



The Granite Belt Naturalist



Mail Address: Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, Stanthorpe Qld. 4380
fieldnats@granitenet.com.au

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 19th June 2022: *Everest Reserve and Leslie Dam* with Lyn Collins and Graham Rayner

Wednesday 22nd June 2022: *The 14 Wire Fence* with Peter Haselgrove

23rd – 24th July: *Camp-out to Glenrock Reserve* with Rob and Trish McCosker

The 14 Wire Fence

"It is a very old, hand-made, laced wire fence which seems to be almost unique to this area. Sadly, it is now being replaced by modern netting fences."

Deadline for next newsletter
13th July 2022

A word from Peter –

With the AGM coming up next month, members are asked to seriously consider taking on committee positions. We know that we will need a new President, Secretary and Treasurer, at least, as these three people will not be available.

On another topic, because there are not a lot of active members, it is always difficult to find speakers for evening meetings and also leaders for outings. Therefore, it has been suggested that the Club holds meetings every second month, being every even month, and that outings are also held every second and even month of the year.

Alternatively, monthly meetings and outings could be held in the warmer months, e.g. Feb, Mar, April, May and Sep, Oct Nov with a break in winter.

This would mean less effort in finding guest speakers and outing leaders and destinations.

Would members please give these matters some serious thought?

Topic No. 3 - Our newsletter editor is pleading for contributions.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held in July.

The program will be *Remember Last Year*.

If you have any photos of outings during the year could you please send them to Kris Carnell at oranakm@bigpond.com or give them to him on a USB memory stick

We will have supper after the meeting

Pre-Outing Report – Everest Reserve and Leslie Dam



Leslie Dam water release

Leaders: Lyn Collins and Graham Rayner

Meet at Weeroona Park to car pool and leave at 9:00 am. Morning tea at Australiana Park in Warwick.



Alyxia ruscifolia

We will then proceed to Everest Road Flora & Fauna Reserve. There are conveniently mowed paths throughout, it is not boggy, but the grass paths could be damp underfoot.

Because we will be travelling through residential streets the directions are below:

Directions to Everest Road Flora & Fauna Reserve:

From Australiana Park, go back down the highway to Bisley Street - opposite the Service Station;

Turn right into Bisley Street;
right into Bracker Road;
left into Mardon Road;
right into Schoch Road;
right into Everest Road;
left into Westview Road;

We will then head out to Leslie Dam for lunch. The Dam is full and although it isn't currently spilling over, they have been releasing water from an outlet

To Leslie Dam from the Reserve:

Back down to Schoch Road and turn right;
left into Kurrajong Road;
right into Inverleigh Road;
left into Washpool Road;
right into Saddledam Road.

-

The Way Home is via the top end of the dam

Saddledam Road, Washpool Road, Glenvale Road, Rockland Road, Pikedale Road, New England Highway



Field Nats Campout to Glen Rock State Forest 23rd - 24th July

Leader Rob and Trish McCosker.



This is a preliminary notice for the proposed campout in July to The Glen Rock State Forest, about a 2 hour drive from Stanthorpe. The Casuarina Campground is easy enough to find and drive to and is accessible by normal vehicles, campers and caravans. Facilities include toilet, shower (Cold) and fireplaces. We have visited there briefly but as yet not camped there, as our planned pre-outing in May was cancelled because the Park was closed due to the rain, and remains closed until 16th of June. We still hope to do a pre-outing, and we will provide more info in the July Newsletter.

There are a couple of walking tracks to explore and we intend to make a visit to the nearby Chalowong Aboriginal Art site which is one of the best displays of rock engravings in Queensland.



More images from Everest Reserve –
Graham Rayner

Recent Sightings on my Farm

By John Salini

Most of us in the Stanthorpe district have endured an extreme period of rainfall over the last 15 – 18 months. For me in Glen Aplin, the Severn River bridge has been closed on at least three separate occasions. Last weekend after 44mm overnight, the Severn River crossing at the Blue Topaz Caravan Park in Severnlea was flooded but it flowed just under the Glen Aplin bridge.



Ironbark Growth at the Observatory

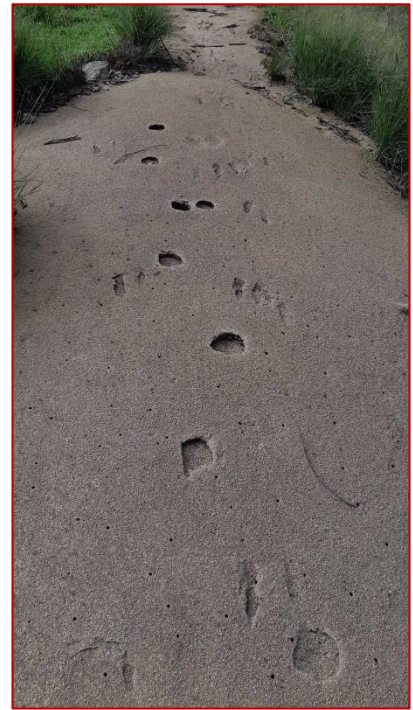
This wet period has meant that many parts of my farm have been water-logged for months at a time; this has enhanced the flourishing of many herbs that I'd rarely seen before, especially plants like Fairies Aprons that grow in wet areas. One unusual sight has been the abundance of a black slug that seemed to be everywhere; on the unsealed driveway, on concrete, on my pavers, on my water tanks.....(below). Unfortunately,

a Google search online revealed that it is most likely the 'Black Slug' that has invaded Australia since 2001!

The url is <https://www.minibeastwildlife.com.au/black-slug-arion-ater/> I would be interested to know if someone can enlighten me on this slug and whether it really is the pest species mentioned online.



A relatively common marsupial for me is the Echidna; often I only see their feeding scrapes on ant nests near my dams (at right) but recently, one cruised across my front yard and a few weeks later, I found one tucked under my firewood stack in the carport area (below). He moved away the next morning.



Another surprise was a recent encounter with a juvenile Brown Snake near my observatories (right)....it was trying to catch the sun when I almost trod on it while photographing new growth in an Ironbark sapling. It soon bolted under the sapling canopy and I have not seen it since then. A bit cold for reptiles now I suspect.



**General Meeting
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
25th May 2022**

Meeting opened: 7:32 pm

Attendance and Apologies: as per Attendance Book

Minutes of previous meeting – amended to clarify the current position of Treasurer.
Confirmed Lyn seconded Kris carried

Business arising from the minutes: The discontinuation of our *granitenet* email address is being followed up. It's still good for another month.

Correspondence: as per folder
moved Lyn seconded Peter carried

Financial Report: Bank Balance of \$2,060.24 and Petty Cash \$102.25

moved Gunter seconded Teresa carried

Outing Reports: No outing this month, Bundanoon being postponed again due to rain.

June outing: 19th June – Warwick – Everest Road Flora & Fauna Reserve, which should be worth a visit after the rain, and Leslie Dam for lunch. Details in the Newsletter.

July outing: The July outing is a camp-out at Glen Rock. There is an Aboriginal site which Rob hopes we can visit. Creek crossings could cause problems. More details in the Newsletter.

General Business:

New Executive – members were asked to consider taking on committee positions at the coming AGM in July.

Monthly Meetings – Peter brought up a suggestion that the Club holds its monthly meetings every second month, being every even month, and that outings are held every second and even month of the year. Members were asked to think about this.

Specimens: Rob brought in a branch of Hickory Wattle and one of Sarsparilla vine for discussion.

Next Outing: 19th June

Next Meeting: 22nd June

Meeting closed: 7:50 pm

Presentation: Gunter presented another polished programme, this time on Eucalypts, their distribution, how to identify them, and many interesting facts. Who knew there were 934 species of Eucalypts?

Spottings



Left: Buff-banded Rail

This sighting of a Buff-banded Rail in early May was a first for me. It is being held by my son Patrick who rescued it from where it had been caught on a fence, and suffered wing and leg damage as a result. Unfortunately it wriggled out of his grip after I took the photo and disappeared into the night so we don't know of its fate.

Rob McCosker

Right: Alec Harslett took us for a walk in Amiens Forestry to see this amazing balancing rock. It's about the size of a large car balancing on a point only about 300mm to 400mm wide. – *Leon McCosker*

Below: There was discussion at the last meeting about this bird seen by Leon. It looks like a picture of a Japanese quail on Google.



Small green-banded blue *Danis hymetus taygetus* or *Psychonotis caelius taygetus*

One of three subspecies, the other two being tropical, this one extends as far south as Sydney. Mostly a coastal species but in wetter seasons can be found as far inland as the Expedition Range.

This individual was in our garden in early May, apparently it being wet or humid enough for it to venture this far inland.

The caterpillars feed on Red Ash, *Alphitonia excelsa*.

We only have old butterfly books and internet references have the butterfly's name changed to *Psychonotis caelius*.



Small green-banded blue *Danis hymetus* likes roses. *Haselgroves*



Above: Ink Caps - Whiskey Gully Road Severnlea

Right: *Banksia integrifolia* has been blooming for months. Whiskey Gully Road *K Carnell*

