



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 20 May : Mt Cordeaux with Leslie Saunders **Please note 8 am start.**

Wednesday 23rd May : " Wildflowers " Ian Milinovitch

**Deadline for next newsletter
June 14th**



Pre-Outing Report

**Mount Cordeaux 20th May
Leslie Saunders**

Below is a report of an outing to Mt Cordeaux by Leslie Saunders in preparation for the Nats outing on May 20th.

Please note that the start time will be 8 a.m. at Weeroona Park

The day broke to being overcast with the forecast of 50/50% rain for late morning – early afternoon. Undaunted we left Stanthorpe early as an early start was warranted. The drive to West Gap picnic site was uneventful....(see area marked 1 on the above map)... though busy being the major inland highway to Brisbane. The picnic area was a delight to visit with the sounds of Bellbirds and Whip birds resounding from all corners of the area.

A quick cuppa was had before driving onwards to The Crest Car Park Site. My car was the only one there that time of the morning i.e. approx. 9am. Carry your lunch and water on the walk.

The track to Mt Cordeaux is a well-defined track with a soft gradient upwards. It was not long before a Red-necked Pademelon was spotted not far along the track. These mammals are common to the Southeast rainforest. They are solitary daytime foragers that sometimes commute several kilometres between feeding grounds. Besides Grass Trees/Ferns of many types there were Walking Cane Palms/Epiphytes and a few plaques at the commencement of the track supplied by the Parks and Wildlife Authority to supply information as to how this part of the McPherson Ranges was formed.

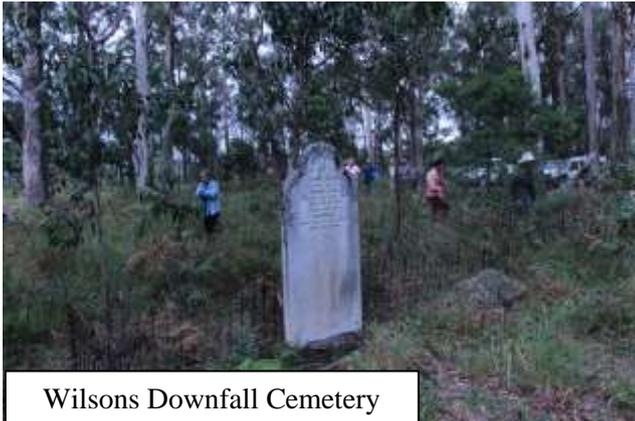
Mt Cordeaux was reached by about 11am and true to forecast drizzle began to fall. (*Leslie commented on the Petrichore – the smell of damp earth*). It was decided not to tarry so after a short break we headed upwards and onwards to Bare Rock – spying a Black Whipsnake on the way. These 3 snakes are active during the daytime as they feed on lizards and skinks. Usually 50 – 180cm long, they are slender and fast moving though the one spotted just blithely slithered into the grassy verge on the side of the track without undue haste. The drizzle persisted till Bare rock was reached where we had lunch. Thunder persisted, so once again we did not tarry and backtracked uneventfully(though took a side

trip to Morgan's Walk). The rain by now was troublesome enough to break out the wet weather gear and care was taken to cover the track back down to The Crest Car Park.

A welcome coffee break was taken at the Bestbrook Tourist Area before arriving back in Stanthorpe at approximately 4.30pm.

Outing Report Bald Rock 22nd April

It was a beautiful autumn day as 16 Nats met at Weeroona Park for our outing to Bald Rock. Rob McCosker suggested that we stop at the historic Wilsons Downfall cemetery on the way so we



Wilson's Downfall Cemetery

travelled out along Amosfield Road. The cemetery is very overgrown but there are several headstones still standing. It appears that someone has started marking graves/rows with white pegs but the task is far from complete. Rob recounted his memories of, as a youngster, visiting his grandfather who lived close to the cemetery. Rob also knew one of the families whose name appeared on a headstone.

We then moved on to the Bald Rock day use area for our morning tea. As the lead car was entering the park a large feral pig ambled across the road and into

the scrub. It didn't seem too concerned but didn't stop long enough for a photo. The weather looked a little threatening as we left on our walk with some dampness in the air and cool wind blowing. Once along the track we were protected from the wind and the clouds blew away making for an enjoyable walk. The track up to the Border Track is a little steep towards the end so some of us took stops to admire the view on the way. At the track junction we turned right along the Border Track and botanised along the way. There was also some discussion as to whether we were in Queensland or New South Wales as there were national park signs from both states. Also, was the old fence we were walking along the remains of the border fence or the old tick fence? Along the way we saw two or three different species of butterflies – a brown ringlet, Banks' brown and maybe a bright-eyed brown.



Border Fence?



Looking for Shield Shrimps

Our destinations for the day were two gnamma rock holes that Rob and his brother-in-law had identified previously. The first one was on a rock right beside the track and easily accessible. There were no shield shrimps visible in the small amount of water in the hole but there were a couple of wildflowers in bloom. We then moved further along the track to the second gnamma. This one was a reasonable distance off the track on the left hand side. Close to the base of the large rock slab Jeff found a couple of specimens of orchid growing. After looking at the gnamma, again with no shield shrimps, we enjoyed our lunch in pleasant surroundings. There are a number of rock gardens on

the rock and it would be a real picture in spring. The weather started to look threatening again with moisture again in the air so we packed up to return back to the day use area. By the time we had done a circuit of the rock slab the sun was out again so the return walk was very pleasant.



Banksia spinulosa neoanglica

Back at the day use area we set off along the Bungoona Walk which is the easiest track to climb the rock. Narelle was trying to find some helmet orchids that she had remembered from about 10 years ago. Unfortunately they don't appear to be still there. We did however see a mass of ground orchids growing under a metal grate along the path. Some of them were even pushing up through the bitumen surface. We returned to the day use area for afternoon tea before returning to Stanthorpe,

A big thanks to Rob McCosker for doing a pre-outing to the gnamma rock holes and taking us there.



Banks' Brown

Plant List: *Maytenus silvestris*, Golden Everlasting, White Everlasting, Leucopogon buds, Blackthorn seeds, Brachyscome, Dandelion, Clematis Seeds (old man's beard), Hedgehog grass, She Oak, *Acianthus exsertus*, dark mosquito orchid, *Chiloglottis diphylla*, common wasp orchid, *Pterostylis longifolia*, common leafy greenhood. The green one under the grating possibly *C. sylvestris*, Banksia 2 or 3, Acacia 2 or 3, Swamp Isotoma, Rock Isotoma, Wahlenbergia.

Birds List: Yellowtail Black Cockatoo, Brown Thornbill, Whip Bird call, Crimson Rosella, Scrub Wren, Blue Wren, Pheasant Coucal, Golden Whistler, Silver Eye, Spotted Pardalote, Grey Fantail.

Kris Carnell

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

Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 25th April 2018

Meeting opened: 7.30pm

Attendance: 20 and 5 Apologies as per attendance sheet

Minutes of the previous meeting:

confirmed by Errol Walker seconded by Annette Walker Carried

Business arising from the minutes: nil

Correspondence: as per folder

moved by Rob McCosker seconded by Lesley Saunders Carried

Financial Report: Showed a balance of \$1267.87 with income for the month of \$63.50 being ½ P.O. Box fee from the Camera Club and expenses of CWA rent \$50 and K Carnell stamps \$30.

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

Outing Reports: Kris Carnell reported that 14 people enjoyed the outing to Bald Rock, stopping at the Wilsons Downfall cemetery on the way. After morning tea at the Bald Rock parking area Rob McCosker led the group along the Border track to view two gnammias, then after returning to the cars we walked along the Bald Rock track for some distance looking for Helmet orchids without success before returning to the parking area for afternoon tea.

Pre-outings: Lesley Saunders outlined the next outing to Mt Cordeaux with an 8.00am start from Weeroona Park.

General Business: Kris Carnell noted that since this was to be Errol and Annette Walker's last meeting with the Nats Club as Stanthorpe residents and since they were foundation members, he would like to move a motion that they be awarded Life Membership to thank them for their contribution. The motion was seconded by Lesley Saunders and Carried.

Holly Patty has offered to lead a field trip to her property near Mt Banca for July or September.

The proposed outing to Bluff Rock which was to be in September is being investigated by Rob McCosker for June.

Specimens: Rob McCosker showed a google satellite image of Bald Rock with the GPS track where the last outing was held. He also had a piece of Red gum with unusual sharp spikes which grew beneath the bark.

Next Meeting: 23rd May – Wildflowers with Ian Milinivitch

Meeting closed: 7.55pm

Presentation: Frank Dalgity and Lesley Clark gave a wonderful presentation of African wildlife photographs of exceptional quality as well as Audio Visuals of the 2009 Victorian bushfires and whales.

Mystery Tail

Recently I found a furry tail in the doorway of our shed. It did not belong to either a Brush Tail or Ring Tail possum so we decided to try and find out what it might have belonged to. By a process of elimination we think that it might have belonged to either a Greater Glider or a Yellow Bellied Glider, both of which are shown to occur here.

As to the predator, again by a process of elimination, we think it was either a Powerful Owl or a Barking Owl. Many many years ago when we had chooks we saw a Powerful Owl near the chook pen. Somewhere in the back of my mind, I seem to recall hearing about an owl that ate the whole of the possum or glider except the tail. It then regurgitated the unwanted bones and fur in pellets.

Any comments or information would be welcome.

Kris