



The Granite Belt Naturalist



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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.

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 March: *Secrets of Warwick*
with David Wilson

Wednesday 26th March: *White Cliffs of
Dover* with David Wilson

**Deadline for next newsletter
8th March**

Pre-outing Report: Sunday 25 February “Secrets of Warwick”

The February outing will provide a leisurely tour of three places of interest located close to Warwick. The first stop will be Sandy Creek, one of the streams that flows into Leslie Dam. After morning tea, we will be exploring an area just upstream from the high water mark of the lake. Here, Sandy Creek has cut through an area of granite. A walk up the creek features some interesting rock formations, and a small granite mound that can be scaled for a view of the surrounding countryside. Numerous birds were noted on the pre-outing. Most of the walk would be grade 5 to 6, but an old farm road that runs parallel to the creek for most of the distance provides an easy stroll of around grade 2 to 3. Walk distance would be under 2km return.

The second stop will be at Leslie Dam for lunch. There will be an opportunity to see the dam and, unfortunately, the very low water level in the lake. Near the wall are the granite carvings of the Leslie Brothers.

The final stop will be at Rosenthal Scrub on the south west edge of Warwick. This reserve has been jointly managed for a number of years by SDRC and the Warwick branch of SGAP. The latter has done extensive work performing pest removal, and undertaking the identification and labelling of many plant species. Darell Fletcher from SGAP will be meeting us at the reserve at 2:00pm to provide a guided tour.

Those attending will depart from Weeroona Park at 9:00am to meet me at the Pikedale Road turn off, south of Warwick. We will depart from this point at 10:00am. The intersection is located approximately 40km north from the Stanthorpe McDonald's along the New England Highway. There is a gravel reserve on the corner which is where I will be waiting. The reserve is accessed immediately after turning left into Pikedale Road. For Warwick members, Pikedale Road is about 16km south of Warwick, just past the crossing of Glen Creek.

Some roads are unsealed, but on the pre-outing, they were all in excellent condition. 4X4s are not required.

David Wilson
0427 612839

Outing Report Rocky River - Sunday 19th Nov. 2017

Leaders : Errol and Annette Walker.



Timbarra/Rocky River

After watching the weather forecasts for almost a week we were sure the outing would have to be cancelled. We received a forecast from Tenterfield that on the day in question we would have a 60% chance of 1mm to 2mm of light rain. That seemed like pretty good odds so we decided to proceed and so apparently did 15 other people.

The meeting point was the Swimming Pool in Tenterfield at 8am Qld time. We were under way shortly afterwards armed with maps and a brochure describing the drive which was provided by the Tenterfield Visitors Info. Centre. The recently procured UHF hand held radios were to prove their worth on this outing.

The all-important weather gave us grey skies but no rain as we descended the escarpment to the East. Recent rains had greened the landscape and there were beautiful expansive views to the valleys held within folds of the Great Dividing Range. Morning tea was taken at Billyrimba Creek adjacent to the old Billyrimba homestead. It was here that Robin excitedly told us that he was having a ball recording many bird sightings.

The next stop was the Demon Creek crossing where we encountered a local on a quad bike with three dogs at foot. We were not sure if he was happy with 8 cars a 17 people parking along "his" creek as he approached us. Robin photographed him and his dog and all was sweet. We now have his telephone number and permission to camp on the lovely green creek banks whenever we want to.



Collecting River Sand for Propagating



Nev sharing history of Rocky River

From here we followed the Timbarra River for many kilometres with spectacular views down on to its rocky course but then the rain started. We had to bypass a lunch spot which had been chosen for its location next to a rocky outcrop with access to waterholes. It also had great photographic potential. Lunch was eventually taken on a large flat next to the river and, guess what? The rain stopped for the duration of our visit.

Nev Bryant has a family connection with Drake and this pretty area having worked here in his

youth. He gave us an enlightening 10 minute talk with some of his recollections of the old days in the area.

It is interesting to note that everyone calls this the Rocky River but in fact there is no Rocky River! NSW Forestry maps refer only the Timbarra River but the road which hugs its banks is called the Rocky River Road which we assume describes the rocky nature of the river.



Approaching Storm

From here on it was all downhill as far as the weather was concerned. As we approached the rain forest part of the drive, down came the rain! There were tempting moments when we should have stopped to enjoy the vistas but any appreciation or photography was done through car windows which were quickly wound up again.

We took a comfort stop at Drake, Here some of the party split to travel home via Tenterfield. The rest of us decided to travel home via Boorook and the Boonoo Boonoo Crossing despite the rain.

This wasn't a good decision but thanks to speaking to a local at Sandy Hills we found out that the crossing was due to go under water after heavy rain in the catchment. That was enough to

send us home via Tenterfield where we had a coffee break and, of course, the rain stopped.

The day was long and the weather curtailed much activity but we hope an appetite has been set for members to privately return to this unique area. We were pleased to be able to share our passion for the Rocky River Road.

Rocky River Bird List

Mistlebird, Wedge-tailed eagle, Magpie, Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo, Australian Wood Duck, Pacific Black Duck, Noisy Miner, Bell Miner, Rainbow Bee-eater, Golden Whistler, King Parrot, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Kookaburra, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Willie Wagtail, Welcome Swallow, Brush Cuckoo, Channel-billed Cuckoo, Rainbow Lorikeet, Torresian Crow, Noisy Friarbird, Red Wattlebird, Superb Fairy-wren, Banded Lapwing, White-throated Gerygone.

Plant List Rocky River

Dipodium roseum rosy hyacinth orchid, *Jacksonia scoparia* dogwood, *Senecio sp*, *Viola betonicifolia* showy violet, *V. hederacea* Native violet, *Hibbertia scandens* climbing guinea flower, *Hibbertia sp*, *solanum sp*, *Urica incisa* stinging nettle, *Blechnum minus* soft water-fern, *Wahlenbergia stricta* Australian bluebell, *W. gracilis?* Sprawling bluebell, *Wahlenbergia sp*, *Lomandra filiformis* wattle mat-rush, *Arthropodium milleflorum* pale vanilla lily, *Brachyscome sp*

Report Christmas Break-up

The Christmas Break-up on the 10th December 2017 was held at Rob and Trish McCosker's property "Shortlands" at Severnlea and attracted 22 people. We had a short walk around the garden and "bush track" to see the Bower bird's bower and the several Grey-crowned babbler dormitory construction sites before returning to the garden and enjoyed socialising in the shade of the White cedar tree before having our barbecue dinner.



Discussing a Eucalypt Tree



Evening View from *Shortlands*

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

Meeting opened: 7.35pm

Attendance: 13 7 Apologies as per attendance sheet

Minutes of the previous meeting: No meeting held

Business arising from the minutes: Nil

Correspondence: as per folder moved R McCosker seconded L Saunders Carried

Financial Report: showed a Bank balance of \$1361.37 . L Saunders moved financial report be accepted K Carnell seconded Carried

Outing Reports: E Walker reported the outing attracted 17 members in a convoy of 8 vehicles. The Two-way Radios were used to advantage and all enjoyed the trip in spite of the intermittant rain which also cut short the planned route due the risk of a flooded crossing.

Pre-outings: Final activity for the year is the Christmas breakup at Trish and Rob McCosker's property on the 10th December starting at 5.00pm for a 6.00pm BYO barbeque.

25th February 2018 Warwick's little known attractions with David Wilson.

General Business: Nil

Specimens: A booklet on Wildlife Rescue by the Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council Inc.

Photos by Kris of Margaret's severe reaction to a tick bite and of the bong retrieved from the bush on the last outing.

Rob showed a photo of a Stinkhorn fungi *Phallus rubicundus* seen on his property and a branch of *Acacia pruinosa* severely affected by gall wasps which had replaced the flower spikes with clusters of galls.

Next Meeting: 28th February 2018 White Cliffs of Dover with Errol Walker.

Meeting closed: 7.50pm

Presentation: After showing pictures from the last outing Rob welcomed Professor Brian Timms who gave a most interesting talk on rock holes or gnammas, their creation and the life forms in them. Brian showed results of his studies on gnammas from Western Australia, Victoria and here on the Granite Belt.

First Issue of *Granite Belt Naturalist*

Errol Walker has found a copy of the first Newsletter of the Stanthorpe & District Field Naturalist Club dated December 1969. The inaugural meeting was held at the Civic Centre on 26th November 1969. Tom Chapman was elected as the first President of the club. Tom passed away on 7th May 2016 in Carramar Villa at the age of 91.

The club had its first outing to Girraween National Park at Wyberba on Sunday 7th December 1969. About fifty people attended and after Tom Chapman welcomed everyone Jean Harslett gave an interesting talk on the purpose of a naturalist club, illustrating some of her points by referring to the composition of specimens of wild flowers. The party divided into groups and one of the Pyramids and Castle Rock were climbed and the creek area was explored. After lunch many members went to The Junction.

Malcolm Wilson spoke at the first meeting on Wednesday 28th January about a trip across the Simpson Desert. Malcolm was a member of the team which crossed Australia from East to West and was a member of Toowoomba Field Naturalist Club and of the Bird Observers Club.

I must say they were a very energetic bunch and it's interesting that we still meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month and have our outings on the Sunday before. - Editor