



# 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 17<sup>th</sup> June: *Holland* with Martin and Alison

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June: *Granite Drive Tenterfield* with Kris and Margaret Carnell

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July: AGM followed by *Remember Last Year*

**Deadline for next newsletter  
6<sup>th</sup> July 2026**



Draining Rock

**Pre-Outing Report – Granite Drive Tenterfield -21<sup>st</sup>  
June 2026**

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am and travel south towards Tenterfield. Please bring morning tea and lunch and a chair if possible, as smoko will be beside the road.

We will turn off at the Sunnyside Bridge onto Sunnyside Platform Road, then onto The Bruxner Highway, then Sunnyside Loop Road for a short distance and then onto Kildare Road. The Doctor's

Nose is visible on the left and there is a viewing point signposted. The next significant rock is Small Bald Rock, then the road winds through acres of large and small boulders with some very interesting formations. There are views down the Mole River Valley before arriving at Draining Rock. On the pre-outing on a very cold, windy day we saw rock wallabies playing tag among the rocks as we approached Draining Rock. We will stop at the parking area at Draining Rock for morning tea.

There are lookouts where Wallangarra and then Tenterfield are visible. We will turn onto Gum Flat Road to drive to Mt Mackenzie Lookout. As soon as you cross the grid (which is rough) and leave the grazing country you are in quite thick forest. After admiring the view from Mt Mackenzie we will head towards Tenterfield. We saw a number of wallaroos in a paddock as we drove along, as well as a couple of kangaroos. There were some cattle on the road so we will have to be careful.



A Glimpse of Mole River Valley

Lunch will be at Jubilee Park in Manners Street on the western side of the main street. After lunch we will go to Tenterfield Park which was opened in 2004. It had been used as a horse paddock and a lot of time was spent by the Tenterfield Nats to start restoring it. A lot of trees and other plants were planted and there are walking tracks throughout. There is a nice stand of grass trees that have thrived. Unfortunately, nobody seems to be maintaining it now and there are a lot of places where a tree or plant that was marked has died, no doubt because of drought in a lot of cases. There is a different-looking tree in a gully that has a name tag that said it is *Alectryon subdentatus* or Hard Alectryon. It is a dry rainforest tree that has small creamy pink to red flowers followed by fleshy green fruit and then by three-lobed berries with a red aril and black seed.

As we left the park we saw a Willie Wagtail, four Jackie Winters and a small flock of Yellow-rumped Thornbills.

**Leaders:** Kris and Margaret Carnell

### Outing Report – Sundown National Park – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026



Walking up Ooline Creek- G Rayner

Nine Nats and two visitors travelled to the southern end of Sundown National Park, entering from the Glenlyon Dam Road. The weather was kind (it didn't rain) and not too hot.

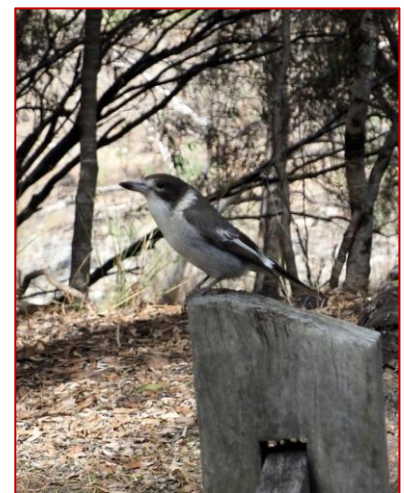
Upon arrival at the Broadwater Camping Area we had smoko and then proceeded up the rough foot track to the Permanent Waterhole and Ooline Creek. The Severn River and Ooline Creek were not running, even the Permanent Waterhole was very low and Ooline Creek dry except for a couple of shallow holes from recent rain. There was

plenty of Ooline and other vine thicket species present, some showing evidence

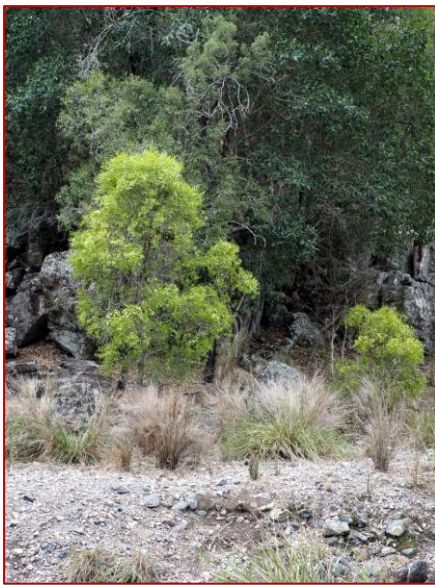
of browsing by deer and goats. We returned to the camping area for a late lunch, shared by a Grey Butcherbird who briefly sang to us at quite close range. There were very few other birds there and no flowering eucalypts. We then made our way back to Stanthorpe. Some of the group were lucky enough to see a Red-crowned Robin near the Park Headquarters.

We were appalled by the large number of roadkill along the main road, mostly small macropods attracted by the sides of the road that had been recently slashed. The whole area was extremely droughted and dry.

*Peter Haselgrove*



Grey Butcher Bird – R McCosker



## Sundown Photos

**Top Left:** The Old Fence Line  
**Top Right:** Permanent Waterhole  
**Middle Left:** Ooline Trees  
**Middle Right:** Smoko in the car park  
**Below Left:** Below Permanent Waterhole  
**Below Right:** Homes of Creatures Past  
*Thanks to G Rayner and R McCosker*



**Annual General Meeting  
and *Remember Last Year* followed by supper  
Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2026**

If you have any photos of outings could you please pass them on to Kris Carnell for *Remember Last Year*. You may bring them on a memory stick to the meeting this month or message Kris on 0407165031 to make arrangements.

Could you please bring food to share and a cup

**Minutes of SFN May 2026 Meeting  
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc  
Date: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

President Robyn Murray opened the meeting opened at 7.35pm.

**Attendance:** Seventeen members and one visitor in attendance as per the attendance sheet.

**Apologies:** Margaret Carnell

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

**Amendments;** None

**Business Arising from the Minutes;** None

**Correspondence:** John noted that he had forwarded 12 emails from other Field Naturalist societies forwarded to members.

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

**Treasurer's Report;**

<u>Balance</u> as at 18/03/2026	\$2,661.19
<u>Income</u>	\$0
<u>Expenses</u>	\$0
<u>Current Balance</u> CommBank Acc at 20/05/2026	\$2,661.19

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

**Outing Report for April Outing:** : John referred members to his summary of the walk along Quart Pot Creek upstream of the Red Bridge in the May newsletter.

**Pre-outing Report.** Peter Haselgrove referred members to his summary in the May newsletter containing information about the outing to Sundown National Park at The Broadwater campground.

**New Business Arising:** -

**Specimens:** - Rob brought in a snake skin, probably a Red Bellied Black snake and a dead Red Naped snake.

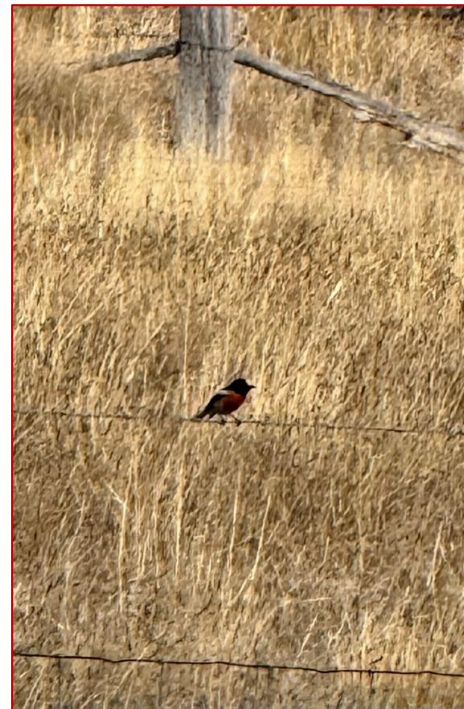
**Speaker & Topic:** David Wilson – A Trip to Norway

David brough his own projector and screen to the meeting. His photos were amazing and highlighted the dramatic geology of the areas he visited during 2024.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> June; Martin and Allison will present a talk on their last trip to Holland.

**Meeting Closed:** 7:45pm

# Spottings



**Top Left:** John Salini saw this doe and fawn in one of his remote paddocks. It is the first deer he has seen for over 12 months.

**Top Right:** John also saw this old man kangaroo looking like prize fighter grey kangaroo.

**Above Left:** Another pelican has taken up residence on Quart Pot Creek.

**Above Right:** Martin Vries saw this Scarlet Robin on a fence.