

# The Granite Belt Naturalist



**Mail Address:** Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, Stanthorpe Qld. 4380  
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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
	Gunther Maywald	
Secretary	Rob McCosker	46835371
Treasurer	Lesley Saunders	
Newsletter Editor	K & M. Carnell	46835268
Publicity Officer	Jeff Campbell	46811420
Librarian	Laura Maywald	

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 14<sup>th</sup> October RWC Walk  
21<sup>st</sup> October Girraween with QNC  
4<sup>th</sup> November RWC Walk  
Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October Eucalypt  
beetles with Gunter Maywald

**Deadline for next newsletter  
14<sup>th</sup> November**

**Pre-Outing Report**

**Signboard, Underground Creek 21st October 2018**

The Queensland Naturalists' Club will be joining us on this outing (weather permitting). We plan to walk from the first gate on Mt Norman Road towards Underground Creek, exploring The Signboard on the way and then following the track back to the Underground Creek parking area on Pyramids Road. A few vehicles will be left at the Underground Creek car park with everyone driving on to the beginning of the walk on Mt Norman Road. At the end of the walk, the drivers of the vehicles at Mt Norman Road will be driven back to collect them and will then drive everyone back to the picnic area.

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am. Carpooling will be necessary on the day to limit the number of vehicles as best we can. We will stop at the Girraween National Park picnic area for morning tea and to consolidate vehicles with the QNC.

Bring morning tea, lunch, water, hat etc etc.  
Leader Peter and Lynette Haselgrove

**Outing Report "Mt Patti" 23rd September 2018**

It was a lovely, warm morning and eleven of us met at Weerona park at 9am before driving 5 minutes to our property "Mt Patti". Our property is 21 acres and is adjacent to the Mt Banca Conservaton Reserve. Mt Banca, that we have nicknamed "Mt Patti", was confirmed to be of approximately 924ms by Michael Mueller, who had a topographic map of the area.

We commenced our walk up a short slope up to the saddle of the Mt Banca Ridge. Unfortunately due to the dry weather there were none of the green hoods seen in mass here last year.

From the saddle we continued up a short steep track of scrub, leaf litter and rocks to a slab looking to the south west. There were several stops to botanise on the way up. There were a few linguiformis orchids with flower spikes but not yet flowering.

After a short stop at the slab to look at the view we continued east past the actual summit (no views) to the lookout for morning tea. There was a lovely *Stypandra glauca* in flower on the lookout. From the lookout you can see Stanthorpe town, Bald Rock and Mt Norman.

After morning tea we heading back via the same track and once in the saddle continued in a south west direction up the to other side of the ridge. We came across the bee hive in the tree I had seen last year, and it was still in use. By this time in the day it was quite warm and we all looked for a bit of shade to enjoy our lunch.

After lunch we walked back down the slope and a short walk back to the cars.

Unfortunately it was very, very dry and there wasn't much in flower, and only a few birds seen. We talked about trying the walk another time after some rain.



Bird List: Common Bronzewing, Crimson Rosella, White Naped Honeyeater, Noisy Friarbird, Rufous Whistler, Grey Fantail, Pied Currawong

Plant List: *Acacia viscidula* Sticky Wattle, *Acacia fimbriata* Fringed Wattle, *Acacia latisepala*, *Indigofera australis* Australian Indigo, *Dockrillia linguiformis* Tongue Orchid (flower spikes), *Leucopogon melaleuroides* Snowbush, *Melichrus urceolatus* Urn Heath, *Stypandra glauca* Nodding Blue Lily, *Solanum amblymerum* Spiny Kangaroo Apple, *Notelaea* sp. ? Long Leaved Mock Olive, *Stylidium laricifolium* Tall Trigger Plant (buds) Holly Patti.



*Stypandra glauca* Nodding Blue Lily



### Ibis Flock Sighting

I recently had the privilege to watch a flock of Straw-necked Ibis preparing to set off to greener pastures, or so I thought. At first sight they were quite close to the ground, circling in a large column. They seemed to be gaining altitude over an area of ground that had been recently burnt so I presume they were in a thermal. It was difficult to count them as they were flying up and down in the column as well as circling but I estimated there were about 80 birds in the flock. I ran for a pair of binoculars and called Trish to watch the sight as well and we saw them go higher and higher still circling until when almost out of eyesight, however with the bino's I saw them form their usual V formation and quickly disappear in a southerly direction. According to my Field Guide to the Birds of Australia by Simpson and Day "Ibises frequently travel 30 – 40 kilometres from colonies to feed and may use thermals to gain height in arid regions, either when coming or going to the nests. Huge mixed breeding colonies may occur, and Ibises' nests are packed close together on reeds, bushes or muddy islands; less often in trees."

Rob McCosker

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.**  
**Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

**Meeting opened:** 7.35pm with Peter Haselgrove as Chairman as President and Vice Presidents were absent.

**Attendance:** 10 Apologies 6 as per attendance sheet

**Minutes of the previous meeting:**  
confirmed by Peter Haselgrove seconded by Lesley Saunders Carried

**Business arising from the minutes:** nil

**Correspondence:** as per folder  
moved Rob McCosker seconded Lesley Saunders Carried

**Financial Report:** Bank Balance \$1532.52  
moved financial report be accepted Lesley Saunders seconded Trish McCosker Carried

**Outing Reports:** Holly Patti reported that 11 people enjoyed the walk on Mt Patti ( Mt Banca) in spite of the dry conditions.

**Pre-outings:** Lynette Haselgrove reported that the outing with Queensland Nats will go ahead on 21<sup>st</sup> October, in the Underground Creek area of Girraween NP.

**General Business:** ANN 2020 - Rob McCosker outlined the interest received from members after circulating the email asking for help. As there was a positive response from 9 members, including Liz Bourne who agreed to chair an organising committee, Rob moved a motion for the club to host the 2020 ANN Get-together. Seconded by Lynette Haselgrove. Carried.

Payment of Membership Subscriptions – Treasurer Lesley Saunders outlined the following proposal .....the subscription page for 2019 onwards in the Field Naturalist Magazine be amended to

- REMOVE item 1...i.e that payment of subs be put in an envelope ...etc
- REMOVE item 2...i.e that subs be posted to P O Box etc
- That item 3 Direct Debit details be shown up in BOLD CAPITALS.
- A NEW ITEM be shown to make known that payment can be made personally at the Commonwealth Bank and the BSB No and Acc No be shown in BOLD with a rider to make sure that the depositor's name is given when deposited.

Lesley then moved a motion to this effect, seconded by Holly Patti. Carried

Michael Mueller noted that with the drought there is little water in Bald Rock Creek making the walk down to the Cascades much easier.

**Specimens:** Rob brought a copy of the Rare Wildflower Consortium's latest, magnificent publication *Flora of the Granite Belt*. These are available for \$50.00

Rob also showed a piece of Wyberba wattle *Acacia pubifolia* collected from a tree in a neighbour's property at Severnlea, and wondered how it got there.

Holly Patti showed a nice specimen of Lichen and a piece of Geebung *Persoonia* sp. From her property.

Lynette Haselgrove had some books and cotton flour bags to give away.

**Next Meeting:** October 24<sup>th</sup> Eucalypt beetles with Gunter Maywald

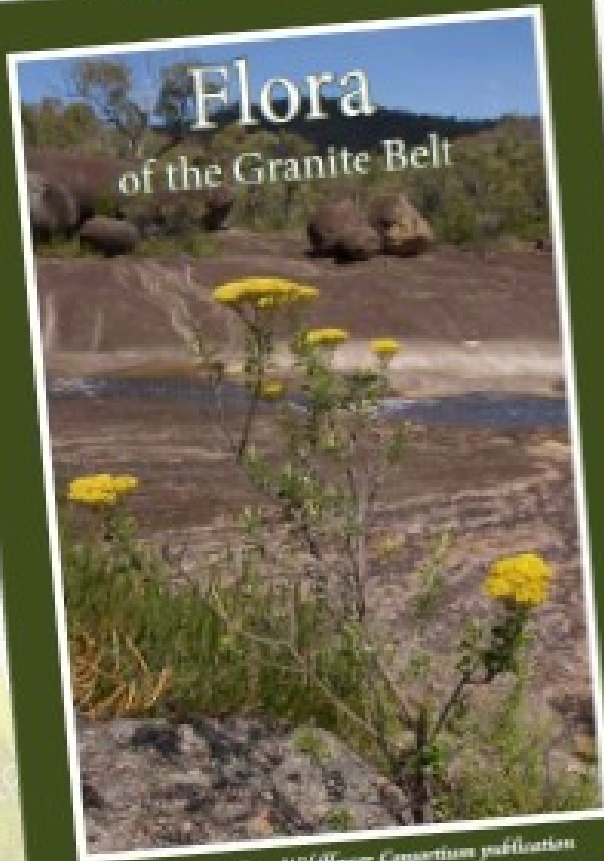
**Meeting closed:** 8.00pm

**Presentation:** Rob and Trish McCosker showed pictures of their trip to Central Australia, which included Sir Hubert Wilkins birthplace, Lamberts centre of Australia, Rainbow Valley, Chambers Pillar and the Davenport Range National Park.



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