

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 March: Mallee Ridge with
Kris Carnell

Wednesday 24th March: *Landscapes and
wildlife from a trip to North Queensland*
with Gunter Maywald

**Deadline for next newsletter
8th April 2021**

Pre- Outing March 21st 2021 – Mallee Ridge

Leader: Kris Carnell

The Nats outing on the 21st March will be to Mallee Ridge in the Girraween National Park. We will meet at the Lions Park at Wallangarra at 9.30 a.m. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN MEETING TIME AND PLACE.

We will travel up the Mt Norman Road to the Mt Norman Day use area and have smoko before we start our walk. It is about 2.5 km to the top of the Mallee Ridge summit and we will carry our lunch with us. The first half of the walk is along the Mt Norman track through mainly open woodland. You can see how the bush is regenerating after the bush fires. After passing beside a moist valley and over a rock slab we leave the track the travel up to the first summit. A lyre bird is often heard in the moist valley.



There is no marked track up to the top of Mallee Ridge and we will slowly make our way up past interesting rock formations to the first summit. Here you can see the first examples of the Mallee trees which give the ridge its name. At this point we can get a good view of Wallangarra and the surrounding countryside. From here it's about a 500 metres walk to the highest point of the ridge. After a leisurely lunch and look around we will make our way back to our vehicles.

Depending on the amount of rain there has been in the days prior to the outing, it may not be wise to climb up the rock slabs after we leave the made track. These slabs can get very slippery and unsafe. If that is the case we will make a decision on the day. Either walk further along the Mt Norman track or return to the vehicles for lunch and then go back a little way along Mt Norman road and walk in to the stone house.



Kris and Margaret Carnell
46835268

A Mallee by any other name ??

E. approximans approximans or *E. approximans codonocarpa*

Bell Fruited Mallee Ash, New England Mallee, New England Mallee Ash, Bell-fruited Ash, Mallee Ash or Barren Mountain Mallee.

When I was preparing the pre-outing for the Mallee Ridge walk, I decided to do some research on the mallee that grows on the top of Mallee Ridge. What an interesting exercise it turned out to be. The first reference I found was the report on a walk by Ted and Judy ?? found in their website TJDWalkabout.com. They had gone there specifically to photograph the mallee. In their report they are very sure that the mallee they photographed at the top of Mallee Ridge was the Barren Mountain Mallee, *E. approximans approximans* not the Bell Fruited Mallee *E. approximans codonocarpa* which was the species they were chasing .

For my research the best two references I found were :

Euclid which is part of a website with information from CSIRO, Australian National Herbarium, Centre for National Biodiversity Research and the Australian Biological Resources Study.

<https://apps.lucidcentral.org/euclid/>

The second was a very good Eucalyptus key guide by Dr John Hunter from the University of New England. It is a downloadable PDF of 200 pages which is very easy to use.

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/John_Hunter25/publication/279916279_Eucalypts_of_the_Northern_Tablelands

Both references refer to subsp. *approximans* and subsp. *codonocarpa* as being distinct but they differ a little in their distribution areas.

Euclid says that *approximans* only occurs on Barren Mountain where as Dr Hunter says that it also occurs at Lamington National Park.

Euclid also has a wider distribution area for *codonocarpa* and includes areas at Mt Barney, Mt Maroon and Lamington National Park as well as the New England Tablelands areas described by Dr Hunter.

Codonocarpa appears to only grow on granite soil while *approximans* grows on trachyte.

From my research I would be confident to say that the mallee at the top of Mallee Ridge is *E. approximans codonocarpa* . Any comments on my musings are welcome. What common name you use is up to you but it shows how common names can lead you astray.

Outing Report - Eukey Road property – February 21 2021

A total of 17 members attended today's outing. Most gathered at Weeroona Park at 9am on this lovely morning. The sun was peeking through clouds but there was little chance of rain and only light winds – perfect conditions for our insect outing. We took off in convoy along the Eukey Road, picking up the rest of the attendees along the way. The outing was at a private property we have visited



Wolf spider (*Tasmanicosa* sp) with young

previously, with Peter and Lynette meeting us at the property gate. Alan, the property owner, was also here and was keen to be a part of today's activities. There was a minor problem with one of the vehicles getting stuck, but with Alan's help it was soon sorted out.

On this outing we were joined by two biologists from Brisbane. Dr. Mike Crisp, formerly of ANU, is a plant taxonomist and specialist in the eucalypts and he



Paropsis variolosa

provided much help with plant identification. Dr. Penny Mills, from the University of Queensland, specializes in scale insects, especially the genus *Apiomorpha* that is found on Myrtaceae, but also has a broad knowledge of other insect groups.

We sat down for smoko at a large grassy area and Gunter introduced our guests and then outlined the day's procedure. We split into three groups, each group equipped with a beating tray and a stack of small bottles. Gunter, Mike and Penny each led one of the groups. Soon we were on our way, shaking trees,

looking under logs and bark and scanning the vegetation for insects. We especially looked out for eucalypt leaf beetles, a group in which Gunter has a particular interest. The eucalypts in our immediate area were predominately orange gum, *Eucalyptus prava*, with scattered stringybarks (probably *E. caliginosa*) and a couple of yellow box (*E. melliodora*).

The collecting turned out to be both a lot of fun and quite bountiful. We met up for lunch and discussed our findings, handing them around as they were discussed. The tally of eucalypt leaf beetles included 4 *Paropsis variolosa* (as well as some of their larvae), 1 *P. atomaria*, 2 *P. obsoleta*, 4



moth larva. Many spiders were also found, with a wolf spider (*Tasmanicosa* sp) carrying a mass of her young on her upper body being of special interest.

Though all the attention was on the invertebrates on the day, we did hear an owlet nightjar, and saw a wattle bird, white-eared honeyeater, pied butcherbird and white-naped honeyeater.

Many thanks to Alan for allowing us the use of his property, and to Mike and Penny, who helped to make this a much more informative and interesting day.

Gunter Maywald

Paropsisterna liturata, 1 *Pa. sexpustulata* and two other *Paropsisterna* species, including the brilliant red and golden *Pa nobilitata*. Penny had found some *Apiomorpha* scales, both the large female ones and the much smaller male ones, to hand around and show everyone. Other findings included 4 species of weevils, a longicorn beetle, soldier beetles, several grasshoppers (including a matchstick grasshopper), cockroaches, bugs, two mantids, a stick insect and a brilliantly coloured cup



Cottony Cushion Scale



At the beginning of February we discovered Cottony Cushion Scale, attended by ants on a silk tree. Some of the branches had died so we sprayed it to save the tree. The following information about the scale came from the NSW Department of Agriculture.

The cottony cushion scale was described by Maskell (1878) from specimens sent to him by Dr. Purchas from Auckland, New Zealand. The host was kangaroo acacia (*A. paradoxa*) and the insect was named for Dr. Purchas. At that time only one other species was known in the genus *Icerya* (Maskell 1878). This scale is apparently native to Australia and made its way to California on acacia plants around 1868 or 1869 and in about ten years was causing damage to citrus groves in southern California (Ebeling 1959). New control methods used first in California and later the rest of United States

led to the implementation of biological control and legislative quarantine (Ebeling 1959).

The cottony cushion scale is now widespread throughout the world wherever citrus is grown (Ebeling 1959). In Florida, this scale has been reported from most counties.

The following account of the introduction of this scale insect into Florida is largely taken from Gossard (1901). The vedalia beetle, *Rodolia cardinalis* (Mulsant), was introduced into California in 1888 for the biological control of the cottony cushion scale (DeBach 1973). In 1893, the owners of a nursery in Keene, Florida (Pinellas County) sent an inquiry to someone in California about the possibility of the vedalia beetle (a ladybug) being used to control other scale insects in Florida.

Apparently interpreting this as a request for the ladybug, the California party sent a shipment of these ladybugs and included some cottony cushion scales as food for the ladybugs. The nursery owners, who either did not see the scales or assumed they would be of no consequence, left the packing container near a citrus tree which eventually became infested. The originally infested Florida trees were destroyed, but infested trees appeared again in late 1898. However, this was presumably from a new introduction from nursery stock in about 1895 (Gossard 1901).

Males are rare. They are winged with a dark red body and dark colored antennae. Dark whorls of setae extend from each antennal segment, except the first (Ebeling 1959). It is interesting that the female is always a hermaphrodite with both testes and ovaries. If self-fertilization occurs only hermaphrodites are produced; however, when a hermaphrodite mates with a male, more males and hermaphrodites are produced (Ebeling 1959).

Kris Carnell

General Meeting Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. 24th February 2021

Meeting open: 7:32 pm

Welcome guests: Peter welcomed a new guest, Lock Wilson.

Minutes of the previous meeting:

Confirmed Lyn seconded by Laura carried

Business arising from the minutes:

Outing to Eukey – Gunter to show images following the meeting.

Correspondence: as per folder

moved Lyn seconded Trish

Financial Report: Gunter reported our current Bank Balance of \$1,961.04

moved Gunter seconded Lesley

General Business:

SDRC Environmental Sustainable Strategy sent out to all members.

Peter spoke of the importance of involvement, and asked all members to think about having their 'say'.

ANN Get Together Oct 2022 – Peter asked members for our thoughts on hosting this, following last year's attempt. Since then we have lost 2 maybe 3 committee members.

Lynette explained that most of the work had already been done, so it won't take too much to revive the plans, re-set dates and confirm same with the relevant venues, catering, transport, etc. There was a good show of hands, both for committee members and volunteers.

Lynette then moved that the Stanthorpe Naturalist Club host the ANN Get Together in October 2022. Seconded Lesley. All agreed. Carried

Insurance – A 7 page Survey from the Qld Water & Land Carers has been received. To ensure our continued reasonable insurance premiums, Lyn will complete this with help from Gunter or Rob.

Specimens: Rob brought 2 birds' nests found on their property.

One was a tiny nest of a Rose Robin, and the other a larger, but quite shallow nest of a black faced cuckoo.

Next Outing: 21st March to Mallee Ridge – Kris and Margaret. Details in newsletter.

Next Meeting: 24th March – Gunter's programme will be on North Qld. landscapes and wildlife.

Meeting closed: 8:00 pm

Presentations: Gunter reported on the outing to Eukey, and showed some impressive images of insects and spiders found. Also present were some guest biologists from Brisbane.

Then Leon shared images of his and Kerry's recent trip across the top, down the WA coast, the wheat belt, and beautiful wildflower country.

Spotlights



Left: Graham Rayner noticed these colourful gum leaves.
Right: Margaret Carnell saw this White-lipped Tree Frog on a tomato plant.

