

# The Granite Belt Naturalist



**Mail Address:** Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, Stanthorpe Qld. 4380  
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## **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 18<sup>th</sup> April: Sundown N.P. with Peter Haselgrove **NB this is a week earlier than usual because of Anzac Day.**

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April: *Ladakh* with Sue Frances

**Deadline for next newsletter  
12<sup>th</sup> May 2021**



Aerial View Ooline Creek is centre left. P Haselgrove

**Pre-outing to the Broadwater Section of Sundown NP -  
April 18 2021**

**Leader: Peter Haselgrove**

The outing for April will be to the southern end of Sundown NP starting at the Broadwater Camping Area. It is accessible by conventional vehicle and we have not visited this area for some time.

There are two walking tracks. One provides access to the Permanent Waterhole and Ooline Creek and the other leads up to the western boundary, with good views to the south. We'll leave Weeroona Park at 8:30am. It takes about an hour to get to the camping area, where we will have smoko. We will then go along the track to the Permanent Waterhole and then some of the way up Ooline Creek. We should carry our lunch so that we can then venture as far as we want up the creek, depending on the water levels.

After we get back to the camping area, we then have the choice of spending the remaining time around there or walking the Western Circuit.

Ooline Creek is named for the Ooline tree, *Cadellia pentastylis*, a rare and threatened tree species that was once fairly widespread in the Brigalow softwood scrubs and is now restricted to small

patches west of Sundown and near the Rock of Gibraltar. There are small patches growing along the Permanent Waterhole and at the mouth of and up Ooline Creek. Various aged trees suggest that the species is expanding its population. The walking track is fairly rough and the rock in Ooline Creek can be unstable and slippery so people should wear suitable footwear. The general vegetation is more "western" with silver-leaved ironbark, box and white cypress pine common. There is good birdwatching at the camping area and back towards the park entrance.



Nats in Ooline Creek on previous outing. P Haselgrove



Outing Report – Mt Norman Walk – 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021



“Natting” with Mt Norman in the background

Eleven Nats met at Lions Park, Wallangarra in slightly misty weather to travel to the Mt Norman day use area for smoko. By the time we started to walk along the Mt Norman Track there was a little moisture in the air, but fortunately it did not turn into rain.

As we expected, one of the main features of this outing were the many different fungi along the track ranging from tiny yellow, white and red mushrooms to very large white and yellow ones, as well as bracket fungi. There were small yellow mushrooms growing on the track and

into the bush. Some were obviously following the roots

of trees. I have been trying to identify some of them using *A Field Guide to Australian Fungi* by Bruce Fuhrer and *The Colour Dictionary of Mushrooms* edited by Colin Dickinson and John Lucas. I can't say I'm having much success as one of the main ways to identify them is by spore prints which you can't take in a national park.



Looking for Wildlife in the Gnamma

We walked to the rock slab on the way to Mt Norman where we were to turn off towards Mallee Ridge. Three people turned back rather than tackle the rock and hadn't gone very far when the rest of the group caught up. There was water running down the rock and it was considered too dangerous to tackle the slope to Mallee Ridge where Kris knew there was more water making the rock slippery. Laura noticed a small grey spider in a web, with its legs tucked in, right beside the track. It was here Theresa noticed a Mosquito Orchid and a cylinder of fungus growing straight out of a tree trunk. I found a photo of something similar in *The*

*Colour Dictionary of Mushrooms* and it is the immature form of *Ganoderma lucidium* before the kidney shaped cap appears, so I'm thinking it will turn into one of those brownish shelf fungus that we saw growing on rotten wood.

We turned along the bike track to the east and walked slowly along taking note of plants and fungus along the way. There were patches of *Pomax umbellata*, *Lobelia* and a few *Actinotus helianthi* (Flannel Flowers), as well as *Stylidium graminifolium* (Grass Trigger Plants). On a small gum tree there was a cluster of saw fly larvae which created a lot of interest. In the vicinity there were pig rootings. We came to a large rock slab with gardens in the hollows in the rock and a good view of Mt Norman. There were *Isotoma anethifolia*, *Brachyscome stuartii*, *Trachymene incisa* (wild carrot) and one *Petrostylus daintreana* in bloom. There was also a plant of



Investigating Saw Fly Larvae and other things

*Stylidium laricifolium* (Tree Trigger Plant) which was not flowering. There were several gammas, including a very large one but not much to see in them, not even tadpoles.



There was some shade beside the slab so we headed there to have lunch. On another slab across the bike track we noticed a couple of large boulders that were worth investigating. Right beside one of them was a large Golden Orb Spider with her attendant very small male. He approached and seemed to be depositing sperm when the female raced down the web to catch a bee. She wrapped it up and then caught another which she ate, and then caught a third which she also wrapped up. The male was quite persistent and came right up and appeared to be stroking her leg when she gave a flick and sent him flying to the edge of the web. We decided we couldn't spend the rest of the day watching them, so reluctantly headed

back along the track.

A few people had a cuppa before we headed home from a relaxed, interesting outing.

Margaret  
Carnell

**Above Left:** Female Golden Orb Spider with much smaller male

**Right:** Golden Orb Spider eating a bee with others wrapped for later.

K Carnell



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

**Meeting opened:** 7:30 pm

**Present:** As per Attendance book

**Minutes of the previous meeting:**

Confirmed Lyn seconded by Kris carried

**Business arising from the minutes:**

ANN Get together – we need to look at alternative venues as the Show-ground venue is now unavailable. We will need somewhere to hold 80+ people, and the Committee will be looking at other possible venues following the next Committee Meeting.

QWLC Insurance Survey was completed by Lyn and Gunter, with help from Robin, and emailed back.

**Correspondence:** as per folder

moved Lyn seconded Robin carried

**Financial Report:** Gunter reported a Bank balance of \$1,879.84 with \$81.20 in Petty Cash.

moved Gunter seconded Laura carried



**Outing Reports:** Kris reported on the Mallee Ridge outing, with 11 people attending - lots of fungi, but no critters.

**Pre-outings:** Broadwater-Sundown National Park on 18th April with Peter & Lynette Haselgrove. We will meet in town at 8:00 am, with morning tea on arrival at Sundown, then carry lunch along the creek.

**General Business:** Nil

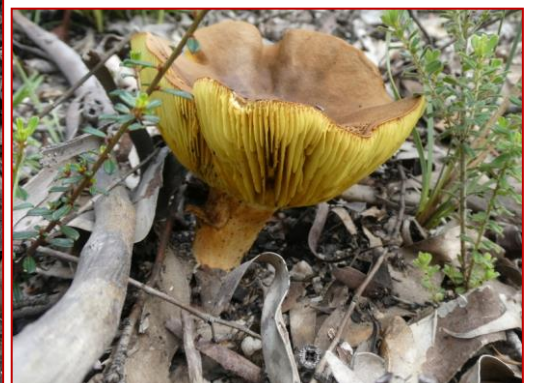
**Specimens:** No specimens, but Margaret brought in a box of Kangaroo Paw plants for members to take.

**Next Meeting:** 28th April 2021

**Meeting closed:** 7:50pm

**Presentation:** Gunter's presentation was of the highlights of two of his and Laura's north Queensland trips, which included many animals and birds, and of course, fascinating insects and spiders.

**Some of the Fungi Seen on Mt Norman Outing**



Photos by K & M Carnell