



The Granite Belt Naturalist



Mail Address: Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, Stanthorpe Qld. 4380
fieldnats@granitenet.com.au

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 Uniting Church Hall, 113 High 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	Peter Haselgrove	46837255
Vice-presidents	Kris Carnell	46835268
	Leon McCosker	46811737
Secretary	Lyn Collins	0428810156
Treasurer	Gunter Maywald	46810674
Newsletter Editor	Margaret Carnell	46835268
Publicity Officer	K & M Carnell	46835268
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 23rd August: Eukey Property with Peter & Lynette Haselgrove.
Wednesday 26th August: *The Bibbulmun Track in West Australia* by Jeff Campbell

**Deadline for next newsletter
10th September 2020**

Pre-Outing Report to Eukey Road property – August 23rd 2020

Leaders: Peter & Lynette Haselgrove

The proposed outing to Coolmunda Conservation Park has been changed. There are parking difficulties which we haven't yet been able to sort.

We will instead visit a private block on the southern side of Eukey Road which should have quite a good wildflower display. When we last visited in late July flowering was just starting. The area is west facing, sloping down towards Ballandean. There is fresh evidence of wombats in several places. We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9 am and travel via Sugarloaf and Eukey Roads. We will have smoko when we arrive and then carry our lunch on the walk.

There is plenty of room to park on the property. Wear long pants and solid shoes as it could be scrubby.



Sandy Creek

**Outing Report – 19th July 2020 – Leslie Dam
via the Back Roads**

Eight Nats met at Weeroona Park on a beautiful winter's morning and travelled via Old Warwick Road to Sorrento Road at Dalveen where we met Graham. We saw and heard the resident Corellas before leaving the park and noticed a pair of Wood Ducks feeding in a yard in Corundum Street. Just after we crossed the railway line at The Summit two Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos drifted across the road, the second one almost running into us before it lifted over the top of the car. A Cootamundra wattle was blooming near the railway line. There were Ibis feeding in someone's front yard at Thulimbah and Pee Wees, Masked Lapwings and a Kookaburra along the way, as well as alpacas and sheep.

Sorrento Road is fairly narrow and there are some beautiful big gum trees growing on the roadside and in the paddocks. We noticed stringy bark, box, and angophora as well. A little further along there was quite a bit of dead timber on the roadside and through the paddocks as a result of the drought. At Clunes Crossing the property had new exclusion fencing fronting the road. We passed through the gate in the Rabbit Fence and followed the fence line for some distance, stopping at Palgrove to admire the spotted gum and ironbark trees. There was tree pear that had been sprayed with weed spray on one side of the road.



Spotted Gum

We kept following the Rabbit Fence when we should have turned right and saw a bit more of the country than we had planned. A kangaroo on the other side of the fence bounded along beside us for quite a distance before veering off. As we retraced our steps, we chased the same kangaroo back in the other direction. I had a feeling it was hoping to get through the fence. Just before we turned around a flock of White-winged Choughs crossed the road. We noticed that the casuarinas on the roadside were very dry and dusty.



Smoko at Iron Pot Creek

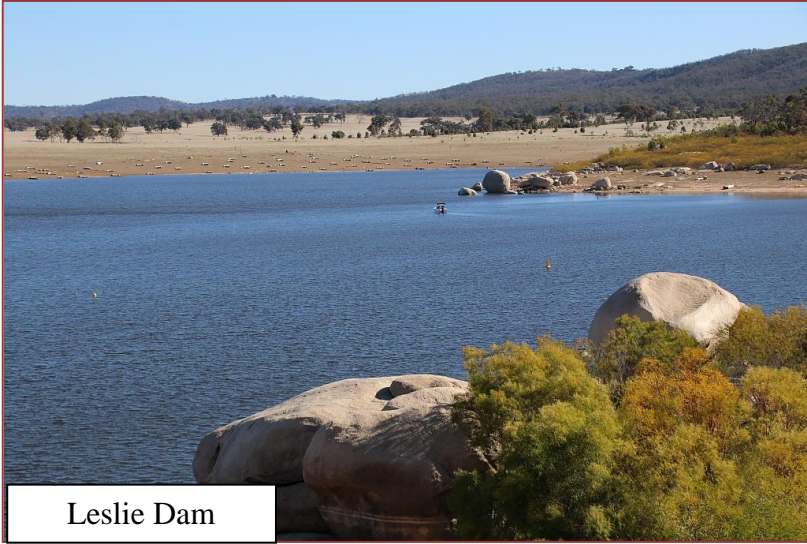
Back on the right track we crossed the grid into *Red Tank* and saw that the Rosentahal Shire sign was still standing beside the grid although it is many years since the Rosentahl Shire existed.

Just before we reached Iron Pot Creek there were grass trees in the paddock, as well as some Brahmin cattle. We found a level area on the creek bank to have smoko and watched a Willie Wagtail in the tree. I also saw a pair of Jacky Winters.

After leaving Iron Pot Creek we travelled a short distance to Sandy Creek Reserve where we stopped to explore the area for a while. As we emerged from the cars the Corellas made it quite plain that we were not welcome. One pair flew to a nesting hollow above the vehicles and screeched. There were also Galahs in the trees. As we headed towards the creek we disturbed a number of birds in the shrubby eucalypts. There were Thornbills (too flitty to identify), Grey Fantails, Jacky Winter, Superb Blue Wrens and Col saw a Golden Whistler. We also heard a Striated Pardalote, White-throated Gerygone and a Peaceful Dove. There were mussel shells in the water and bare patches of sand where it looked as if fish had been nesting. As we drove out from the reserve, a mare walked onto the road and proceeded to walk along the road in front of the cars.



Corellas at Nest Hollow



Leslie Dam

We drove towards Leslie Dam where we were to have lunch. At Woodhill Road there were two wattles in bloom but I don't know what sort they were. We stopped at a picnic area to have lunch and afterwards walked to the bridge where we watched Black Ducks and Wood Ducks on the creek. There was also a red Callistemon coming into bloom.

A short drive took us to the dam wall where we saw White-crowned Babblers near the car park.

We walked out to the lookout for a view over the water and commented on the carvings of Mr and Mrs Leslie in the park. Across the other side there were a number of pipes on the ground which would normally be covered by water and provide nesting sites for fish. There were a couple of boats with fishers in them and we saw Pelicans, a Silver Gull, Caspian Terns, Black Cormorants, Pied Cormorant, a Darter and a White-faced Heron.

Pipes for breeding fish



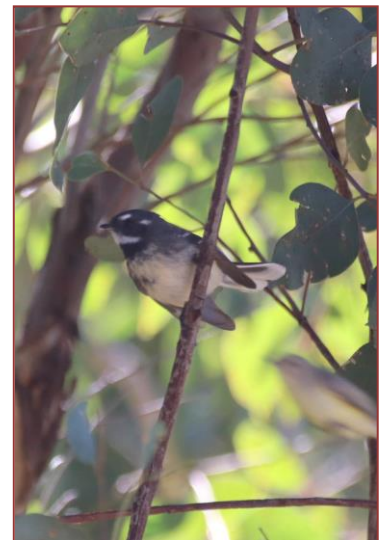
For our drive home we went to the first set of lights in Warwick, turned onto the highway for a short distance, before turning into Connolly Dam Road. From there we went to the Old Warwick Road and travelled along it to Dalveen. Along the way we saw a Kite, Noisy Miner, Peaceful Dove, Red-rumped Parrots and Pretty-faced Wallabies. We stopped at the park in Dalveen before making our separate ways homewards.



Margaret Carnell

Bird List: Corella, Wood Duck, Crested Pigeon, Pied Butcher Bird, Crow, Magpie, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Ibis, Pee Wee, Masked Lapwing, Kookaburra, Galah, Eastern Rosella, Willie Wagtail, White-winged Chough, Noisy Miner, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Jacky Winter, Golden Whistler, Peaceful Dove, Striated Pardalote (call), White-throated Gerygone (call), Grey Fantail, Thornbill, Superb Blue Wren, Currawong, Black Duck, Pelican, Grey-crowned Babblers, Silver Gull, Caspian Tern, Black Cormorant, Darter, White-faced Heron, Pied Cormorant, Kite, Red-rumped Parrot. (38)

Other: Swamp Wallaby, Pretty-faced Wallaby, Eastern Grey Kangaroo.
Margaret Carnell



Above Left: Jacky Winter **Above Right:** Grey Fantail **Left:** Willie Wagtail

Borage and the Australian Forget-me-not



Cynoglossum australe

Trish often spots interesting plants while walking over the hills near our house and came back with this cute little blue flowered plant. She thought it looked like a Forget-me-not and after looking it up in the Flora on the Granite Belt discovered that that's what it was. It is one of the two members of the Boraginaceae family native to Australia, the other being *Halgania brachyrhyncha*, which Kris and Margaret found growing on their property on the Eastern side of Severnlea.

When Trish took me to where she found it growing unfortunately, all the flowers stalks had been eaten, presumably by

wallabies, so I could not get a better photo. There are several plants in the area so we will keep an eye out for it next autumn. We have a Borage plant growing in our garden, *Borago officinalis*, and it has been delighting us with its continuous display of bright blue flowers for months. It is called the bee herb as it attracts bees to the garden and in my "Encyclopedia of Herbs and their uses" by Deni Bown has a reputation for lifting the spirits, summarized by John Gerard in *The Herball, or Generall Historie of Plantes (1597)*: " Those of our time do use the floures in sallads to exhilerate and make the minde glad. There be also many things made of them, used for the comfort of the heart, to drive away sorrow, & increase the joy of the minde. The leaves and floures of Borage put into wine make men and women glad and merry, driving away all sadnesse, dulnesse, and melancholy, as Dioscorides and Pliny affirme. Syrup made of the floures of Borage comforteth the heart, purgeth melancholy, and quiteth the phrenticke or lunaticke person. "

Minutes

Annual General Meeting

Stanthorpe Field Naturalists' Club Inc.

Held at Uniting Church Hall 22nd July 2020

Meeting opened: 7.35pm

Attendance: Present - Kris and Margaret Carnell, Rob and Trish McCosker, Peter and Lynette Haselgrove, Leon and Kerrie McCosker, Col and Jenny Hockings, Lesley Saunders, Lynn Collins, Graham Rayner Apologies – Arch and Grace Cameron, Teresia Vanderpal, Gunter and Laura Maywald.

Minutes of the previous AGM: Margaret Carnell moved that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record, seconded by Lesley Saunders

Business arising from the minutes: nil

Presidents Annual Report: Peter Haselgrove gave a report outlining the club's activities for the past twelve months and thanked committee members and leaders for their contributions.

Financial Report: In the absence of Treasurer Gunter Maywald, Rob McCosker presented the Financial Report prepared by Gunter which showed a balance of \$1662.64 at 30/6/2020 moved by Rob McCosker seconded by Kris Carnell

Election of Office Bearers:

President:

Peter Haselgrove Nominated by Lesley Saunders seconded by Col Hockings accepted

Vice Presidents:

Kris Carnell Nominated by Peter Haselgrove seconded Lesley Saunders accepted

Leon McCosker Nominated by Lynette Haselgrove seconded Lesley Saunders accepted

Secretary:

Lynn Collins Nominated by Lynette Haselgrove seconded Lesley Saunders accepted

Treasurer:

Gunter Maywald Nominated by Rob McCosker seconded Lesley Saunders accepted prior to meeting

Newsletter Editor:

Margaret Carnell Nominated by Peter Haselgrove seconded Rob McCosker accepted

Publicity Officer: It was decided that this position will be filled by the Newsletter Editor for a trial three month period.

Librarian:

Laura Maywald nominated by Lynette Haselgrove seconded Margaret Carnell accepted prior to meeting

Business for AGM: nil

Meeting Closed: 8.00pm

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in Uniting Church Hall, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 22nd July 2020**

Meeting opened: 8.00am

Attendance: Present 13, Apologies 5 as per attendance book

Minutes of the previous meeting, held in March due to Covid 19 lockdown confirmed by Rob McCosker seconded by Kris Carnell Carried

Business arising from the minutes: Since CWA Rooms have closed arrangements have been made to hold all future meetings in the Uniting Church Small Hall at the same cost as the CWA Room.

Correspondence: as per folder moved by Rob McCosker seconded by Lesley Saunders Carried

Financial Report: Bank Balance \$1662.64 as at 30/6/2020 moved by Rob McCosker seconded by Peter Haselgrove Carried

Outing Reports: Margaret Carnell reported that 9 people attended the outing with a stop at Iron Pot Creek for morning tea, another stop for birdwatching at the Sandy Creek Reserve, and a stop at Leslie Dam for lunch before returning home via Connolly Dam and Dalveen.

Pre-outings: Peter Haselgrove outlined plans for the next outing on 23rd August to the Coolmunda Reserve adjacent Coolmunda Lake.

General Business: Rob McCosker asked for advice about forwarding other Nats club newsletters received by email to all members and it was decided that we will do this in future.

Rob McCosker spoke about the Great Southern BioBlitz planned for September 25th to 28th and suggested the club could participate by having our monthly outing that weekend. Rob offered to investigate what is required to nominate our group.

Motion : Lynette Haselgrove has been approached for dates for the ANN 2022 and after some discussion she moved that the dates be set for 7th to 16th October 2022. Seconded by Lesley Saunders Carried

Col Hocking had available lists of books surplus to his requirements and a collection of acacia seeds made by his father, which are available to members.

Specimens: nil

Next Meeting: The Bibbulmun Track in West Australia by Jeff Campbell.

Meeting closed: 8.35pm

Presentation: Remember Last Year members photos presented by Kris Carnell

President's Report

This year, despite drought, fires and finally the COVID pandemic, the Club enjoyed numerous day trips and one campout both locally and further afield. One trip (to *Maybe*, west of Tenterfield) was cancelled due to wet weather and one altered due to park closures due to fire damage. Plans for the ANN were also put on hold.

November 2019 marked the 50th anniversary of the club and the monthly meeting celebrated this with a brief history, pictorial presentation, birthday cake and shared supper.

During the year members visited The Junction, private land at Wyberba, Bolivia Nature Reserve, Brown's Falls, Glenlyon Dam and Aztec Temple. Glenlyon Dam was notable because smoke from fires to the east in NSW at the time reduced visibility to about ½ km. Aztec Temple in March was a clear sunny day with an extremely good show of wildflowers following the fires last year. This was the last outing for the Club as the lockdown stopped all further face to face activities. However, to keep members in contact, Margaret and Kris kept the newsletter going with photos and snippets of information from their garden.

A campout was held at Black Rocks in northern NSW and six members enjoyed a lovely display of wildflowers and good views of Beach Stone-Curlews, Pied Oystercatchers and Terns. Bush birds were plentiful and most of us were visited by a Noisy Pitta in our campsites.

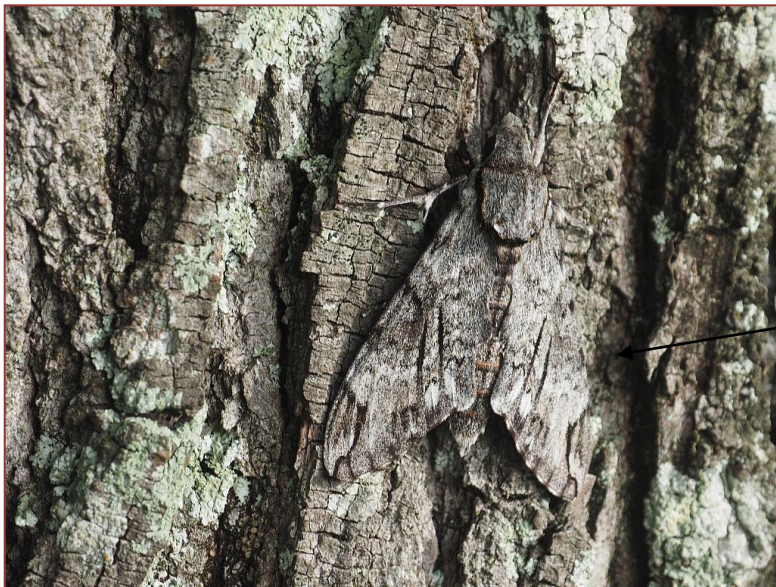
Although forward planning for the ANN had proceeded to an advanced stage with participants starting to pay deposits and booking accommodation, the uncertainty of the virus meant that we had to cancel the Get-together for 2020.

Jeff resigned as President and moved back to Tasmania and I have been filling that position since. I would like to especially thank Margaret and Kris for their efforts with the newsletter through the shutdown period.

Thanks to all office bearers, trip leaders, those who made presentations at meetings and members who came to our outings and made them a success.

Peter Haselgrove

Spottings



Camouflage

Thanks to Rob McCosker for these well-spotted images of camouflaged insects. **Above & Left**

Below: Spotted Grass Frog (*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*) found in sand in the creek bed. It was tiny, about 30mm long.

Below: The Kookaburras have been very much in evidence in the garden lately.

