



# *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, Small 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 25<sup>th</sup> October: Broadwater State Forest with Holly Patti

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October: Program by David Wilson

**Deadline for next newsletter  
10<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**Pre-Outing Report: Broadwater State Forest 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**Leader: Holly Patti**



Walking Track Broadwater State Forest. Photo: *Holly Patti*

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9 am and carpool as there is limited parking at the start of the walk. We will travel north on the highway and turn left into Ellwood Road following it almost to the end where the State Forest begins.

The walking track is a circuit and approx. 7kms long. The first time I walked this track I did so anti clockwise and had a great big hill at the end. Walking the circuit clockwise is much easier and very pleasant. I would put the grading at 5 as most of the track is a formed fire track. Some of the track traverses over small

granite slabs and rocks. The first 400ms or so of the walk is along a road bordering the State Forest. It is a gradual uphill hill walk along a dirt road and then dirt fire trail. The next section of the walk is a down a steep, undulating dirt road all the way down to the bottom.

Unless there has been rain the road may be a bit dusty and slippery in some places and you may like to bring along hiking poles. At the bottom of the walk is a lovely waterhole. It has been getting lower and lower each time I have been, but hopefully we will have some rain before the walk. On the pre outing walk the kunzea in this spot was absolutely wonderful, along with the wax lip orchids and paper daisies. I also came along a black snake which was not as wonderful. It is bushy along the creek but there are lots of spots to find on the edge for lunch. The walk up from the creek is predominantly uphill all the way but is a very gentle slope and quite pleasant. The walk passes through several different types of countryside and hopefully we will see some lovely wildflowers.



*Diuris sulphurea*.  
Photo: *Holly Patti*



I'm guesstimating that with a meandering pace and some botanising, it may be about 11 when we reach the creek so you can bring morning tea to have here or an early lunch. We should be back at the cars around one ish.

**Left:** Kunzea Broadwater State Forest – Photo: *Holly Patti*

**Below:** Sight-seers Blue Mountain – Photo: *Lyn Collins*



### Outing report – Blue Mountain, McCosker's – 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020

14 members met at McCosker's 335 Amosfield Road. After morning tea we started the arduous climb to the top of Blue Mountain. Walking through timbered section to the base of the rock pavement on the southern side of the mountain, the first part was fairly steep but once on the rock it was easy going.

There were small gardens of tea tree with trigger plants flowering. From the top of this pavement there were views of Mt Marley and Eastern side of Stanthorpe.

We then walked through a saddle of timbered area where there were some *Australian Indigo* flowering, to the base of the rocky top which was a bit a scramble to the Trig Station on top at 980 m above sea level.

There were all round views of the district and being a clear day Mt Lindsay and Mt Barney in the scenic rim could be easily seen. On the return to the house a *Tawny frogmouth owl* was seen camouflaged in the neighbour's tree.

After lunch we inspected the remnants of tin mining of the Stanthorpe Tin Limited. Back in the 1920s, along a small gully, the soil had been removed with high pressure water nozzles leaving gullies 3 to 4 metres deep and wide in places. Along the track there were numerous *wax lip* orchids flowering.

### Plants flowering

Acacia adunca  
Acacia granitica  
Brachyscome mircocarpa  
Caladenia carnea  
Calandrinia eremaea  
Chrysocephalum apiculatum  
Clematis glycinoides  
Cryptandra amara  
Erythrorchis cassythoides  
Glossodia major  
Indigofera australis  
Leptospermum brevipes  
Leucopogon melaleuroides  
Leucopogon muticus  
Lomandra leucocephala  
Lomandra longifolia  
Lomandra multifolia  
Notolea linearis  
Patersonia glabrata  
Podolepis arachnoidea  
Solanum amblymerum  
Stackhousia viminea  
Stylidium laricifolium  
Stypandra glauca  
Wahlenbergia gracilis

### Birds

Brown thornbill  
Grey thrush  
Pied butcherbird  
Crimson rosella  
Dollarbird  
Noisy friarbird  
Magpie  
White throated treecreeper  
Grey butcherbird  
Brown goshawk  
Tawny frogmouth owl  
Wedgetail eagle  
Wattlebird

Thanks to Ian and Peter for the plant and bird list.

Leon McCosker

**Below Left:** Wax Lip Orchid

*Glossodia major*

**Below Right:** Tin Mining remnants in creek





**Dredging Claim of Stanthorpe Tin Ltd.**  
Stanthorpe Tin Limited, Portable  
Dredge, Blue Mountain Gully ,  
Blue Mountain



Near view of Nozzle showing how  
the direction of water is controlled

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.  
held in the Uniting Church Hall, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 23rd September 2020**

**Meeting opened:** 7:31 pm

**Attendance:** Present and Apologies: as per attendance book

**Minutes of the previous meeting,** held in August - confirmed by Lyn Collins  
seconded by Gunter Carried

**Business arising from the minutes:**

The 'Bush Blitz' nature discovery programme is currently a virtual one, owing to the pandemic. Therefore, anyone can participate in their own time. For anyone interested, there was a flyer emailed on 17th September, with web site details.

**Correspondence:**

as per folder. Moved by Lyn Collins seconded by Kris Carried

**Financial Report:**

Bank Balance \$1,966.04 Moved by Gunter Maywald, seconded by Rob Carried

**Outing Report:**

No report as yet, as the Blue Mountain outing has been moved to next Sunday, 27th.

**General Business:**

Christmas Break up on 6th December at the Hazelgrove residence near Storm King Dam.

More details next month.

Gunter read an email he received from someone looking for the glow-worm caves at South Bald Rock. Members are happy to take him to South Bald Rock, but no-one was aware of glow-worm caves there, though there are some elsewhere. It was suggested he contact the Ranger Station at Girraween.

A cheque will be written for \$75.00 to the Uniting Church, being 3 month's room rent, as per our Agreement with them.

**Specimens:** .None

**Next Outing:** 25th October - Broadwater State Forest with Holly.

**Next Meeting:** 28th October, with David Wilson presenting the programme.

**Meeting closed:** 7:55 pm

**Presentation:** Gunter shared his passion for insects with a most interesting programme on the secretive and diverse eucalypt leaf beetles in the genus *Trachymela*, explaining how he collects and photographs these poorly-known insects throughout Australia in an attempt to find and identify its many species.



Spottings

**Above:** A koala at Meringidan

**Right:** Wallaby at Sugarloaf

Thanks to Jenny Hockings for these photos of her *Spottings*.





**Flowers at Orana**

**Top Left:** Donkey Orchids *Diuris* sp.

**Top Right:** *Solanum amblymerum*

**Middle Left:** *Leucochrysum albicans* var. *albicans*

**Middle Right:** Spider Orchid *Caladenia* sp. –

Photos by *Kris Carnell*

**Left:** Wyberba Wattle *A. pubifolia*. – Photo by *Margaret Carnell*. The wattle was raised from seed and planted, the rest are natural.