



The Granite Belt Naturalist



Mail Address: Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc, PO Box 154, Stanthorpe Qld. 4380
stanthorpefieldnats@gmail.com

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



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

Wednesday 26th October: *Snake Bite First Aid with Holly Lister*

Sunday 30th October: Ridge at Girraween with Kris and Margaret

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

Pre-Outing – Girraween – 30th October 2022

Leaders: Kris & Margaret Carnell

The outing is to a rocky ridge in Girraween on the corner of Pyramids Road and Mt Norman Road where the Nats went when we visited The Signboard in June 2021. We will be visiting this slab three times in 2022/23 to see what is flowering at different times of the year.

We will meet at Weeroona Park at 9.00am and a leader will be arranged to lead everyone to the venue at the meeting on 26th as Kris and I already had a commitment on that date when our outings were changed to follow the meeting. However, we will be there at approximately 9.30 for morning tea before starting our walk. This will be a leisurely outing with lots of botanising. We will carry lunch and have it in a spot where we can admire the view. At the moment there are lots of flowers in bloom, including *Kunzia*, *Boronia*, trigger plants and *Commersonia hermanniifolia*, and lots of everlastings.

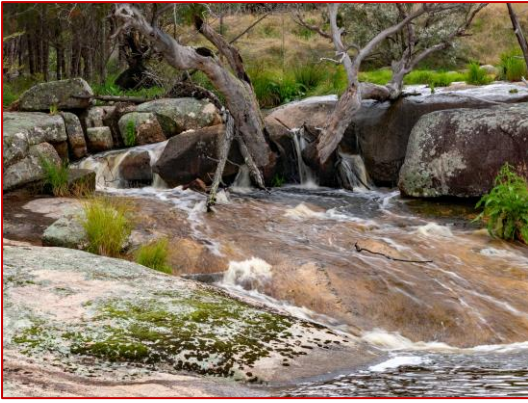
Outing Report – 2nd October 2022 – Foxbar Falls



On top of Mt Ferguson

A small number of members left Weeroona Park about 9.00am and proceeded to *Foxbar Falls* campground. There we met up with Alec Harslett, our guide for the day.

We had smoko at the shelter shed, billy tea for anyone that wanted. Alec then said he would take us up the hill, Mt Ferguson, to show us native plants that have been very scarce in the past few years that have now come back very strongly. He thinks the Stanthorpe bushfire which blanketed the area with heavy smoke for quite some time may have had something to do with it.



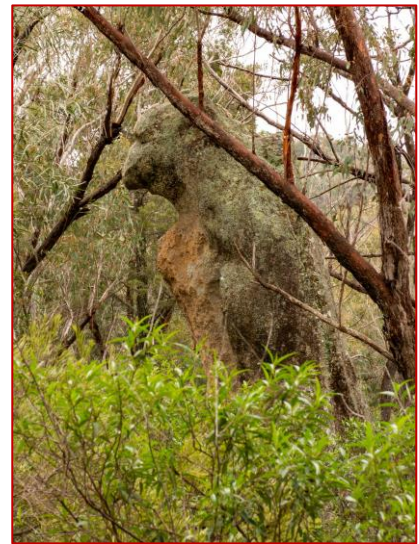
One point of interest was a large rock formation, that to me looked like King Kong. A Wallangarra White Gum was in flower and we climbed to the top of Mt Ferguson, a very large rock outcrop.

Then we proceed back down in a different direction to where there is a Wedgetail Eagle's nest with one chick visible. We were then shown the Giraffe, which is a vine covering branches. Then down to Foxbar Galls where we spent some

time looking around. Then back along the air strip to the shelter shed for lunch and down came a shower of rain. We were very lucky to be able to have the morning without rain.

We thanked Alec for his great effort for the outing before heading home.

Graham Rayner



Top Left: Foxbar Falls
Centre Right: Eagle's nest with chick (the white spot)
Above Left: Boronia (not sure of species)
Above Centre: Climbing Orchid *Erythorchis cassythoides*
Above Right: "King Kong"
Photos by Graham Rayner

Minutes of the General Meeting
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc 28th September 22

Meeting opened: 7.32pm

Attendance & Apologies: As per Attendance Book

Minutes of the previous meeting [amended]:

Confirmed.....Kris.....	Seconded.....Lesley	Carried
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Business arising from the minutes:

Lesley informed the members that she has finally gained access to the club accounts.

Membership update is still a work in progress. Lesley to liaise with Kris & Kris to report at the October meeting.

Kris stated that he and Liz decided to spend \$50 to have the leaflets for Ananda Pali printed professionally. If more leaflets are required at a later date to assist in drumming up new club members, they can be reproduced from a laser printer. He will produce invoices for reimbursement of monies as soon as he can.

Photos for the website is still a work in progress. This will be reported on at the October meeting.

Correspondence: read as per correspondence book

Moved..... Lesley	Seconded.....Kris	Carried
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Financial Report: Lesley presented the Treasurer's Report Current Balance \$2336.14

Petty Cash.... \$102.25

Total..... \$2438.39

Lesley apologised to member's for releasing emails whilst forwarding information of interest from the club's Gmail account. This was unintentional as Lesley advised that she is still coming to grips with the account.

Lesley also advised that she will be away for the month of October and will miss the next meeting. She asked members to assist with her duties for that month. Kris and Lynne kindly stepped in to fill the void.

Lesley also reminded the members that her responsibility for the treasurer's and secretary position will end at the next AGM and so members should seriously think about their role in the club and step up to help out to keep the club running. She advised that if she could learn on the job....ANYONE could!

Moved Lesley	Seconded...Holly	Carried
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Outing Report: The Outing is on 2nd October

Pre-Outing Report: Foxbar Falls visit will co-inside with the school holidays so the site will be very busy with Campervan and Caravans. Two of the Toowoomba Field Nats liaised with Leon to join our club's group for this outing. Please make them very welcome. Alex Harslett will show off the many walking tracks at the Falls.

General Business: Various changes needed to be made to the club's programme.

The 30th October outing organised by Kris **WILL** go ahead even though it clashes with a wildflower outing on the same day.

The 27th November outing to Basket Swamp and Falls has been cancelled as the road is closed due the wet weather. A visit to Bald Rock will be conducted by Leon as he stated many changes have occurred to the area since the last walk held there.

The talk scheduled by Sue on 23rd November has been changed. Andrew Pengelly has agreed to step in and give a talk on interesting facts about the Torrington Area.

The end of year breakup in December will be on 4th December and not the 5th.

Please make the changes to your schedule of outings and talks schedule

Leo gave a brief summary of his attendance at Wattle Day and stated that the Festival of Astronomy and Space should be very interesting. I supposed he wondered if anyone would be attending.

November Speaker and Topic: - **Holly Lister will give a presentation on “Snakes First Aid”**. Holly requested that the hall be opened early so that she could set up her equipment before the start of the meeting so as not to cause any delays.

Leon who usually opens the hall for the meeting will be away on that day so the keys to the hall should be collected by Kris to help out and assist. Many thanks to Kris for stepping in to fill the void.

Presentation: - “Simpson Desert Adventure” was presented by Lesley and enjoyed by all. Lesley was advised how to find the [elusive to her] EMU IN THE MILKY WAY from the Aboriginal Dreamtime Legend. April seems to be the optimal month in the Stanthorpe region. Many thanks for that. I have marked my calendar.

Specimens: Holly presented a collection of Koala scats from her own property. A small discussion was held to explain the difference twix Ringtail Possum scat and Koala scat. Size and shape?

Rob showed a photograph of a HUGE worm and the track it had made crossing a road near his property. The species was not known. He will email the photo for Kris to insert into the next newsletter. He mentioned also 2 legless lizards that had been killed on that same road in exactly the same spot.... highway to heaven perhaps?

A mention was made by another member.... sorry I missed out from whom...about the large number of invasive black slugs around at present due to the wet weather. A photo to the magazine perhaps?

I haven't seen any and am curious to see what they look like.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 26th October

Meeting Closed: 8.06pm



Left: Wallangarra White Gum **Right:** “Giraffe” at Mt Ferguson

Spottings

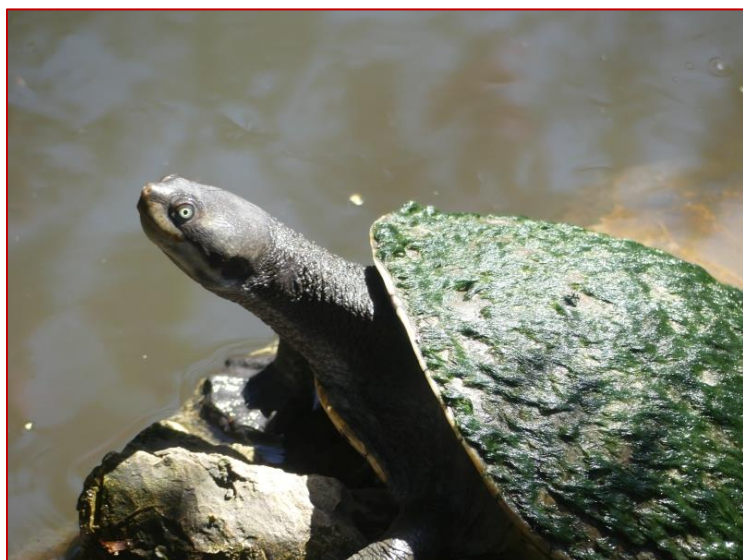


Above: The track being made by an earth worm crossing a dirt road. I saw about ten of these just before a rain event and with the already wet soil, I presume they were heading for higher ground. *Rob McCosker*

Above Right & Right: Here is the pic of the koala poo from Mt Patti and a picture from the internet comparing koala and brush tail possum poo. I still haven't seen a koala at my place yet but I will be paying more attention now. *Holly Patti*

Below Right: Patersonia blooming at *Orana*





Kris and I went to the Botanic Gardens at Hervey Bay last month and as we walked around we came upon this goanna close to the water. He was aware of us but completely ignored us. He started to dig and after a bit came up with an egg in his mouth which he promptly swallowed.

A few more people stopped to watch while he devoured twelve eggs and then waddled off. Kris asked a man who was working there what sort of eggs they were and he said they would be turtle eggs. There were dozens of turtles in the water and sunning themselves on the rocks, so I don't think they were in any way threatened.

Margaret Carnell

Photos by Kris and Margaret