



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 – 2021/2022

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|------------|
| 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**

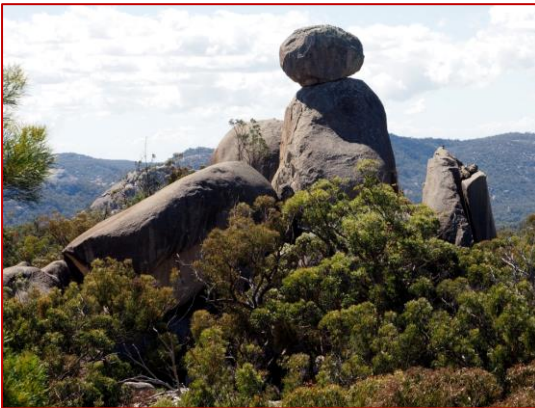
1. Flat, well-formed track, no steps, 5km or less. Clearly signposted. Suitable for wheelchairs with assistance.
2. Formed track. May have gentle hills and some steps. Clearly signposted. No experience required
3. Formed track, some obstacles, 20km or less. May have short steep hills and many steps. 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: There is no outing in April because it clashed with Anzac Day

Wed 27th April: Peter Haselgrove or Gunter Maywald

**Deadline for next newsletter
12th May**



The Sphinx – R McCosker

section.

Outing Report – The Sphinx and Turtle Rock – 20th March 2022

Fourteen members met at Girraween picnic area and after smoko we set out for the Sphinx and Turtle Rock. We had to use the track entrance opposite the information centre as the Castle Rock camping area was closed to the public. It appears a new camping area is being constructed near the Castle Rock camping ground and remedial work is also being done on the old



Back of Turtle Rock – G Rayner

The track was fairly slow going with ups and downs and a considerable number of steps. We had lunch at the Sphinx and then left our packs and walked on to Turtle Rock. Members scrambled up onto the higher sections of the rock for good views of the Sphinx and surroundings



Rock Slab – R McCosker

to the east.

There was considerable surprise from

those of us who had visited in years gone by that Turtle Rock seemed to have got higher and steeper than we remembered. We returned to the picnic area for afternoon tea.

The weather on the day was beautiful, with clear sky and a slight breeze. There were a few wildflowers, but

the birds were very quiet. The overall condition of the bush was wonderful due to the wet summer and next spring should be excellent for wildflowers.

Plants flowering included:

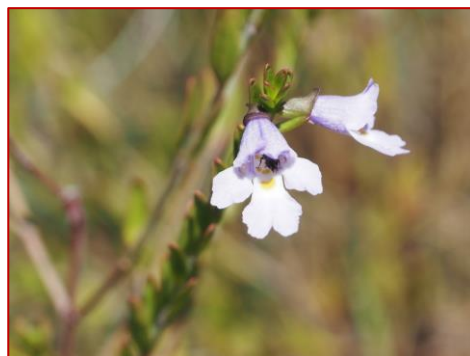
Lobelia andrewsii, *Actinotus helianthis* flannel flower,
Goodenia belladifolia, *G. hederacea*, *Isotoma anethifolia*
rock isotome, *Dodonea* - three species heavily in bud,

Xerochrysum bracteatum, *Stackhousia viminea*, *Cassinia* sp.

Birds heard or seen:

Grey fantail, Brown thornbill, Grey shrike-thrush, White-eared honeyeater, Currawong, Spotted pardolote.

Peter & Lynette Haselgrove



Prosanthera sp. – R McCosker



Top L: Podolepis- M Carnell

Top C: Fungus – G Rayner

Top R: Golden Everlasting -G Rayner

Centre: Galls – R McCosker

Centre Right: Web – G Rayner

Left: Dodonea Sp. – M Carnell
This dodonea caused a lot of interest

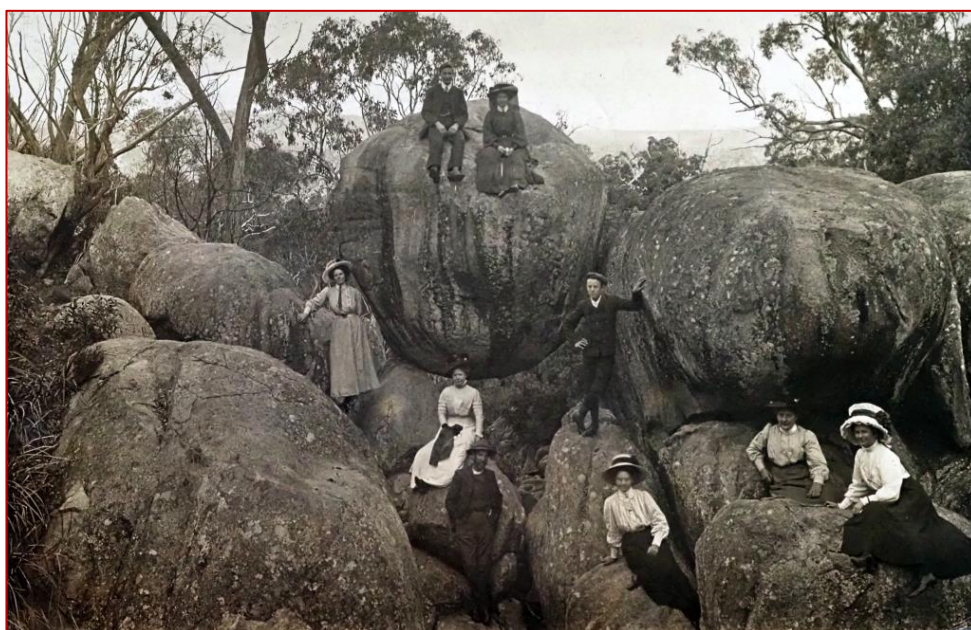
Imperial Blue Butterflies

Kris and I turned back early on the walk to The Sphinx and had our lunch in the day use area at Girraween. As I sat down at the table I noticed some butterflies around a small shrub and thought they looked like Imperial Blues. Closer inspection showed that was correct and there were clumps of larvae on an *Acacia* being attended by black ants, as you can see in the photo.

Margaret Carnell



Thanks to Rob McCosker for the photo below. How cumbersome it must have been to go bush walking dressed like that.



Cockatoo Damage



Thanks to Lockwood Wilson for the photos of cockatoo damage. The top left photo was taken when the damage was fresh. Lockwood wrote of the other four photos:
We revisited the tree five months after the initial damage and found this interesting remnant in the hole.

**General Meeting
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
23rd March 2022**

Meeting opened: 7:30 pm

Attendance and Apologies: as per Attendance Book

Welcome guests: Peter welcomed visitor Mark Lang

Minutes of the previous meeting

Confirmed: Lyn seconded: Lesley carried

Business arising from the minutes: SDRC – Stanthorpe’s 150th Anniversary.
As it was agreed that this event does not really relate to our Club, this activity was passed up.

Laser Printer – Kris reported that as no interest has been shown in the printer, he moved that it be disposed of in an appropriate manner seconded by Rob.

Correspondence: as per folder
moved: Lyn seconded: Lynette carried

Financial Report: In Gunter’s absence, Peter presented the Financial Report, showing bank funds at \$2,129.24 and Petty Cash \$102.25
moved: Peter seconded: Trish carried

Outing Reports: A Girraween walk replaced the Broadwater State Forest walk. 14 members attended, walking to the Sphinx for lunch, and then on to Turtle Rock. It was a beautiful, but hot day, enjoyed by all, with lots of wildflowers on display.

Pre-outings: Redgate Road – rescheduled to Monday 25th April, as it clashed with the Stanthorpe Show. Some members will join the group following the Anzac Day March. More details in the Newsletter.

General Business: Library – Rob brought in a selection of books to borrow or take.

Specimens: David brought in samples of volcanic rock, namely rhyolite, andesite and basalt, and explained how they came to be; and Teresa brought some native Hibiscus seeds as giveaways,

Next Outing: Monday, 25th April

Next Meeting: 27th April

Meeting closed: 8:00 pm

Presentation: David Wilson showed some images of his many trips to Tongariro, the oldest National Park in New Zealand. The many walks in the Park take in the picture perfect beauty of the peaks, lakes and waterfalls, and in particular the volcanic history of this amazing part of New Zealand.

Spottings



Top L: Stinkhorn *Phallus rubicundus* with attendant blow flies – G Rayner

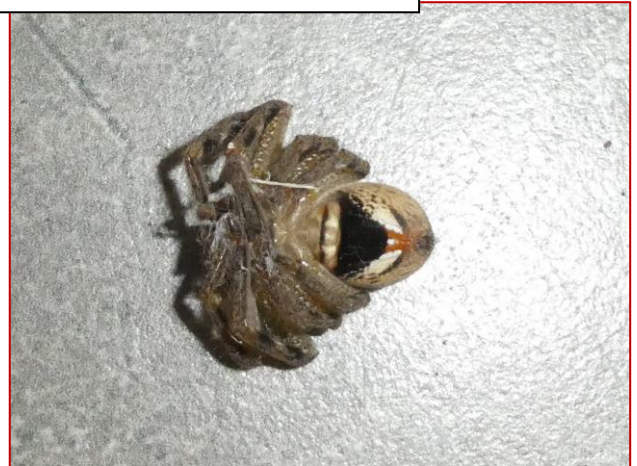
Top R: Hot pink moth with black markings – M Carnell

Bottom L: Small brown butterfly – M Carnell

Bottom R: Orange fungus – M Carnell



We had a small plague of soldier beetles in low hanging eucalypts, on the grass and covering some hellebores nearby. They lasted a few days then disappeared. No damage was done to anything. *Leon McCosker*



Top L: Badge Spider on the laundry wall. After putting it outside, a week later we found it dead in the laundry.
Top R: The shield on the underside of dead spider
Left: Red-headed Mouse Spider – also in the laundry.
Above: A Jewel Spider – one of the spiny spiders. – M Carnell