

The Granite Belt Naturalist



Mail Address: Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, Stanthorpe Qld. 4380
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Web site <https://mysd.com.au/fieldnats/>

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	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 July: AGM and *Remember Last Year* followed by Supper. Please bring a cup and food to share.

Sunday 19th July: BBQ at Storm King Dam at 11.00am

Deadline for next newsletter
11th August 2026

AGM and Remember Last Year

Followed by supper

Wednesday 15th July 2026

Please bring your own cup and some food to share

Subs are now due. A form is attached. We are looking for suggestions for programs and outings.

Pre-Outing Report – Storm King Dam - Barbeque – 19th July



Storm King Dam rests in a picturesque rural setting with many water birds (including pelicans) and is an ideal spot for picnics, water sport and fishing. Fish species include golden perch, Murray cod, silver perch, jewfish and river blackfish.

Storm King Dam is a gravity dam on Quart Pot Creek, located 10 km southeast of Stanthorpe. Completed in 1954, it holds 2,065 ML at 100% capacity. It is the sole potable water source for Stanthorpe and serves as a popular, dog-friendly spot for fishing, boating, and picnics.

Facilities include toilets, picnic tables, wood

barbecues, drinking water, jetty, boat ramp, swimming area and playground. Please note that camping is not permitted however there is a private tourist park offering camping and caravan sites, and a recreational/youth camp available for large group bookings.

Storm King Dam is situated 10 kilometres southeast of Stanthorpe on the road to Eukey.

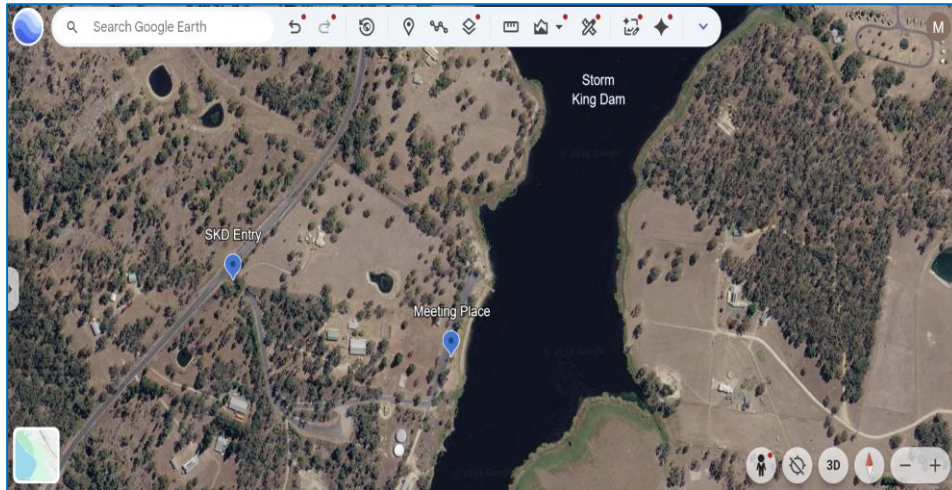
LOCATION:

Eukey Road, Stanthorpe
4380, QLD

We propose everybody travels on their own to SKD. Let's try to meet at the water's edge at SKD ("Meeting Place" – refer Google Earth map below) at 11AM. We will bring the BBQ, tools and Gas. All to bring their own food provisions and tea etc.. and some snacks/starters to share. Also bring some chairs since the Picnic tables could be occupied.

Before the BBQ we can have a walk around and see if there are any birds to spot.

From Stanthorpe it takes about 20-25mins to get there so if people want to carpool from Weeroona Park they should leave there around 10:40AM.



Peter has offered his place as an alternative if the weather turns out to be against us. We will provide Peter's location details in our next meeting (15 July 2026). As a general rule let's say:

If it is dry and no rain forecast for the morning of the 19th -> SKD

If it rains or there is rain forecast for the morning of the 19th -> Peter's place.

Martin & Alison

Outing Report - Granite Drive – 21st June 2026

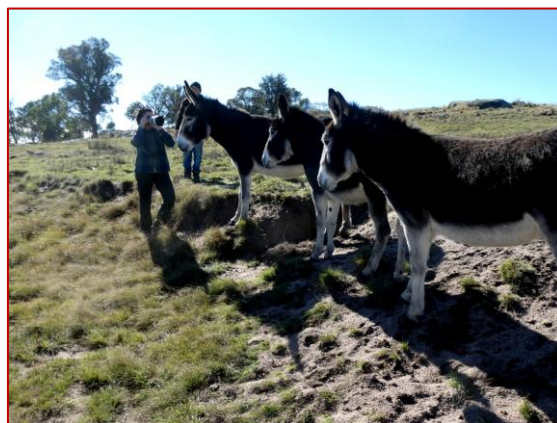


The Doctor's Nose – G Rayner

After a thick fog, eight Nats set off from Weeroona Park in perfect weather to meet up with three more at Sunnyside Bridge. After a few turns Doctors Nose came into view on the left. It gets its name from its pointy shape which supposedly bears a resemblance to the nose of Tenterfield's first doctor, Dr John Traill according to Google. By the time we were able to pull off to view it the rock slabs were scarcely visible as we were looking at the back of the formation.

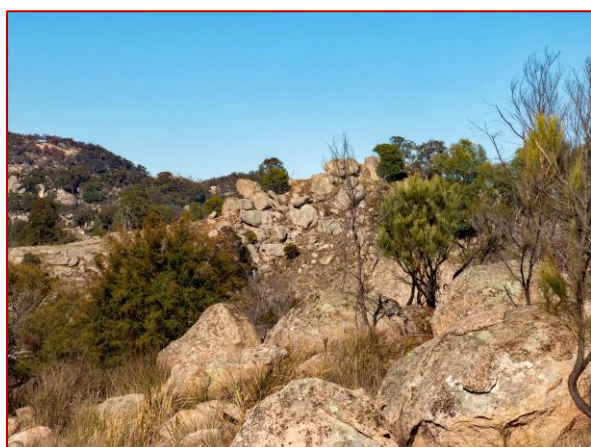
As we drove away I noticed a small flock of wood ducks in the paddock across the road, then we saw wallabies or kangaroos, and a herd of goats. Our next stop was at *Fernbank* where there were cows and a herd of very friendly donkeys who came to investigate us and came close enough to pat. We carried on through rocky outcrops with several balancing rocks and interesting boulders. There were quite a few *Banksia integrifolia* growing amongst the rocks and in the paddocks.

There is a parking area where you can view Draining Rock so that is where we had smoko. There were small birds calling that I think were fairy wrens, but when I caught a glimpse of them they were too quick to see for sure. A grass tree growing amongst the rocks appeared to have been burnt and the new growth chewed by some animal. There was a good view of the Mole River valley from the entrance to the property beside the parking area.



The Donkeys caused a lot of interest

After leaving Draining Rock we passed an area where there was a view of Wallangarra, then there was a balancing rock, followed by a view of Tenterfield.



At Draining Rock – G Rayner

We disturbed a wallaroo as we drove past and saw several further on. There were sheep in that area, so we had our fair share of domestic animals. The vegetation changed to wattles (*acacia irrorate*), blady grass and bracken as we got closer to Mt Mackenzie. I was amazed at the houses built on the slope right in amongst the trees. Fairy wrens and red-browed finches flitted across the road as we drove up. It was a little hazy but we enjoyed the view from the lookout and picked out different peaks and such.

The drive into Tenterfield was pleasant and we stopped at Jubilee Park where we had lunch and admired the band rotunda that is beautifully painted.

From there we travelled to Tenterfield Park and strolled around the paths admiring some old trees, native cherries (*exocarpus cupressiformis*) grass trees (*xanthorrea johnsonii*) and an elkhorn on a rock. Some of us spent some time trying to identify a couple of honeyeaters in a tree and were able to identify red-browed finches. After looking at our fuzzy photos we could tell the honeyeater was a yellow-faced.



Exploring Heritage Park -M Carnell

We finished our outing quite early in the afternoon but it was very enjoyable as the weather was perfect. On the way home we saw some very interesting cloud formations but couldn't get decent photos because the sun was behind them.

Margaret Carnell

Bird List: Wood Duck, Rainbow Lorikeet, Fairy Wrens (probably superb), Pied Butcherbird, Magpie, Kookaburra, Thornbill, Crimson Rosella, Eastern Rosella, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Red-browed Finch.

Other: Kangaroo, Wallaroo, Horses, Cattle, Donkeys, Sheep, Goats.

**Minutes of SFN June 2026 Meeting
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc
Date: Wednesday 17th June 2026**

President Robyn Murray opened the meeting opened at 7.37pm.

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

Apologies: Margaret Carnell, Leslie Saunders

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

Amendments; None

Business Arising from the Minutes; None

Correspondence: John noted that he had forwarded 11 emails from other Field Naturalist societies to members.

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

Treasurer's Report;

<u>Balance</u> as at 18/03/2026	\$2,661.19
<u>Income</u> Subscriptions	\$20
<u>Expenses</u>	\$0
<u>Current Balance</u> CommBank Acc at 20/05/2026	\$2,681.19

Lyn advised that she would arrange payment of \$125 for 6 months use of the church hall for our meetings. Lyn moved that her report be accepted, seconded by Trish – Carried.

Outing Report for Outing: : Peter Haselgrove referred members to his summary of the May outing in the June newsletter. There was a brief discussion on the presence of ticks at The Broadwater campground.

Pre-outing Report. Kris and Margaret referred members to their detailed report on their pre-outing reconnoitre of the Granite Drive tour of the Tenterfield region on Sunday 21st June. Kris suggested meeting at the Sunnyside Platform Road junction with the New England Highway.

New Business Arising: - Kris reminded members to submit photos of the previous 12 months outings for the 'Remember Last Year' slide show at the AGM in July. Members to bring supper.

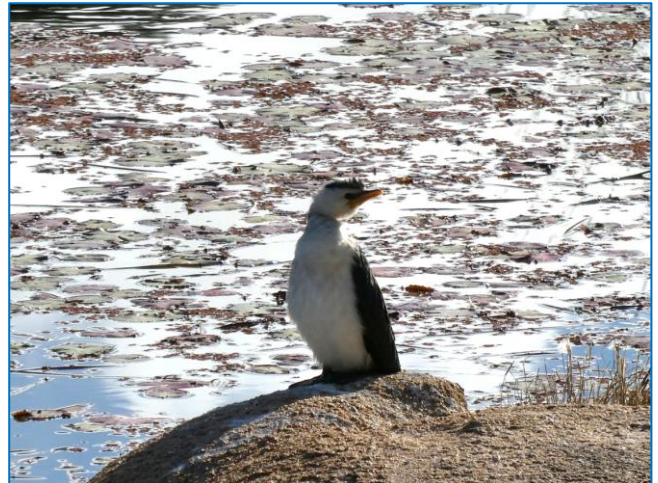
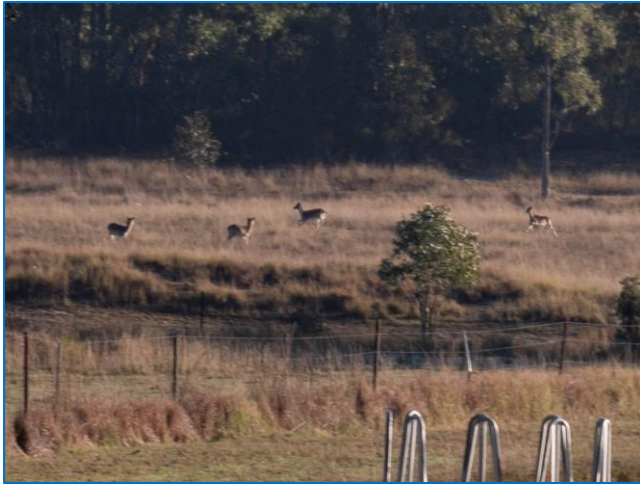
Specimens: - Trish reported seeing a Quoll on her property; Alison reported finding a Brush Tailed Possum living in the roof under glass panels this winter. John and others noted the significant Eucalypt blossom in the district for this time of year.

Speaker & Topic: Alison and Martin presented a comprehensive slide show of their recent trip to Holland. Martin explained the extent of land reclamation over many decades.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 15th July is the AGM consisting of the Election of Office Bearers and a slide show celebrating the events of the previous 12 months to be hosted by Kris Carnell.

Meeting Closed: 7:56pm

Spottings



Top Left: Thanks to *John Salini* for this photo of deer about 250 metres away
Top Right: Moss at Tenterfield Park by *K Carnell*
Centre Left: A female wood duck foraging beside Quart Pot Creek.
Centre Right: A cormorant that had just emerged from the water.
Right: Boulders on Granite Drive outing All by *M Carnell*



Subscriptions and Program for 2026/27.

Subscriptions are due for the next 12 months from the end of June,

Subscriptions for 2026-2027: Family \$30.00 – Single \$20.00

Please complete your correct name and address details below and bring or send to the Treasurer

Name (including preferred title please)

Postal Address:

Email address:-

Post-code **State**..... QLD **Payment made** / /2026

Circle payment method please: **CASH** **CHEQUE** **DIRECT DEBIT**

If paying by cash at a meeting please put your money in an envelope with your name on the outside to make it easier for the Treasurer.

If paying by Direct Debit please make sure you have your name on the deposit so the treasurer knows who has paid.

PAYMENT METHODS

1. **By Direct Debit** to Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. BSB 064-431 Acc. 00902063
2. **Present with your subs.** to the meeting in an envelope with your name on the outside.
3. **Post to:** Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, STANTHORPE Q 4380.

The monthly newsletter is distributed electronically by email and also posted on the website in the Nats Magazine folder.

The committee once again asks for your assistance to provide a wide range of outing activities and meeting programs for the coming twelve months.

Please jot down your suggestions below, and indicate if you would be prepared to lead an outing or provide a meeting program. All suggestions will be considered at a special committee meeting to be held shortly after the AGM.

Name: Outing: (Place or area, duration, time of year)

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Campout: (Place, duration and dates)

Meeting subject: (Title and brief description)

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Other comments and suggestions:

Thank you