



The Granite Belt Naturalist



Mail Address: Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, Stanthorpe Qld. 4380
stanthorpefieldnats@gmail.com

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	Martyn Vries	0408938482
Vice-presidents	Robyn Murray	0488515311
Secretary	John Salini	0400805236
Treasurer	Lyn Collins	0428810156
Newsletter Editor	Margaret Carnell	0427835268
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 16th Sept: *Stanthorpe Tinfield* with Tony Fawdon

Sunday 20th Sept: *Underground Creek* with Rob and Trish McCosker

Deadline for next newsletter
12th October 2026

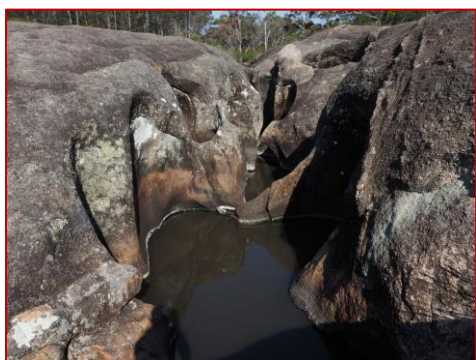
Speaker at This Month's Meeting

Tony Fawdon is the Chairman and CEO of StanAurum Limited, which is currently exploring for tin and tungsten in the Granite Belt both in QLD and NSW, the company has an office in Stanthorpe. The price of tin and especially tungsten has risen substantially which have now become much sort after metals. Tony has been in the mining exploration industry for 55 years and has made significant mineral discoveries in that time and also has been involved as a past Exploration Director of the Queensland Resources Council.

Tony's connection to the Granite Belt is through the Fawdon family farm at Severnlea, which for the past 30 years, firstly as stone fruit growers and in last 5 years growers and producers of lavender, rosemary and other flowers for essential oils and other products.

Tony's talk will be a light hearted look at the history of the Stanthorpe Tinfield.

September 20th Outing - Underground Creek Girraween NP



Leaders: Rob and Trish McCosker 0410024383

We will meet at Weeroona Park for a 9.00am start and drive via Eukey to the car park at the start of the Underground Creek walking track on Pyramids Road. We will carry morning tea and lunch to have beside the creek. We plan to walk to Dr Roberts Waterhole first to enjoy the serenity of this large waterhole and perhaps catch sight of the endemic Suttons Red Crayfish.

We will then walk up to the Underground Creek to explore this area where water has carved out a string of holes in the slab of granite it crosses before disappearing underground. We will have lunch here and hopefully the pink *Kunzea* will still be in bloom somewhere along the way.

Girraween National Park Outing Report

Date: Sunday 23 August 2026

Location: Girraween NP Junction Walk

Outing Report:

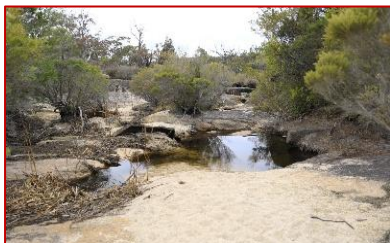
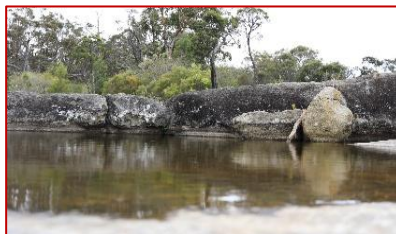
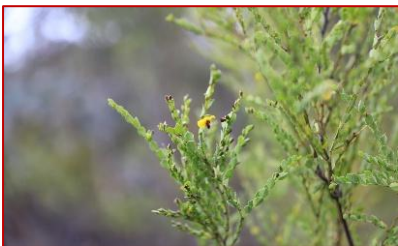
We all made our own way to the day use area where we met at 10AM for morning tea. We started walking at around 10:30AM and got to the Junction Split at around 11:30.

This year due to the drought, everything seemed about 4-5 weeks behind Nature's schedule however. The Wattles only just started blooming and no Boronias were in flower yet. Underway we saw many different species of flowering Wattles. Some other wildflowers started to come into bloom, but only just, given the drought. No sign of any orchids as yet.

Given the time it had taken us to get to the Split, we decided to walk back across the gorge and returned at the car park at around 12:45PM.

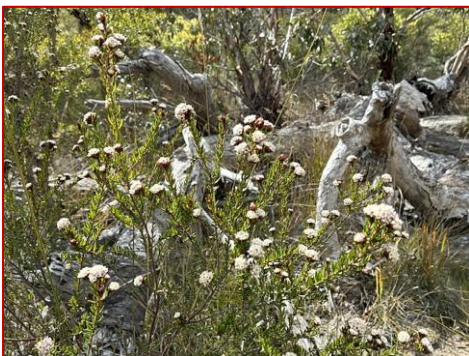
After lunch we all returned back home around 2PM.

A few pics of the scenery on 23 August 2027:



Martin & Alison.

Plant List for August Outing to Bald Rock Creek, Girraween NP



Showy mirbelia *Mirbelia speciosa*, Wallangarra wattle *Acacia adunca*, *A. filicifolia*, Frosty wattle *Acacia pruinosa*, White banksia *Banksia integrifolia*, Coral heath *Epacris microphylla*, Snowbush *Leucopogon melaleuroides*, Urn heath *Melichrus urceolatus*, Narrow leaved mock olive *Notelaea linearis*, Pepper and salt *Spyridium scortechinii*, Sour bush *Choretrum candollei*.

The very small number of sightings of flowering plants on this outing is an indication of the severe drought conditions we are experiencing at the moment. -Rob McCosker

Bird-attracting Grevilleas

Over the past few weeks I've had plenty of time to watch the world go by as I recover from my knee operations. One morning recently I was intrigued by the bird activity in our front yard. We have a grevillea bush about 2 metres high which obviously produces lots of nectar, as the noisy miners in particular, are always in it. On this particular morning, two noisy miners were happily feeding when they were chased away by two eastern rosellas. The rosellas then proceeded to feed in the grevillea but unlike the noisy miners, they destroyed the flowers as they fed on the nectar.



Then along came two juvenile?? bower birds and chased the parrots away. The bower birds didn't stay in the grevillea long but moved to the old wheelbarrow with the pansy plants. One bird in particular took a liking to the orange petals on the pansies and carefully picked some off. The other bird picked a couple of purple petals. They didn't offer them to each other but sat at opposite ends of wheelbarrow holding the petals and looking at each other. One bird then hopped down on the ground and rearranged some of the white stones under the wheelbarrow. They both then hopped

around a small section of the front yard before getting up on to the wheel barrow again and picking up the petals and looking at each other. After a short time they both flew away and by 9 a.m. there were no birds at all in the front yard.

Kris Carnell





Thank you to Eric Whiting from Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Club for identifying the mystery moss in the July newsletter. He wrote "It is a freshwater sponge, probably green from a co-inhabiting alga. One of our members had one growing in his dam a few years back."

Spottings



Above: Our Granddaughter, who lives in Fairway Crescent backing on to the golf course heard the screen door rattling a few weeks ago. Thinking an intruder was trying to break in they went to investigate and saw this koala clinging to the screen. It's mate was in the tree close by.

Right: John Salini wrote, "Last week I photographed this beautiful fruticose lichen *Pulchrocladia retipora*. My botanist friend on Stables Road, Ian Kirkegaard, suggested this species name.

There is a grove of them in some rocky ground on my place; I've noticed them for years now but decided to photograph this one as it seemed to be almost spherical and in close up, had lovely delicate lattice structures.





Euphorbia maculata Spurge



Dipsacus fullonum Teasel



Boronia amabilis

Thanks to Graham Rayner who sent the photos of the Euphorbia and Teasel that were growing in the Governor's Garden at Port Arthur Historical Site. The Euphorbia can become an invasive weed very difficult to eradicate. The Teasel only lives for two years. The spines were used for carding or "teasing" wool, hence the name.

Thanks also to Nadine Gray for the photos of the *Boronia amabilis* which is near threatened, and the stunning aerial view of Mt Norman.



Mt Norman

Minutes of August Meeting Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc
Date: Wednesday 19th August 2026

Meeting opened: Martin Vries opened the meeting at 1935h

Attendance & Apologies: As per Attendance Book,
Apologies; Lyn Collins, Graham Rayner, Kris and Margaret Carnell, Leslie Saunders

Minutes of the previous meeting: Moved by Martin, seconded by Trish, carried.

Correspondence: John forwarded newsletters from other Field Nat clubs; total emails sent to Members = 14 since July meeting.

Moved John

Seconded Alison?

Carried

Financial Report: Treasurer's Report

Financial Statement for 19th August supplied by Lyn Collins (apology for tonight).

Balance b/f 15/7/26 \$2,626.19

Income - Subscriptions 160.00

Expenditure - Flowers for

K Carnell reimb. to Lyn 90.00

Bal. c/f as at 19/8/26 **\$2,696.19**

Moved Martin

seconded

Robyn

Carried

Outing Report: See Martin and Alison's BBQ Outing report in the August newsletter, page 3. The venue was relocated from Storm King Dam to Peter Haselgrove's home on the southern end of the dam. The Management Committee held a brief planning meeting after the lunch.

Pre-Outing Report: Martin and Alison outlined the proposed Junction walk in Girraween National Park on Sunday 23rd August in the August newsletter. Meet there at 10am.

New Business Arising: - Nadine reported she is not receiving SFN emails. John or Kris to add her email onto the SFN gmail Contacts list.

General Business: Review of the SFN Talks and Walks schedule as outlined in the spreadsheet emailed to members. Leon McCosker mentioned a contact name who can talk on Mines at Lode Creek.

Martin will send out a Poll questionnaire offering different start times for meetings.

Speaker & Topic: – Trip to Yunnan Province, China July 2009 by John SaliniJohn presented a comprehensive slide show of a week spent in the Yunnan Province of China in July 2009. A highlight was a visit to the fabled Shangrila Monastery complex high in the mountains.

Specimens: - Robyn Murray brought in some bird nests she collected while pruning in a vineyard; Rob McCosker had a nest with feathers in it.

Leon mentioned that he has photos of the rare *Grevillea scortechini* (as on the cover page of the Wildflowers of the Granite Belt booklet).

Next Meeting: SFN OGM, Wednesday 16th September 2026.

Meeting Closed: 1958h