



The Granite Belt Naturalist



Mail Address: Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, Stanthorpe Qld. 4380
stanthorpefieldnats@gmail.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 following the 4th Wednesday
of each month

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

CLUB OFFICE BEARERS – 2022/2023

President	Leon McCosker	46811737
Vice-presidents	Peter Haselgrove	46837255
	Robyn Murray	0488515311
Secretary/	Leslie Saunders	46813837
Treasurer	mobile	0403073442
Newsletter Editor	Margaret Carnell	46835268
Publicity Officer		
Librarian	Rob McCosker	46835371

**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 25th September: Wildflower Walk.

Wednesday 28th September: *The Simpson Desert* with Lesley Saunders.
Sunday October 2nd: *Foxbar Falls* with Alec Harslett

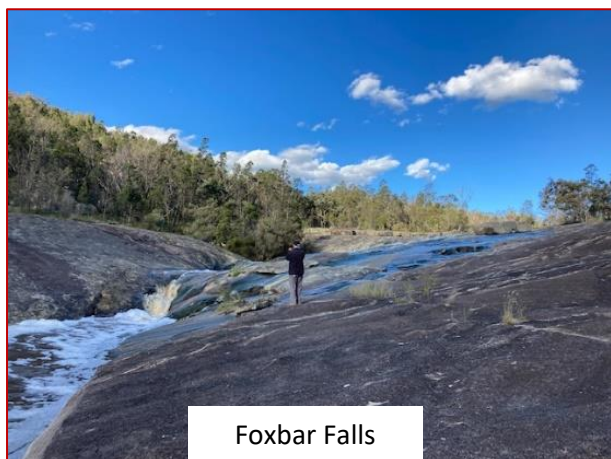
**Deadline for next newsletter
14th October 2022**

REMINDER

**Outings are now held on the Sunday
after the monthly meeting.**

Pre-Outing Report – Foxbar Falls, 375 Goldfields Rd, Amiens – Sunday 2nd October

Leader: Alec Harslett



Foxbar Falls

Our walk this time will be the Sunday **after** our September meeting because The Stanthorpe Wildflower Consortium is holding their walk on Sunday 25th September and many of our members would like to go on that walk.

Meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00 am to carpool, drive to Foxbar Falls, 375 Goldfields Rd Amiens. We will have morning tea at the campground and Alec Harslett will talk with members on which walk they wish to take as there are several choices available. Be prepared to carry lunch if needed.

This will be an interesting walk with lots of wildflowers about.

Outing Report – Mt Koola – 22nd August 2022

The outing to **Mt Koola**, in the recreation reserve at Dalcouth, was joined by members of the Stanthorpe Rare Wildflower Consortium to see the wildflowers growing in the reserve. After assembling in the carpark, we walked up the mountain to a granite pavement on the North-Western side with views of Blue Mountain, where we had morning tea.

The walk to the top of Mt. Koola passed through stands of trigger plants and flannel flowers, a few *boronia anethifolia* were spotted. On top of the mountain another area of *boronia anethifolia* was

found. Further around there were some *Prostanthera nivea* and a few nodding greenhoods, these were some of the wildflowers seen.

On the way back through a saddle, we walked through some clematis and red Kennedy pea, elkhorns were seen on a rock, a few granite hovea were in flower. Then onto another rocky pavement on the Western side with views of Mt. Marley and Eastern side of Stanthorpe with Villa Carramar in view. We descended the mountain for a late lunch.

Leon McCosker



Nodding Greenhood Orchids



Smoko with Blue Mtn in background

Bird List 21st August 2022

Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Crimson Rosella, Spotted Pardalote, Currawong, Kookaburra
Grey Fantail, White-throated Treecreeper, Brown Thornbill, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Willie Wagtail
Grey Shrike-thrush

Flower List: *Acacia adunca* (Wallangarra wattle), *Acacia granitica*, *Actinotus helianthin* (Flannel flower), *Boronia anethifolia*, *Clematis glycinoides*, *Erythrochis cassythoides* (Climbing orchid in bud), *Hardenbergia violacea* (False Sarsparilla), *Hovea granitica*, *Kennedia rubicunda*, *Leucopogon melaleucoides* (Snowbush) *Leucopogon novae-anglae*, *Lobelia andrewsii*, *Lomandra ongifolia*, *Mirbelia speciosa* (Showy mirbelia), *Pimelia linifolia* (Queen of the bush), *Prostanthera nivea*, *Pterostylis nutans* (Nodding greenhoods), *Senecio* sp., *Stylidium laricifolium* (Tree trigger plant), *Stylidium graminifolium* (Grass trigger plant) *Stypanandra glauca*, *Wahlenbergia granitica* (bluebell), *Wurmbea biglandulosa* (Early Nancy),

Minutes of the General Meeting Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc 24th August 2022

Meeting opened: 7.30pm

Attendance & Apologies...As per Attendance Book

Minutes of the previous meeting: - Read with no amendments recorded.

Confirmed..... Holly

Seconded..... Lesley

Carried

Business arising from the minutes: -

Kris confirmed that the change of the e-mail address has been successfully completed. There was a brief discussion regarding the change of outing/meetings dates. It was felt by members that a change should be made so that the Sunday outings followed the Wednesday evening meetings. This would streamline the events.

Motion: - That the Sunday outings be changed to that following the Wednesday evening meetings for a trial period of 12 months.

Confirmed..... Peter

Seconded.... Teresa

Carried

The 2022/23 planned outings have been arranged and will be attached to this newsletter for perusal. Regarding the "Cat management Plan" Peter gave a brief summary of his reply to the Council's. His reply follows: -

"The Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc would like to respond to the SDRC's Draft Cat Management Policy. We are a group of local people seriously interested in observing, learning about, and encouraging conservation of the native plants and animals on the Granite Belt. We are aware of the enormous amount of damage an uncontrolled foreign predators can do to these species. While it is very difficult at present for the Council to control the feral population in the district, domestic cats which are allowed to roam and breed with ferals will only continue to add to the overall problem, including Council costs.

We note from your March 2021 Survey that nearly half the respondents reported negative interaction with cats. More than half felt that there should be greater control of domestic cats, both by chipping and desexing of all cats and limiting ownership to one animal per property. Owners should be responsible for costs of cat ownership just as dog owners and vehicle owners must be.

We heartily support improved cat management strategies but feel the priorities should be desexing and keeping the animals confined, in addition to public education. The animal's welfare should really be the responsibility of the owner."

Many thanks to Peter on behalf of the club members was given to his measured response to the Council's request for feedback.

Correspondence.....read as per correspondence book

Moved..... Lesley

Seconded..... Lyn

Carried

Financial Report: -

Lesley presented the Treasurer's Report Current Balance as at 29/7/2022 \$2080.24

Petty Cash \$102.25

Total \$2259.74

MovedLesley

Seconded.....Lyn

Carried

Motion: - That Peter Haelgrove be accepted as a third signatory to signing the cheques and that Peter Hazelgrove, Leon McCosker and Lesley Saunders have access to internet banking facilities of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc account.

Moved.... Lesley

Seconded..... Lyn

Carried

Outing Report: - A successful day at Mt Kola was had by attending members together with some members of the Wildflower Consortium.

Pre-Outing Report: -

This will be given at the next meeting. The outing will be Foxbar Falls led by Alex Harslet.

General Business: -

Direction was requested from the secretary as to the members who have not paid subs for 12 months or more. It was decided that no further magazines be sent out to these members. Lesley to liaise with Kris re updated listing of members and appropriate action to be taken. A reminder should be made in the next newsletter regarding payment of membership subscriptions.

It was requested that some leaflets on the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc be photocopied to be handed out at the Eco Expo to be held at the Ananda Pali venue on 3rd September to help attract new members to the club Kris to liaise with Liz Bourne re this and report at the next meeting.

Teresa requested some background photographs from the club to upload onto the club's website again to attract new members to the club. Teresa and Holly to liaise re this and report at the next meeting.

Specimens: -..... None tabled.

Next Meeting: - 28th September

Meeting Closed: - 7.55pm

Presentation: - Neil Fordice

Threatened Species of the Northern Tablelands. A very well documented and interesting presentation.

Thoroughly enjoyable with much food for thought.

Spottings

Had some interesting visitors to our back yard recently. The Banksia 'Giant Candles' has increased in size with the rain, as have the resulting 100+ flower cones. Soon after dark I heard distinct yapping noises coming from it, so got the torch and camera out. There was a pair of SQUIRREL GLIDERS one of which 'posed' for me for some time -Twice!, as can you see in these shots. The tail lacks a white tip. This helps distinguish it from the Sugar Glider.

Ian Milinovich



Banksia Giant Candles



These insects were coming in and out of a hole in the wall of a shed at Amiens. At first we thought they were native bees, but they have very short antennae and the wings extend well behind the body, so they are probably flies of some sort.

Photos: *Kris Carnell*



A resident of Magnetic Island seen by Graham Rayner on a recent trip.

The Florida Hopbush (*Dodonaea viscosa*) was also on Magnetic Island. The seed pods look just like the Australian ones.



Some recent sightings from Rob McCosker

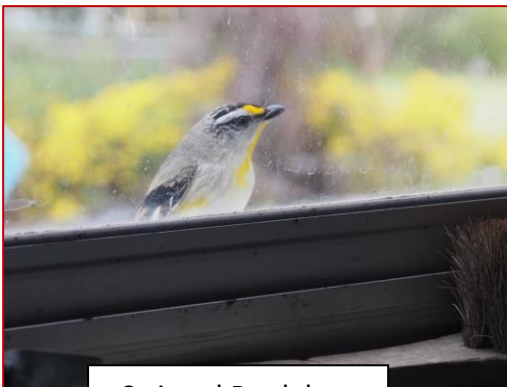


While stepping over a cypress log at Girraween in the bush near Bill Goebel's house I disturbed this Carpet Python (left) sunning itself. Notice the pair of well engorged ticks on top of its head.

A Burton's Legless lizard roadkill on Jones Road, Severnlea



(Right). It was the largest one I have seen, a reddish brown colour with lines of black dots along it's back.



Striated Pardalote

Strange bird activity with a Striated Pardalote

attacking it's reflection in the shed window, defending its territory, while the mate is sitting on the nest in a hollow branch high in tree nearby. We also noticed the call has changed from a two note "bring-it here" before nesting to a single "bring-it" after starting to sit on the nest.

I was alerted to the Spotted Pardalote collecting nest material from both of our large palm trees and looked for its nest hole in banks and mounds of dirt, to no avail, until Trish found it in our old garden shed when she saw it fly out from the centre of an old roll of mattress foam. Now we have to be prepared for the sudden whirr of wings past our head every time we go into the shed.



Striated Pardalote



Our family of Grey-crowned Babblers (left) was reduced from nine to four with some splitting off to form a separate group. Mostly we see only three as one is sitting on eggs in a nest high in a cypress tree and only comes out occasionally for a frolic and bath with the others. One has recently started flying to the house windows with what I first presumed was an aggressive behaviour, but it may be begging for food from its reflection, as it opens its beak making a high pitched squeaking sound and raises its wings. I have seen this with groups feeding a juvenile. I watched the

three making definite aggressive behaviour towards a Kookaburra by flying at it, fanning their tails and making lots of noise as well as pecking the branch violently to make a loud clicking sound. The Kookaburra was unperturbed, even when the noise attracted a Noisy Miner to join the fray.

Stanthorpe Field Nats Club Program 2022-2023			
MONTH	OUTINGS	MEETINGS	CAMPOUT
September	<u>October</u> ^{2nd} Alec Harslett - Foxbar Falls, Sow & Pigs	28 th Lesley Saunders – Simpson Desert	
October	30 th Kris Carnell - Spring Girraween Rock Slab	26 th Holly Lister – Snakes, first aid	
November	27 th Basket Swamp and Falls Leon McCosker	23 rd Sue Francis – Birds in Christmas Island & Lord Howe	
December	5 th End of year Breakup at Leon & Kerrie McCoskers		
February	26 th Visit to the Piano Mill	22 nd Gunter Maywald - Talk	
March	26 th Kris Carnell - Autumn Girraween Rock Slab	22 nd Chris Moon – Tektites, glassy objects from meteorite impact	
April	30 th Ooline creek, Sundown with Peter Haselgrove	26 th Lesley Saunders – Kokoda Track	
May	28 th Bundanoon Station Peter Haselgrove	24 th David Wilson - Talk	
June	<u>July 2nd</u> Kris Carnell – Winter Girraween Rock Slab	28 th Carol Booth – Flying Foxes	
July	30 th Rob McCosker Stone House Mt Norman	26 th AGM and Remember Last Year	
August	27 th Lesley Saunders – Mt Marley, Sentimental Rocks	23 rd Holly Lister- Frog Hotels	
All outings and programs are subject to change and members will be advised by email if changes occur.			