



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 – 2019/2020

President	Jeff Campbell	46811420
Vice-presidents	Kris Carnell	46835268
	Peter Haselgrove	46837255
Secretary	Rob McCosker	46835371
Treasurer	Gunter Maywald	46810674
Newsletter Editor	Margaret 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 October 20th: Browns Falls via Cullendore Road.

Wednesday 23rd October: *Meandering Along the Murray to the Snowy Mountains.*

**Deadline for next newsletter
13th November 2019**

Pre-Outing Report –Browns Falls via Cullendore Road – 20th October 2019

Leader: Kris Carnell

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am and travel along Amosfield Road to Mt Lindesay Highway. We turn along Cullendore Road and stop for smoko at Maryland River Crossing. From there we will travel through Killarney to Browns Falls. Lunch will be at the park at Browns Falls then we will probably continue to Queen Marys Falls.

Outing Report – September 22nd 2019 – Bolivia Nature Reserve

The proposed outing to Basket Swamp could not go ahead because the Bruxner Highway was closed by the fires at Drake. At short notice, the outing to Bolivia Nature Reserve which was to have taken place in November was brought forward.

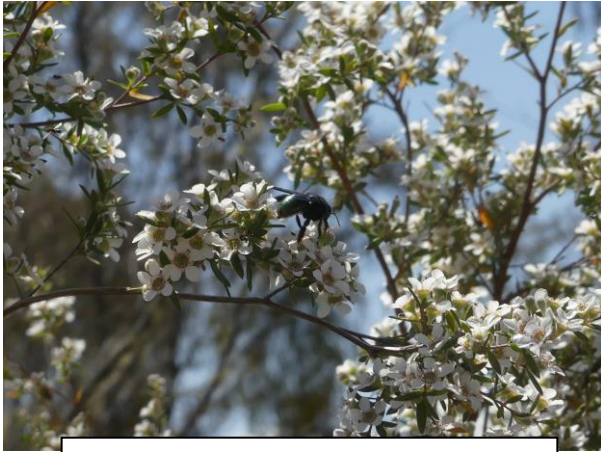


Tenterfield Water Supply

Twelve Nats set out for Otterburn Park in Tenterfield which is beside the water supply dam. As we neared Tenterfield we could see a large plume of smoke from the Drake fires. The area at the dam had been burnt in the fire that started in the vicinity of Mt Mackenzie Road a couple of weeks ago. There is a bore on the edge of the dam pumping water into it to supplement the water supply. As we had smoko we enjoyed birdwatching, mostly for water birds. There were pelicans, black swans, coots, ducks and quite a large flock of masked lapwings – a sight we had not seen before. A white-bellied sea eagle soared to the south of the dam.

Before heading for Bolivia we drove to Tenterfield Park to see how it fared in the fires. It had not been burnt but was extremely dry, as you would expect. Crossing the bridges on the outskirts of Tenterfield you could see just how hot the fire had been in that area, leaving scorched earth and for the most part, bare trees. We had to stop at the traffic lights at Bolivia Hill where there is a massive upgrade of the road in progress.

There were a few wattles trying to bloom at the start of the track and *Leucopogon* in bud further



Carpenter Bee on *Leptospermum*

along. A flock of white-winged choughs was calling between us and the road and we saw a spinebill and a rufous whistler near the creek crossing and heard other birds calling, so there must be water somewhere near. There were green carpenter bees in the *Leptospermum* blooming beside the road. They proved very difficult to photograph. There were also a few ant lions in the loose dirt. We stopped to look at a walnut tree and a dead tree fern in the gully. A little further on, we heard a cuckoo calling which Frank thought was a pallid cuckoo.

We spent some time at the ruins of the homestead looking at the very old fruit trees, the falling-down building and the sheep yards, including a dip. The old fence makes interesting patterns as it runs along the boundary, with parts of it lying on the ground and palings hanging from the wires. The dam was completely dry and pigs had been rooting amongst the rubble.

We walked along the Chile Track and stopped to look at a large, old gum tree with mistletoe growing on mistletoe. The cuckoos kept calling as we walked along and we saw yellow-tailed black cockatoos. We stopped for lunch in the shade of some trees when we reached the fence. There are lovely views to the east, somewhat marred by power lines. When we finished lunch it was decided not to walk any further in the heat so we retraced our steps and made our way home. Just after we started, we saw a wedgetail eagle circling. It turned out to be a much more enjoyable outing than I had anticipated and I was amazed that we saw 23 birds.



Bolivia Homestead Ruins

Bird List: crow, welcome swallow, pelican, black duck, coot, masked lapwing, grey shrike thrush, magpie, cormorant, white-breasted sea eagle, black swan, pied stilts, white-faced heron, wood swallow, ibis, noisy miner, white-winged chough, rufous whistler, eastern spinebill, cuckoo (call), fairy wren (call), yellow-tailed black cockatoo, wedgetail eagle.

Margaret Carnell

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 25th September 2019**

Meeting opened: 7.35pm

Attendance: 11 Apologies 5 as per attendance sheet

Minutes of the previous meeting:

confirmed by Kris Carnell seconded by Trish McCosker Carried

Business arising from the minutes: nil

Correspondence: as per folder

moved by Rob McCosker seconded by Margaret Carnell Carried

Financial Report: nil as Treasurer was absent

Outing Reports: Campout at Bundjalung NP led by Jeff and Glenys was attended by 6 members who enjoyed perfect weather, lots of birds and wildflowers.

The September 20th outing was to Bolivia Hill NR instead of Basket Swamp because of bushfires and road closures. The 12 members present enjoyed a pleasant walk to the old homestead site and had lunch along the Chile trail before returning. Very few birds and wildflowers were seen due to the drought.

Pre-outings: The proposed trip to the Amiens Forest has been cancelled due to the drought and instead we will meet at Weeroona Park as usual for a "Mystery Tour" in the direction of Browns Falls.

The November 24th outing is planned to be at Basket Swamp.

General Business: nil

Specimens: Rob McCosker had a Mistletoe book with descriptions of the mistletoes seen growing on a large Angophora tree on the outing to Bolivia Hill. They were most likely Bronze Mistletoe *Amyema miquelii*, which was hosting a Golden Mistletoe *Notothixos subaureus*.

Margaret Carnell said she had observed the male Superb Fairy Wren in her garden taking yellow petals from her pansies and wondered if that may have been for courtship.

Next Meeting: 23rd October program "Meandering along the Murray" by Kris and Margaret Carnell.

Meeting closed: 8.05pm

Presentation: Jeff showed photos of the excellent trip he and Glenys had done to Cameron's Corner, including a flight over Lake Eyre and a trip to Lake Mungo.

Note from Editor: Peter Haselgrove let me know that male Variegated Fairy Wrens present the females with yellow petals when courting. It seems Superb Blue Wrens do the same.