



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, well-formed track, no steps, 5km or less. Clearly signposted. Suitable for wheelchairs with assistance.
2. Formed track. May have gentle hills and some steps. Clearly signposted. No experience required
3. Formed track, some obstacles, 20km or less. May have short steep hills and many steps. Some experience recommended.
4. Rough Track. May be long and very steep with few directional signs. For experienced bushwalkers.
5. Unformed track. Likely to be very rough, very step and unmarked. For very experienced bushwalkers with specialised skills.

Coming Up

Sunday 22nd August: Passchendaele State Forest with Rare Wildflower Consortium.

Wednesday 25th August: *Volcanic New Zealand* with David Wilson

3rd – 6th September: QNC Camp Out to Barakula with Lyn & Peter Haselgrove

Deadline for next newsletter
10th September 2021

Please Note: The Scale of Difficulty for Walks is now the same as the National Park's.

Pre-Outing Report 22nd August

We will be joining the Rare Wildflower Consortium Walk this month. Details below.

Rare Wildflowers Consortium Walk

DATE:

Sunday 22 August 2021

LOCATION:

Passchendaele State Forest
(southern Amiens section)

MEET AT:

Amiens State School
1337 Amiens Rd, Amiens

TIME:

9.30am

(then convoy to the start of the walk)

Outing Report: Goomburra 25 July 2021

On a cold and blustery day, twenty-four hardy souls braved the inclement weather for an excursion to the rich rainforest areas of the Goomburra section of the Main Range National Park. As well as many familiar faces from Stanthorpe and Warwick, we had some extra visitors join us from Toowoomba, Brisbane and Buderim. First-timers probably made up a third of the group.

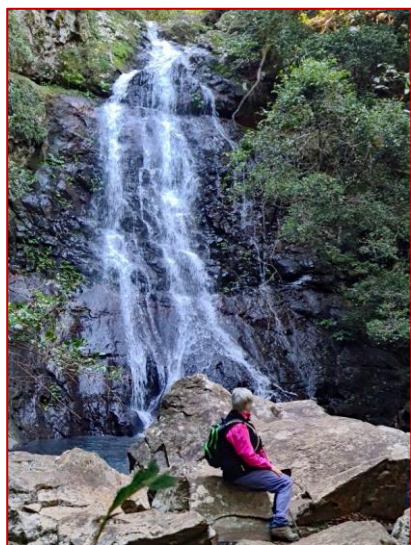


For those coming from the south, a brief stop was made at Freestone to see a remarkable display of farm machinery. Every square centimetre was covered in knitted wool. This display was part of the Warwick Jumpers and Jazz Festival.

There are several private campgrounds along the approach to the national park which result in a considerable amount of weekend traffic. A significant number of vehicles, combined with the recent rain, had taken their toll on the road with numerous patches of muddy potholes. This road was

considerably worse than what had been experienced on the pre-outing, testing the clearance of some of the conventional road cars.

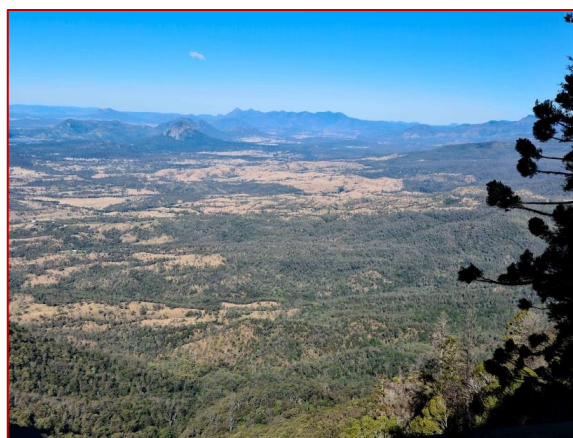
The day's participants came together at the national park picnic ground where the customary cuppa was enjoyed. From there, we drove up the mountain to the start of the Araucaria Falls walk. It was a relief to see that the track was relatively dry despite the rain two days earlier. This made for a relatively easy descent compared to that experienced on the pre-outing. I am not aware that anyone made an unplanned use of their derriere as an accidental braking device!



The descent was through lush rainforest. A significant variety of trees, including some large hoop pines (*Araucaria cunninghamii*), was noted. Several species of epiphytic orchids were discovered, along with a single terrestrial orchid (*Pterostylis* sp.) that was in bud. A series of loud calls suggested to some that an Albert's lyrebird was in the area but it was not sighted. The falls had a reasonable flow, a direct consequence of the wetter than average winter. Lunch was had at the falls, but the location in a deep, heavily shaded gully was made uncomfortable by the wind whipping up the western escarpment. There was little desire from many to linger longer than necessary. The wind chill was clearly well below 10°C.

Two short walks were done after the falls walk. The first

was to Sylvester's Lookout. This viewpoint provided extensive views across the Fassifern Valley and the Moogerah Peaks. About half the day's participants made tracks for home after this walk. The rest did the second walk to a viewpoint over Mt Castle, a craggy mountain with trachyte cliffs that marks the headwaters of Laidley Creek.





This final walk marked the end of the day's activities with the survivors retreating to the warmth of their cars to make the long drive home. The cold conditions did not spoil the enjoyment of the day. There was plenty of positive feedback especially seeing that these walks were new to some who attended.

David Wilson

Photos by Graham Rayner

QNC Camp Barakula State Forest

Peter and Lyn Haselgrove are leading a camp for the QNC (Queensland Naturalists' Club) and Stanthorpe Field Nats are invited to join them.

It will be a four-day, three-night camp at Barakula State Forest from Friday 3rd to Monday 6th September.

During the pre-outing the ground was quite wet in places and there has been more rain since, so there is always a possibility that the outing may have to be cancelled if the area is too wet (not to mention the ever-present Covid). There will be full information in the next QNC News, but we would prefer members book before the News is published.

We will camp in an open area near the Forest Office. There are no facilities, but club toilets will be in place. You will need to bring all your own drinking water. Water for dishes, washing etc can be got from the nearby creek.

Camp fees: \$2 per adult per night Club fees. It is preferred that you pay your fees in cash at the camp.

People may stay in Chinchilla if they prefer which is about 40 km from our campsite.

We may have a few local naturalists join us for the weekend which will enhance our knowledge considerably.

Car-pooling will be necessary on days out in the forest. We suggest you fill up with fuel at Chinchilla.

Road directions: Soon after you leave Chinchilla heading north-west you will see Auburn Road on the right heading north and signs saying *Barakula 39km*. Just follow the big main roads signs and you will end up at the old forestry complex. Go through the gateway which is just at the end of office complex and 100 m further across a culvert. On the left is the road to Dogwood Creek Camp and our camp is on the right almost opposite the sign. Turn onto a gravel track through pines into a large clearing.

AN ADDED EXTRA: Frank Truscott is happy to guide anyone who would like to stay a day or two after the 6th and do some more exploring. However, the camp toilets may have to be dismantled on Monday. People may decamp to Chinchilla if they prefer.

Please register at excursion@qnc.org.au by the 27th August.

Leaders: Peter and Lyn Haselgrove Enquires to pely95@gmail.com. Phone: 0409 006 063

Lyre Birds

A friend of ours regularly visits the Girraween National park, both with family and friends. He walks the tracks in the Mt Norman day use area and Dr Roberts waterhole area and rides his bike on the Peak to Creek trail. Over the past couple of months he has been fortunate enough to see and hear lyre birds a number of times. On one memorable occasion he and his mate saw a male lyre bird calling and displaying. They then saw a female approach in response to the display. My friends comment "Boy, didn't he carry on then". The photo is courtesy of Tim.



Kris Carnell

Mistletoe Fruit

Around our house we have a number of trees which have mistletoe in them. They include Eucalypt, Callitris (black cypress) and of all things a pin oak. We quite often see lots of birds fluttering around in the clumps especially when the mistletoe is in bloom. This year there has been a good crop of berries providing lots of food. Recently I was lucky enough to see a mistletoe bird and a king parrot feeding at the same time in a plant. I managed to get a photo of the king parrot but by the time I got my camera the mistletoe bird had disappeared. We have heard the elusive bird since but haven't seen it, let alone photographed it. We have also noticed a crimson rosella that appeared to be feeding on mistletoe but it was hidden by leaves.



Did you know:-

Ancient Anglo-Saxons noticed that mistletoe often grows where birds leave droppings, which is how mistletoe got its name: In Anglo-Saxon, "mistel" means "dung" and "tan" means "twig," hence, "dung-on-a-twig."

Kris Carnell

Minutes Annual General Meeting Stanthorpe Field Naturalists' Club Inc. Held at Uniting Church Hall 28th July 2021

Meeting opened: 7.30pm

Attendance: Rob and Trish McCosker, Peter and Lynette Haselgrove, Gunter and Laura Maywald, Kris Carnell, Leon and Kerrie McCosker, Graham Rayner, Teresa Clifford, Lyn Collins

Apologies: Margaret Carnell, Lesley Saunders, Graham Greenup

Minutes of the previous AGM: Lyn Collins moved that the minutes of the 2020 AGM be accepted as a true and accurate record. seconded by Rob McCosker.

President's Annual Report: Peter Haselgrove read his report outlining the club's activities over

the past year, and thanked committee members, and also members for their attendance at meetings and outings. Peter also asked for everyone to have a think about future venues for outings.

Librarian's Report: Laura Maywald reported on the publications she holds, including Stanthorpe Nats. magazines from the 70s. She encouraged all present to have a look at a spreadsheet she has prepared, which includes publications such as National Park bush walks, bush tucker, and many more.

Financial Report: Gunter Maywald presented his Financial Report, which showed a balance of \$1,925.04 at 30/6/2020
moved by Gunter Maywald, seconded by Peter Haselgrove

Election of Office Bearers:

There being no nominations from the floor, Rob McCosker moved that the existing Committee retain their positions. Seconded by Peter Haselgrove. These are:

President: Peter Haselgrove

Vice Presidents: Kris Carnell and Leon McCosker

Secretary: Lyn Collins

Treasurer: Gunter Maywald

Newsletter Editor: Margaret Carnell

Librarian: Laura Maywald

Publicity Officer: Peter Haselgrove will investigate which news outlet we should approach to publicise our events, and will report back as to what is required.

General Business for AGM: nil

Meeting Closed: 7.54 pm

**General Meeting
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
held 28th July 2021**

Meeting opened: 7:55 pm

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Apologies: Margaret Carnell, Lesley Saunders, Graham Greenup

Minutes of the previous meeting:

confirmed Rob McCosker seconded Kris Carnell carried

Business arising from the minutes: Nil

Correspondence: as per folder

moved Lyn seconded Lynette

Financial Report: Gunter presented his Report, showing a bank balance of \$2,051.84. This includes about half the subscriptions having been received to date.
Moved Gunter seconded Lynette

Outing Reports: Goomburra Valley - 25 July, led by David Wilson and Narelle Crawford. We also had some Toowoomba and Buderim Nats join us, for a very enjoyable day, despite it being cold and windy.

Pre-outings: Leon and Kerry will put their upcoming outing on hold, pending other obligations. Instead, we will look at doing a joint outing with the 'Wildflower Consortium' to Amiens, at a date to be advised.

Lynette Haselgrove has invited us to the Qld. Nats. Campout at Barakula State Forest in September. Full details in the next newsletter.

General Business:

ANN Get Together - Lynette addressed the meeting about issues relating to the planning of this event. There are really only three members heavily involved at the moment. She has asked that all members seriously think about whether they can genuinely put their hand up to help now with organizing, and also if they will almost definitely be available to help in September and October 2022.

As we are only a small club, it might be more realistic to consider that we make the decision not to host this event.

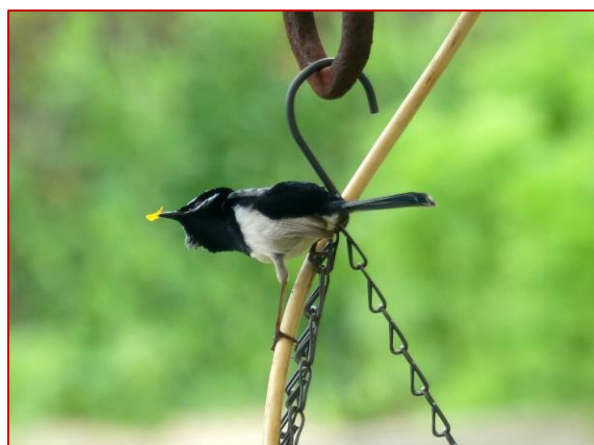
Specimens: Gunter showed some images of praying mantis and other similar predators, taken locally recently.

Next Meeting: 25th August. David Wilson will have a presentation on 'Volcanic NZ'.

Meeting closed: 8:30 pm

Presentation: 'Remember last year'. Kris put together the highlights from the past year's activities from his and other members' contributions. Lots of memories.

Spottings



Above Left: This rather bedraggled pansy was perfect until the Superb Blue Wrens started taking pieces of the yellow petals to impress the females.

Above Right: The guilty party with a piece of petal. *Margaret Carnell*