

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 21st February: Insect hunting at Eukery Road with Gunter Maywald

Wednesday 24th February: Leon and Kerry McCosker

**Deadline for next newsletter
10th March 2021**

Pre-outing to Eukey Road Property – February 21 2021

Leader: Gunter Maywald



Our outing in February is to a private property we have visited previously on Eukey Road. We will gather at Weeroona Park at 9 am and then travel to our destination via Sugarloaf and Eukey Roads. Peter and Lyn Haselgrove will be there to meet us at the gate and let us in. For the outing, we will be joined by two biologists from Brisbane, Dr Lyn Cook and Dr. Mike Crisp. Lyn specializes in scale insects while Mike is an authority on eucalypt taxonomy. Some of Lyn's PhD students may also join us for the day.

We will have smoko when we arrive so you may want to bring a chair for comfort. Our aim for the day will be to look for insects and other invertebrates in the foliage, with particular emphasis on eucalypt leaf beetles. We will split into 2 or 3 groups, depending on numbers, with each group issued with collecting tubes and a sweep tray. For lunch, we will all meet up again and share and discuss our findings.

A brief trip to the property on January 28 and a short 20-minute collecting session showed insect numbers were still somewhat reduced, but we did manage to find 5 species of eucalypt leaf beetles, many weevils and other insects and spiders, including the two illustrated.



Outing Report *Maybe*, Mt Mackenzie – 29th November 2020

Smoko – R McCosker



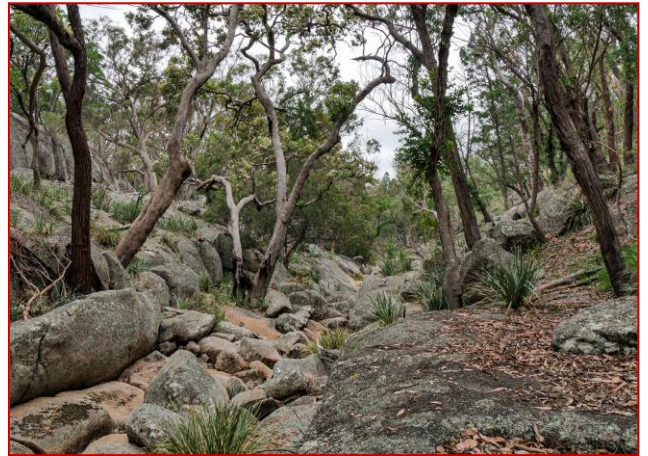
Nine members met at Tenterfield and travelled to “Maybe” west of Mt Mackenzie where we gathered for smoko whilst our hosts Janet and Neil told us all about their property and why they purchased it. We then went for a walk down the gorge near to their cabin.

As expected, the day was quite hot although a light breeze tempered the conditions. Even though we

had been greeted by a spiny-cheeked honeyeater at the smoko spot, there were not many birds calling anywhere. The country was very dry, but we did see some plants flowering. After walking down the gorge some distance we veered up onto the ridge of open rock for views across to the Mole River and Tenterfield Creek before going back to the lunch spot.

Neil and Janet purchased “Maybe” as a conservation block covering the lower western catchment of the Mt Mackenzie area draining to the west into the Mole River. The vegetation is a grassy stringybark, yellow box, apple box woodland grading into Caley’s Ironbark on the northern and western slopes with a grassy understorey.

The area has been partially cleared and grazed fairly heavily by goats and sheep (now removed) but is now beginning to revegetate. Janet and Neil have had a fauna and flora survey completed which has provided a fairly comprehensive list for their property.



The Gorge -G Maywald



In a rock garden on one of the major slabs they have planted (and hand watered) some specimens of a rare mint bush only recently rediscovered on Mt Mackenzie after about 100 years absence when they were believed to be extinct. The plants on “Maybe” will be another population in case fire wipes out the very limited population on Mt. Mackenzie.

Mistletoe – R McCosker

After a leisurely lunch we drove up to the western ridge of the property for more views to the northwest and to inspect some large figs. Down from the ridge, we drove back up the steep access track and proceeded home via the Bruxner Highway after a really nice day.

Thank you to Neil and Janet for allowing us to visit their very interesting property and for guiding us around. We will need to visit again in a better season.

Peter Haselgrove

Some plants seen flowering on the day were:

Acacia rorrate Green wattle, *Isotoma fluviatilis* Swamp isotome, *Wahlenbergia* sp Bluebell, *Thysanotus tuberosus* Common Fringe Lily, *Eucalyptus prava* Orange gum.

Birds: Yellow-faced honeyeater, spiny-cheeked honeyeater, rainbow lorikeet, musk lorikeet, willy wagtail, grey thrush, white-throated treecreeper, shining bronze-cuckoo, brown thornbill, rufous whistler, white-eared honeyeater, silvereye, white-throated warbler and grey fantail.



lily, Ajugas and wallaby grass. We also got to show off our fringed lily plant in our garden with 20 or more flowers.

We enjoyed socialising in the outdoor area before partaking of our barbecue dinner. Once again, we are indebted to Kris and Margaret for supplying the BBQ and to Kerrie and Leon for lending us their urn.

Peter & Lynette Haselgrove

End of Year Break-up Report - 6th December 2020

The Christmas Break-up on the 6th December 2020 was held at Peter and Lynette's home at Storm King with 14 of us meeting up. We had, fortunately, had some rain and so things were looking a little greener. A small group of us went for a stroll, in part following the property boundary, and were rewarded with seeing grassland wildflowers such as podolepis, hoary sunray, grass trigger plants, billy buttons, blood



Weevil



Above left: Hibbertia sp.
Above middle: Native Sorghum
Above right: Wallaby Grass
Right: Hoary Sunray

Photos - M. Carnell



Spotlings



Below:
Pelargonium
austral
Right: Ajuga
australis (I
think)

Above: Karyn
Van Tilberg
would like to
trim the vine
but is waiting
for the Crested
Pigeon to leave
the nest.
Above Right:
Bronze Flat
butterfly at
Orana



After 44mm of rain in January we went for a walk along the creek and found drifts of wildflowers. As well as those pictured we saw Fringed Lilies and Halgania brachyrhyncha.
Margaret Carnell



Left: Goodenia hederacea. **Above:** Murdannia graminea



Top Left: *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*

Top Right: *Tricoryne elatior*

Middle Left: *Hypoxis hygrometrica*

Middle R: A well camouflaged hawk moth – K. Carnell

Bottom Left: A drift of *Wahlenbergia* sp.

Bottom Right: *Podolepis arachnoidea*