

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



June

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

CLUB OFFICE BEARERS - 2018/2019

President	Jeff Campbell	46811420
Vice-presidents	Kris Carnell	46835268
	Gunter Maywald	
Secretary	Rob McCosker	46835371
Treasurer	Lesley Saunders	
Newsletter Editor	K & M. Carnell	46835268
Publicity Officer	Jeff Campbell	46812008
Librarian	Laura Maywald	46810674

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 19th May: Spicers Gap with David Wilson

Wednesday 22nd May: *To the Gulf and Back* with David Wilson.

**Deadline for next newsletter
14th June 2019**

Pre-Outing Report Spicers Gap - Sunday 19 May 2019

The May outing will be to Mt Matheson at Spicers Gap. The Nats last did this walk in 2011. Mt Matheson is a low peak located just to the north east of Spicers Gap and east of Mt Mitchell. The area through which the trail passes is covered primarily with open forest but does feature some patches of rainforest. The ridge top that is traversed provides some fine views of the Main Range escarpment, with some unusual views of Cunninghams Gap being achieved.

Starting from the camping ground, the relatively well-defined Mt Matheson trail eventually connects with the Heritage Trail. Along the latter section of track are some relics of the logging days. Much of this walk up to this point is probably Grade 6 to 7. The Heritage Trail then connects to the convict-built Spicers Gap road (Grade 2 to 3). A leisurely walk through tall forest will take us to the fine views afforded from the Governor's Chair. From here, it is an easy walk downhill back to our cars (Grade 3). Stanthorpe members will depart from Weeroona Park at 8:00am to meet me, and other Warwick members, at Jackie Howe Park in Warwick. We will depart from Warwick at 9:00am. Morning tea will be at the Spicers Gap camp ground. Lunch will need to be carried. The area is 2WD accessible. I strongly recommend you bring insect repellent as this area is a scrub tick paradise.

David Wilson
0427 612839

Outing Report – Sundown National Park – May 2019



We met at Weeroona Park and the group of seven in two vehicles made our way to the northern entrance of Sundown NP. We drove approximately 4 km along the 4WD track and parked the vehicles adjacent to a service track. We had smoko and then walked about 2 km along the 4WD track before turning off onto a service track which led out to the NSW border.

After inspecting the remains of the old 14-wire hand-laced fence (part of the present state border) we followed the fence north-east along the fire-break and eventually

back to the vehicles.



Inspecting the Remains of the Fence

The day was partly cloudy and very pleasant walking, mostly through box/stringybark/gum woodland. Being autumn, there were very few flowers other than peach bush, *Olearia elliptica* and dead finish, *Cassinia* sp. which were flowering profusely. The birds were very quiet – we saw wedgetail eagles, white-throated tree creeper and rufous whistler. Although the uphill sections slowed a couple of us, it was not terribly steep, and we covered the 8km walk quite easily. We did stop for lunch along the way.

We were back at Weeroona Park at about 3:30pm.

Peter Haselgrove

Plant List for Sundown Outing

Oxalis radicata Dwarf wood sorrel, *Solanum amblymerum* Spiny kangaroo apple, *Melichrus urceolatus* Urn heath, *Pimelea neoanglica* Poison pimelea, *Wahlenbergia gracilis* Sprawling bluebell, *Olearia elliptica* subsp. *elliptica* Peach bush, *Calotis cuneifolia* Blue burr daisy and three other unidentified daisies, *Hypoxis hygrometrica* var. *villosisepala* Golden star or Golden weather grass. Other plants seen that were of interest were *Pandorea pandorana* Wonga wonga vine and *Eustrephus latifolius* Wombat vine seen climbing along the border fence, *Macrozamia viridis* Burrawang, *Notelaea microcarpa* Gorge mock olive. The plant for the day however had to be the Peach bush flowering at it's peak all the way along the tracks brightening the otherwise sombre bush

Historic Fence in Victoria



When Kris and I were looking at Silo Art in Victoria we stopped at an historic site between Beulah and Sheep Hills to look at a small section of the Dingo/Rabbit Proof Fence which has been preserved. It would be good to have a feature made of the hand-laced fence where people could see it, maybe at Red Rock or Nundubemere Falls.

Margaret

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 24th April 2019**

Meeting opened: 7.35pm

Attendance: 14 with 2 Apologies as per attendance sheet

Minutes of the previous meeting:

confirmed by R. McCosker seconded by L. Saunders Carried

Business arising from the minutes: Nil

Correspondence: as per folder

moved by R. McCosker seconded by K. Carnell Carried

Financial Report: Bank balance of \$1725.04 as at 20/4/2019

L. Saunders moved financial report be accepted, L. McCosker seconded Carried

Outing Reports: P. Haselgrove reported that 7 members enjoyed a pleasant day walking along tracks in Sundown National Park but few birds and wildflowers were seen.

Pre-outings: The next scheduled outing is on 19th May to Spicers Gap led by D. Wilson

General Business: Our Group Membership of Granite Borders Landcare Committee (GBLC) was discussed and as we no longer require Club Insurance under them, as we are now covered under Queensland Water and Land Carers (QWalc), a motion was put by K. Carnell that we discontinue our group membership of Landcare. Seconded by G. Maywald and Carried.

President J. Campbell pointed out that the club needs to formally elect Australian Naturalists Network (ANN) Committee members to enable that committee to open a separate Bank account. K. Carnell proposed that the following nominations be accepted and that those members have the power to co-opt extra members as they see fit

President/Co-ordinator - L. Bourne

Secretary - L. Haselgrove

Treasurer - G. Maywald

The motion was seconded by L. Saunders and Carried.

Specimens: L. Saunders showed a photograph of a bioluminescent or glow-in-the-dark ghost mushroom *Omphalotus nidiformis* which guest speaker Paul Knox commented on.

(I Googled glow in the dark fungus and found this informative article. Rob.)

<https://www.kidsnews.com.au/.../glowinthedark-mushrooms>

Next Meeting: 22nd May David Wilson will give a presentation on "The Gulf and Back"

Meeting closed: 7.50pm

Presentation: Guest speaker Paul Knox gave a very interesting talk about Fungi - calling it the original "permaculturalist" as it was the first life form to emerge from the oceans to begin breaking down rock for other life forms to take hold. Paul outlined fungi life cycle and how many have symbiotic relationships with plants, and how research is being done into diverse uses such as in building materials and cancer cures.

Ghost Fungus in Murrumbidgee Field Nats Magazine

There is an interesting article in the May issue of the Murrumbidgee Field Nats Magazine about ghost fungus. To access the magazine click on the link below. We saw this fungus at a campout at *Lanakai* in 2001. It's always interesting to see what The Murrumbidgee Field Nats have been up to.

<https://mysd.com.au/fieldnats/other-clubs-mags/club-magazines/murrumbidgee-field-nats-magazine/>