



The Granite Belt Naturalist



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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



The Pyramids, Girraween National Park

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

Subs: Single \$20.00, Family \$30.00 per annum, July
to June

CLUB OFFICE BEARERS – 2020/2021

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 25th July: *Goomburra* with David Wilson and Narelle Crawford
Wednesday 28th July: AGM and *Remember Last Year* followed by supper. Please bring your own cup and food.

**Deadline for next newsletter
11th August 2021**

Pre-outing Report: Main Range (Goomburra Section) Sunday 25 July 2021

Leaders: David Wilson (0427 612839) & Narelle Crawford



This month's outing will be to Araucaria Falls. The walk is through dense rainforest which is lush and vibrant after the recent rain. The walk is 3.6km return on a formed trail. In normal conditions, this track is probably around a Grade 4 as it has some steep sections. If there has been rain, as there had been prior to the pre-outing, this could be bumped up to a Grade 7 as there were some very slippery sections on the steeper downhill sections. It may be prudent to consider bringing a walking pole. With lunch

at the falls, the walk should take around three hours.

Depending on time, we have the option of doing walks to Sylvester's and Mt Castle Lookouts. Each is just under 1km return. The Mt Castle Lookout is probably the pick of them. Besides a good view of Mt Castle, the area is interesting in that it shows fire recovery and a good example of the impact of different fire temperatures.

Stanthorpe members should gather at Weeroona Park for an earlier than normal departure time of 8:00am. Travel will be to Jackie Howe Park in Warwick for a 9:00am departure from there. Visitors from Brisbane should meet us at the Goomburra Section picnic ground. This is just prior to the creek crossing on the road to the plateau. Look for the frog sculpture.

A 4WD is not necessary, though the creek crossing could be a bit tricky if there has been rain. Significant sections of the summit road have now been sealed.



Outing Report – The Signboard – 20th June 2021

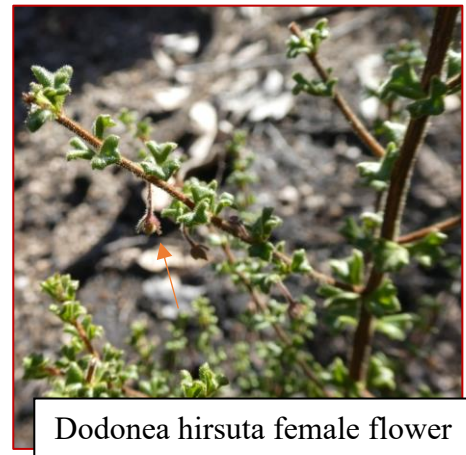
On a clear, chilly morning fifteen Nats met at the corner of Pyramids Road and Mt Norman Road for the walk up a rock slab and across to The Signboard. After the usual cuppa we made our way up the first rock slab, stopping a couple of times to admire the views, particularly of The Pyramids. We noticed the diversity of the plants in some of the small rock gardens.

The *Seringia hillii* had a few flowers out, as well as a couple of seed capsules. I don't think it ever has a lot of flowers at a time and the leaves always look droopy. We found a couple of flowers on the *Commersonia brevisetia* and also on the *Hardenbergia violacea*. There were also flowers on the *Leucopogon neoanglicus* and *Acacia adunca*, as well as *Leionema rotundifolium*. A little further on there was a *Senecio* plant that Graham identified as fireweed, so he pulled it out and we carried it out of the park to dispose of it.



Dodonea hirsuta male flower

We made our way through a gully, across to The Signboard where we had amazing views from Bald Rock all the way to Mt Norman. We chose a sheltered spot for lunch as the wind was quite cold.



Dodonea hirsuta female flower

There was *Boronia amabilis* growing amongst the rocks with an odd flower out and I found the first of the *Dodonea hirsuta* with tiny flowers hanging below the foliage. These were female plants. After lunch we walked across the rock slabs for a good view of Mt Norman, The Sphinx and Turtle Rock. On the way we stopped to photograph *Mirbelia speciosa* and close by there was a *Dodonea hirsuta* with male flowers. A bit further on there were a lot of plants, both male and female. There were a couple of *Acacia latisepera* plants in the rock gardens beside the slab and sundews in the very shallow gardens.

On the way down we passed a beautiful specimen of *Leucopogon melaleucaoides* in full bloom and an area with lots of exfoliated rocks caused a lot of interest. We made our way carefully to the bottom of The Signboard and discovered two types of *Solanum* whereas we only noticed one on the pre-outing. There was one *Pterostylus* (Greenhood) and a *Podolepis* in bloom, as well as an orange coral fungus. There were extensive pig diggings in the undergrowth and I'm sure I could smell pig.

We made our way to the Peak to Creek track and headed along it to the road. There were a couple of different types of fungus beside the track and several different flowers with just a few blooms. We heard a couple of different birds but didn't see them. It was a short walk along the road to the cars where most of us had a cuppa before heading home. - Margaret Carnell

The Signboard Bird List (seen or heard): White-eared honeyeater, White throated treecreeper, Red Wattle bird, Spinebill, Brown thornbill, Yellow-faced honeyeater. - Peter (and Lyn)

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in Uniting Church Hall Stanthorpe on Wednesday 23/6/2021**

Meeting opened: 7.30pm

Attendance: 7 Apologies 6 as per attendance sheet

Minutes of the previous meeting:

confirmed by Laura Maywald seconded by Teresa Clifford Carried

Business arising from the minutes: nil

Correspondence: as per folder

moved by Rob McCosker seconded by Trish McCosker Carried

Financial Report: Balance \$1925.04

moved by Gunter Maywald seconded by Graham Greenup Carried

Outing Reports: Kris Carnell reported that the trip to the Signboard in Girraween NP was attended by 15 people who enjoyed perfect weather, some wildflowers in bloom with the prospect of lots more and some good views of the peaks of Girraween.

Pre-outings: David Wilson – Goomburra 25th July. Kris had spoken to David who had just returned from a trip away and was planning a pre-outing to Goomburra to prepare a report for the next Newsletter

General Business: Kris suggested that people with overdue subscriptions should be contacted after the AGM to seek their renewal.

Kris asked members to send him photos from outings so he can prepare the “Remember Last Year” presentation for the AGM next month.

Kris also said he was trying to contact the Hall committee to make sure we were allowed to have supper at the AGM and if so perhaps members should bring their own bikkies and mug.

Newsletter Cover – Kris said Margaret was endeavoring to re-arrange the page to remove the address box as newsletters were no longer posted.

Specimens: nil

Next Meeting: AGM and Remember Last Year presentation

Meeting closed: 8.50pm

Presentation: Rob and Trish – Kimberleys 20 years ago which included their trip to the Mitchell Falls, Windjana and Geike Gorges as well a cruise along the Kimberley Coast from Broome.

Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc. Financial Statement 1/7/2020 to 30/6/2021		
Balance c/f 1/7/2020		\$1,662.64
INCOME		
Members subscriptions	\$520.00	
Donations	\$7.00	
Total Income	\$527.00	\$527.00
EXPENDITURE		
Rental of hall for meetings	\$125.00	
P.O. Box Rental (half-share with Camera Club)	\$68.00	
Fair Trading Certificate	\$56.60	
replacement HDMI cable for projector	\$15.00	
Total Expenditure	\$264.60	-\$264.60
<u>Balance at 30/6/2021</u>		<u>\$1,925.04</u>
BANK RECONCILIATION as at 30/6/2021		
Balance as per Commonwealth Bank Statement on 30/6/2021	\$1,851.84	
Petty Cash at 30/6/2021	\$73.20	
Balance as per Cash Book above	\$1,925.04	
BALANCE SHEET		
Balance c/f 1/7/2020	\$1,641.44	
Petty Cash c/f 1/7/2020	\$21.20	
Plus Income	\$527.00	
Less Expenditure	\$264.60	
Accumulated Funds	<u>\$1,925.04</u>	
Represented by:		
Commonwealth Savings Account	\$1,851.84	
Petty Cash at 30/6/2021	\$73.20	
Total Accumulated Funds 30/6/2021	<u>\$1,925.04</u>	
This Financial Statement reflects the financial records for the year ending 30 June 2021, and is a proper record of the income and expenditure of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.		
This Financial Statement has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.		
There is no reason to believe that the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club is unable to pay any debts which may fall due. The Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club has no liabilities.		
President	Date	
Treasurer	Date	

Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 28th July at 7.30pm
We are able to have supper after the meeting. Please bring your own cup and food. The Club will provide tea, coffee etc.

Mistletoes and Regent Honeyeater

As mentioned in the recent talk on Mistletoes they are extremely beneficial for roosting and nesting birds and as food supplies both from their fruit and nectar from the flowers.

One bird in particular, the Regent Honeyeater *Anthochaera phrygia*, is now considered critically endangered and much of its mistletoe habitat in southeast Australia was destroyed by recent drought and extensive fires.

An article in the latest Australian Birdlife outlines steps being taken to help them. Members of the Regent Honeyeater Recovery Program in collaboration with the Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council have “planted” nearly 2000 seeds of two mistletoe species onto the branches of Spotted Gum and casuarinas in various areas of eastern NSW, including the Hunter and Capertee Valleys, areas where Regent Honeyeaters bred in the past and where mistletoe has been severely reduced. Once these seeds have germinated more will be deposited in a further effort at restoration.

Peter Haselgrove



Spottings



Not the best photos as I only had my phone but a boobook owl at our place, and I was very excited to see ten times as much flannel flower all over the mountain this year, for the first time since the fires.

The boobook was at head height when I walked past him and scared him off his roost (I didn't know he was there) then he sat on a branch for five minutes before flying off. Very lovely to see him finally as I have heard him calling many times. He disappeared after the fires for some time but has come back, yay!

Holly Patti





Birds at Orana

Top Left: The Grey-Crowned Babbblers have taken to coming to the front door early some mornings and babbling. I expect they see their reflection and give it a good talking to.

Above Right: A Red-wattle Bird in the red hot pokers.

Left: We were excited to see a pair of King Parrots until we realized they were eating the buds on the camellia.



Above: Graham with the fire weed on the outing to Slip Rock

Right: Pig Damage at the base of The Signboard

