



# 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		
Newsletter Editor	K & M. Carnell	46835268
Publicity Officer	Jeff Campbell	46812008
Librarian	Laura Maywald	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 25<sup>th</sup> November: Spirabo Forest Way with Rob McCosker

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November: *Canberra Trip* with Kris and Margaret Carnell

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December: Breakup at Kris and Margaret Carnell's property

**Deadline for next newsletter**

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2019

**Pre-Outing Report - November 25<sup>th</sup> to Spirabo Forest Way**



We plan to do a driving trip to Tenterfield, down Scrub Road and Spirabo Forest Way to Billirimba Lookout in Washpool National Park then on through Capoompeta National Park and some scenic farmland before reaching Deepwater. We will then cross the New England Highway and head north skirting Torrington as we climb up and down the Red Hill Road before winding along Pye's Creek Road with its ten creek crossings. Then more ups and downs before reaching the Mole River and continuing, with even more ups and downs through Kingston Gap along Woodside Road to the Bruxner

Highway, then across to Sunnyside on the New England Highway and return home.

The wetter drive along the Spirabo Forest Way is through spectacular "scrub" with tree ferns, massive eucalypts and white everlasting daisies lining the road while the return trip on the drier western side of the New England Highway is open grazing land and the contrast of basalt on Red Hill with the fine granite sands further along.

The total distance is about 275km with probably only 85km of sealed road. The NP signs say 4WD only, although that would only be in wet weather, however there are plenty of potholes and exposed rocks to avoid as well as wildlife such as Lyrebirds, Echidnas and Kangaroos – all seen on the pre-outing trip.

We will set off from Weeroona Park at 9.00am, bring smokos and lunch and we should be back by 5.00pm.

Rob McCosker Phone 46835371



## Outing Report Outing 21st October 2018 – Girraween National Park

Nine members braved the inclement forecast (which turned out to be wrong) and enjoyed a very pleasant day at Girraween, mostly with bright sunshine.

We had smoko at the picnic ground and then took a short walk across the rock pavements on the other side of Bald Rock Creek. The group then proceeded to Dr Robert's Waterhole parking area and walked to the waterhole and then to Underground Creek where we had lunch.

After inspecting the rock pavements above Underground Creek we returned via a detour up onto the rocks north of the walking track.

Despite the dreadfully dry winter and rain only in the last couple of weeks, there was a good wildflower display. The wattles were mostly finished (though *Acacia betchei* is budding up for December) but the grevillea in the swampy areas (*Grevillea viridiflava*) was in flower as were *Leucopogon melaleucoides* and *Patersonia* sp. The purple kunzea (*Kunzea obovata*) was beginning in the rock gardens on the pavements and there were several species of ground orchids in the open forest including an uncommon white form of the pink fingers.



Kunzea obovata on rock slab



Lunch Break at Underground Creek

Birds were quite common, typically of that area. Most of us heard and a couple of fortunates saw a Superb Lyrebird. A Rufous Fantail paused in front of the group for a few minutes. A careful search of exfoliating granite slabs revealed several Southern Spotted Geckoes.

A most enjoyable day, despite the initial weather forecast.

### Plant list:

Pink Kunzea *Kunzea obovata*, Sarsaparilla *Hardenbergia violacea*, Tongue orchid *Docrillia linguiformis*, Grey everlasting *Ozothamnus obcordatus*, Fruit salad plant *Leionema ambiens*, Mountain dampiera *Dampiera purpurea*, Heath myrtle *Calytrix tetragona*, Common tea-tree *Leptospermum polygalifolium*, New England tea-tree *L. novae-angliae*, Narrow-leaved spider flower *Grevillea viridiflava*, Twiggy midge bush *Zieria laevigata*, Granite heath *Micromyrtus sessilis*, Prickly parrot-pea *Dillwilia seiberi*, Poison pimelea *Pimelea neoanglica*, Dotted sun orchid *Thelymitra ixioides*, Coral heath *Epacris microphylla*, Broom or Sour bush *Choretrum candollei*, Smokebush *Conospermum taxifolium* and *C. burgessorum*, Everlasting daisy *Coronidium oxylepis* subsp. *Lanatum*, Hop bitter pea *Davesia latifolia*, Silky purple flag



Patersonia sericea



Dotted Sun Orchid *Thelymitra ixioides*

*Patersonia sericea*, Pink fingers *Caladenia carnea* and *C. fuscata*, Peach heath *Lissanthe strigosa*, Rock she-oak *Allocasuarina rupicola*, Finger hakea *Hakea leavipes* subsp. *graniticola*, Purple mint bush *Prostanthera phyllicifolia*, Snowbush *Leucopogon melaleucoides*, *Bossiaea rhombifolia*, Round-leaved phebalium *Leionema rotundifolia*, Waxflower *Philotheca epilosa*, Wax lip orchid – Purple and white versions *Glossodia minor*.

**Birds seen or reliably heard:**

Yellow Robin, Grey Fantail, Rufous Fantail, Channel-billed Cuckoo, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Goshawk sp (possibly Brown), Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Red Wattlebird, Noisy Friarbird, Golden Whistler and Sacred Kingfisher.

Southern Spotted Geckoes *Oedura tryoni*, Red-bellied Black Snake.

**Pre-Outing Report – Break-up – 9<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

The Break-up this year will be held at Kris and Margaret Carnell’s property *Orana*, 364 Back Creek Road, Severnlea. There is no specific walk planned but there a number of strolls you can take depending on the weather. One thing of interest is the Landcare block and how it has coped with the recent drought. There is also a pleasant walk along the creek if it’s not too hot. We will have the kettle boiling for afternoon tea at 3.30 p.m. and the BBQ will start around 6 p.m.

Bring tucker and a chair. We will provide tea, coffee etc. We do have undercover shelter if we get a storm.

*Kris and Margaret* 46835268



The top three photos are 3 variations of the “Happy Valley Bottlebrush” which were grown by Margaret from seed collected at “Orana”.  
The one on the left is from seed collected at Glen Aplin.  
The Herbarium says that they are the same species - *Callistemon pungens* now *Melaleuca williamsii*..

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.  
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

**Meeting opened:** 7.30pm

**Attendance:** 18 Present 1 Apology as per attendance sheet

**Minutes of the previous meeting:**

confirmed by Rob McCosker seconded by Trish McCosker Carried

**Business arising from the minutes:** nil

**Correspondence:** as per folder

moved by Rob McCosker seconded by Lyn Collins Carried

**Financial Report:** Bank Balance \$ 1502.52 Rob McCosker moved financial report be accepted, seconded by Margaret Carnell Carried

**Outing Reports:** Peter Haselgrove reported that the outing to the Underground Creek was most successful in spite of dire weather forecasts with 9 people attending and a very good show of wildflowers.

**Pre-outings:** 25<sup>th</sup> November Rob and Trish McCosker will lead a drive through National Parks near Tenterfield along the Spirabo Forest Way and returning from Deepwater along roads to the west of the Highway.

**General Business:** Discussion about Australian Naturalists Network (ANN) committee meeting. Secretary to send email to members with meeting venue and date. Jeff Campbell reported on the recent ANN held in Victoria with 74 attendees.

**Specimens:** Peter Haselgrove had specimens of a bottlebrush *Melaleuca ptyoides* and a Dillwinia sp. plants growing well in the table drain at his property.

Margaret Carnell brought the still unidentified scat and noted she has received visits from Variegated Fairy-wrens.

Rob McCosker showed a brief video of Girraween found on YouTube.

**Next Meeting:** 28<sup>th</sup> November Kris and Margaret Carnell will show their recent visit to Canberra and Floriade

**Meeting closed:** 7.55pm

**Presentation:** Gunter Maywald gave a wonderful Powerpoint presentation of his study of eucalypt beetles including many excellent photos, the description of their life-cycle and difficulty in identification.