



# 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	46835268
Publicity Officer	Errol Walker	46812008
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**

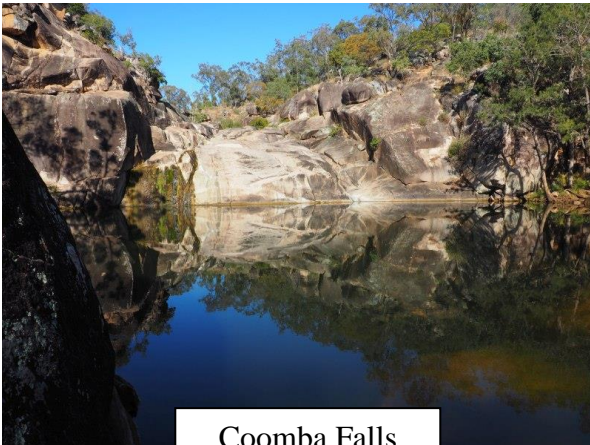
1. Flat walking, road or track
2. Road or track, gentle hills
3. Track, some hilly sections
4. Track, some steep sections
5. Cross country, easy open forest, gentle slopes
6. Track, steep sections common, with steps
7. Cross country, some hills, some thick undergrowth
8. Cross country, steep sections 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 23<sup>rd</sup> -45<sup>th</sup> April: Camp Out to Yarraman Area with Rob McCosker  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April: *West Australia Wildflowers* with Ian Milinovich  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May: Rainforest Identification Workshop at Killarney

**Deadline for next newsletter  
2<sup>nd</sup> May 2016**

**Pre-Outing Report - Campout to Yarraman Area 23<sup>rd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> April**



Coomba Falls

On this outing we intend to look at some interesting places around Yarraman. The first is a small National Park which protects a remnant subtropical rainforest with a stand of palm trees. Hence it is called The Palms N.P. There is a small parking/picnic area and a short, loop walk through the park. Then just north of Yarraman we will visit Rogers Park, with toilet and sheltered picnic facilities, situated in an extensive Hoop Pine plantation in the Yarraman State Forest. A little further west we will visit the Coomba Falls at Maidenwell. We plan to stop overnight at a free camp-site on the Coomba Falls road at Maidenwell,

where caravan or camper can be left, as it is not advised to take them down the road to the falls carpark. There is a large picnic area next to the Falls waterhole, but no facilities, so we will spend a little time exploring, and swimming if the weather is suitable, before returning to camp. Next to visit is the Muntapa Railway tunnel, south-west of Cooyar, before heading home. At 640m above sea level this is the only tunnel built beneath the crest of the Great Dividing Range, and at the time was the longest tunnel in the southern hemisphere. Though no longer in use, it was open from 1913 until 1964 as a branch line to connect Oakey to Cooyar. It is 287m long and is closed in winter to protect a colony of some 8000 bent wing bats.

We plan to set off on Saturday morning at about 8.00am and follow the New England Highway to Toowoomba for morning tea at the Lions Park, then on through Crows Nest to Cooyar where we will meet up at the Swinging Bridge Park for lunch. Just up the road we will visit the Palms NP and continue to Yarraman where we will have a look at Rogers Park in the Hoop pine forest for a cuppa before going on to Maidenwell for the night. There is free camping here, BBQ and tables, with access to hot showers in the Town Hall. Next morning we will visit the Coomba Waterhole then after morning tea head to the Muntapa Railway tunnel. After lunch here we will make our way home, unless anyone is interested in staying another night, as Monday is Anzac Day, then continue to the Bunya Mtns NP before returning home. Alternative camp-sites are at Cooyar, behind the Hotel at Maidenwell and the Yarraman Caravan Park.

I must point out that we have not done a full pre-outing trip for this outing so some of these plans are speculative, and subject to change. Anyone planning to attend please let me know so that I can advise any changes, and give you route details.

**Leader** Rob McCosker  
46835371 / 0410024383

### Rainforest Plant Identification Workshop at Killarney 14<sup>th</sup> May

Susan Savage is organizing an education day "Increasing Knowledge and Skills for Conservation" - rainforest and vine scrub. Training with Bill McDonald in the use of the Key for Rainforest Plants of Australia will be an important part of the workshop, which may expand to 15<sup>th</sup> May.

Contact for further information – Susan Savage at [suesarborlee@gmail.com](mailto:suesarborlee@gmail.com)

### Outing Report McIntyre Forest



Caper Bush Flower

Thirteen members attended the outing on what turned out to be quite a warm day with broken cloud but, fortunately, no rain. The area had had sufficient rain to give it a green tinge but it was still very dry.

Smoko was had just inside the entrance and the group then traversed the area, with several stops for plants ID's,



Tree Pear

arriving at the southern boundary in time for lunch. We then walked to the top of a nearby hill for views back to Amiens tower and the northern end of Sundown NP - Jibbinbar Mountain and Mt Emily. We made our way back to the entrance and individually returned to Stanthorpe.

The area is typical of the region - ironbark/box/gum woodland with very little understory. Mostly just one or two wattles and dead finish. One stand of wattle took our attention. It was a very tall grey foliated tree similar to Brigalow and appearing typical of dry vine scrub species.



View to the East McIntyre SF

Although the area is noted for a gum of very restricted distribution (*Eucalyptus terrica*) we were not able to definitely identify it. However, we may have seen it at the morning smoko spot.

Of some cause for concern was a large flock of common mynas seen near Spring Creek Homestead. Possibly 80 birds were seen. These birds are spreading into the area from the north - formerly only seen around Toowoomba.

*Peter & Lynette Haselgrove*

**Bird and Plant Lists – McIntyre State Forest**

Narrow-leaved Ironbark Rusty Angophora Rough-barked Apple White Cypress Pine <i>Acacia lunata</i> <i>A. deanei</i> <i>A. decora</i> <i>A. sp</i> <i>A. implexa</i> White Box Grey Box Tumble-down Gum <i>Capparis mitchellii</i> <i>Pimelea pauciflora</i>	Wedge-tailed Eagle Brown Falcon Striped Honeyeater Turquoise Parrot Peaceful Dove Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike Willie Wagtail Yellow-rumped Thornbill Grey Thrush Grey Butcherbird Rainbow Bee-eater
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***Rocks and Landscapes of the Granite Belt***

**by Warwick Willmott is available on our  
website in the Document section.**

**Photos for *Remember Last Year***

**Could anyone with photos for *Remember Last Year* please email them to Kris Carnell at [oranakm@bigpond.com](mailto:oranakm@bigpond.com) or pass them to him on a memory stick after each outing.**

**Early Deadline for Next Magazine**

**As we will be away from 13<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>  
May we will need all copy for the  
magazine by 2<sup>nd</sup> May please.**

*Kris & Margaret*

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.  
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 23rd March 2016**

**Meeting opened:** 7:43pm

**Attendance:** 11 Apologies 7 as per attendance sheet

**Minutes of the previous meeting:**

G Greenup moved M Mueller seconded carried

**Business arising from the minutes:** Nil

**Correspondence:**

H Kruger moved that the Correspondence accepted L Hazelgrove seconded

**Financial Report:** \$1041.49

R McCosker moved that the financial report be accepted T McCosker seconded

**Outing Reports:** 20<sup>th</sup> March McIntyre State Forest – P & L Hazelgrove

**Pre-outings:** 23-24<sup>th</sup> Campout to Yarraman, Palms NP, Coomba Falls – Rob McCosker

**General Business:**

M Mueller suggested it was an optimum opportunity with clear nights to be able to observe the Sunset and Sunrise occurring almost together in the late afternoon.

Susan Savage is having a day on 14th May "Increasing knowledge and skills for Conservation"- Rainforest and vine scrub.

Training in the use of the Key for Rainforest Plants of Australia will be an important part of this training. If interested please contact Susan Savage direct [suesarborlee@gmail.com](mailto:suesarborlee@gmail.com)

Rocks and Landscapes of the Granite Belt by Warwick Willmott is available on our website for your information in the Document section.

**Next Meeting:** 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016

**Next Month's Presentation:** West Australia Wildflowers – I Milinovich

**Specimens/ Items of interest:**

Plant book Greenland area

P & L Hazelgrove free Hakea plants

Specimen of Mistletoe attached to gum tree branch

**Meeting closed:** 8:07pm

**Presentation:** South West Greenland - J Campbell