



# The Granite Belt Naturalist



**Mail Address:** Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, Stanthorpe Qld. 4380  
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Web site [www.granitenet.com.au/groups/environment/fieldnats/](http://www.granitenet.com.au/groups/environment/fieldnats/)

## 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 and post it to members



**Meetings** 4th Wednesday of each month at QCWA Rooms, Victoria Street, Stanthorpe, at 7.30pm  
**Outings:** The Sunday preceding the 4th Wednesday of each month (Saturday outings as pre-arranged)  
**Subs:** Single \$20.00, Family \$30.00 per annum, July to June

## CLUB OFFICE BEARERS - 2013/2014

President	Rob McCosker	46835371
Vice-presidents	Kris Carnell	46835268
	Jeff Campbell	
Secretary	Halina Kruger	46835206
Treasurer	Leslie Saunders	
Newsletter Editor	K & M. Carnell	
Publicity Officer	Margaret Carnell	46835268
Librarian	Trish McCosker	46835371

The Club thanks the Queensland Country Credit Union for their donation that enabled us to buy a printer.

The Club acknowledges the support of the Gambling Community Benefit Fund in the purchase of a data projector.

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 walking, road or track
2. Road or track, gentle hills
3. Track, some hilly sections
4. Track, some steep sections
5. Cross country, easy open forest, gentle slopes
6. Track, steep sections common, with steps
7. Cross country, some hills, some thick undergrowth
8. Cross country, steep sections with scrambles over rocks, etc., and some thick undergrowth
9. Cross country, steep, hilly, rough, thick undergrowth
10. Mountain climbing, hard going, higher level of fitness or plenty of time required

**Coming Up**

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2015: Hell Hole Gorge with Karyn Van Tilberg  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July: Annual General Meeting, *Remember Last Year* followed by supper.

**Deadline for next newsletter  
11<sup>th</sup> August 2015**

**Annual General Meeting - 22<sup>nd</sup> July**

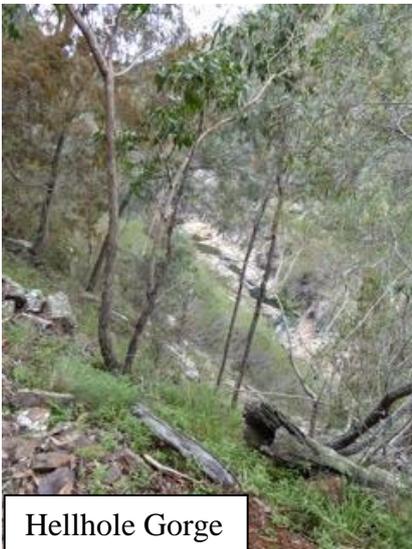
*Remember Last Year*

**Followed by Supper** (Please bring a plate)

**If you have any photos of outings for the last 12 months could you please give them to Rob McCosker for the program by 15<sup>th</sup> July.**

**Pre-Outing Report - Hell Hole Gorge, Swanfels Valley July 19 2015**

Leader: Karyn van Tilburg.



Hellhole Gorge

This is an easy walk about level 3. We will be walking up Hell Hole creek. The gorge opens out into a large open plateau, though still surrounded by hills. It is mostly following an old vehicle track beside and/or above Hell Hole creek, and then walking through the open plateau grasslands.

We will meet at Weeroon Park to leave Stanthorpe 8.00am, and travel to Pioneer Park, Swanfels Road, where we can meet up with other club members from QNC. We will have morning tea here, where there is a covered area with benches and a toilet at 9.30 – 10.00am.

**DIRECTIONS.**

1. Travel through Warwick and over the Condamine river bridge. Take the turn to Yangan “settlers route” Travel about 17 km to Yangan.
2. Go through Yangan and turn left onto Swanfels road.
3. Travel about 5.5km to Pioneer Park, which is on the right side of Swanfels Road.

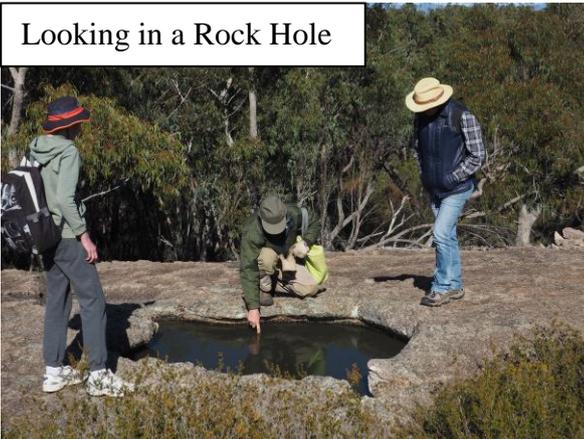
Karyn will then lead us to the property. We will travel about 10km to Hellhole Gorge. It is mainly a gravel road, suitable for normal cars. We will park our vehicles on the property, Carry our lunch with us.

We will split into 2 groups. One group can walk up the gorge which is about a 4-5 hour return journey, including lunch break. The other group can go as far along the track as they want and participate in botanising. We can all meet at the vehicles later in the day.

Karyn (0427 648 071)

### Outing Report – Amiens State Forest - June 21<sup>st</sup> 2015

Looking in a Rock Hole



We were a group of 13 and we were lucky to have a sunny and warm day. We drove to Cowies Lane and then into the forestry. Walking, we followed a flat rock face that runs east-west. We stopped for morning tea amongst some boulders that were of interesting and lumpy shapes rather than the usual round shape. We had great views of Mount Norman, Bald Rock and Slip Rock. We were fortunate to see many early flowering plants.

We followed a track to an old mine site. The shafts have been filled in fairly recently and it was fenced off. We walked back to the cars and then drove to Spicers Gully to have lunch by the water hole at the old tin mine site. We found some excellent fossils in a pile of rocks that had been dumped at the site.

After lunch we drove along a track on the eastern boundary and then walked into where a gully starts. Some of us climbed into the gully and followed the creek. The rest of the party walked along the rim. We walked out to rejoin the road and five of us walked down to the creek on the southern boundary and returned to the cars via the road.

Special thanks to Lyn Rowley for her local knowledge of the area where her grandparents (the Cowies) farmed.



Weathered Rock

Jeanie Wylie

#### Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015

**Meeting opened:** 7.43 pm

**Attendance:** 14 Apologies 3 as per attendance book

**Minutes of the previous meeting:**

L Saunders moved G Greenup seconded **carried**

**Business arising from the minutes:**

Nil

**Correspondence:**

H Kruger moved that the Correspondence accepted C Hockings seconded carried

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**Financial Report:** \$811.32  
 L Saunders moved M Carnell seconded carried

**Outing Reports:**

Sunday outing: J. Wylie – Greensland’s Forestry

**Pre-outings:**

Sunday outing: K. Van Tilburg - Swanfells

**General Business:**

Fassifern FN campout at Girraween 17/18 October 15 members welcome to participate.

K Carnell still having problems with the website – not working well

Need photos for “Remember last Year”.

Next meeting is AGM please bring a plate for supper.

Please get in touch with L Saunders for information about tickets for “CATS” in Brisbane 10Feb16 \$80.00 plus bus fare.

Working bee Sentimental Rocks 29<sup>th</sup> June 9am

**Next Meeting:** 22<sup>th</sup> July 2015

**Specimens/ Items of interest:**

Sample of the NBN cable

**Next meetings presentation:** “Remember last Year”.

**Meeting closed:** 8.10 pm

**Presentation:** E Walker - China

**STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC.  
 FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1/7/2014 TO 30/06/2015**

Balance c/f 1/7/2014		\$640.30
Members subscriptions	870.00	
Bank Interest	0.12	
Donation	15.00	
Camera Club Rental	57.50	
	\$942.63	\$942.62
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$1582.92</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Rental	200.00	
Insurance	60.00	
Fair Trading	48.25	
P O Box Rental	115.00	
Stamps & Stationary	395.77	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>819.02</b>	<b>\$819.02</b>
Cash Book Balance and Bank Balance as at 30.06/2015.....		\$763.90

**The following article is one of a continuing series by Marc Newman**

This month's bee is the Carpenter Bee. The species belong to the family Apidae, or long tongued bees which includes the social bees such as the honey bees and stingless bees as well as other solitary bees, the Amegillas, Reed bees and Cuckoo bees. The carpenter bee that I see regularly is the Peacock Carpenter Bee (*Xylocopa Lestis aeratus*) although I have seen the Giant Carpenter Bee (*Xylocopa Koptortosoma aruana*) in our garden a couple of times. This latter is a very impressive big bee and hard to miss because of its bright yellow thorax. The Peacock bees are also very impressive because they are also large and brightly coloured. The female is a dark shiny green and I suspect is often mistaken for a blow fly, the male is hairier and lighter coloured as indicated in the photos. I see many females usually starting with the flowering of Wisteria, but they also like Buddleja, Abelia, Lemon Verbena, Cosmos, Sacred Bamboo, *Leptospermum* and *Salvia*. No doubt there would be others but these are the flowers I have seen them on. I've never seen the male here at home and had to venture to Girraween NP to see and photograph one. As the name suggests, carpenter bees chew into suitable dead wood to make their nest. They sometimes use *Xanthorrhoea* flower stems which have pithy cores and are easy for the bee to excavate their nesting tunnel. I have observed one nest made in a pine post that was part of a trellis for grape vines. The point can be made here that cleaning up your yard of dead timber may not be beneficial to the carpenter bees. As these are large bees they can fly in cooler weather.



Female Carpenter Bee on Lemon Verbena



Male Carpenter Bee on *Leptospermum*

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**Subscriptions and Program for 2015/16.**

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

**Subscriptions for 2015-2016 : 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:** .....

**Post-code** ..... **State**..... **Payment made \$**.....

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.

**PAYMENT METHODS**

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

**I would like to receive my magazine by** **POST** **EMAIL** (please circle)

*As quite a few of our members have Email we would like to have your email address if you are agreeable. Sometimes it is convenient to contact as many members as possible about a change in arrangements at short notice, and this can be a convenient way to do it.*

**Email address:-** .....

The monthly newsletter is distributed electronically by email and by post.

It is also posted on the website in the Documents folder.

Names and addresses are only used for posting the magazine and are not passed on to anyone else.

**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**