

The Granite Belt Naturalist



Mail Address: Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, Stanthorpe Qld. 4380
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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 23rd May: Toowoomba
Gardens with Rob McCosker

Wednesday 2nd June: Peter
Haselgrove

**Please Note: The meeting has been
postponed for a week.**

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

Outing to Toowoomba Gardens May 23rd

Leader: Rob McCosker

We plan to meet at Weeroona Park as usual for a 9.00am start and take a leisurely drive to Toowoomba stopping for morning tea at the Steele Rudd Memorial Park for morning tea then continue via the Drayton Road to the Federation Park at Vale View. We can take the short walks here keeping an eye out for birds along Smiths Creek and have lunch before driving to the Freneau Pines Park tucked away next to Hursley Road across from Clifford Park Racecourse.

To get there we will continue to Drayton, turn Left into Canning Street, the third street past the Downs Hotel, Right at the lights into Anzac Ave, continue through Alderley Street then turn Left at the next lights into South Street. At the roundabout turn Right into Greenwattle Street then at the next roundabout turn Right into Glenvale Road then next Left into Mahogany Street, continue into Poinciana Street then turn next Right and park in Poplar Street. The Park is listed with the National Trust for its 150 year old Norfolk Island Pines and I found the following information on their website. " Freneau Pines Park was named after Florence Freneau, who was Mother Superior of Our lady of Our Sacred Heart Boy's school that was established in the area about 1947 after being relocated from Eagle Farm in Brisbane. A former student recalls that on one section of the property there were two rows of very large Norfolk Island Pine trees forming a driveway to a deserted house. In a visit, some years ago, he recalled that some of the pine trees remained and that a water tower stood somewhere near where the house had stood. In the area close to the house there was a very large Macadamia tree and a Bunya Nut Pine Tree. It is believed that the house was called 'Raceview' which up until 1880 belonged to Mr George Robinson, third mayor of Toowoomba. The trees were planted by Robinson and his German gardener, Kube. " Another tree of note in this park is *Phytolacca dioica*, commonly known as ombú, a massive evergreen tree native to the Pampa of South America. After our visit we will retrace our path and turn Left into Glenvale Road, continue through the roundabout then Left into Karrool Street and Left again into Tor Street. Continue on Tor Street until the roundabout and turn Right into North Street and continue to the Mount Lofty Lookout at the end of North Street, then turn back and Left into Mary Street then first Right into Range Street and park at the Boyce Gardens. This garden covering 6 hectares was established as a private garden by leading Toowoomba residents Leslie and Margaret Boyce over almost 60 years and was given by them – in trust to the University of Queensland - for the enjoyment and education of the people of Australia. We hope to spend some time walking around the main points of interest, have afternoon smoko in the gardens and then head home.

Would people intending to come on this outing please register with me so that I can advise of any last minute changes and anyone is welcome to join us at any of the stops along the way.

Rob McCosker Phone 46835371 Mob 0410024383 Email mccoskerr@gmail.com

Outing Report – Sundown National Park – 18th April 2021



Twelve members left Weeroona Park in beautiful clear sunny weather with two more joining us at Greenlands School on our way to Sundown National Park Broadwater Camping Area where our newest member Doland Nichols met us.

Following good rains, the countryside looked wonderful with most creeks having some flow in them. The patches of Mugga along the road were in flower and there were some flowers on one of them in the camping area.



Sturt's Hibiscus

After smoko, we walked up the track to the Permanent Waterhole pausing to look at the old netting boundary fence which follows the track and is possibly 80 plus years old. There were some nice examples of Sturt's Hibiscus (photo) flowering and good examples of Silky Bluegrass growing.

It was wonderful to look down from the track and see the clear sparkling flow in the Severn River (photo) after the absence of all but murky puddles of water for so long.



Rostellularia adscendens

The Ooline and other scrub trees in Ooline Creek showed the effect of the wet year, all having really intense green growth. *Rostellularia adscendens* were flowering all along the track. Unfortunately, the flow in Ooline Creek prevented us from getting very far up the creek and we soon stopped for lunch on a rather rocky site.

After lunch we returned to the cars and then most of us proceeded along the Western Circuit track for the remainder of the afternoon, returning to the vehicles for a cup of tea before leaving for home.

Very few birds were seen or heard, probably due to the time of year and few plants were flowering, but the change in vegetation types from typical Granite Belt was nice to see and the weather was perfect with a light westerly and clear skies.

Peter Haselgrove
Photos by Peter

AGENDA
General Meeting
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
28th April 2021

Meeting opened: 7:30 pm

Apologies: Lock Wilson, Margaret Carnell, Gunter & Laura Maywald

Minutes of the previous meeting:

Confirmed Lyn seconded by Kris carried

Business arising from the minutes:

ANN Get Together – all under control for the moment. The Transport Organizer position is vacant at the moment. Peter advised that the transport information that Kris had compiled last year will be available for the next Transport Organiser. The next meeting of the Committee is in October

QWLC Insurance – now up to date, and Certificate of Currency received.

Correspondence: as per folder

moved Lyn seconded by Rob carried

Financial Report: No Report due to the absence of the Treasurer.

Outing Reports:

Sundown National Park – 18th April. Peter reported on a beautiful Autumn day's walk to the Permanent Waterhole, part way up Ooline Creek, where we had lunch, after which some did the western circuit walk.

Pre-outings:

Toowoomba – 23rd May – Boyce Garden & Rainforest with Rob and Trish McCosker.

General Business:

Rob advised of the passing of Mavis Butler, whose husband was a President of the Club many years ago.

Next Meeting: To be held on 2nd June – due to various circumstances.

Meeting closed: 7:54 pm

Presentation:

Sue took us on a fascinating trip to Ladakh and surrounds in Kashmir, northern India, showing us how the colourful, mainly Buddhist locals live in earthquake prone, arid conditions, at extreme altitudes. Cut off from the world in Winter, they treasure their rich culture, on show for visitors. From some very precarious roads, we saw stunning panoramas and deep valleys, from which the odd apple orchard clung. A beautiful part of the world, with a very uncertain future

SPOTTINGS



The male Eggfly on the left and several Meadow Argus (right) have spent a couple of days feeding on this chrysanthemum. I refuse to photograph the Cabbage Whites eating my broccoli. – Margaret Carnell

Photos from Sundown Outing



Top L: The Permanent Waterhole
Top R: Walking up Ooline Creek –Photos by Leon McCosker
Middle L: Looking Back – Top of Circuit
Middle R: Crossing the Creek
Bottom L: Flowering Plant
Bottom Middle: Orchids in tree
Bottom R: Green flower – Photos by Graham Rayner