



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 April 23: Billy Goat Hill with
Rob McCosker
Wednesday April 26: *Kokoda Trail* with
Leslie Saunders

**Deadline for next newsletter
10th May 2017**



Gnamma on Billy Goat Hill

Pre-Outing Report – Billy Goat Hill – 23rd April 2017

Leader Rob McCosker
Phone 46835371

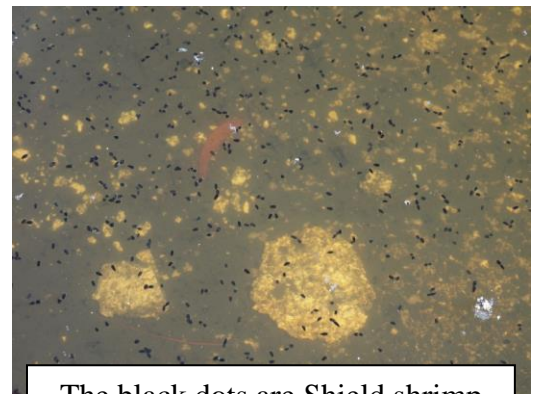
23rd April will be an outing to Billy Goat Hill, across the Mt Norman Road from Twin Peaks where Michael took our club outing in November last year. This is one of my favourite walks as, although it requires a little effort to

get to - high clearance vehicle, though 4wd not needed – the walk to the top is mostly on gentle granite slopes and there are views of most of our notable peaks from the top. A bonus is the large gnamma (rock pool) near the top with a colony of shield shrimp *Paralimnadia urukhai* which were very active on my pre-outing trip. So active I estimated there were over 300 of them in a photo taken looking down into the



A Pair of Shield Shrimp -
Paralimnadia urukhai

water. These strange little crustaceans survive in these harsh locations by breeding when rain fills their waterhole then laying eggs which are able to remain dormant until the next time there is sufficient water to hatch and continue the cycle.



The black dots are Shield shrimp

We will meet at Weeroona Park as usual for a 9.00am departure and as mentioned above 4WD vehicles are needed as the road is rough. We will have morning tea at the vehicles before heading up the hill and carry lunch to have at the top then return to the cars on an alternative route by descending on the eastern side of the hill via some interesting boulders and forest. There is the option to continue along Mt Norman Road and return home via Wallangarra (4WD definitely required!) or return the way we drove in, via Eukey.

This is quite a short walk and although a bit of a climb we have plenty of time so don't be put off with the Grade 7 rating.

Activity Report for March – Revegetating Quart Pot Creek



Getting Ready

In lieu of an outing on 19th March 18 people gathered at the parkland in Talc Street at 9.00am to commence planting trees on the island in Quart Pot Creek. There were members of the Granite Borders Organic Group, the Permaculture Group as well as Nats members and the activity was in response to a request from Greg Thouard, Chairman of the Stanthorpe Shire River Improvement Trust. The Trust had recently hired a “floating” excavator to remove silt from the watercourse to improve water flow with the aim of mitigating future flood damage and re-establish a large area of the island which had been washed away in the last flood. There was some urgency to re-plant the affected areas with the

aim of stabilizing the loose soil and also allow plants to become established before winter. After some discussion with Sarah from Mole Station Nursery we purchased some 300 mixed native plant species mostly Bottlebrush *Callistemon viminalis* and *C. pungens* as well as some acacias, casuarinas and angophoras. We also purchased some 200 lomandras from another nursery to plant nearer the water's edge.



First Load of Trees on Raft

To get across to the island we paddled a small tinnie then towed a “raft” with a 30m rope tied to each end so it could be pulled back and forth to ferry plants and mulch. The raft was a large piece of styrofoam originally from under a waterbed, which I had wrapped some shade cloth over and tied this on with ropes to make handy grab points for my grandchildren to climb aboard in the dam at home. It was very stable as we had all enjoyed floating on it and then being tipped off into the cool water when we that hot weather in the holidays.

Once we worked out what needed to be done we soon had a system going with some people filling buckets of mulch to be ferried to the island where others were digging holes for planting and the mulch spread around the plants. We finished planting the area with about 100 plants soon after 10am then moved to the next site at the Heritage Park for morning tea. Greg outlined what the River Trust does and that work was initiated after the damage caused by the 1976 flood when buildings were washed away and many homes inundated. Since work to remove willows and improve stream flow had been done, the recent much larger flood had caused little property damage.

After morning tea we set up near the island and while one group planted the bank, another group crossed to the island here and carried out a quite extensive planting. When we completed this area,



Planting Granite St Island

with about 300 plants in the ground, we decided that we would return to the Talc Street parkland for smoko then forgo our planned walk to the Little Red Bridge and instead go on to a site on the Severn River at Glen Aplin. Here a large island had been created downstream of the bridge and after some to-ing and fro-ing we found a spot to set up again and cross to this island to put in the remaining plants. We finished at about 4.00pm, and after negotiating the obstacles, boggy ground and logs hidden in the long grass, made our way back to the road and home.

I would like to thank everyone who attended for putting in such a great effort to make the day the success it was.

Rob McCosker



Shovelling Mulch



Planting Talc Street Island



Lesley landing a wheelbarrow of mulch

Notes on our garden - Leafless orchid, Black bootstrap orchid or Climbing orchid.



Climbing orchid seen on Crowsnest outing 13/9/14

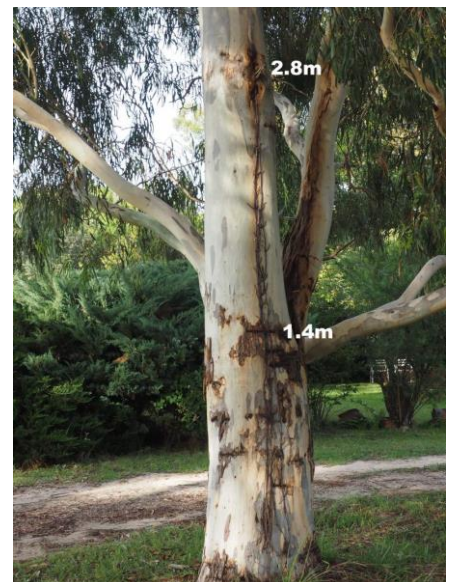
The joy of living in one place for a long time - I have recently noticed a climbing orchid, *Erythrorchis cassythoides*, has taken up residence in our garden growing from the base of a Wallangarra white gum *Eucalyptus scoparia*. Conditions must be right for it, as over the last two months it has grown from 1.5m tall in early February when I first photographed it beside a tape measure, to almost 3m at the end of March. I have never seen one that high in the bush and I was getting excited at the possibility of having a record breaking orchid in my garden, until a little research revealed that they can grow to 6m tall! The “Wally

white gum” as Ross Bartley called it, was one he had propagated and given to me some 30 years ago and is now a lovely specimen some 20m high. I’m sure the ones he planted on the farm at Hermitage are just as striking. We sometimes have very severe winters here and I am hoping the orchid, by growing so tall, will be less affected by the cold until it has flowered in spring. Although being so tall the flowers will be difficult to see!

Rob McCosker.



Climbing orchid at 530mm



Past 2.8m

Eucalyptus caleyi – Cayley’s Ironbark.



I am probably as excited about the first flowers on a specimen of *Eucalyptus caleyi* as Rob is about his orchid. I propagated it from seed collected on a dry ridge on our place and planted it out in November 2008. Kris noticed the flowers when he was mowing the other day. The bees love it.

Margaret Carnell

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

Meeting opened: 7:35pm

Attendance: 11 Apologies 2 as per attendance sheet

Minutes of the previous meeting:

L Saunders moved seconded P Hazelgrove

Business arising from the minutes:

Nil

Correspondence:

H Kruger moved that the Correspondence accepted seconded L Saunders

Financial Report:

L Saunders moved that the financial report be accepted seconded L Collins

Outing Reports:

Stanthorpe River Improvement Trust planting.

Pre-outings:

R McCosker - Billy Goat Hill outing - 4WD vehicles only

General Business:

19th March Volunteers planted out seedlings, mulched and watered planting on the islands to stabilize the banks at Quart Pot Creek, Heritage Park and Glen Aplin, for the Stanthorpe River Improvement Trust. Thanks go to all that volunteered for their time on Sunday. Job well done.

A donation of \$350 was accepted by R McCosker.

On Friday at 9.00am there will be a photo shoot at Heritage Park for members who wish to attend.

Next Meeting: 26 April 2017

Next month's Presentation: L Saunders Kokoda Trail

Meeting closed: 8:05pm

Presentation: K Carnell - Southern Highlands