0488515311
Vice-president	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 18<sup>th</sup> Feb: *China Eclipse*  
with John Salini

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb: *Billy Goat Hill* with  
Rob and Trish McCosker

**Deadline for next newsletter**  
**9<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**February 22nd Outing to Billy Goat Hill**

After being cancelled due to rain in November last year we will have another go.

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 should have 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 we plan to continue to the Mt Norman Day Use area where there could be the chance of seeing some wildflowers, stopping at a couple of spots along the way as well. This walk is Grade 4 on our Scale of Difficulty as shown in the Newsletter only because there is no defined track and there are some exposed granite slopes, but nothing worse than the First Pyramid and much less of a climb.

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 [mccoskerr@gmail.com](mailto:mccoskerr@gmail.com)

**SFN End of Year “Break Up” Date: Sunday 7 December 2026**

Twelve Nats attended the break-up with two apologies.



The party started around 3PM with the first guests arriving. The weather started off great with sunshine, some clouds and a nice warm temperature so we decided to start outside in the garden with a backup of retreating into the veranda if needed.

After everybody had arrived we walked around the various garden areas and had a look at the many roses, flowers (and weeds...) around. We talked about the history of the place with Noel and Libby Wright owning a large part of the Pyramids Road valley and grew up there around 90 years ago. They built the now Chocolate Shop and the big shed and our current house. They ran a stone fruit orchard on the place until the 90s.



In the background we cooked a Chicken and a Lamb on the BBQ rotisserie and had a cold Ham on the Bone ready. Alison had prepared a large bowl of Tzatsiki and various dips and crackers and we had a meat platter from IGA.

At around 5PM Thunder and lightning started and a few drops fell so we moved onto the veranda where we had our breakup meal. Thanks for anybody bringing additional bits and bops to the meal, everything was delicious!

By memory the last guests left after sunset, marking the end of a lovely get together.

*Martin & Alison*

**Minutes of SFN November 2025 Meeting  
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc  
Date: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

President Robyn Murray opened the November meeting at 8.45pm. Before opening the meeting, she invited Paul Revie and Jessica Lovegrove-Walsh from the Quoll Society, to present their talk first as they had other commitments after the meeting.

**Speaker & Topic:** *Tail Spotted Quolls* – Paul Revie presented a fascinating slide show that demonstrated the endangered situation of Spotted Tail Quolls, mainly due to habitat loss and predation by introduced pests such as the fox and feral cats. Some videos were shown of Quolls hunting and preying on Possums. Their short life cycle makes it difficult to keep live Quolls for display and breeding.

Some Quoll related literature and merchandise were sold and some members made personal donations to the Quoll Society. The SFN made a \$100 donation.  
Paul asked that members who witnessed Quolls on their properties, to report the events online.

**Attendance:** Fourteen in attendance as per the attendance book

**Apologies:** Lesley Saunders, Kris and Margaret Karnell

**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.

**Amendments;** None

**Business Arising from the Minutes;** None

**Treasurer's Report;**

Balance as at 15/10/2025	\$2,968.69
Income	Nil
Expenses – Speaker fee for Paul Revie, Quoll Society	\$100.00
Current Balance CommBank Acc at 19/11/2025	\$2,868.69

Lyn moved that er Treasurers Report be accepted, seconded by John – Carried.

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

**Outing Report for September:** Kris was absent; it was noted that the National Park keys were returned after the outing.

**Pre-outing Report:** Rob McCosker discussed the location and parking to get to Billy Goat Hill. The outing is subject to weather. As in the newsletter, meet at Weeroona Park at 0900h.

**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 a Red Bellied Black snake that he snapped that morning.

**Next Meeting:** Christmas break up hosted by Martin and Alison Vries at their property next door to Heavenly Chocolate on the road to Girraween National Park. Members will be shown around the gardens before dinner. There is no need to bring extra food, other than drinks and personal preference foods.

**Meeting Closed:** 8:50pm

**Change to Program**

David Wilson and Rob McCosker have swapped the month of doing their presentation at the meetings.  
Rob will now present *Bird Nests* in March and  
David will present *Norway* in May.

# Spottings



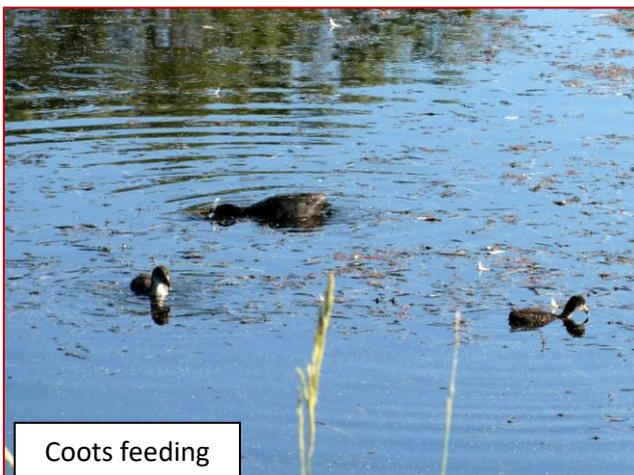
**Above:** Ghost Moth on the footpath early one morning – M Carnell

**Above R:** Graham Rayner saw this cactus flower in Amosfield Road. It flowers overnight and quickly fades in the morning.

**Right & Below:** The following photos are of birds I saw one morning when I walked to Brittanias Street and back along the creek. There is nothing unusual but I thought it was a good haul for one morning. - Margaret



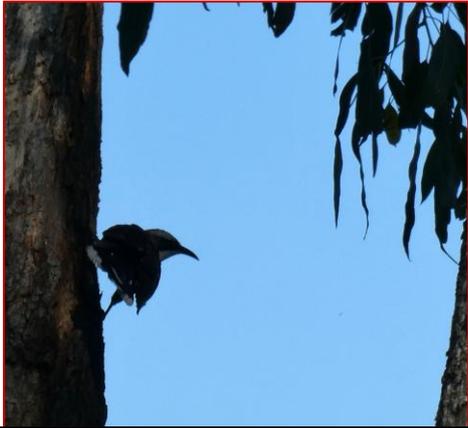
Pacific Black Duck



Coots feeding



Moor Hens



Grey Crowned Babbler. It was being harassed by the Noisy Miner (right) The water dragon was close by.



Purple Swamp Hen (I think)



Two Plovers about to take flight



Corellas drinking



Pee Week (Mud Lark)



Thanks to Lock Wilson for this photo of native bees in an Orange Gum

**Antechinus antics**



In January this year we had a visit from our granddaughter, Laura and her partner Adam and while showing them around the garden our pup took an interest in something in a rose trellis where keen eyed Adam spotted a pair of beady eyes and head with large floppy ears – an Antechinus. It was safe up there so we moved on to look at the old Cubby house where, when they were children the grandkids ended up to claim their prize for Easter treasure hunts. There is an old bedroom dresser there for furniture and on opening one drawer found it to be full of gum leaves. When we opened the second drawer the

culprit climbed out - another Antechinus. As it clung to the side of the drawer, sadly, our keen eyed pup snapped at it and it fell to the floor. I picked it up and we took a couple photos before putting it back in the nest drawer and hoped for the best. The next day Trish was collecting some water from a container which catches the tank overflow and found what she first thought was a dead rat or mouse but it turned out to be another Antechinus - a male. It appears that midsummer is Antechinus breeding season

In searching for some information about them I came across an old SFNC Newsletter article dated May 1991, titled SPECIMENS FROM DORE'S FREEZER. (Dore was my Mum.) They were a Long-nosed Bandicoot and a Brush-tailed Phascogale, collected by Mrs Irma Rickard, from Undercliffe, and a Yellow-footed Antechinus (*Antechinus flavipes*) collected by my sister Jan, caught in a mouse trap at Ballandean.

*Rob McCosker*

