



# *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 - 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 21<sup>st</sup> July: The Junction track  
with Rob McCosker  
Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July: AGM *Remember  
Last Year* followed by supper.

**Deadline for next newsletter**  
9<sup>th</sup> August 2019

**Pre-Outing Report - 21<sup>st</sup> July 2019 - Junction Track Girraween National Park**



The Junction in wetter times

The planned outing to the Butterleaf National Park has been cancelled as the park is closed for controlled burn operations but hopefully we will make a trip there as a campout weekend in conjunction with the Tenterfield Naturalists sometime next year.

With the continuing drought, I have decided to take a walk down Bald Rock Creek from the Girraween Day Use parking area along the Junction Track and then continue for some distance past the end of the track to see how the waterholes further downstream are faring.

We will meet at Weeroona Park for a 9.00am start as usual for car pooling, or meet at the picnic area at Girraween N. P. for morning tea, then set off down the creek. We will carry lunch to have somewhere along the creek, wear sturdy shoes for rock-hopping, and bring water, binos, camera etc. The Junction track is grade 3, and some people may wish to return from the Junction, while the more adventurous continue along the creek which is about grade 7.

Rob McCosker Ph 46835371

**Outing Report – Mt Ferguson and Sow and Pigs – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2019**



On a brisk morning following a frost, 19 people including 6 guests from Toowoomba Camera Club, met at Weeroona Park to drive to Amiens to climb Mt Ferguson and the Sow and Pigs. After speaking to Tracey, we had morning tea in the picnic area at Foxbar Falls Campground before heading through the playground to the Mt Ferguson track. Two yellow-tailed black cockatoos flew over just as we arrived.

Nats on top of Mt Ferguson



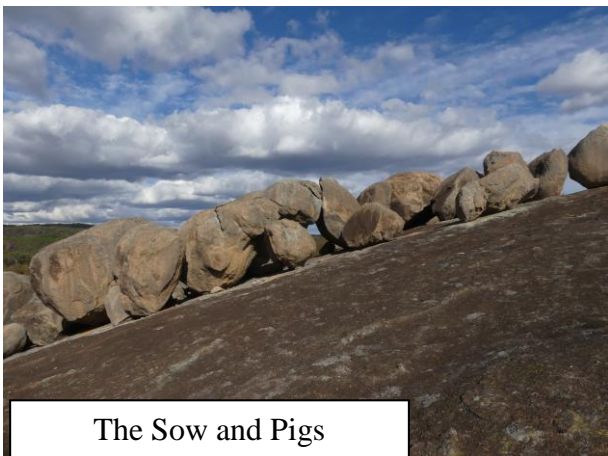
The first part of the track was up a dry watercourse till we arrived at the track proper. We admired a number of fig trees and clumps of tongue orchids growing on some of the large boulders beside the track. The roots of one fig were starting to make a curtain from the rock to the ground. As we headed uphill we noticed an area with bird droppings and pellets right beside the track. The pellets had parts of insects and fur in them so we thought it might have been a roost for an owl or owls. They were not roosting there as we passed, so we can only guess. Kookaburras also regurgitate pellets containing bones and hair and I wondered if that was what was roosting there.



Regurgitated Owl? Pellet

There were quite a few *Acianthus* leaves growing on and near the track, as well as two types of *pterostylus* leaves on the way to the first rock slab where you can look across to the Sow and Pigs. A little higher there are more extensive views and we admired some of the moss gardens where a little water was seeping across the rock. The *Eucalyptus scoparia* which grow at the edge of the slab had started to flower and it was easy to get a close look as the canopy of the trees comes over the edge of the rock. Red soil was visible in one area, which is the site of a quarry on Foxbar Road. Peter was able to point out the different peaks in Sundown, from Mt Jibbinbar to Mt Donaldson. Jeff found a beautiful gecko under a rock. It was very cold and in no danger of running away.

I think everyone climbed to the top of Mt Ferguson where Halenet has its communication tower. There are 360 degree views from the top. We had lunch just below the top of the mountain before returning to the cars to drive to the parking area at the Sow and Pigs. There was the dried stem of a climbing orchid going up one of the trees in the lunch area.



The Sow and Pigs

A few metres onto the track to the Sow and Pigs there is the remains of a settlers hut built in 1920. A lot of the Soldier Settlers walked off their blocks as they were too small and the ground was not good enough to make a living. Those who were able to buy some of the vacated blocks ended up with enough ground to succeed.

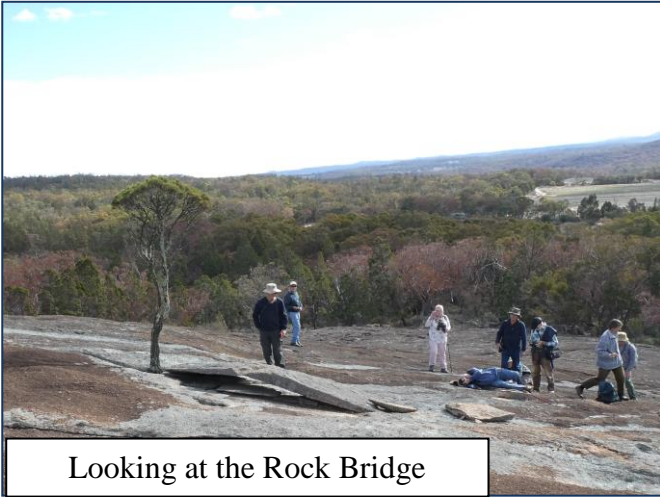
There were trees with bark stripped off by black cockatoos beside the track at the base of the rock. It is quite steep going up to the Sow and Pigs but very interesting to see the granite boulders close up and

to look across the valley to Mt Ferguson where we had just been. On one of the rocks there are two plaques in memory of Rob and Jean Harslett, foundation members of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club and friends to many of us.

Quite a few of the gnammas (rock holes) had water in them from a recent shower but we couldn't find anything living in any of them. A rock bridge with a pine tree growing at the end of it provided a lot of interest for the photographers among us. The reason the camera club members from Toowoomba came, was because one of them had photographed it twenty



Memorial Plaques to Rob & Jean Harslett



Looking at the Rock Bridge

years ago. The fairy martin nests in a sheltered "cave" also caused a lot of interest.

On the way down one group headed for a tree with cockatoo damage only to find it was one of many and they had to make a short detour through the scrub to reach the track. After a cuppa we all headed for home after a relaxed day in the bush.

*Margaret Carnell*



**Bird List:** Black Ducks in depleted dams on way out, Welcome Swallow, Thornbill sp., Pee Wee, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Kookaburra, Fairy Wren, Crested Pigeon, Satin Bower Bird. Other: Gecko

**Flower List:** Whalenbergia, Correa, Acacia veinulosa (in bud), Acacia adnca, Acacia bletcherii, Plectranthus, Leucopogon novoanglia, Eucalyptus scoparia.

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 26 June 2019**

Meeting opened at 7:35 pm

**Attendance:** 8; Apologies ? as per attendance sheet

**Minutes** of the previous meeting:

confirmed Kris Carnell; seconded Graham Rayner Carried

**Business arising** from the minutes: Nil.

**Correspondence:** as per folder

moved Margaret Carnell; seconded Lyn Collins Carried

**Financial Report:** Treasurer absent.

**Outing Reports:** Margaret Carnell reported on the outing to Harslett's property at Amiens. Nineteen people attended. After stopping at Foxbar Falls Campground for morning tea we climbed Mt. Ferguson. Lunch was at the top before driving to the Sow and Pigs and walking up this interesting granite formation.

Kris explained why six members of the Toowoomba Camera Club joined the outing.

**Pre-outings:** The July outing will be to Butterleaf National Park. Rob McCosker is the leader and in his absence no details of the outing were available.

**General Business:** nil

**Specimens:** Margaret brought a small sample of red granite from the sow and pigs hill.

**Next Meeting:** Annual General Meeting and a presentation "Remember Last Year" followed by supper (please bring food to share).

**Meeting closed:** 7:55 pm

**Presentation:** Kris and Margaret Carnell showed photos of a trip to the south-west section of Western Australia, which included many beautiful plants.

### **Proposed Camp-out to Dirranbandi – September 2019**

Karyn van Tilberg has asked for details of who may be interested in the proposed camp out at Karyn and Len's property, Dirranbandi between the 1st and 7th September. Their property is about 550km from Stanthorpe via Cubbie road and has about 70km of dirt. If you travel via Hebel it is about 580km with about 40km of dirt. The last section of gravel road is okay for normal sedans but not for "shopping trolley" cars. If doing the camp out as a loop trip, it is about 100km to Lightning Ridge.

The property is extremely dry at the end of June, as is expected. The property has some historical buildings and it is hoped to be able to see more historical buildings on the next door property. A tour of Cubbie Station may also be able to be arranged.

Camping is available beside the river which is about 2 km from the house but has no facilities. Camping will also be available close to the house with facilities available. There is no mobile coverage at her house. Also for the camping, there are the shearers' quarters. They are about 1km from the house and very rough but people may want to camp outside them and use the kitchen and bathroom. I think this is a last resort - better off using the house facilities. BUT if someone wants the full outback experience, they are welcome!

It's a nice walk along the river, lots of birds at the moment, and Len thinks there should be lots of birds in September. Any way I think it's interesting out here, different, that's for sure, and not far from Lightning Ridge. If people go to Lightning Ridge on the way home, there is a great artesian hot pool, it is a real draw card, and is open till 10pm at night. .

Karyn's phone number is 46250876 or phone Kris Carnell 46835268 / 0407165031

**Annual General Meeting**  
**24<sup>th</sup> July 2019**  
***Remember Last Year***  
**Please bring something to share for Supper**

**Subscriptions and Program for 2019/20.**

Subscriptions are due for the next 12 months from the end of June,

**Subscriptions for 2019-2020 : Family \$30.00 – Single \$20.00**

Please complete your correct name and address details below and bring or send to the Treasurer

**Name (including preferred title please)** .....

**Postal Address:** .....

**Post-code** ..... **State**..... **Payment made \$**.....

Circle payment method please: **CASH** **CHEQUE** **DIRECT DEBIT**

If paying by cash at a meeting please put your money in an envelope with your name on the **outside** to make it easier for the Treasurer.

**PAYMENT METHODS**

1. **By Direct Debit** to Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. BSB 064-431 Acc. 00902063
2. **Present with your subs.** to the meeting in an envelope with your name on the outside.
3. **Post to:** Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, STANTHORPE Q 4380.

**I would like to receive my magazine by** **POST** **EMAIL** (please circle)

*As quite a few of our members have Email we would like to have your email address if you are agreeable. Sometimes it is convenient to contact as many members as possible about a change in arrangements at short notice, and this can be a convenient way to do it.*

**Email address:-** .....

The monthly newsletter is distributed electronically by email and by post.

It is also posted on the website in the Documents folder.

Names and addresses are only used for posting the magazine and are not passed on to anyone else.

**The committee once again asks for your assistance to provide a wide range of outing activities and meeting programs for the coming twelve months.**

**Please jot down your suggestions below**, and indicate if you would be prepared to lead an outing or provide a meeting program. All suggestions will be considered at a special committee meeting to be held shortly after the AGM.

**Name: Outing: (Place or area, duration, time of year)**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

**Campout: (Place, duration and dates)**

**Meeting subject: (Title and brief description)**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

**Other comments and suggestions:**

**Thank you**