



# *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 – 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 24<sup>th</sup> November: Basket Swamp with Jeff Campbell

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November: *Remembering 50 Years of Nats*, followed by supper

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December: Break-up at Peter & Lynette Haselgrove's place, 27 Shatte Lane,

**Deadline for next newsletter  
11<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**Pre-Outing Report – Basket Swamp – 24<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

**Leader: Jeff Campbell**

This month's field trip is to Basket Swamp on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November. Meet at Weeroona Park for 900a.m. departure or at Wilson's Downfall. The entire area has been burnt but is recovering to some extent, mainly ferns. Smoko will be at the falls. The falls track necessitates 4WD only. We will return to Landrook Road via the picnic spot and follow eastwards to Boorook Road and down to Bruxner Highway, returning to Stanthorpe via Tenterfield. Lunch site will be ad hoc.

This outing should have occurred in September but had to be postponed because of the fires and road closure. *Editor.*

**Pre-Outing Report - Break-up – 8<sup>th</sup> December 2019 – Peter & Lynette's Place**

The Break-up this year will be held at Peter and Lynette Haselgrove's property at 27 Shatte Lane, Storm King. There is no specific walk planned but there a number of strolls you can take depending on the weather. We can wander around our block - though it is a bit barren without rain. And we can walk down and admire the bottom surface of Storm King Dam - almost all of it. 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.

**Outing Report – Black Rocks – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019**



Terns on the beach

Six members attended the Black Rocks campout from Monday 2 to Friday 6 September. The weather was kind if a bit warm at times. On Tuesday we took the Jerusalem Creek track to the mouth lunching at remote campsite number 50 near the mouth, returning via the beach. We only had to coffee rock hop twice this time. Wednesday was decided on as a do it yourself day with some going on the Corvid Trail and others canoeing the creek. The evening meal was taken together at one of the campsites. We were joined by Peter's son down from Brisbane.

On Thursday we started off on the Jerusalem Trail but it had

been slashed so the abundance of wildflowers normally found down there were sadly lacking. After getting about half way we decided that as there wasn't any shade and it was hot we turned back and tried another shadier track for lunch. This turned out to be a beehive short track. We followed another slightly longer track to another beehive area, more productive for wildflowers and birds than the previous one. Friday was another do your own prior to four returning to Stanthorpe. The returnees were luckier than us as the Bruxner Highway was closed and remains so following the bushfire at Drake.



Jerusalem Creek

*Jeff Campbell*

My apologies to Jeff for omitting this report from the October magazine. *Editor*

**Bird list:** Eastern yellow robin; Eastern whipbird; Brown quail; Brush wattlebird; Scrub tit; Rainbow bee eater; White-browed scrub wren; Brahmini kite; Whistling kite; Seagull; Pied oystercatcher; Crested tern; Willie wagtail; Common bronzewing; Wonga pigeon; Lewins honeyeater; Welcome swallow; Raven; Noisy pitta; Varied triller; Grey shrike-thrush; Grey fantail; Beach stone-curlew; White-bellied sea eagle; White-faced heron; Gannet; Rufous whistler; Rainbow lorikeet; Brown thornbill; Noisy friarbird; Yellow-tailed black cockatoo; Leaden flycatcher; Bar-shouldered dove; Superb fairy wren; Grey butcherbird; White-cheeked honeyeater.



Noisy Pitta



**Plant list:** *Gompholobium virgatum*, leafy wedge pea; *Cupaniopsis anarcardioides*, Tuckeroo; *Banksia ericifolia*, Heath banksia; *Dillwynia sp*; *Aotus ericoides*, Common aotus; *Eriostemon australasius*, Pink waxflower; *Acacia ulicifolia*, Prickly moses; *Philothea papillata*; *Comesperma sphaerocarpum*; *Epacris sp* (2); *Homeranthus virgatus*; *Patersonia glabrata*, Leafy purpleflag; *Ricinocarpus pinifolius*, Wedding bush; *Banksia aemula*, Wallum banksia; *Pomax umbellata*; *Boronia sp*; *Myoporum insulare*, Coastal boobialla; *Leptospermum sp*; *Conospermum taxifolium*, Paint brush; *Xanthorrhoea latifolia*; *Persoonia linearis*, Narrow-leaved geebung; *Actinotis helianthi*, Flannel

flower; *Stylidium laricifolium*, Giant trigger plant; *Acacia sp*; *Leucopogon sp*; *Caladenia minorata*, Small wax-lip orchid (formerly *Glossodia minor*, *Glossodia major* is now *Caladenia major*); *Grevillea sp*; *Comesperma ericinum*, Pyramid flower; *Dampiera sylvestris*; *Caladenia picta*, Painted fingers; *Billardiera scandens*, Hairy apple berry; *Lomandra longifolia*, Spiky mat rush; *Dianella longifolia*, Blue flax lily.

**Outing Report – Browns and Queen Mary Falls via Cullendore Road – 20<sup>th</sup> October 2019**



Native Wisteria

Eight Nats met at Weeroona Park and travelled via Mt Lindesay Road heading for Cullendore Road. On the way we came across a young couple who had broken down and were able to help them get going again. Another vehicle stopped to help as well and I think they were rather overwhelmed by all the assistance.

After turning into Cullendore Road

we stopped at the Maryland River crossing for morning tea. We were able to sit on the edge of the old crossing after Jeff kindly swept away the gravel, and listen to a couple of rufous whistlers while we had our cuppa. Looking up-river we watched two kites of some sort, circling. We weren't able to identify them. There was fireweed growing in the creek but not much else in flower. After smoko we walked up to the bridge looking for birds then crossed over and ambled back along the other side. We stopped to watch a white-throated tree creeper perched on the trunk of a tree, preening. There were fairy wrens and thornbills in the undergrowth, and the rufous whistler in a casuarina tree.



Smoko on the crossing



Brown's Falls

We headed for Killarney and drove through to Browns Falls picnic area which was nice and green. We listened to birds calling as we had our lunch prior to walking up to the falls. As we were about to pass under the bridge we noticed a small bird flying from the water to the buttress of the bridge. We were unable to identify it but on the way back we saw an eastern yellow robin in that area and feel pretty sure that's what we were looking at.

Not far up the creek there was a flowering vine that looked like wisteria. Glenys was able to identify it as native wisteria (*Millettia megasperma*) which grows profusely on Fraser Island. The walk up the creek involves rock-hopping to some extent but it is a very pleasant rain forest area. There were bell birds and whip birds calling but we could not see them. Browns Falls come over a cliff of columnar basalt and although there was not a lot of water flowing, it was very pretty and

cool. There was a water dragon resting on a log and it obligingly stayed to have its photo taken.

On our way to Queen Mary Falls we stopped at Daggs Falls lookout. They are higher than Browns Falls with two drops, again over columnar basalt. Queen Mary Falls were also flowing so we walked as far as the lookout. I overheard a young woman say to her companion, "Is that it?" Apparently she expected something more spectacular. Before coming home we all went to the kiosk for an ice-cream and had it before our afternoon cuppa. It was a very relaxed outing and we were pleased with the number of birds we saw. - Margaret Carnell

**Bird List:** ibis, crow, wonga pigeon, grey fantail, kite (unidentified), currawong, rufous whistler, white-throated tree creeper, honeyeater (unidentified), fairy wren (unidentified), magpie kookaburra, welcome swallow, galah, nankeen kestrel, crested pigeon, corella, dollar bird, superb blue wren, whip bird (call), bell bird (call), eastern yellow robin, crimson rosella, satin bower bird, king parrot, 2 thornbills (unidentified), sulphur-crested cockatoo, Indian mynah, cattle egret, falcon, eastern rosella, lewin's honeyeater.

### **Stanthorpe Field Naturalists – 50 Years**

The inaugural meeting to form the Club was held in the Civic Centre Library Basement on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 1969 and though we don't have a record of that meeting, a steering committee was elected with Tom Chapman as President and Rob McCosker Secretary. The Club Constitution and Rules were drawn up and adopted at a General Meeting held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 1970 and the first Annual Meeting was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1970 with the following people being elected.

President Mr Tom Chapman

Vice Presidents Mr Wal Cathcart and Mrs Jean Harslett

Secretary Mr Errol Walker

Treasurer Miss Joan Westacott

Librarian Mr Michael Fox

Newsletter Editor Mrs Flo Tremeer and Assistant Editor Mrs Irene Chapman

Bushwalking Rep. Mr Robin McCosker

Fauna Rep. Mrs Irene Chapman

Flora Rep. Mr Brian Dodd

Geology Rep. Mrs Zaidee Newman

Youth Rep. Mr Scott Wilmot

There was plenty of interest back then with meeting attendance numbers averaging 35 and outings regularly attracting over 60 people. Annual subscription cost \$1.00 single and \$1.50 family, and the 1970 Annual Meeting bank balance was \$52.92. The Club was operated under the auspices of the Board of Adult Education which covered the cost of room rent and advertising up until March 1977. The first newsletters were produced by cutting a stencil on a typewriter, with no chance of correcting mistakes, and then making copies on a Roneo machine on foolscap paper. I think the copying was initially done at the State School, then for years the Rover Scouts did the task. When computers and printers arrived the Editor's task became much easier and of course with electronic delivery over the internet fewer printed copies are needed today.

While glancing through past Club Newsletters I noted that Stanthorpe hosted a get-together of Field Nats Club members from Chinchilla (16), Dalby (2), Queensland Nats. (41) and Toowoomba (16) with 47 local members also attending, as well as several international visitors, making a total of 150 people. This was held in 1976 on November 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at the Fred Rogers Fitness Camp at Storm King Dam and activities included a visit to a vineyard at Ballandean, the Junction and Pyramids at Girraween on Saturday and Bald Rock on Sunday.

Our Club was very fortunate to have Mrs Jean Harslett as a member, and on the committee, for so many years with her extensive knowledge of natural history. In 1994 Jean received the Queensland Natural History Award following a submission by the Club. Also in 1994 the Club received a grant of \$2,800 from the Australian Nature Conservation Agency for a project titled "Extension of Stanthorpe Shire Beautification of Creek" which resulted in the construction of four garden beds with interpretive signs for the plantings and the sign for the "Heritage Park" as it became known. Other civic duties the Club has undertaken include assistance with construction of the Paling Yard Creek

crossing on Mt Norman Road, clean-ups of the Nundubbermere Falls area and along Quart Pot creek in Stanthorpe, work on the "Little Red Bridge", repair work to the tracks at the Sentimental Rocks, tree planting at Storm King Dam and a more recent tree planting along Quart Pot Creek and the Severn River as part of the Stanthorpe Shire River Improvement Trust.

Of course the main purpose of the Club is to study all branches of Natural History by undertaking monthly outings and meetings as well as a couple of weekend campouts each year. These outings have taken us to every corner of the district, often on private property, and campouts as far away as Mt Barney, the Arcadia Valley and even Vanuatu while meeting programs have covered such a variety of topics from members' travelogues to expert presentations on such things as geology, flora and fauna.

The Club is holding a special pictorial presentation followed by cutting the Anniversary Cake to mark 50 years of the Club at the November 27<sup>th</sup> meeting and hopefully members can look forward to many more decades of Field Nats activities.

*Rob McCosker* - Secretary

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.  
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019**

**Meeting opened:** 7.30pm

**Attendance:** 11 Apologies 4 as per attendance sheet

**Minutes of the previous meeting:**

confirmed by Rob McCosker seconded by Grace Cameron Carried

**Business arising from the minutes:** nil

**Correspondence:** as per folder

moved by Rob McCosker seconded by Theresia Vanderpal Carried

**Financial Report:** As the Treasurer was absent Rob presented a bank statement which showed a balance of \$1863.44 at 16/10/19

**Outing Reports:** Margaret Carnell reported that the outing to Browns Falls attracted 8 members with the first stop at a broken down vehicle not far from Dalveen. Luckily after a little prodding under the bonnet, the car started and we continued to the scheduled stop for morning tea at the old bridge at the Maryland River crossing on the Cullendore Road. We then continued to the Picnic area at Browns Falls for lunch before walking to the Falls. We then drove to the Daggs Falls lookout and Queen Mary Falls where we walked to the lookout before returning to the picnic area for afternoon tea and an ice-cream from the kiosk before heading home.

**Pre-outings:** Leader Jeff Campbell said the outing to Basket Swamp will be as printed in the Newsletter for September and subsequently swapped due to bushfires. We will depart Weeroona Park at 9.00am and after driving to the falls continue along the Lindrook Road to the Bruxner Highway then home via Tenterfield.

**General Business:** nil

**Specimens:** nil

**Next Meeting:** 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Presentation of some of the people and places seen over the 50 years of Stanthorpe Field Naturalists, to be followed by an anniversary cake and cuppa.

**Meeting closed:** 7.45pm

**Presentation:** "Meandering along the Murray " with Kris and Margaret was an excellent presentation showing the Murray River from its exit to the ocean at the Coorong to its beginnings in the Snowy Mountains. We were shown pictures taken on three separate trips along the river and learnt about the history of man's involvement with this great river from the early paddle steamer days to the present.

**Remembering 50 Years of Nats  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November  
followed by birthday cake  
Please bring food to share for supper**

### Fire at Torrington

We are very sorry to hear that Marg and Aki lost their house to ember attack on Friday when the bushfire flared at Torrington. They were Nats members when they lived in this district and we had a wonderful visit to their property at a camp-out in 2016. We visited the mound springs in the swamp which is full of sphagnum moss. I don't know how it fared.



Marg holding the *Conservation Area* sign



Kris & Aki on the mound spring

### Subs Due

**If you have not paid your subs please do so now or you will be  
taken from the mailing list for the magazine.**