



# 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-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 20<sup>th</sup> May: *Norway* with David Wilson

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May: *Sundown National Park* with Peter Haselgrove

**Deadline for next newsletter  
8<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

The Pre-Outing Report is on page 4 as I didn't want to upset the formatting of the Outing Report to Quart Pot Creek.- Editor

**Outing report for Quart Pot Creek, Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

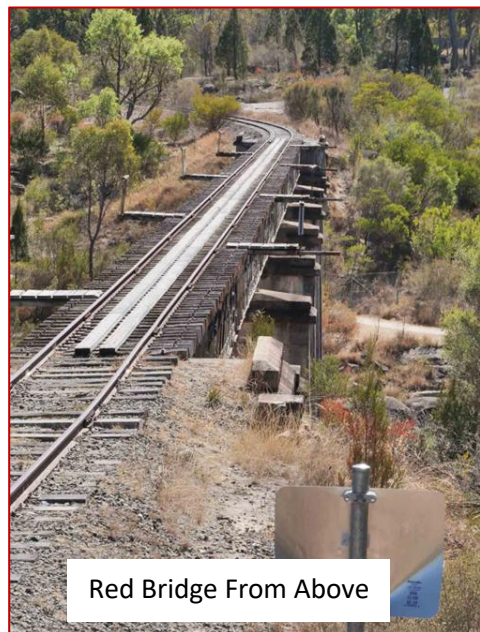
*John Salini*

Sunday morning was a pleasant mostly sunny day. Ten members gathered at the Heritage Park Garden for morning tea before setting off upstream towards the Red Bridge and beyond.

Lock Wilson led the walk to the Red Bridge and for another couple of kilometres upstream on the southern side of Quart Pot Creek. There was some discussion about the labour what was used to build such a large railway bridge over the creek during the 1880s. Conditions were extremely dry with literally no water in the stream bed beyond the Red Bridge. A juvenile Bearded Dragon was photographed on a granite rock past the bridge. The attractive bungalow house perched well above the creek on the south side proved to be the Wilson house. We walked up the track to the roadway (Pioneer Parade) between this and a neighbouring house to observe the railway from above.



Juvenile Bearded Dragon



Red Bridge From Above

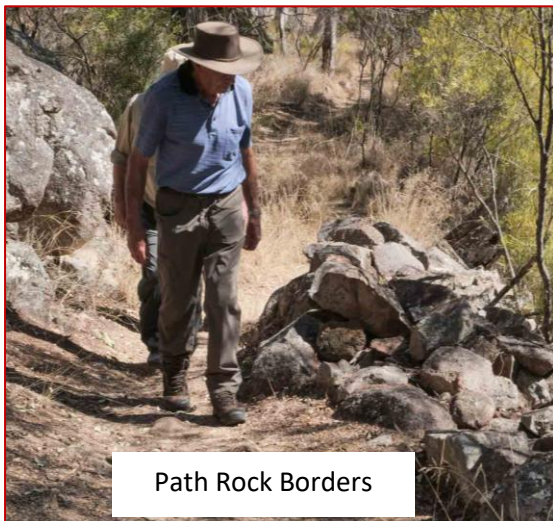
Numerous steel hooks were found embedded in the granite either side of the Red Bridge and it was assumed that these were used as cable/rope supports for various stages of the bridge construction.



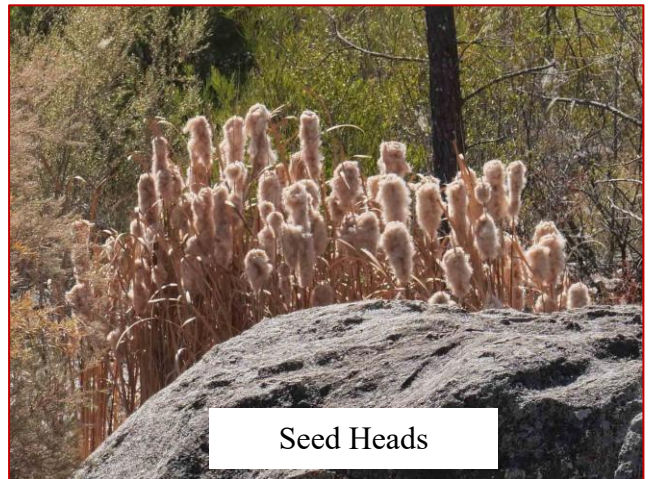
Crossing past Red Bridge



Wilson Home



Path Rock Borders



Seed Heads

Very few birds were observed on the day; most birds were recorded from the weir pond at Heritage Park at morning tea and later, at lunch. It was noticeable that the New Zealand invasive plant, Pampas Grass, had established itself in the rugged bushland along the creek bed and surrounds. The walking trail was obviously prepared many years before with evidence of rock borders and drainage ways built into the landscape.



Heritage Park Lunch Site

Michael Muller arrived with his mountain bike and successfully rode it up past the Red Bridge. At the furthest point upstream, Lock left the group to return to his home, while the rest of the group walked back to the garden at Heritage Park for lunch.

**Peter Haselgrove provided the following bird list:**

Wood Duck, Black Duck, Dusky Moorhen, Coot, Grey Butcherbird, Fairy Wren, Black Cockatoo, White Ibis, Magpie Lark, Spotted Pardalote, Willie Wagtail, Azure Kingfisher, Golden Whistler.

**Pre-Outing Report – Sundown NP – 24<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Leader:** Peter Haselgrove

I still haven't had a chance for a really recent pre-outing to Sundown, friends were recently down there and reported it is extremely dry but still quite a bit of bird activity. I suggest we carpool and proceed down there more or less in convoy and have smoko at the Broadwater with a short talk about the park and then walk to the Permanent W/H and up Ooline Ck.

Depending on how far we go we can either have lunch up the creek or return to the cars. Again depending on time we can walk some or all of the Western Circuit track in the afternoon. There is a good patch of Mugga about halfway down there and it should be flowering, it certainly is in Foxbar Rd and we may be able to see a variety of honeyeaters.

We should aim to leave town by 9.00 and expect to take about an hour to reach the Broadwater.

**Minutes of SFN February 2026 Meeting  
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc  
Date: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

Vice president Martin Vries opened the meeting opened at 7.35pm.

**Attendance:** Thirteen in attendance as per the attendance sheet.

**Apologies:** Robyn Murray

**Minutes of previous Meeting;** Martin referred members to the Minutes of the previous (March 2026) meeting as published in the April newsletter. John moved that the Minutes be accepted; seconded Leslie, Carried.

**Amendments;** None

**Business Arising from the Minutes;** None

**Correspondence:** John noted emails from other Field Naturalist societies forwarded to members.

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

**Treasurer's Report;**

<u>Balance</u> as at 18/03/2026	\$2,743.69
<u>Income</u> Camera Club payment for ½ PO Box fee	\$82.50
<u>Expenses</u> Reimbursement to Lyn for PO Box (SCC and SFN)	\$165.00
<u>Current Balance</u> CommBank Acc at 18/03/2026	\$2,661.19

Lyn moved that her report be accepted, seconded by Margaret – Carried.

**Outing Report for March Outing:** Martin referred members to his report in the April newsletter.

**Pre-outing Report:** John referred members to his summary of the walk along Quart Pot Creek upstream of the Red Bridge. Kris Carnell suggested parking at the Heritage Park as a base and returning there for lunch.

**New Business Arising:** - Leon mentioned there will be a clean-up working bee along Quart Pot Creek on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> May. There is a call for volunteers to help out on the day; he will endeavour to obtain more details of the event which will be notified in the May Newsletter and by email.

**Specimens:** - John brought along a nest for identification; Rob did not know what bird could have made the nest and agreed to add the next to his collection.

**Speaker & Topic:** Leslie Saunders – A Trip to North America

Leslie showed many slides of various locations visited during her trip to the US, including the Grand Canyon and Yosemite National Park.

**Next Meeting:** 20<sup>th</sup> May, David Wilson – Norway.

**Meeting Closed:** 7:52pm

## Spottings



This Butcher Bird, along with a Noisy Miner was watching the turtle in the parkland beside Quart Pot Creek.



**Correction:** Sue Francis very kindly pointed out that this is a Brown Honey-eater not an immature Yellow-faced as Kris and I thought, and put in the last newsletter. It's obvious now I've been told.