



The Granite Belt Naturalist



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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 – 2017/2018

President	Jeff Campbell	46811420
Vice-presidents	Kris Carnell	46835268
	Halina Kruger	0427835206
Secretary	Rob McCosker	46835371
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:15 October (**Please note Date**)
Wildflower walk with SRWC followed
by walk east of Mt Norman Day Use
area.

Wednesday 25th Around the World in
106 days - Part 2. Errol Walker

Deadline for next newsletter
9th November

Outing Report September 2017 - Swanfels

9 walkers met at Pioneer Park, Swanfels Valley for morning tea. Most ate lots of milo biscuits, so everyone was full of sugar energy for the walk.

We then proceeded to drive about 15 KM up the valley and parked beside Swan Creek. We walked up beside Swan Creek to the "lemon tree". We went past what is called "lemon tree" and then turned off up a narrow creek bed. This location/clearing is called lemon tree, because there are literally thousands of bush lemon trees growing there. In June-July, the hills are covered with yellow colour from the lemons. The possums must spread the seeds. I go up every year and get buckets of them.



The creek bed we walked up is surrounded by semi rainforest and winds through hoop pines until you come to the rock face. It is always about 5 degrees cooler there, so this is where we had lunch.

It is a fern and vine covered rock face, which normally always has good

running water coming over it and a lovely water hole at the bottom. There was a trickle of water, but it was still nice and coolPS: to all tick scary cats, no one got any ticks, but Graham G got a leach, only because he had to climb up the rock face into the damp ferns.



Thank you to all who made the journey to Swanfels. Karyn

Plant List: Scanty rice flower - *Pimelea neoanglica*, Stinging nettle - *Urtica incisa*, Crofton weed – *Ageratina adenophora*, Headache vine - *Clematis glycinoides*, Wonga wonga vine - *Pandorea pandorana*, Native raspberry - *Rubus parvifolius*, Grasstree - *Xanthorrhoea* sp., Birds nest fern - *Asplenium australasicum*, Hoop Pine - *Araucaria cunninghamii*, King orchid - *Dendrobium speciosum*, Sarsaparilla - *Hardenbergia violacea*.

Birds: Lewin’s Honeyeater, Bellbird, Superb Fairy-wren, Grey Fantail, Spectacled Monarch, Rufous Whistler, Butcherbird, Currawong, Laughing Kookaburra, Banded Lapwing

Rob McCosker

Birds at Orana

Over the years we have had quite a lot of birds of different sizes near our house. We do not feed them but try to have water available for them at all times. This means putting up with things like the male blue wren pecking at the kitchen window and car rear vision mirrors. If we don’t put covers on the mirrors we end up with white splotches down the car door.



White Browed Scrub Wren sampling Margaret’s cooking

Recently two different sorts of birds have been catching our attention.

Over the past couple of years, white browed scrub wrens have been close to the house. They are naturally a very tame bird and we were having trouble with them coming into the house and not being able to find their way out. This year they nested at the base of a pine tree on the edge of the garden. While they were nesting and raising their

chicks, they became more adventurous and every time we sat down at the table on the deck they would come looking for crumbs, even pinching bits of bread or cheese

of our plates while we were eating. Now that their two young ones are nearly able to fend for themselves, they are not coming every meal.

The other bird is a shrike thrush. We have had them around for many years and they have successfully nested a number of times. About a week ago I went to the old packing shed and noticed that, in the middle of a shelf that I was preparing to tidy up, there was a 4 litre tin with a birds nest in it. As I watched both birds came and added to the nest. I realized that the nest could not stay where it was so I shifted it about 5 meters to the top of a cupboard. The next morning one of the birds came in, looked at where the nest used to be and then went to the new site to add more material. This morning while walking past I noticed that there is a bird sitting on the nest. I’ll have to wait until they fledge to see what’s in the bottom of the tin as I’ve got no idea.

Kris Carnell

In Holly Patti’s Garden

below *Eagle’s Nest* on Mt Banca

Pterostylus curta

Yellow-faced honeyeater’s nest approx 40cm from the ground





2017 Wildflower Walks

Stanthorpe's Rare Wildflower Consortium is again preparing to host Wildflower Walks this coming 2017 Spring/Summer season.

These walks are immensely popular with locals and visitors to the area. The walks are open to anyone interested in learning more about the unique local flora of the Granite Belt.

Wildflower Walk 3

Date: Sunday 15 Oct 2017 - meet at 9.30 am for 10.00 start

Location: Mt Norman day use area

What to bring:

- hat
- sturdy shoes
- sunscreen
- water
- camera
- binoculars
- morning tea/lunch



NOTES:

Meet at Mt Norman day use area for introductory talk, then follow the Mt Norman track.

All walks start at 9:30am and aim to finish by 12:30pm
Groups will be led by botanical guides who can assist in the identification of wildflowers and answer questions.

Wildflower books will be available for purchase at each walk.
Bookings not required, just turn up on the day. Entry is free.

Check website and facebook page below for updates.

Amenities available at the day use area.



For further information regarding directions, walk suitability and description visit:

<http://www.granitebeltwildflowers.com/>

Or Stanthorpe Rare Wildflower Consortium facebook page

Weather: http://www.southerndowns.qld.gov.au/page/Shire_Region/Local_Weather/



October outing Sunday 15th Mt Norman

This outing will be in conjunction with the Rare Wildflower Consortium on the third of their annual wildflower walks. We will meet with them at the Mt Norman car park on Mt Norman Road at 9.30am, a quick morning tea then start walking at 10.00am, presumably along the Mt Norman track and return to the parking area at around 12.30pm. We are required to sign in and sign out with their group, so after signing out we intend to have lunch then continue along Mt Norman Road to re-visit a large rock flag for another short walk – no more than Grade 4.

Rob McCosker

Climbing Orchid Final Update



My hopes of reporting masses of blooms on the Climbing orchid *Erythrorchis cassythoides*, in our garden have been dashed.

All that remains of the almost 40 flower spikes are blackened shrivelled up buds after an extreme frost which measured -11C on my outdoor thermometer. Ironically that was the morning of our August Nats outing. We will have to wait now, to see if the plant puts out new shoots next year.

Rob McCosker

Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.

Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 27th September 2017

Meeting opened: 7.35pm

Attendance: 12 Apologies 5 as per attendance sheet

Minutes of the previous meeting:

confirmed by L. Saunders seconded by K. Carnell Carried

Business arising from the minutes: Secretary to investigate what grants are available for club equipment such as projector screen and computer.

Correspondence: as per folder

moved by R. McCosker seconded by M. Meuller Carried

Financial Report: Balance \$1291.37

L.Saunders moved financial report be accepted, seconded by M.Carnell Carried

Outing Reports: The outing on the 24th led by K.Van Tilburg to Swanfells Valley was attended by 9 people who enjoyed the walk along a creek bed, a tributary of Swan Creek, to a rocky bluff called the Dungeon.

Pre-outings: Outing for October is on the 15th with the Rare Wildflower Consortium to Mt Norman. Nats will continue after lunch to another rocky area further along the Mt Norman Rd led by R.McCosker.

General Business: As most of the executive committee members will be absent there will be no business meeting next month, only the presentation by Errol and Annette Walker.

Specimens: R.McCosker had two rocks from the outing and a booklet of Flora of the Diamantina Shire.

K.Carnell reported that in cleaning out his shed he was able to successfully relocate a Grey Shrike-thrush nesting in a tin.

R.McCosker reported he had hundreds of Dusky Woodswallows congregating in the trees on his property and showed photos and a video of their massed foraging flights.

Next Meeting: 25th October program – the second installment of Errol and Annette Walker’s trip Around the World in 106 Days

Meeting closed: 8.00pm

Presentation: Rob and Trish McCosker showed photos of their trip to the Diamantina NP and Old Cork Station.

Nats Financial report 21/8 to 20/9 2017

	Income	Expenditure	Balance
Balance B/F	\$1364.47		
Subs	\$120		
CWA Room Rent		\$50	
Office Fair Trading		\$53.50	
R McCosker 2x Hand Held Radios		\$89.60	
Balance C/F			\$1291.37