



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



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 steep and unmarked. For very experienced bushwalkers with specialised skills.

Coming Up

Sunday 21st November: *Mallee Ridge* with Kris & Margaret Carnell
Wednesday 24th November: GBSAN with Rick Humphries & *Barakula Wildflowers* with Peter Haselgrove
Sunday 5th December: Break-up at Peter and Lynette Haselgrove's place.

Deadline for next newsletter
12th January 2022

This is a piece about Rick Humphries talk at the November meeting.

"Rick Humphries, President of the Granite Belt Sustainable Action Network (GBSAN) will attend the next meeting to brief members on GBSAN's mission with particular reference to a number of biodiversity-related initiatives including the push for additional protected areas in the Region and the development of associated nature-based tourism opportunities, regenerative agriculture and feral cat control.

It is hoped that this initial discussion might lead to a working relationship between ourselves and GBSAN in support of these initiatives as well as a better understanding within GBSAN of our work and other opportunities to work together in the interests of protecting the Granite Belt's biodiversity."

Pre-Outing Report – Mallee Ridge - 21st November 2021

The Nats outing on the 21st November 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. We will do another pre-outing a couple of days before the outing to check conditions. If its unsafe we will botanize around the day use area after morning tea and then backtrack to the entrance to the stone house. We'll carry our lunch and walk to the stone house and see what we can find there. Please keep an eye on your emails as things may change again.

Kris and Margaret Carnell
46835268

Outing Report Girraween 24th October 2021

It was pleasing to see a good roll up of 18 people for the outing and to cap it off the weather was excellent. With storms forecast for most of the week, we were blessed with a clear day and enough wind to keep things pleasant, though a bit strong at times. We arrived at the parking spot to find it already occupied by a van which had obviously camped there for the night, and it was soon surrounded by our six vehicles, though we did leave enough room for them to drive off after a hurried pack-up. We walked across the road to look at a large area of granite flags with some interesting plants, views to the Pyramids and a gnamma with enough water to support a population of Clam shrimps *Paralimnadia urukia*. We went back to the cars then and had morning tea before heading off to the south.



Our route skirted the base of a ridge through open grassy forest before we headed up the slope of the ridge with views to the Pyramids and also an interesting large boulder part way up another ridge to the south, dubbed The Mushroom by David. This was the target of our walk. Once on top of the first ridge the walk levelled out but we had to negotiate the regrowth from the 2018 bushfires. Mint bush and Guinea flower were prolific here contrasting with the bright red Hops. We made our way down to Bald Rock Creek where there was a suitable rocky crossing then continued up hill to the large flag rock where we planned to have lunch. Since it was only 11.30am by that time, we decided to continue up to the lookout and return for lunch, with the option of leaving packs in the shade of a large boulder.

Hop Bush

The steep climb proved too much for some who returned to the lunch spot while the rest of us made our way some distance up the ridge to see the views of Bald Rock from one side and the Pyramids from the other. On the Bald Rock side the Wyberba Falls were easily seen with the good flow in the creek and from the other side we could see extensive views of the Wyberba valley, and also the lunch spot. We returned to the lunch spot and enjoyed the protection given by the large boulder both for shade and as a wind break while we had our lunch. There were a few different plants flowering nearby so we did a little botanising, then decided to head

down to the creek a different way, follow it to where we first crossed, then retrace our steps to the cars.



Looking for Wildlife in a Gnamma

Rob McCosker

As we walked along one of the large rock pools in the creek several members saw a small (about 15cm) dark fish swimming in the current and I wonder if it was a River blackfish (*Gadopsis marmoratus*) which used to be common, even down in the pools of the Junction. Although we saw an old disused Wombat burrow on our way back to the cars, I was pleased to see a burrow under a boulder very much in use on our pre-outing trip. We got back to the cars before 3.00pm for a cuppa to finish off a very pleasant days outing with about 40 wildflowers seen.

Plant List

Grey Everlasting *Ozothamnus obcordatus*, Granite daisy *Brachyscome stuartii*, Tree trigger plant *Stylidium laricifolium*, Swamp rice flower *Pimelea linifolia* subsp. *collina*, Queen of the bush *Pimelea linifolia* subsp. *linifolia*, Mountain dampiera *Dampiera purpurea*, Spotted mintbush *Prostanthera saxicola*, White mintbush *Prostanthera petraea*, Candlesticks *Stackhousia viminea*, Hopbushes - Thread-leaved *Dodonaea falcata*, Hairy *D. hirsuta* and Large-leaved *D. triquetra*, Guinea flowers – Tall *Hibbertia elata*, Erect *H. riparia*, Showy mirbelia *Mirbelia speciosa* subsp. *speciosa*, Prickly mirbelia *Mirbelia pungens*, Common correa *Correa reflexa* var. *reflexa*, Ivy-leaf goodenia *Goodenia hederacea* subsp. *hederacea*, Daisy goodenia *Goodenia bellidifolia*, Long-leaved sneezebush *Astrotricha longifolia*, Flax lily *Dianella revoluta*, *Harmogia densifolia*, Grass tree *Xanthorrhoea johnsonii*, Match heads *Comesperma retusum*, Hairy zieria *Zieria aspalathoides* subsp. *aspalathoides*, Mount Maroon solanum *Solanum ditrichum*, Narrow-leaved logania *Logania albiflora*, Heath platysace *Platysace ericoides*, Climbing orchid *Erythrorchis cassythoides*, Lovely boronia *Boronia amabilis*, White's phebalium *Phebalium whitei*, Grey ray flower *Cyphanthera albicans*, Australian blackthorn *Bursaria spinosa* subsp. *spinosa*, *Bertya recurvata*, Dodder laurel *Cassytha pubescens*, Lemon bottlebrush *Melaleuca pallida*, Alpine bottlebrush *M. ptyoides*, Many-flowered matrush *Lomandra multiflora* subsp. *multiflora*, Compact wire lily *Lacmannia compacta*, Narrow-leaved spider flower *Grevillea viridiflava*, Flannel flower *Actinotus helianthi*.



The Pyramids

BIRDS - Girraween 24th October 2021

Yellow Robin, Fantailed Cuckoo, White-throated Warbler, Rufous Whistler, Currawong, White-throated Treecreeper, Spotted Pardalote, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Grey Thrush, White-eared Honeyeater, Leaden Flycatcher, Chough, Brush Cuckoo.

Almost all of these were heard and not seen. And, I think someone saw a bird of prey, but I'm not sure. Peter.

Christmas Break-up – 5th December 2021 – Peter & Lynette's Place

The Break-up this year will be held at Peter and Lynette Haselgrove's property at Storm King. There is no specific walk planned but there a number of strolls you can take depending on the weather. We can wander around our block. And we can walk down and admire the now full Storm King Dam.

We will have the kettle boiling for afternoon tea at 3.30 p.m. and the (BYO) BBQ will start around 6 p.m.

Bring a chair and your tucker. We will provide tea, coffee etc. You might like to bring something to share for afternoon tea and/or after dinner.

We do have some undercover shelter if we get a storm.

**General Meeting
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
27th October 2021**

Meeting opened: 7:35 pm

Attendance and Apologies: As per Attendance Book.

Minutes of the previous meeting as per Newsletter: since amended, to show the correct dates for the Next Outing and Next Meeting.

Amended Minutes Confirmed: Lyn seconded: Holly carried

Business arising from the minutes: Nil

Correspondence: read as per folder.

moved: Lyn seconded: Lesley

Financial Report: Gunter read his report showing a bank balance of \$2,114.24, and Petty Cash of \$92.25. There are some outstanding subs. which will be followed up.

Moved: Gunter seconded: Lynette

Outing Reports: 'Signboard' - 24th October

Robin gave his report on the outing, which 18 people attended. The walk included some very steep sections, but well worth the effort for the views alone.

Pre-outings: Mallee Ridge – 21st November

Kris will do a pre-outing, and prepare a write-up for the Newsletter.

General Business:

'Millie Marsden' plaque: Gunter followed up on our share of payment for this, and was told that Rotary were able to raise sufficient funds to pay the total amount.

Australian Quoll Society: The Society is holding a meeting on the 10th November, in the CWA rooms, and it was reported that Liz will be inviting us to this Meeting.

Christmas Break-up: 5th December - to be held at the Haselgrove's property at Storm King, with a late afternoon bar-b-que.

Specimens: Nil

Next Outing: 21st November

Next Meeting: 24th November

Meeting closed: 8:05 pm

Presentation: Gunter then gave his very polished presentation on spiders, insects and other bush dwellers he seeks out, and shared with us some fascinating facts into

their world of feeding, breeding, and secrets for survival.

A New Book for the Club Library

Our Club has been given a copy of the Toowoomba Field Naturalist Club's publication commemorating their 70-year anniversary. The book, titled *Flora, Fauna and Fellowship* is written by Francis Mangubhai ably assisted by Diane Pagel and Glenda Walter. In a glossy paperback binding, with a photo of a Scarlet Honeyeater on the front cover and a Red Triangle Slug on the back, the book details the history and times of the Club with a chapter for each decade and more.

The *Flora, Fauna and Fellowship* gives an interesting insight into how interests in natural history have continued in the Toowoomba area over the last 70 years.

The book is now in the Stanthorpe FNC library and members may borrow it by arrangement with our librarian at general meetings.

Peter Haselgrove

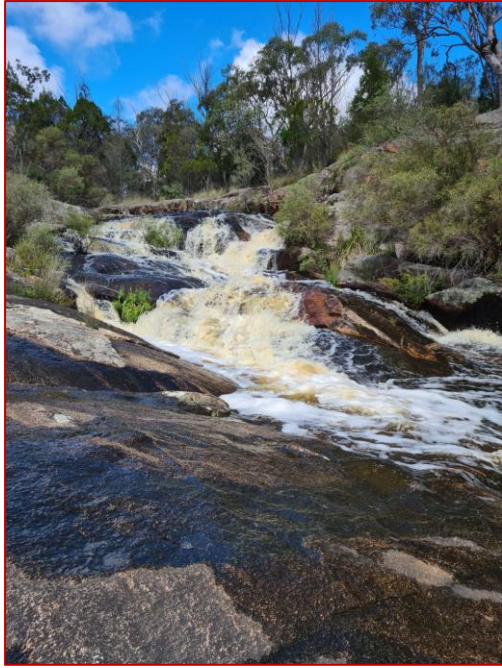
Spottings



Above Left: The Long-tailed Greenhood *Pterostylis woollsii* was spotted on a hill close to our house at Severnlea. It is perhaps the largest greenhood orchid, this one measured about 180mm from the top of the upright filamentous point to the tip of the dangling filamentous points. Rob McCosker

Above Right: Holly Lister sent this photo of a *Pterostylis woollsii* at Mt Patti. You will notice the different colour from Rob's photo.

Left: A boobook owl at Mt Patti.



Fungus at Orana

Above Left: Finneys Falls
Above Right: Turtle at
Finneys Falls.
Middle Left: Flood benches in
Quart Pot Creek.
Photos by Graham Rayner
Right: Lockwood Wilson saw
this damage to a gum tree at
Girraween. I would guess
done by Black Cockatoos.
Far Right: This Emperor Gum
Moth flew into the Camera
Club meeting at the High
School.
Photo by John Salini.





This Grey Shrike-thrush nested in our shed again this year and sadly a couple of days after this photo was taken, so were the chicks, we think by a Kookaburra. Rob McCosker

Right: *Boronia polygalifolia* on the creek bank at Orana

Below: These galls appeared on a small *Eucalyptus blakelyi* in our back yard. They have since shrivelled.

Kris & Margaret Carnell

