

# The Granite Belt Naturalist



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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 22<sup>nd</sup> May: Passchendaele Forest with Jeanie Wylie  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May: *The Grandeur of Victoria* with David Wilson  
14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May: Susan Savage Workshop *Increasing knowledge and skills for Conservation* at Killarney

**Deadline for next newsletter  
8<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

**Pre-Outing Report - Passchendaele Forest - 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2016**

**Leader:** Jeanie Wylie

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9am and travel to Mt Janet road via Amiens and Bapaume road. We will drive a short way along Mt Janet Road then leave the vehicles and walk along forestry tracks. We will have our morning tea and then climb (off track) a steep and rocky hill. At the top there are good views, big interesting rocks and flora. It takes about 30 minutes to climb at a steady pace. For those who don't want to climb then there is the option of a walk along the track. When we climb down we will return to cars and drive about 6 km to 7 Acre Rock where we will have lunch.

The afternoon walk is on a hill behind 7 Acre Rock. There is a narrow track on this one and it's an easier climb. From the top we will pick up a forestry track and use it to return to 7 Acre Rock. After this there would be an opportunity to explore this big rock. It's very easy to walk around on it. So be prepared to carry morning tea and (maybe) lunch  
4wd not required for the Mt Janet Road walk as we will walk in.  
4wd recommended to access 7 acre rock.



Walking Track to Coomba Falls

**Outing Report Yarraman Area Campout 23-24/4/16**

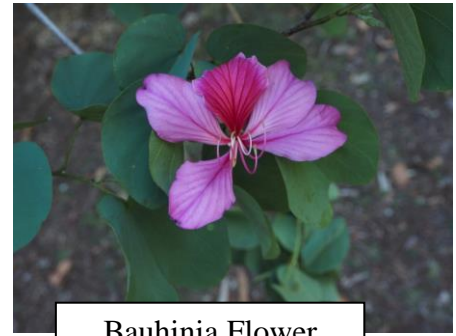
As planned, Trish and I left at 8.00am with Halina and drove to Toowoomba where we met Leon and Kerrie at the Lions Park for morning tea, then on to the Cooyar Swing Bridge Park to meet up with Jeff and Glenys. After lunch we drove to The Palms National Park and enjoyed the short circuit walk, in spite of the



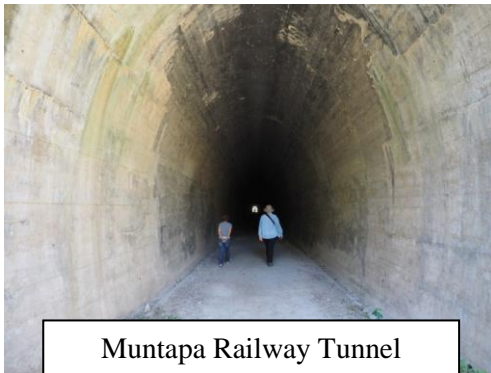
Flying Foxes, The Palms NP

constant chatter of flying foxes in the canopy above. The National Park protects a small remnant of palm-filled subtropical rainforest with a spring fed gully ensuring constant moisture. Boardwalks are provided in the wetter sections and we noticed there were masses of palm seedlings sprouting from the damp ground.

We continued along the road past the National Park through rolling hills and farms to Yarraman. Heading north out of town we turned into the State Forest Hoop Pine plantation and drove to Rogers Park, an idyllic setting with massive Jacarandas providing a canopy above the excellent picnic facilities. The pines, planted in the early 1950s, tower above even higher, creating deep shade at ground level. Continuing on after smoko we followed the D'Aguilar Highway for a bit before heading west then south to Maidenwell for our overnight stop. Jeff had camped in the sports field behind the Hotel the previous night and reported that there was to be an influx of visitors for the Bull riding event to be held on Sunday, so we hoped there was still enough room for us. Our fears were unfounded as there was still plenty of space.



Bauhinia Flower



Muntapa Railway Tunnel

The next morning we packed he ablutions block was excellent and we all enjoyed our meal together at the hotel. up and headed down the range on the New England Highway to Cooyar, then on to the Muntapa Railway Tunnel, where we were surprised to see so many other visitors. The tunnel was built in 1912 to facilitate a branch line from Oakey to Cooyar and all done with manual labour. It is 287m long, 640m above sea level, built of concrete all mixed by hand and the only tunnel built beneath the crest of the Great Dividing Range. A park has been provided for visitors

with picnic tables and toilet as well as plenty of informative signs and photos depicting the construction. We walked into the tunnel from both ends to look at it as there are locked gates inside to protect a colony of up to 8000 bent-wing bats, which we could hear in the distant gloom and certainly smell from the down-wind side of the tunnel. We had our lunch here before heading home our separate ways.

*Rob McCosker*

### **Bird List**

Grey crowned Babbler, Leaden Flycatcher, Magpie-lark, Magpie, Banded Lapwing, Kookaburra, Boobook Owl, Currawong, Galah, Welcome Swallow, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Double-barred Finch, Noisy Minor, Torresian Crow, Willie Wagtail, King Parrot, Grey Butcherbird, Little Corella, Wood Duck, White-browed Scrubwren.

### **Leech Invasion**

Removing leeches from your clothes, shoes or skin is not exactly a pleasant thing for most of us. On a recent walk in Lamington NP during wet weather, as I came closer to the escarpment, I eventually ended up having to de-leech myself about every 2 minutes. It had never been like this before. At least with so many, one starts to develop a routine of effective removal. That is until I felt a strange sensation on my lip ... so, next time you have to remove a leech from just your foot or leg, don't worry, there are worse areas of the body you might have to pull off a leech from. After a moment of surprise I still acted quickly and fortunately all that remained was a tiny bite mark on the inside of my lower lip. It even did not hurt as those little creatures are using local anaesthetic, just like our beloved

dentists.

So let's have another brief look at these very considerate little fellows. Did you know they can store up to five times their body mass in blood? No wonder they only need a feed twice a year, however, they can go for one year without food and live up to ten years. Their jaws consist of 3 blades at an angle which slice through the skin by making a Y-shaped incision. Unlike ticks, they do not burrow into your skin. Applying chemicals, salt or heat is not recommended, although these methods will cause the leech to detach, this may also cause them to vomit into the wound. For me a circular rub works well as a method for removing them. If they remain on my hand after that, another light rub followed by a short sharp blow will send them back into the bush. If there is a visible wound, I use an alcohol swab to clean it. Occasionally a wound has kept bleeding for over an hour but I have never got an inflammatory reaction or infection after a leech bite.

*Michael Mueller*

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.  
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

**Meeting opened:** 7:45pm

**Attendance:** 10 Apologies 2 as per attendance sheet

**Minutes of the previous meeting:**

L Saunders moved K Carnell seconded carried

**Business arising from the minutes:** Nil

**Correspondence:**

H Kruger moved that the Correspondence accepted T McCosker seconded

**Financial Report:**

L Saunders moved that the financial report be accepted H Kruger seconded

**Outing Reports:**

23-24<sup>th</sup> April Campout to Yarraman, Palm NP, Coomba Falls - R McCosker

**Pre-outings:**

22 May Amiens Forest - Jeanie Wylie

**General Business:**

Reminder about Susan Savage Workshop "Increasing knowledge and skills for Conservation"- Rainforest and vine scrub now on 14-15<sup>th</sup> May at Killarney. [suesarborlee@gmail.com](mailto:suesarborlee@gmail.com)

Due to our outdated projector which has had many hiccups with personal computers for presentations and our poor reflective worn out screen and no computer, R McCosker moved that we apply for the next Casino Grant round for a Projector, Laptop and Screen.

seconded by L Saunders carried

**Next Meeting:** 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016

**Next Month's Presentation:** The Grandeur of Victoria – David Wilson

**Specimens/ Items of interest:**

An interesting range of different seed pods collect on WA trip by I Milinovich

**Meeting closed:** 8:06pm

**Presentation:** West Australia Wildflowers - Ian Milinovich