

The Granite Belt Naturalist



Mail Address: Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, Stanthorpe Qld. 4380
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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

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



The Pyramids, Girraween National Park

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	0410024383.

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 15th April: *A Trip to North America* with Lesley Saunders

Sunday 19th April: *Quart Pot Creek* with John Salini. Start time 10.00am.

Deadline for next newsletter
11th May 2026

Pre-outing report for Quart Pot Creek – 19th April 2026

Leader: John Salini



After attempting to walk to Castle Rock from the Day Use area in Girraween National Park, I decided it wasn't suitable for our members. Rob McCosker suggested switching to a Quart Pot Creek walk, which I have done.

I propose our outing for 19th April to consist of a walk along Quart Pot Creek from the Britannia Street parklands, upstream to the Red Bridge. This encompasses most of the urban parkland associated with Quart Pot Creek with many opportunities to take a break and have a

cuppa.

Before checking this route from Heritage Park adjacent to the Granite Street crossing, I'd never walked to the Red Bridge, although I knew of its existence.

Meet at Weeroona Park at 10am.

Outing report - Pyramids Road Wines - Sunday 22/03/2026

Martin & Alison

On Sunday 12 of us travelled either from Weeroona Park Stanthorpe or directly to “Pyramids Road Wines” at 25 Wyberba Lane in the small locality of Wyberba.

We met up around 10:00AM at Pyramids Road Wines and were met by the owners/winemaker Warren and Sue Smith. Anthony (Ant) and Liz Rice were also present.



Warren talking about his vineyard



A very old muscat vine

After introductions Warren told us some stories about the history of PRW and the art of winemaking and took us on a walk to the vineyards. He talked in length about the way he manages the vineyard, using as little herbicides as possible. He showed us the various grapes he has in the vineyard, from Shiraz to the very old Muscat.

After the talk and tour of the Vineyard we walked back to the wine production shed and had morning tea whilst we listened to Dr. Anthony Rice (“Ant”), who is a passionate Entomologist, For those not sure, an Entomologist is a scientist

specializing in the study of insects, a branch of zoology that covers their classification, life cycles, ecology, and behaviour. They work in research, agriculture, forensics, or conservation to understand how insects interact with the environment and humans.

Ant has very passionate views on the balancing of farming and managing flora/fauna in a natural and sustainable manner (Integrated Pest Management). For example, in this Podcast he talks about insects and IPM:

<https://lowerblackwood.libsyn.com/talkin-using-bugs-for-managing-bugs>

Ant spoke in depth about the increasing global use of Neonicotinoids as a seed preservative, with a potential negative effect on pollinators (such as bees) and the environment when seeping into the groundwater. In Australia there is very little information provided about this potential harmful preservative on seed packets or plant pots. He spoke about Bunnings taking some steps in trying to exclude stock exposed to this, but very little is visible in stores as yet.

He suggested to buy seeds from certified sellers that provide neonicotinoid free seeds or plants to avoid this process from getting worse.

Here is a link to his website which has a lot more information:

<https://granitebeltipm.com.au/>

After all this we drove to the Day Use Area at the Junction in Girraween NP to have Lunch/ afternoon tea.

At about 13:30PM we all drove back home.



Top: Blister mite on a grape leaf.

Centre Left: The clips used to hold the netting are just like the ones used on bread.

Centre Right: Stirring the fermenting wine

Bottom Left: *Angophora floribunda* seed cases.

Bottom Right: Gall on *Acacia implexa* (Hickory Wattle).

According to Woolshed Thurgoona Land Care they are caused by gall wasps or rust fungus.



**Minutes of SFN February 2026 Meeting
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc
Date: Wednesday 18th March 2026**

President Robyn Murray opened the meeting opened at 7.33pm.

Attendance: Twelve in attendance as per the attendance book.

Apologies: Peter Haselgrove

Minutes of previous Meeting; Robyn referred members to the Minutes of the previous (February 2026) meeting as published in the March newsletter. John moved that the Minutes be accepted; seconded Trish, Carried.

Amendments; None

Business Arising from the Minutes; None

Correspondence: John noted emails from other Field Naturalist societies forwarded to members. Margaret Carnell noted an email she received from the Toowoomba Field Nats asking for birds seen on outings. Email acknowledgement was received our registration renewal with QWaLC, which covers us for insurance.

John moved that his correspondence report be accepted, seconded Graham, passed.

Treasurer's Report;

Balance as at 18/02/2026	\$2,743.69
Income	Nil
Expenses	Nil
Current Balance CommBank Acc at 18/03/2026	\$2,743.69

Lyn noted the bill for PO Box hire was to be paid this month as 50% of the shared cost with the Camera Club, \$77.50. She moved that the bill be paid by her and that her Treasurers Report be accepted, seconded by Leslie – Carried.

Outing Report for February Outing: Rob referred members to his report in the March newsletter.

Pre-outing Report: Martin referred members to his summary of the trip to Pyramid's Road Winery report in the March newsletter. Those attending to meet at the winery at 10 am. The host, Ant, was an entomologist before taking on the winery.

New Business Arising: - None

Specimens: - Rob displayed his collection of bird nests as part of his talk.

Speaker & Topic: Rob McCosker – Bird Nests.

Rob had laid out bird nests over 2 tables with printouts of each species. Members took photos of the impressive display.

Next Meeting: 15th April, Leslie Saunders – Her trip to North America.

April Outing; 19th April, John Salini, Mt Norman?

Meeting Closed: 7:56pm

Spottings



Double-bar finch nest – *Lock Wilson*



Blue Tongue – *Graham Rayner*



Left: Yellow-faced Honeyeater **Above:** Very hairy caterpillar.
Below: Damage on Callistemon and the culprits – Callistemon spitfires – *Kris and Margaret Carnell*

