



The Granite Belt Naturalist



Mail Address: Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, Stanthorpe Qld. 4380
fieldnats@granitenet.com.au

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.

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 24th June: Bluff Rock with Rob McCosker

Wednesday 27th June: *Larapinta Trail*
NT Rob & Trish McCosker

25th July 2018: AGM – *Remember
Last Year* - Supper

**Deadline for next newsletter
12th July 2018**

Pre-outing Report - Bluff Rock 24th June 2018

Leader: Rob McCosker

The familiar granite outcrop on the west of the highway about 12km south of Tenterfield is the destination for our outing this month. I am very grateful to Peter Reid, a Tenterfield local, who has agreed to lead us, having done two pre-outings to find a suitable route to the top. We will need to car pool in 4WD vehicles, as there is a limit to the number of vehicles able to access the track on private property and the paddock has a lot of lovegrass to negotiate.

We will leave Stanthorpe's Weeroona Park at 9.00am as usual and drive to the Bluff Rock Lookout roadside stop 12km south of Tenterfield for morning tea. There is a toilet here and a plaque about the Bluff Rock Massacre. We will need to carry lunch to have on top of the Rock, and the walk involves some steep rocky sections with scrubby undergrowth so walking poles would be handy as the leaf litter has made the going slippery. The walk is Grade 7 but as it is not very long we should have plenty of time.

After returning to the cars, if time permits, Peter has also offered to take us to look at the Bluff River railway bridge, which is similar to the one beside the highway near Sunnyside, but in much better condition. We can walk up onto the disused railway line and cross the bridge for some good views.

For any further info call me on 46835371.

Rob McCosker



Trish & Rob admiring a banksia

**Camp-out Report – Black Rocks – 5th and 6th May
2018**

The Black Rocks campout took place over the weekend of 5 and 6 May. Six members attended. We were very fortunate with the weather, fine and sunny. During the week leading up to the campout frequent showers were experienced and on the Tuesday afterwards rain, sometimes quite heavy, began about 11am and continued through the night.

On Saturday afternoon we traversed the Mibanbah and Corvid trails. Wildflowers were rather scarce, not as prolific as on our visit two years before. Plenty of honeyeaters were seen, mainly Noisy friar birds. On Saturday night we gathered for a cookout and were treated to seafood entrée, bream and whiting fresh caught.

On Sunday we went on the Jerusalem Creek walk, an 8 km return walk. We followed the creek northwards and returned via the beach. Lunch was taken at one of the two Jerusalem Creek walk-in camp sites located just prior to the northern end of the walk. The return via the beach necessitated leaving the beach and climbing the coffee rock to avoid getting wet. Recent storm events in the area has eroded a lot of sand, resulting in coffee rock being exposed from near the Jerusalem Creek mouth right down to the southern end of the camp area. Jerusalem Creek was open to the sea and we waded across to have a look at the lagoon. We were pleased we decided to gather on Saturday evening as we had a light shower on Sunday evening.



Nats in front of a coffee rock formation

We had planned to have a short walk on Monday morning prior to people departing but as two left early and the other two not staying on decided to pack up and leave it did not take place.

Plant list: Goodenia, Boronia, Prostanthera, Pimelea, Bauera rubioides, Water lily, Leucopogon, Epacris, Callistemon (2 sp), Banksia ericifolia and 2 other sp, Hibbertia, Gompholobium, Stypandra, Eucalyptus, Philotheca, Persoonia, Pricky moses.



Eastern Yellow Robin

Bird list: White-bellied sea eagle, Brahminy Kite, Whistling Kite, Noisy friar bird, Whip bird, Willie wagtail, Quail, Raven, New Holland honeyeater, Lewins honeyeater, Wren, Eastern yellow robin, Little wattlebird, Silver gull, Pied oystercatcher, Sooty oystercatcher, Short-tailed shearwater, Noisy pitta, Pigeon, Rainbow lorikeet.

Jeff Campbell

Thanks to Rob McCosker for the following information. – Editor

Coffee Rock

Following our trip to Bundjalung National Park I did a little research on the 'coffee rock' seen there.

This definition was found in a Department of Main Roads glossary-

Coffee Rock is a locally used term for a weakly to strongly cemented brown to black coloured fine to medium sand or silty sand. It is formed by the downward leaching of organic matter which is flocculated at the level of an often fluctuating groundwater table.

In a blog I found about the Northern Rivers geology, the author notes an unusual feature within the Woodburn Sands named the Broadwater Sandrock which was formed by the cementation of sand by organic rich material probably formed by changes occurring in a peat swamp environment. This sand rock is a common feature up and down the east coast of Australia. He mentions that another common feature is the diversity of names given to this material which include 'indurated sand', 'coffee rock', 'coastal sandrock', 'painted rock', 'beach rock', 'humate', and 'B-horizon of the humus podzol'. Apparently the last one is the most accurate geologically.

Another interesting fact is that the coffee rock on Fraser Island is more likely the beds of old lakes in the sand dunes when the sea level was lower. In places it is peat-like and embedded with wood ranging from small twigs to large trees trunks up to 1200mm in diameter, with some evidence of fire on the wood before being assembled. This is thought to have all happened in the Pleistocene age, that is from 2 million to 10 000 years ago.

Rob McCosker



On the walk to Mt Cordeaux

Outing Report – Mt Cordeaux – 20th May 2018

There were about 6 persons who went on the Mt Cordeaux walk. It was a gloriously warm day and just perfect for walking. The main car park was absolutely full when we arrived, so much so that we had to backtrack to the pic-nick area below the main car park. It entailed 2 and 1/2 km extra walking but this add-on track was very scenic and had a lot to offer interest wise. Lots of fallen trees and I was reminded of the Kokoda again due to the heavy jungle type flora along that stretch.

The main track was more open trail but busy with people and so was the lunch stop area. However we all managed to find a pleasant spot to sit on to munch our way through our food. We did not continue on to Bare Rock or Morgan's Walk because of the extra Ks to return to the cars.



Fungus

One of the participants was our member Karen from Killarney way.

She informed the group that this walk would be her last as she was leaving the area to get married to her partner Ken. This was a chance for me to wish her well in the next adventure in her life."

Leslie Saunders



The View from the Lunch Spot

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 23rd May 2018**

Meeting opened: 7.30pm

Attendance: 10 and apologies nil as per attendance sheet

Minutes of the previous meeting:

confirmed by Lesley Saunders and seconded by Lyn Collins Carried

Business arising from the minutes: nil

Correspondence: as per folder

moved by Rob McCosker seconded by Lesley Saunders Carried

Financial Report: showed a current balance of \$1317.87

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

Outing Reports: 5-6th May Campout at Black Rocks, Bundjalung National Park, was attended by 6 people who enjoyed fine weather and pleasant walks through the coastal heath and along the beach.

20th May Mt Cordeaux outing was enjoyed by 7 people. After morning tea at West Gap Creek picnic area we drove to the Crest parking area which was full so returned to the picnic area and walked from there along the Box Forest track to the crest then the Mt Cordeaux track to have lunch at the lookout.

Pre-outings: 24th June Bluff Rock. Rob is liaising with Peter Reid from Tenterfield for an outing in the vicinity of Bluff Rock if we can't access the property to climb the Rock.

General Business: Attendance Sheet. Rob asked if there was still a need to fill out separate attendance sheets for each activity as we are now covered by Qld Water and Land Carers Inc. instead of the Granite Borders Landcare Committee for insurance. It was decided to revert to an attendance book for all activities.

Specimens: Holly Patti showed two contrasting feathers. The first from a Wedge-tailed eagle about 350mm long and the second from a Double-barred finch barely 20mm long. She also had a complete Red-bellied black snake skin which had been shed recently.

Glenys Mathison had a very large cuttlefish bone from the beach at Black Rocks and Ian Milinovich brought several seed specimens of plants illustrated in his talk.

Next Meeting: June 27th Rob and Trish McCosker will give an illustrated account of their trip along parts of the Larapinta Trail in the West Macdonald Ranges in the Northern Territory.

Meeting closed: 8.00pm

Presentation: Ian Milinovich gave a very thorough presentation of wildflowers and wild life seen in the many small parks north and west of Perth.

Remember Last Year
Annual General Meeting
25th July 2018

At our Annual Meeting the program will be *Remember Last Year*.

If you have photos of any outings that you have not already given to Kris could you please do so as soon as possible.