



The Granite Belt Naturalist



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Web site <https://mysd.com.au/fieldnats/> (This website is currently off line)

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 7.00pm

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 – 2026/2027

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 21st October: *Windfarm* with Martin Vries. **Please Note: The meeting starts at 7.00pm.**

Sunday 25th October: *Boonoo Boonoo* with John Salini

Deadline for next newsletter
9th November

Pre-outing report for Boonoo Boonoo National Park – 25th October 2026

Leader: John Salini Phone: 0400805236

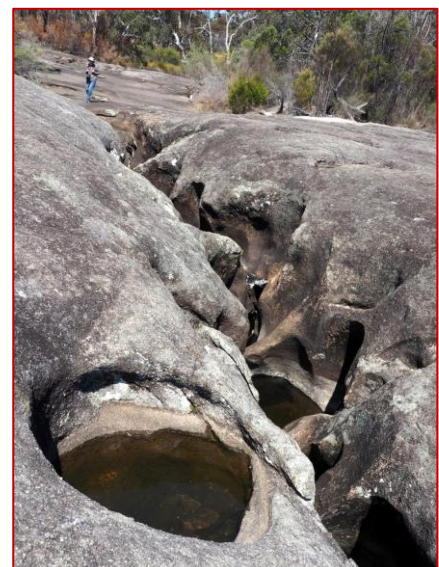
I checked the park on Saturday, 10th October to see how the river was faring during this dry spell. The Platypus Hole looked normal but the water level was down about a metre compared to the last time I visited it. A small flow was evident over the Falls. Some wildflowers were evident, especially along the river banks and the internal park road. Pink Kunzea was still flowering but may not be evident by 25th October.

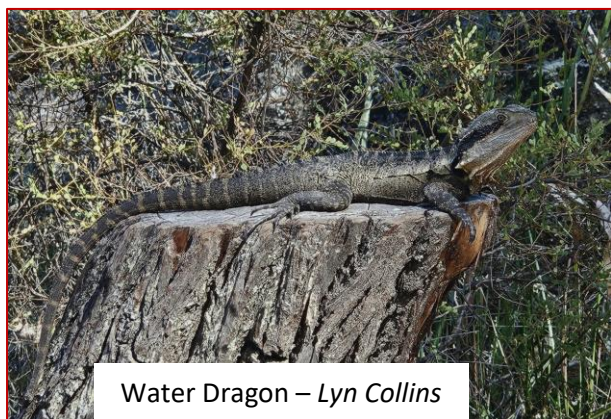
We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am. If you are travelling direct please let me know.

I checked the information poster on John Ward's House, visible on the opposite side of the river after Morgan's Gully picnic area. I propose we visit the Cypress Pine Picnic area for morning tea and a walk along the river, followed by lunch at the Falls picnic area and viewing the Falls.

**September Outing Report 20/9/2026 - Underground Creek
Girraween NP**

Four members drove out along the very dusty Pyramids Rd to meet at the Underground Ck carpark, and unfortunately lost John along the way as he had turned left onto what looked like the main road until it ended at a gate. We eventually met up again at the carpark where we found Peter waiting for us and we decided to have morning tea before setting off down the track.





Water Dragon – Lyn Collins

The whole eastern side of the track had been burnt recently but though the bush was very dry we were surprised at the number of spring flowering plants on the unburnt side. Most common was the Narrow-leaved spider flower *Grevillea viridiflava*. We walked along the track to Dr Roberts waterhole which still had a good sized pool in spite of the drought and we spotted several birds. I had brought a crayfish trap hoping to catch a couple of the red crayfish that inhabit the watercourse and left it set while we walked back along the track and then to the Underground Creek further upstream. We stopped

here for lunch under the watchful eye of a large Water Dragon and a Skink, both no doubt looking for free food handouts and we enjoyed watching a few more birds.



Black Fish

Some of us then continued to the top of the track to look at the amazing water sculptured waterholes in solid granite. It was the first time I had been there with no water running. We made our way back to the Dr Roberts Waterhole track and I returned to collect the Crayfish trap which sadly yielded no crayfish, but did have two Blackfish, which I photographed before returning them to the waterhole. Blackfish *Godopsis marmoratus* are native fish and Girraween NP is about the only place in Queensland where they are found although they are in watercourses all the way down

the mainland coast and in Tasmania. We then made our way back to the cars to conclude another interesting day.

Rob McCosker



Olearia microphylla
Bridal Daisy Bush

Plant List – Snowbush - *Acrothamnus (Leucopogon) melaleuroides*, Coral heath - *Epacris microphylla*, Narrow-leaved spider flower - *Grevillea viridiflava*, Granite heath - *Micromyrtus sessilis*, Rupp's wattle - *Acacia ruppii*, White sally wattle - *Acacia florabunda*, Prickly Moses - *Acacia ulicifolia*, Queen of the bush - *Pimelea linifolia* subsp. *linifolia*, Sour bush - *Choretrum candollei*, Hop bitter pea - *Daviesia latifolia*, *Bossiaea rhombifolia*, Bridal daisy bush - *Olearia microphylla*, Pepper and salt - *Spyridium scortechinii*, Purple flag iris - *Patersonia sericea*.

Bushfire at Evans Road



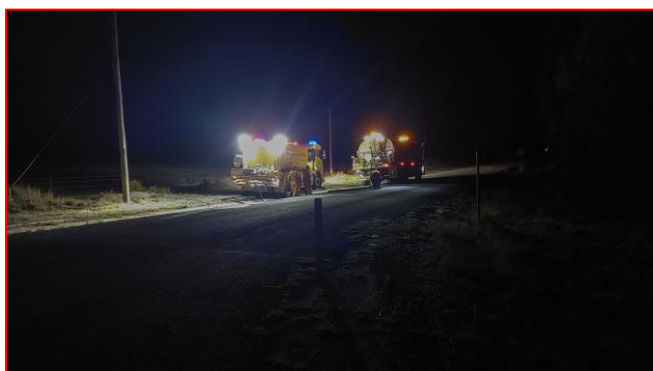
I had some excitement with the Nundubbermere bushfire on 21st and 22nd September.

My son-in-law Mike Onus and son Rafe Onus were camped up in my top paddock where we could see the smoke from the bushfire on the 20th September. They departed the next morning and that afternoon/dusk, the bushfire was very close to my northern boundary along the 'unformed road' that is the extension of Evans Road.

Several Rural Fire Service units were up there with a huge grader that barely fitted on the track. They were unable to cut a break across the fire front due to the rough terrain but the forecast easterly breeze arrived at dusk and reduced the threat to my property.

I was prepared with my Fiat 500 tractor and Ronaldson-Tippet water tanker but once the threat diminished, I gave the unit to Markus Repo who was defending his house on the old Winkler property. They saved the house but a few residents nearby evacuated for Tuesday night. The photos on 22nd September showed the bushfire to the north of my place with water bombers operating.

John Salini



Evans Rd Fire Track





Minutes of September Meeting Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc

Date: Wednesday 16th September 2026

Meeting opened: Martin Vries opened the meeting at 1931h

Attendance & Apologies: As per Attendance Book, N = 12, plus 2 visitors Tony Fawdon and Matthew from Stanaurum Mining

Apologies; Nadine Gray, Lock Wilson, Glen and Jenny Crossman

Minutes of the previous meeting: Moved by John, seconded by Rob, carried.

Correspondence: John forwarded newsletters from other Field Nat clubs together with some internal emails between the Management Committee.

Moved John

Seconded Lyn

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 90.00

Bal. c/f as at 19/8/26 **\$2,786.19**

Moved Lyn

seconded Margaret

Carried

Outing Report: The Junction Walk; See Martin and Alison's BBQ Outing report in the September newsletter, page 3. Attendees noted the impact of the current drought on flowering and some deaths of plants. Bald Rock Creek was a series of waterholes.

Pre-Outing Report: A detailed outline of the proposed walk to Dr Robert's Waterhole and the Underground Creek was presented and Rob referred attendees to his Pre-Outing Report in the September newsletter. Depart from Weeroona Park or meet there at 10am.

New Business Arising: - Martin reported on the results of the meeting Start Time Poll; conclusion was the October meeting will start at 7pm. John to send out a membership email to this effect before the October meeting.

General Business: No further business....

Speaker & Topic: – Martin introduced Tony Fawdon; Tony gave a brief background of his involvement with tin and other rare metals mining/surveying in the district and beyond. More details are available on page 2 of the September newsletter; the company is Stanaurum.

Tony explained that the markets for tin and related rare earth metals has risen due to the demand for modern electronics and mining applications.

Specimens: - Rob McCosker brought along mineral tin and alluvial (Ruby Tin) tin samples that his Mother had collected many years ago. He also brought along an Eucalyptus nest.

Next Meeting: SFN OGM, 7pm, Wednesday 21st October 2026.

Meeting Closed: 1957h

Spottings



Top: Lesley Saunders found these *Glossodia major* (Waxlip Orchid) in the very barren looking bushland on the right.

Bottom L: Sorry that this is a rather fuzzy photo of a White-banded Bee (*Lassioglossum lanarium*) on a *hardenbergia* in our garden. They are related to the blue-banded bee but only about 6mm long. Very active like the blue-banded.

Bottom R: Thanks to Peter Haselgrove for the photo of the Chequered Swallowtail. He has seen quite a few this year in his garden for the first time.