



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/

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	46811420
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 24th July: Swanfels Valley with
Karyn Von Tilberg
Wednesday 27th July: AGM *Remember
Last Year* followed by supper

**Deadline for next newsletter
9th August 2016**

Annual General Meeting – 24th 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 Kris Carnell for the program by 20th July.

Outing Report 24 July 2016 – Swanfels Valley

Leader: Karyn Van Tilburg

Meet at Weeroona Park at 8.30am. Scale 7 at the most. This walk will be up Swanfels Valley, East of Warwick.

We will meet at Pioneer Park, Swanfels for morning tea, same as last year. There is a toilet and an undercover area with tables and seats to have morning tea.

DIRECTIONS.

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

Karyn will then lead us about 10km up Top Swanfels Road. It is a gravel road, suitable for normal cars. We will park our vehicles on the side of the road. Carry our lunch with us. We are walking on Peter Cook's property.

The first part is about a 300 m uphill walk, there are cattle tracks to follow. It's a bit steep, but we can take our time. It's well worth it when we get to the top. It then opens out into a plateau surrounded by cliffs. This area has never been logged and is predominately huge fig trees and other semi rainforest plants. It is a pocket that has formed a special microclimate. When we get there, we will look around at our leisure and have lunch up there amongst these huge forest trees, mosses and other plants.

After this Peter and Rebecca have invited us to look at their tree shaping display. Peter and Rebecca have perfected a gradual shaping method of trees, growing them into furniture. In 2005 they were given an honorarium invitation to the world trade fare in Japan to talk about their methods. Some of their sculptures were flown over and put on display for six months. After being in Japan they were said to be the world leaders in this art form. They have grown mirrors and table tops into the shaped trees, and grown chairs and other structures. It is very interesting. You may have seen them on the TV show 'Better Homes and Gardens'.

See www.pooktre.com

Karyn 0427 648 071

Outing Report – 26th June 2016 – Meandering Along the Eastern Fall

Leaders: Kris and Margaret Carnell

Six intrepid Nats and two visitors met at Weeroona Park in sub-zero temperatures to commence our outing into New South Wales to travel along the eastern fall of the Great Divide. We travelled along



Light Horse Monument, Tabulum

the Casino Road, stopping to view Wooloo Woolooni (Wellington Rock) and further on, Cataract Falls on Waterfall Creek which flows into the Cataract River. On the way to Drake, where we had morning tea in park, we noticed two varieties of wattle in bloom, one with long pale flower heads and the other with large round ones, and heard bellbirds calling in the forest.

The Light Horse Monument in Tabulum was our next port of call. We heard lots of birds calling and saw a rufous whistler in a callistemon near the monument. He was very obliging and posed

to have his photo taken. Across the road was a street tree with vicious, short, stubby thorns covering the trunk and branches. I wouldn't like to run into it!

Everyone was interested in the totems at the Bonalbo turnoff, which were started in 1984. We spent some time looking at the detail, finding such things as a chest of drawers, a lizard, a fish, a kangaroo, vines and fungus, as well as faces and figures. Unfortunately, some of the carving has fallen off some of the poles.



Admiring the Totems, Bonalbo Turnoff

Mara Seeds has a factory where they make compost right beside the park. Halina was able to tell us something about the process, as she had visited with a Land Care group. We saw piles of bio-char alongside bales of hay waiting to be processed.

We travelled through rich farming land and plantation forest on the way through Bonalbo and Old Bonalbo and saw some handsome, large bulls in the paddocks. There were bush lemons growing in the paddocks close to the road in a couple places. We passed a huge mound of silage under tarpaulins with old tyres on top to hold them down. Further on we passed a silage tower which has

fresh fodder put in the top that turns into silage and comes out ready for the stock to eat, at the bottom. Sometimes molasses is added for extra nutrient and to help the bacteria to process fodder.

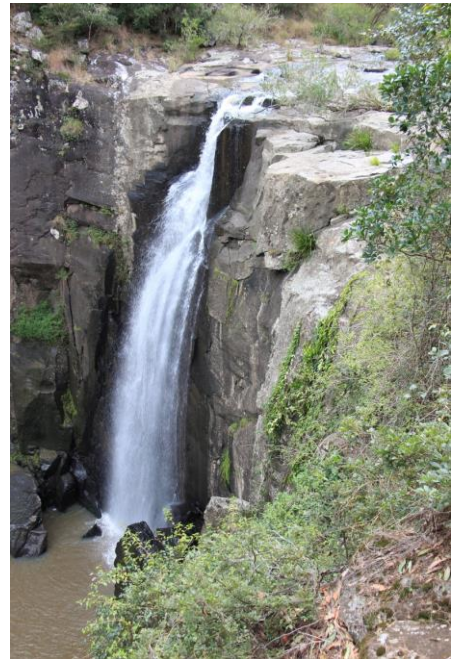
Our next destination was Bean Creek Falls and we were delighted, on descending the steps to the lookout, to find a large flow of water going over the falls. The bellbirds were constantly calling while we were there. There was evidence of storm damage with trees and leaves on the ground here and in a lot of other places.

After leaving the falls we entered Yabbra State Forest where there are magnificent stands of regrowth flooded gum. We were anxious to take photos and were able to park after a while and do just that. It is difficult to do the trees justice, but we did end up with some good photos. There were a couple of toadstools

growing amongst the cobbles pegs beside the road, and a shrub with heart-shaped leaves, some of which are red. We caught a glimpse of a large raptor rising from the ground as we passed and we think it was a whistling kite.



Flooded Gum, Yabbra S.F.



Bean Creek Falls

As we emerged from the forest we saw the peaks of the Main Range before us, with Mt Lindesay in the centre, Mt Barney to the left and Edinburgh Castle in the foreground to the right. The air was clear and the mountains very blue, but again, there was nowhere to park to get the best shots. We did stop further along and had a discussion of which peak was which. At this stage we were only sure about Mt Lindesay and fairly sure about Edinburgh Castle as we had no map that showed the peaks. We had a look at the Tenterfield forestry map after we arrived home to work out what we were looking at.

The park in Urbenville was our lunch stop where there was a cold breeze blowing. There is a mountain overlooking the town and we wondered if it was called Crown Mountain, as there was a Crown Hotel and a craft shop with "crown" in its name. In fact, the mountain is Coutts Crown or the North Obelisk. We had passed the South Obelisk or Callawajune Mountain on our way.

Tooloom Falls were beckoning and just after we turned into the dirt road leading to them, a farmer with a bale of hay on the front of his tractor, dropped a couple of metal things on the road in front of us. He pretended we weren't there as he picked them up out of the way. There was a very good flow over the falls and it was very pleasant to listen to the water. Several purple swamp hens were feeding above the falls and a coot was hiding in the reeds. Kris spotted a kingfisher but we weren't able to identify which one. Below the cliff, the pink fruit of a lilly-pilly was providing a feast for a flock of silver-eyes.



Strangler Fig

As we turned back onto the road we spotted a raptor flying low over the paddock. Kris and Jeff took photos and we were able to identify it as a spotted harrier. Further on in the Tooloom forest, we rounded a bend and had to stop for a flock of king parrots feeding on spilled grain on the bitumen. We arrived at the Tooloom Rest Area in time to go for a walk through the rainforest before having a cuppa. There were some beautiful big trees, including White Beech, Red Cedar and Strangler Figs. There was quite a lot of fungus on the rotting logs. Some people went for a second walk to the lookout and came back past a mob of cattle that had strayed onto the road.

We all came home via Legume and the Mt Lindesay Road, arriving at about 5pm. In spite of the cold it was a most enjoyable, relaxed outing.



Bird List: white-winged chough, crimson rosella, king parrot, eastern rosella, sulphur-crested cockatoo, white-eared honeyeater, eastern spinebill, noisy miner, red wattle bird, blue-faced honeyeater, silveryeye, white-browed scrub wren, fairy wren, bellbird, kingfisher, kookaburra, pied butcherbird, grey butcherbird, pee wee, currawong, magpie, crow, willy wagtail, rufous whistler, Indian mynah, black swan, pacific heron, wood duck, Pacific black duck, grebe, purple swamp hen, coot, egret (probably intermediate), cattle egret, white-faced heron, masked lapwing, kestrel, whistling kite, swamp harrier, welcome swallow, bower bird, grey shrike-thrush, bassian thrush.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 22nd June 2016**

Meeting opened: 7:35pm

Attendance: 6 Apologies 9 as per attendance sheet

Minutes of the previous meeting:

P Andewartha moved M Carnell seconded carried

Business arising from the minutes: Nil

Correspondence: H Kruger moved that the correspondence accepted K Carnell seconded

Financial Report: Due to the absent Treasurer financial report not available.

Outing Reports: Outing cancelled due to rain, to redo on Sunday 27th June 2016

Pre-outings: Swanfels Valley - Karyn Van Tilburg
Meet at the Weeroona Park 8.00am

General Business:

K Carnell needs photos for "Remember Last Year" presentation before the AGM July meeting.
Please also bring a plate to share for supper.

K Carnell moved that our subscriptions remain the same as last year seconded P Andrewartha

Our yearly subs are due now.

Next Meeting: 27th July 2016 Annual General Meeting

Next Month's Presentation: "Remember last year" K Carnell

Meeting closed: 7:45pm

Presentation: P Andrewartha "Morocco"

Attached is a subscription form for 2016/2017.
Please fill it out with your details and bring it to
the meeting or post to the address given.
The committee would be very pleased to receive
any suggestions for outings or programs for next
year.

The Granite Belt Naturalist July 2016 Vol. 490

Subscriptions and Program for 2016/17.

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

Subscriptions for 2016-2017 : 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.

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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