



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 25th March: Condamine Gorge
with Kris Carnell

Wednesday 28st March: King Island
with Glenys Mathison and Jeff
Campbell

**Deadline for next newsletter
15th April 2018**

Pre-Outing Report – Condamine Gorge – 25th March

Leader: Kris Carnell

We will meet as usual at Weeroona Park at 9.00am and travel via Amosfield Road to the Mt Lindesay Highway. Fourteen kilometres past Liston we turn into Cullendore Road. Morning tea will be where the road crosses the Maryland River. After morning tea we will continue via Killarney to Queen Mary Falls. This will be the last stop with proper toilets. Travelling further along Spring Creek Road at Nats pace, we will stop for a photo opportunity at Carrs Lookout before we reach the junction with the Condamine Gorge Road at The Head.

We then turn back towards Killarney along the Condamine Gorge Road and take a lunch break when we find a convenient spot. After lunch we continue on to Killarney. The road we take home from

there and whether we stop for afternoon tea together can be decided on the day. There are a number of ways home, via Legume and Liston, back through Cullendore Road, the Old Warwick Stanthorpe Road or down the highway.

High clearance vehicles will be needed on the day so car pool at Weeroona Park. The Gorge Road is subject to flooding so we will have to be aware that we may have to have an alternative outing so keep an eye on your emails.



**Outing Report: Warwick - Sunday 25 February-
Warwick Area**

The sedate pace of the Warwick outing was no doubt a blessing to the seventeen who attended on a day of oppressive heat and humidity.



With a gathering of members from as far afield as Toowoomba, the first walk was a leisurely stroll up the dry bed of Sandy Creek, the primary catchment channel for Leslie Dam. The lack of flow had left the granite bed well exposed. Consequently, there were ample opportunities to observe some of the unusual rock formations including dykes, xenoliths and a remarkable example of erosion that has created a rock

resembling an almost perfect hourglass. At the farthest point of the walk, most scaled a granite rock stack from which there were excellent views of the water course and the surrounding landscape.



After returning to the vehicles, a short drive downstream provided views of the high water mark of Lake Leslie. With the capacity of the dam at just 12%, the lake bed of the upper regions was fully exposed. The current water level was just visible on the distant horizon. From there, it was a twenty minute drive to Leslie Dam picnic ground for lunch and some welcome shade.



Maireana microphylla

After the break, we proceeded to the Rosenthal Scrub, an area of remnant vine scrub on the south west edge of Warwick. Here, we were met by Darryl Fletcher, the current branch president of Native Plants Australia. Darryl provided an informative tour of the reserve, highlighting many of the endemic plants that were typical of the once extensive forest that covered the region. Many of the plants have been labelled, testament to the extensive work that

has been done by a relatively small club membership.



Alyxia rusCIFolia (Chain Fruit)

Several Nats understandably dropped off the end of the scrub tour and sought shade back at the cars as the heat and humidity worsened. A suggestion of afternoon tea was vehemently overruled. It appeared most just wanted to get into their cars' air conditioning and head for home!

Despite the weather, the day seems to have been enjoyed by all. It provided an opportunity to experience some of the lesser known features of the Warwick area.

David Wilson

Bird list

Sandy Creek: Australasian figbird, brown falcon, noisy miner, white-throated treecreeper, willie wagtail, Eastern rosella, azure kingfisher, superb fairy-wren, dollarbird, rainbow bee-eater, crested pigeon, speckled warbler, yellow-faced honeyeater, grey-crowned babbler.

Leslie Dam: great cormorant, little black cormorant, welcome swallow, sulphur-crested cockatoo, Pacific black duck, Australian wood duck.

Rosenthal Scrub Environmental Park: wedge-tailed eagle, double-barred finch, pied currawong, pied butcherbird.

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

Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 28th February 2018

Meeting opened: 7.35pm

Attendance: 18 Apologies 1 as per attendance sheet

Minutes of the previous meeting:

confirmed by Kris Carnell seconded by Lesley Saunders Carried

Business arising from the minutes: Nil

Correspondence: as per folder

moved Rob McCosker seconded by Errol Walker Carried

Financial Report: Showed a bank balance of \$1411.37

Lesley Saunders moved the financial report be accepted, Trish McCosker seconded Carried

Outing Reports: Secrets of Warwick – Leader David Wilson provided a report read by Kris which outlined the activity for the day which attracted 17 people. In oppressive heat the group walked along Sandy Creek to view some granite formations before going to Leslie Dam, at a very low 12% capacity, for lunch. After lunch the group were shown around the Rosenthal Scrub Reserve by Darryl Fletcher of the Warwick SGAP.

Pre-outings: Condamine Gorge – We will depart Weeroona Park at 9.00am to drive to Queen Mary Falls via Cullendore then to The Head and down the Condamine Gorge.

General Business: Kris Carnell advised that due to the National Parks' \$12/person/night camping charge they will not be camping at Bald Rock for the April 22nd Outing but will hold a day trip instead.

Jeff Campbell advised members to book and pay in advance for the Camping trip on 5th-6th May to Black Rock in Bunjalung National Park and to seek campsites in the southern end of the camping area. Ian Milinivic advised that there was an option for the Nats to do a wildflower walk with the Rare Wildflower Consortium in September.

Specimens: Errol Walker showed a photo of Nats members taken on a bus trip to "Wallaroo" near the Carnarvon Gorge in 1978 and he offered some bird pictures and books to members.

Gunter Maywald showed a collection of 32 different species of paropsine beetles he had collected that morning along the Mt Lindsay Road – a very successful effort.

Next Meeting: King Island with Glenys and Jeff

Meeting closed: 8.00pm

Presentation: A most enjoyable presentation of Dover and it's White Cliffs by Errol and Annette Walker showing scenes of the busy ferry port, the castle with its labyrinth of tunnels as well as scenes from their 20km walk along the cliffs.