



# *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 19<sup>th</sup> February : Washpool N.P.  
with Jeanie Wylie

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February: ANN West  
Australia with Jeff and Glenys

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

**Pre-Outing Report - Washpool National Park SE of Tenterfield - February 19<sup>th</sup> 2017.**

**Leader: Jeanie Wylie**

The outing is to The Scrub which is just south east of Tenterfield. Much of the area is now Washpool National Park. Horse riding is now allowed and this has resulted in a lot more signs on the tracks so it's a bit easier to find our way. There is no camping allowed and no facilities.

An 8.30 am (sharp) start will get us into the area by 9.30. Meet as usual at Weeroona Park. Travel to Tenterfield. Go through town and turn left at Clifton Street which is just before the bridge. Turn into Scrub Road. Any southerners could join us at the Clifton St/New England Highway junction.

National Parks recommend high clearance 4wd for the area. On the side roads this is essential, especially if it's wet, however the main Scrub Road/Spiribo Road is well formed and easy to drive. There are many places to visit here - Waterfalls, lookouts, old mill sites etc. There are rainforests, swamp areas, woodlands with many wildflowers, low scrub areas with banksias, hakeas and the like and tall eucalyptus forests. On the pre- outing we noted four different acacias in flower. We also saw Lyre Birds.

We will visit Billyrimble Falls. This is a 10k return side trip from the Spiribo Road. It is narrow and steep in parts and there is limited parking at the falls. Car- pooling will be a good idea. At the falls you can look at the great view, sit in the rock pools or walk up the creek (which is hard work but interesting). Lots of diverse flora here and a BIG drop to the bottom of the falls. There is no barrier and it's rough, so care required.

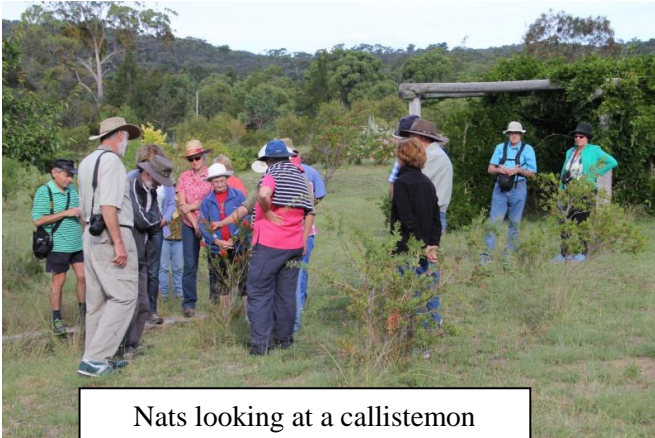
If it is really hot we can amend the trip for more driving and less walking. However the tracks are through trees and so shaded. Morning tea and lunch can be car based.

Back on the road we drive for around 20kms through some great rainforest, and eucalyptus forests to Farnell Road. Here there is a walk to the old mill site. There are old machines etc. here and a little creek. It is also possible to drive to it. From the mill site there are more walking tracks.

If there is time we can go to the lookout on the return trip. Like the falls it's a side trip but the road is better. A good place for an afternoon cuppa. It was wet when we did the pre-outing and there were no problems with this road.

For those who want more out of the day it's possible to keep going after Farnell Road and take roads to either Deepwater or Bolivia/Sandy Flat. We took these roads on the pre-outing. One was fine: the other was very slippery as it had been graded and it was wet. Took us an hour to the New England but would be much less in dry weather.

### Report of Break-up – 11<sup>th</sup> December 2016 – *Orana Severnlea*



Nats looking at a callistemon

We had a fine day for our break-up with no rain at all. There was a good attendance and we started by having afternoon tea in the shade of the trees on the front "lawn", followed by a walk in the old orchard area that was planted partly by a grant from Landcare and partly by plants we propagated ourselves. There are also some deciduous trees and exotics that were purchased.

It is amazing how well the tube stock supplied by Landcare grew. They were planted in November 2006 in well-prepared ground and some of them are now about 6 metres tall. The *Eucalyptus scoparia* are doing particularly well. It was unfortunate for Lynette that she was at the back of the group and the rest of us walked over a nest of yellow-tailed jumping ants which showed their displeasure by biting her.

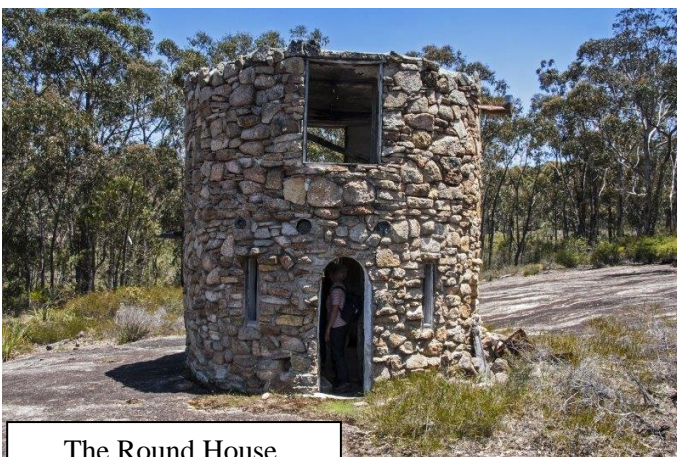
Some of the group walked a short distance to the weir that Kris built on the creek to supply water for the septic and garden while the rest of us sat under the trees and talked. We fired up the barbeque at about six o'clock and all enjoyed our meal and a good chat. It was a very relaxed, laid-back event.

*Margaret Carnell*



Barbeque time for David, Rob, Leon, Jeff

### Outing Report – Round House to Twin Peaks – January 2017

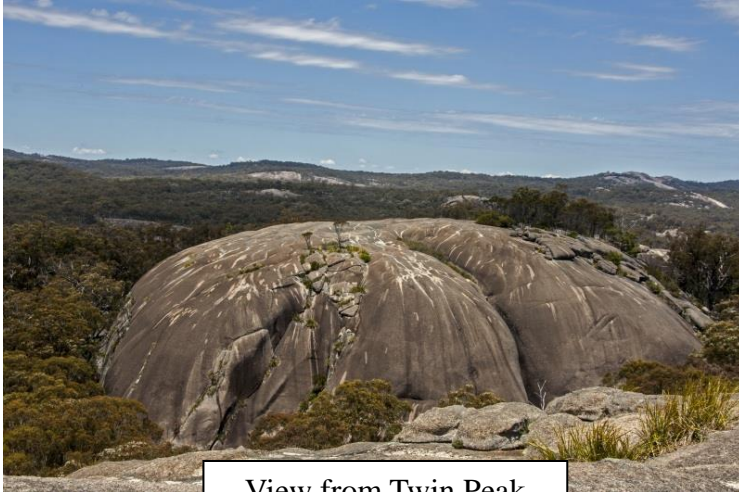


The Round House.

Eleven energetic Nats met at Weeroona Park and Mt Norman Road picnic area. Our first destination was the Round House, constructed in 1978 and abandoned in the early 80s when the Government was about to buy the area to add it to Girraween NP.

From here the going gradually got less and less easy ... Col showed us the remains of an old goat pen before we reached a much less known square shaped ruin with amazingly well done brick work. The building was never finished.





View from Twin Peak

Over at times challenging terrain, we made our way to West Twin Peak and through a saddle eventually up East Twin Peak where we had a late lunch. Over rocky terrain and some dense bush we navigated back to the Round House.

When we reached the vehicles and had afternoon tea, most members decided to head home. Three of us went on another but much shorter bushwalk to the remains of a nearby old homestead. We are still trying to find out more about the history of that side which seems to be

hardly known to anyone.

*Michael Müller*

The following is an email from Karyn Van Tilburg which had to wait for our first magazine of the year.

Thank you Michael for the walk on Sunday.

It was good to extend my physical capacity, I did not realise I was so good at climbing. At one stage Michael had to tie a rope to my back pack to lower me down a steep section, good thinking Michael, this made me feel a lot safer.

See you when you get back.

*Karyn Van Tilburg*

### **Peter Kerr Memorial Walk**

On Sunday 22nd January, a small group of Nats joined with Peter's nephew, Tony Donovan and grandniece, Tammy for a memorial walk up Mt Cordeaux to scatter some of Peter's ashes. Unfortunately Ann Donovan, Peter's sister was unwell and unable to join us on the day. After meeting with Tony and Tammy at the top of Cunninghams Gap, we had our mandatory cuppa and started our walk up Mt Cordeaux.

It was a pleasant day for walking unlike the weather of the previous few days. As we walked higher up the mountain we admired the diverse forest which covered the whole range from small fungi to huge trees. Of particular interest were the large strangler fig trees and, when we were closer to the top, the large arching seed pods stems on the Doryanthes (spear lilies).



Fungus on Mt Cordeaux



Graham approaching a Spear Lily

We reached the end of our walk and found a spot for lunch, noting the fact that there was no safety rail between us and a sheer drop. While admiring the view, we noted a couple of raptors soaring around the cliff face to the north of us. The one that landed wouldn't stay in the open long enough for us to get a look with the binoculars so we couldn't identify it.

While looking over some of Peter's favourite views, David Wilson pointed out the walks that he had taken with Peter. Rob McCosker read a poem that Ann had found on Peter's fridge and Sue Francis read a letter to Peter that she had written. We were then invited to join with Peter's family in scattering some of his ashes to the winds. *A very special day.*

### Do Not Stand At My Grave and Weep

Do not stand at my grave and weep,  
I am not there, I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow.  
I am the diamond glint on snow.  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.  
I am the gentle autumn rain.  
When you wake in the morning hush,  
I am the swift, uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circling flight.  
I am the soft starlight at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and weep.  
I am not there, I do not sleep.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry.  
I am not there, I did not die!

Mary Frye (1932)



Tony scatters Peter's ashes

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016

**Meeting Opened:** 7:35pm

**Attendance:** 18 Apologies 6 as per attendance sheet

#### Minutes of the previous meeting:

L Saunders confirmed by seconded by G Rayner **carried**

**Business arising from the minutes:** Nil

**Correspondence:** as per folder



H Kruger moved L Saunders seconded Carried

**Financial Report:**

L Saunders moved financial report be accepted seconded H Kruger

**Outing Reports:** M Müller – Twin Peaks

**Pre-outings:** J Wyle - Campout 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017 Washpool NP

**General Business:**

J Wyle will report about the Campout to Washpool NP in the next newsletter.

**Next Meeting:** 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017

**Meeting closed:** 7:39pm

**Presentation:** David Wilson - Incredible Iceland

Special Thanks to David for the beautiful picturesque presentation of the Incredible Iceland, including the musical interlude with video. Always very enjoyable, I'm sure was appreciated by all at the meeting.

**What sort of ants are these?**

Can anyone identify these ants? We found this nest because of all the beetle wings strewn around the entrance. There are also some lizard eggs. The ants are black and about the size of a meat ant. They are not aggressive. It is quite difficult to get them to come past the entrance to the nest which is quite wide. We stomped on the ground around with little effect and had to put a long grass stalk into the hole and wiggle it to get them to come out to take a photo. There are two tunnels leading down from the entrance to the nest.

*Margaret Carnell*



An overall view of the ant nest showing beetle wings etc.



Ants attacking a grass stalk