



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	
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 19th March: Tree Planting on Quart Pot Creek
Wednesday 22nd March: *Southern Highlands and Coolah Tops* with Kris and Margaret Carnell

**Deadline for next newsletter
12th April 2017**

Pre-Outing Report - 19th March – Quart Pot tree planting working bee

Since the Stanthorpe River Improvement Trust has made a request for us to look at revegetating areas along the creek which have been affected by the recent excavator works, we have decided to hold a tree planting day instead of the programmed outing. The concern is that the bare soil needs to be stabilised as soon as possible in case of flood damage and also, as there are some plants available from Mole Station Nursery, the sooner they are planted the better their chance of getting established before winter.

Now the tricky bit is that some of the plantings have to be on islands so it will be an interesting exercise to ferry plants and people across on canoes, boats and rafts- something which is not covered by our Scale of Difficulty for Nats Walks! I envisage only 3 or 4 people need to cross to the islands while others load plants etc. on a raft which can be pulled across with a rope. There are two areas to be planted-the island and bank at Heritage Park and the island near the YMCA.

We will meet at 9.00am at the park across from the YMCA and after planting this area move to Heritage Park for morning tea before planting that area. We will hopefully be done by lunch time, then go for a walk to the Little Red Bridge.

The plants, water crystals and fertilizer will be supplied by the River Trust and we will need to bring buckets and shovels and of course wear suitable protective gloves and boots.

For further information please call Rob McCosker 46835371



Top of Billirimba Falls

**Outing Report – Washpool National Park – February 19th
2017**

11 of us met at the park as usual. Most of us had rain gear as we were expecting wet weather. We were however very fortunate to only have a few drops on us and we had a nice cool day for exploring and walking. After driving through Tenterfield we took the Scrub Road and drove into the forest. We drove to the start of the track to Billirimba Falls and reduced the vehicles to three for the

trip in. We had to squeeze past a fallen tree but despite some recent rain, the road was in good order. This was a 10 k return trip. We had morning tea at the falls and explored the rock pools and enjoyed



What can you see?

the view. There are some short cascades near the falls and these were very pretty with a good flow of water. On the way out we saw a dingo. He or she crossed the road and then stood on a log to have a good look at us. I think one of our party managed a photo. On the way back to the road we stopped at a small creek. The banks of this creek and the swamp land near it are very interesting and have a diverse range of flora. Only a few were in flower. I have been to this site in the spring and it's wonderful to see.

On our return to the Spiribo Forest Road we drove to Farnell Road. We went through several blocks of rainforest as well as great stands of tall white eucalyptus. We had lunch at the cars and then walked into an old mill site. Rob had researched an outing report from 1995 which provided us with some history of the site. This included information about a large house that was built on the site (no sign of it now) and the importance of the mill in providing timber during WW11. We had a look at all the old machinery on the site. We then crossed the creek that runs past the mill and enjoyed a walk along one of the tracks. We don't know where it went to as we turned back at 3pm so as to commence our return journey. We all went home the way we came in, rather than drive through to Bolivia. Other than most of us getting a leech or two, we all enjoyed the cool and dampish conditions.



Relic of the old mill

Jeanie Wylie



Rough Tree Fern

Plant List Washpool

Hibertia sp. X 2, Wild turnip *Trachymene incisa*, Swamp isotoma *Isotoma fluviatilis*, Horned orchid *Orthoceras strictum*, Austral ladies tresses *Spiranthes australis*, Lady's slipper *Hybanthus monopetalus*, *Baeckea* sp. Swamp cranesbill *Geranium neglectum*, Sawsedge *Ghania* sp., Bluebell *Wahlenbergia* sp., *Goodenia bellidifolia*, Twining glycine *Glycine clandestina*, *Lobelia* sp., Billy buttons *Craspedia canens*, Pale vanilla lily *Arthropodium milleflorum*. – Rob McCosker



As well as the above flowering plants we also saw these ferns. Thanks Jeff for the list.

Bats wing fern *Histiopteris incise*, Ruddy ground fern *Hypolepis rugosula*, Fish bone fern *Blechnum nudum*, Soft water fern *Blechnum minus*, Silky fan fern *Sticherus tener*, Pouched coral fern or Tangle fern *Glichenia dicarpa*, Rough tree fern *Cyathea australis*



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe, on Wednesday 22 February 2017**

Meeting opened: 7:33pm

Attendance: 13 Apologies 4 as per attendance sheet

Minutes of the previous meeting:

L Saunders confirmed T McCosker seconded by carried

Business arising from the minutes: nil

Correspondence: as per folder

H Kruger moved seconded A Walker Carried

Financial Report:

L Saunders moved financial report be accepted seconded C Hocking

Outing Report:

Sunday outing: R McCosker reported on the Washpool NP Tenterfield outing on Sunday

Pre-outing:

Sunday outing: Billy Goat Hill - R McCosker (4WD vehicles Mt Norman Road).

General Business:

J Campbell report GBLC General Meeting in Tenterfield.

R McCosker moved that we purchase a secondhand Data project from D Wilson
seconded by J Campbell carried

R McCosker was approached by the Stanthorpe Shire River Improvement Trust Chairman G Thouard asking for volunteers from our club to replant the islands damaged by the machinery while clearing the waterways and banks.

Members agree to help plant seedlings hopefully on the 23 April. Rob McCosker to follow up with Greg and investigate securing seedlings plants suitable for the islands regeneration.

Specimens:

J Campbell showed Books and information from the ANN 2016 Get-Together in Western Australia.

Rob brought in a specimen of gum leaves for identification.

C Hockings showed a photo.

Next Meeting: 22nd March 2017

Presentation: by K Carnell on Southern Highlands

Meeting closed: 8:00pm

Presentation: Jeff and Glenis - West Australia