



The Granite Belt Naturalist



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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
	Gunter 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 17 March: Goomburra with Lesley Saunders.
Wednesday 27th March: *Stanthorpe* by Rob McCosker

**Deadline for next newsletter
4th April 2019**

**Pre-Outing Report Goomburra Section of Main Range National Park
March 17th 8am Weeroona Park Stanthorpe**

I was scheduled by the Club to do an outing in The Main Range National Park. As I was not present at the meeting when the 2019 walks were organised my contribution came as a complete surprise. I had no idea where Goomburra was...though I had passed the turnoff many, many times on my way to Brisbane.

I researched the area and set off to explore. [Please see the map provided]. I set off on 18th January at 7.30am. The reason for the early start was because the Stanthorpe/Warwick area had been experiencing very hot and dry conditions for some time and an early start made sense in temps of 30degrees C plus forecast for that day.

To get to the Goomburra Main Range National Park takes approx 1 & a half hours from Stanthorpe. I chose the road past Warwick towards Maryvale then took a left turn onto Goomburra Rd. This Rd then joined the Inveramsay Rd. This then led to the Forestry Reserve. A straight forward drive with no surprises except for the length of time it took to get there.

As you can observe from the map there are various parking sites. I chose the Kurrajong picnic area. There were a number of campers present as at the time I visited was during the school holidays. Various walks can be selected once parked and I chose the Cascades Circuit.....just because it sounded like "Indiana Jones Territory"! Besides it was hot and I wondered if there was any water in the Dalrymple Creek.

The walk was enchanting. A class 4 walk with a well-defined walking track which suited me fine as left to my own devices I can get lost in my own back yard! There was plenty of upper story shade to keep me cool and indeed water in the Dalrymple creek. I counted 16 crossings of the creek all easily traversed. "The Cascades" did not live up to the name but cooling teardrops of water were making their way into rock-pools at the bottom of the falls. I made that my pleasant lunch spot. Despite the heat I was as comfortable and wished I could transport the scenery to my backyard.....such a dreamer!

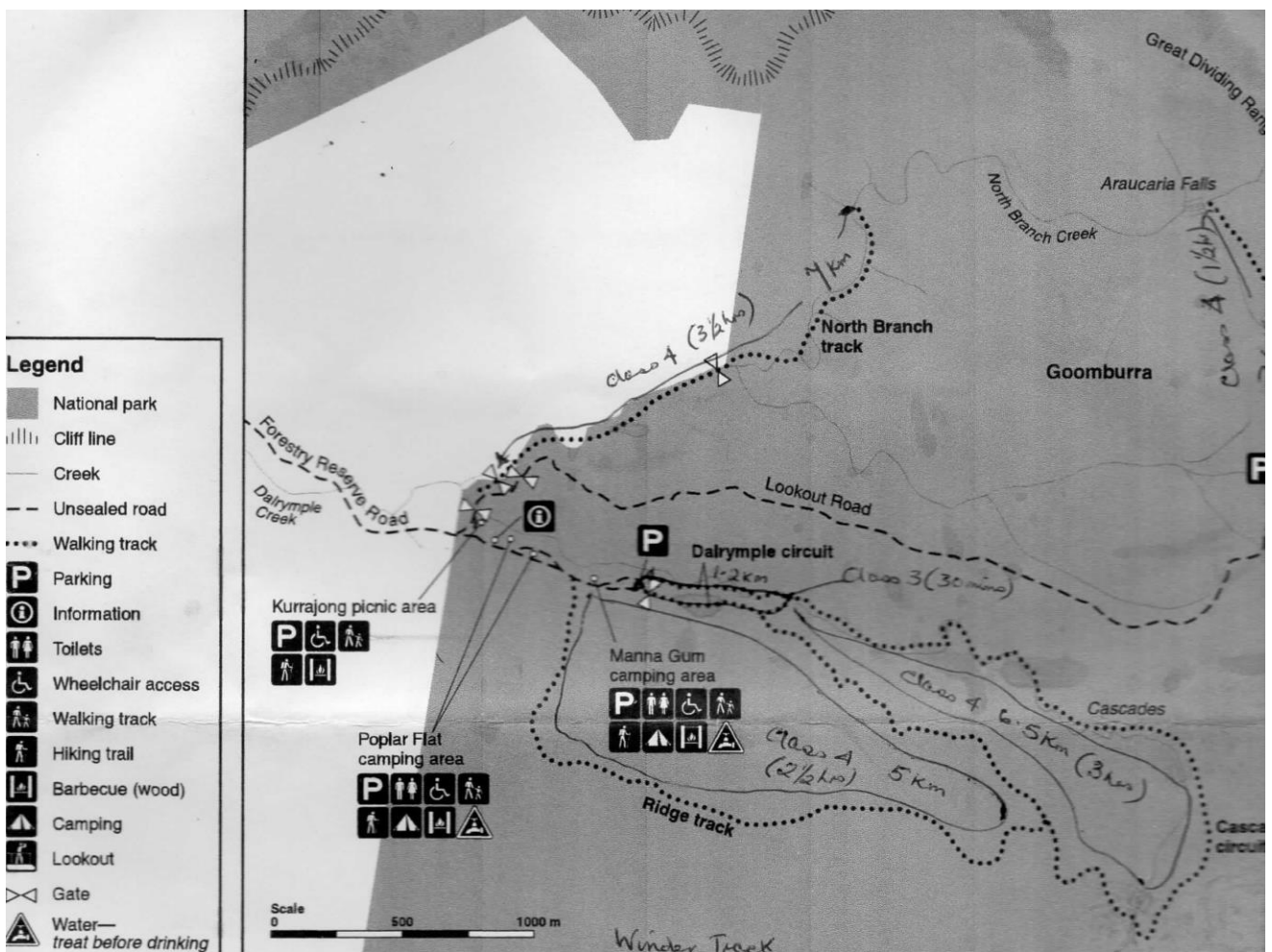
I spotted few birds along the walk but did see a White Headed Dove and eyeballed 4 whip snakes along the Creek edges. I assumed they were whip snakes but my "Green Guide to Snakes and other

Reptiles" by Gerry Swan is very limited with information. Anyway I didn't bother the snakes and more importantly.....they didn't bother me!

I made the trip in January which means the above information is a tad out of date. However it was fortuitous that I went at that time [despite the heat] because 2 weeks ago I "busted" my knee quite severely and am at present unable to drive let alone walk up stairs as yet.

I have been persuaded by the club to still lead the walk as I could probably manage the "Dalrymple Circuit"[geared for School children]... whilst others do the "Cascades" section. I am quite happy to wait at the Kurrajong picnic area as the "Cascades " section takes approx 3 hrs to complete. I will take plenty of reading material to wile away the time on my own....plus do my exercises!!!! If you decide to go on the walkyou will not be disappointed only delighted with the scenery.

Lesley Saunders



Please Note
The outing is a week earlier than originally planned.
It starts at 8am.

Outing Report - 24th February 2019 – Bookookoorara



The aim of today's outing was to look for some beetles (especially eucalypt leaf beetles) on vegetation using the "sweep-tray" technique. The signs were not auspicious before we set out. It was towards the end of one of the driest summers on record for Stanthorpe and insect numbers were low. Two of the originally proposed sites for this excursion had been burned during the large Wallangarra fire about 10 days before the outing and a plan adjustment was called for. During the week, the outing had come close to being cancelled completely as cyclone Oma

approached the coast with a forecast of rain and squally winds. However, by the Friday, the cyclone had turned away from the coast and the day of the outing turned out to be fine, though strong and gusty winds were still present.

We met as usual at Weeroona Park at 9am and set off for the Mt. Lindsay Road, where we met up with three more members to make a total group size of 10. From here we headed to the first site near Bookookoorara Creek, just off the road on a farm track, where we parked and had smoko. The site is an open woodland with many small eucalypts scattered among larger trees, including the snow gum (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*), *E. radiata*, *E. deanei* and *E. caliginosa*. We noted quite a few dead or dying saplings across the site, a legacy of this horrific summer. I gave a short demonstration of the equipment we would be using. These were two sweep-trays, kite-like devices that are held horizontally under shrubs and low trees. The vegetation is then shaken and beetles and other insects drop down onto the tray. A large umbrella was also used as a sweep-tray substitute.



We set off across the site and before long were finding some insects. These were far fewer than would be expected from this site in a normal season but there were enough to keep up the excitement of the hunt. The pretty brown and yellow *Paropsis maculata* proved to be the most abundant species at the site, with 5 specimens found. Two large *Paropsis variolosa* specimens on the same sapling proved another high point. Two species of *Trachymela*, both possibly undescribed species, were also seen. One of these proved to be a very small (6mm) but relatively uncommon species and is shown in the photo.

Enough other insects (especially weevils) were caught to keep up the interest until midday and we decided to have lunch at the site.

In the afternoon we headed a few kilometres north along the Mt Lindesay Road to a swamper (at least in normal times) site. Again, we fanned out and found three more species. These were several specimens of *Paropsisterna mfuscum* on the juvenile eucalypts with glaucous foliage scattered about the site, a single specimen of *Paropsisterna variicollis* and a *Paropsis obsoleta*. As a reminder of just how dry it was, not a single paropsine larva was seen all day when normally they are abundant at this time of year. We saw very few sawfly larvae, also. At the end of this session, it was well after 2pm and we decided to call it a day. Everybody seemed to have enjoyed this day with its somewhat unusual activity.

Gunter Maywald

ANN 2020 Stanthorpe

An initial meeting to form a committee was convened after notifying members. At this meeting Liz Bourne as convenor, Lynette Haselgrove as secretary, Guntur Maywald treasurer, Kris Carnell Transport and Jeff Campbell adviser were appointed. Remaining members are Rob McCosker, Margaret Carnell and Frank Truscott. Kris suggested the showgrounds as the central venue and this was accepted. With the availability of camping in the grounds plus the Caravan Park next door and a motel across the road with the added bonus of some meal availability make it ideal. Subsequent to the meeting a small group approached the Top of the Town for information on their accommodation and a meeting was held with a representative from the showgrounds with a follow-up meeting from the latter concerning catering.

A second committee meeting was convened with results of investigations reported. Rob McCosker agreed to take on the programme portfolio. The date for the get together was determined to be 11 to 20 September 2020, yet to be confirmed with the showground staff.

A third meeting will be convened shortly to discuss and finalise an Expressions of Interest mail out to all ANN member clubs and individual attendees at recent get-togethers.

If any members would like to provide accommodation for visitors, would they please let the committee know with numbers and type either double or single. This would be greatly appreciated. We still require people to take on catering, accommodation, grants, literature, website.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 27th February 2019

Meeting opened: 7.35pm

Attendance: 13 Apologies 8 as per attendance sheet

Minutes of the previous meeting:

confirmed by K. Carnell seconded by L. Saunders Carried

Business arising from the minutes: Jeff Campbell to prepare an update about the ANN for the next newsletter.

Correspondence: as per folder

moved L. Saunders seconded L. Collins Carried

Financial Report: Bank balance \$1799.54

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

Outing Reports: 12 people attended the outing to collect Eucalypt beetles with Gunter Maywald along the Mt Lindsay Road successfully finding 5 *Poropsis* species in spite of the drought.

Pre-outings: Campout to Condamine Gorge cancelled due to drought
March outing to Goomburra to be on 17th March, one week earlier than normal, to leave Weeroona Park at 9.00am, led by L. Saunders

General Business: Kris Carnell asked for newsletter items be supplied by 8th March
Kris also noted there were some difficulties with our website not being accessible occasionally and that Toowoomba Field Nats Newsletter cannot be accessed via a link from ours, however their website can be accessed from the internet.
Jeff Campbell gave an outline of the Australian Naturalists Network (ANN) and an update on the committee meetings which have set the dates 11th - 20th September 2020, for the next Get-together.

Specimens: nil

Next Meeting: 27th March Program on Stanthorpe by Rob McCosker

Meeting closed: 8.10pm

Presentation: Gunter Maywald gave a very informative presentation on the Insects of Australia, showing excellent pictures of species from many parts of Australia. He also showed where we humans and insect fit on the “Tree of Life” and how modern gene technology has changed scientific views from the original ideas. Gunter also commented that there is a huge number of insects still undescribed by science and that many of these will be extinct before that can happen.

CLARIFICATION: The Toowoomba and Fassifern Field Nats do not have their magazines on the web. However, they do have blogs which can be accessed either by Google or through our website. Ed.



Insects from the
Bookookoorara Outing