



The Granite Belt Naturalist



Mail Address: Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, Stanthorpe Qld. 4380
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Web site <https://mysd.com.au/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	0427835206
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: 23rd July: Gap Creek Falls with Michael Mueller.

Wednesday 26th July: A.G.M.

Remember Last Year.

August 18th – 20th: Camp-out to Bunjalung N.P. with Jeff and Glenys.

**Deadline for next newsletter
8th August 2017**

**A.G.M. – Remember Last Year
Wednesday 26th July
Please bring a plate of food to share.**

Pre-Outing Report - Sunday July 23 2017 - Gap Creek Chasm

Early Start: 7.30 Weeroona Park

Morning tea at picnic area 1Km West of Cunninghams Gap

Grading: Part 1 Gap Creek Falls 9.5 Km Grade 6 (manageable for most members)

Part 2 Chasm approx 3.5 Km Grade 8 (good fitness essential)

The walk starts at Cunninghams Gap where we take the track down to Gap Creek Falls. Here we split into two groups. Group 2 will enter a scenic rocky gully and emerge on top of a nearby hill which offers a 360 degree view before descending into a horseshoe shaped valley which the creek exits through a narrow passage. Here we find the small chasm which is not marked on maps and therefore little known. We follow the creek upstream till we reach the large scenic pool at the bottom of Gap Creek Falls. After backtracking to the nearby creek junction we have the option to have a look at a smaller waterfall at the end of a little side gorge. Then it's up a steep slope to the track which takes us back up to Cunninghams Gap.

Group 1 will enjoy a long lunch break at the beautiful rock slabs near the top of the falls. (This is where the signposted 9.5 Km return track from Cunninghams Gap ends) and, with plenty of time for photos, walk back up to Cunninghams Gap where the two groups should have caught up with each other. Afternoon tea at the picnic area.

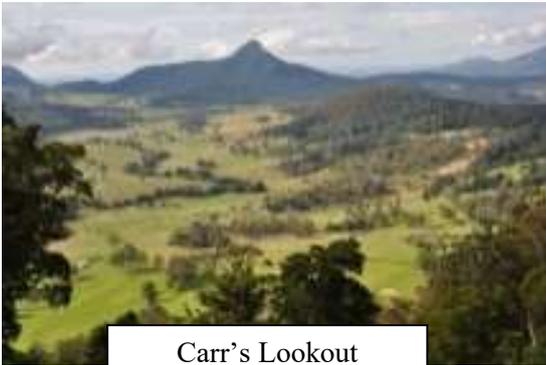
Michael Mueller

Phone 46811421

Outing Report - Boonah Area June 2017

Fortunately for us the weather was absolutely perfect. We left Stanthorpe at 8am. Half way to Warwick my two assistant-spotters both agreed that a dingo ran across the road; I missed this event but I was assured that this was correct. Along the Road to Killarney we divert through to Tannymorel, for a look at camp draft ring for a photo shoot of the yards stacked with tyres on the inside. A bonus we did get to pat the horses that gladly met us at the fence.

Back on to the road through Killarney up to Queen Mary Falls some wanted to have some exercise so we did the falls walk to the lookout before morning tea, always a pleasure to see the falls. A couple of members always looking for something growing on the slopes were kept busy. We began the narrow winding road through the large gum trees along the road, to the rainforest, then over rolling hills and in the distance the steep mountain ranges.



Carr's Lookout

Our stop at Carr's Lookout, helped check some of us on our directions, the view is just amazing. Unfortunately this morning it wasn't as clear as it could have been due to smoke, but still wonderful.

The Moss gardens run along a 100 year old rabbit fence which is still holding up, a narrow rocky

walk on a ridge almost had a pre historic feel, very peaceful even knowing that the road was just below us. Some of us remembered more moss and vegetation when the rains were more regular. There was lichen over large rocks and moss draping off trees and shrubs.



Moss Gardens

Onto Teviot Falls we saw our first flowers a hardenbergia and



Minto Crag

a tree with pink/purple blooms too far over the edge for a clear identification. On the way towards Boonah we stopped to look at Minto Crag, an unusual geological structure, and one of few ring dykes in Australia. Unfortunately we could only view from the road.

We arrived at Moogerah Peaks NP, Mt French, for late lunch but parking was hard to find. We then walked to Logan's lookout with excellent panoramic views of the Fassifern Valley, Cunningham Hwy to Aratula and Mt Edwards. Frog

Buttress is the mecca for crack rock climbing in mainland Australia.

Mee-bor-rium Circuit passes through crop of grass trees, heathland and features the East cliff lookout with views of Tamborine. Further along the track a circular platform with seating provides views to the southern section of Mount French.

A scenic drive past Mt Alford, across to Moogerah Dam, back onto the Cunningham Hwy and then a much needed stop for afternoon tea at Cunningham's Gap. We also had an unscheduled stop on the way home near Warwick, off Freestone Road, at the Alan Cunningham Memorial and all home safely.

Bird List: Galah, Pigeon, Crow, Noisy Miner, Magpie, Butcher Bird, Pew Wee, Golden Whistler, Easter yellow Robin, Bower Bird, Bellbird, Blue Wren, Yellow breast Spoonbill, Mistletoebird, King Parrot. Lyre Bird was only heard.

Plant List: Greenhood Orchid *Pterostylis nutans*, Grass tree *Xanthorrhoea glauca*, Brown Wattle *Acacia brunioides subsp. brunioides*, Wild Raspberry, Hardenbergia, and possibly a Giant Stinging Tree *Dendrocnide excelsa*.

Halina Kruger

Grass Trees – *Xanthorrhoea*

Aboriginal uses

Xanthorrhoea is important to the Aboriginal people who live where it grows. The flowering spike may be utilized as the back half of a composite spear shaft. It is also soaked in water and the nectar from the flowers gives a sweet-tasting drink. In the bush the flowers could reveal directions, since flowers on the warmer, sunnier side – usually north – of the spike often open before the flowers on the cooler side facing away from the sun.



The resin from *Xanthorrhoea* plants is used in spear-making and is an invaluable adhesive for Aboriginal people, often used to patch up leaky coolamons (water containers) and even yidaki (didgeridoos). The dried flower stalk scape was also used to generate fire by the hand drill friction method.

European use

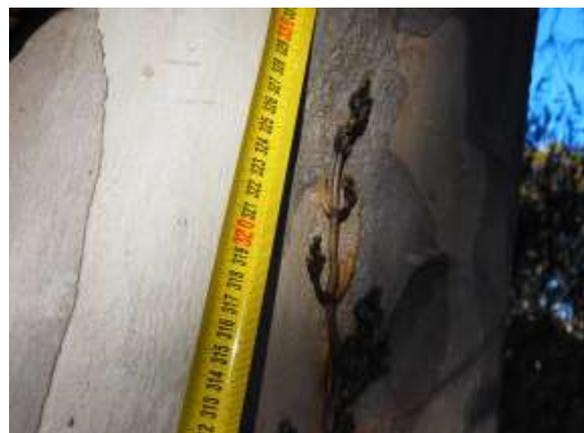
Resin collected from the plant was used in Australia until the mid-twentieth century for the following purposes.^[12]

- Burnt as incense in churches.
- A base component for a varnish used on furniture and in dwellings.
- A polish and a coating used on metal surfaces including stoves, tin cans used for storing meat and “brass instruments.”
- A component used in industrial process associated with “sizing paper, in soap making, perfumery and in manufacturing early gramophone records.

Climbing Orchid update

The Climbing orchid *Erythrorchis cassythoides*, on a tree in our garden is still climbing. As you can see I need a ladder to measure it now and it is almost 3.3 metres high. It had a setback when the main growing stem died but other stems have grown and branched to take its place and the tops of them are now loaded with buds. Hopefully the next update will show flowers.

Rob McCosker



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 28th June 2017**

Meeting opened: 7:40pm

Attendance: 14 Apologies 3 as per attendance sheet

Minutes of the previous meeting:

L Saunders confirmed K Carnell seconded by carried

Business arising from the minutes: nil

Correspondence: as per folder

H Kruger moved seconded T McCosker carried

Financial Report: \$974.47

L Saunders moved financial report be accepted seconded E Walker

Outing report:

H Kruger reported on the Boonah drive outing 7 members attended

Pre outing report:

Swanfells outing with K Van Tilberg is postponed to a later date.

23rd July M Mueller will lead the outing to "Gap Creek Falls" Main Range NP more in the newsletter

General Business:

Next meeting will be our Annual General Meeting.

Please think about new nominations for positions.

Next Meeting: 26th June 2017

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

Meeting closed: 8.04pm

Tonight's Presentation: E Walker 'Around the World in 106 days'

Part 1 "Sydney to Amsterdam".

STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC					
<u>FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1/7/2016 TO 30/06/2017</u>					
				\$678.52	
Balance c/f 1/7/2016					
Members subscriptions	\$760.00				
Bank interest	\$0.05				Discontinued
Donation	\$420.00				
Camera Club Rental	\$125.00				
Hire of Projector					
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,305.05			\$1,305.05	
				\$1,983.57	
EXPENDITURE					
Rental	\$250.00				
Insurance	\$120.00				
Fair Trading	\$51.70				
Fair Trading Certificate	\$22.40				
P O Box Rental	\$124.00				
Stamps & Stationary	\$84.00				
Purchase of Projector	\$350.00				
HDMI Cable	\$7.00				
Total Expenditure	\$1,009.10			\$1,009.10	
Cash Book Balance and Bank Balance as at 30/06/2017				\$974.47	

Subscriptions and Program for 2017/18.

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

Subscriptions for 2017-2018 : 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.

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