



The Granite Belt Naturalist



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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



Meetings 4th Wednesday of each month at QCWA Rooms, Victoria Street, Stanthorpe, at 7.30pm

Outings: The Sunday preceding the 4th Wednesday of each month (Saturday outings as pre-arranged)

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

CLUB OFFICE BEARERS - 2019/2020

President	Jeff Campbell	46811420
Vice-presidents	Kris Carnell	46835268
	Peter Haselgrove	46837255
Secretary	Rob McCosker	46835371
Treasurer	Gunter Maywald	46810674
Newsletter Editor	Margaret Carnell	46835268
Publicity Officer	Jeff Campbell	46812008
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 walking, road or track
2. Road or track, gentle hills
3. Track, some hilly sections
4. Track, some steep sections
5. Cross country, easy open forest, gentle slopes
6. Track, steep sections common, with steps
7. Cross country, some hills, some thick undergrowth
8. Cross country, steep sections with scrambles over rocks, etc., and some thick undergrowth
9. Cross country, steep, hilly, rough, thick undergrowth
10. Mountain climbing, hard going, higher level of fitness or plenty of time required

Coming Up

All outings and meetings have been cancelled due to the Covid 19 Pandemic.
We will keep publishing the magazine.

**Deadline for next newsletter
8th May 2020**

Nats Magazines during Covid 19 Pandemic

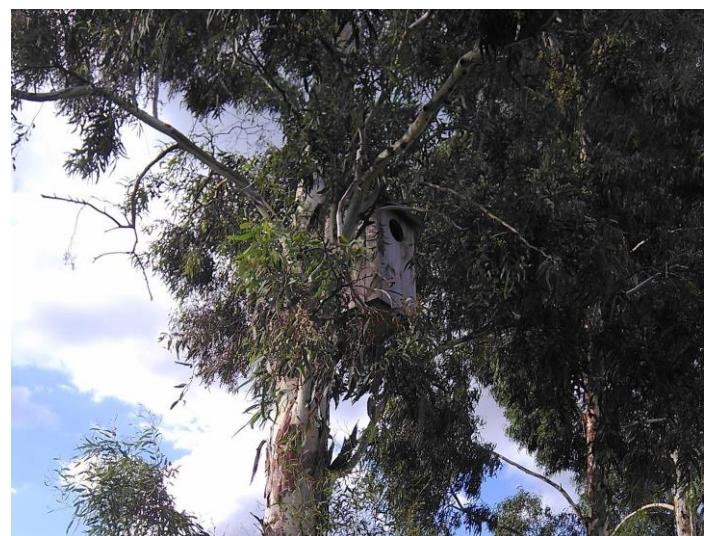
We plan to publish a magazine each month during the pandemic and we would like input from any members who see something interesting at their place. We are fortunate to have acres to walk in but if you see something in your garden we would love to hear from you. Please send any articles to our private email address : oranakm@bigpond.com.

Bird Boxes

I put up one timber/man made bird box. It's large and has a ladder inside and one log bird box that I made. It's made out of a hollow log and I put tin on the top and marine ply on the bottom.

The log one was taken up by parrots straight away, the man made one is still vacant.

It is so cute watching the female parrot sitting with her head peeking out of the hole.
Are they going to have babies in the winter?



Thanks to Karyn Van Tilberg who sent this email and photos to Rob. She thinks the parrot is an Eastern Rosella. Rob checked and they normally breed August to December so it will be interesting to see if they do bring out young ones.

Halgania brachyrhyncha

Recently when Kris and I were walking across the creek we noticed dozens of plants of *Halgania brachyrhyncha* growing beside the track where the ground had been disturbed when the fire break was upgraded. The previous time we found it was after fire. It grew for a few years and then disappeared. It belongs to the family *Boraginaceae* which includes Paterson's curse and Blue heliotrope.

In *Flora of the Granite Belt* it is described as a low spreading shrub; leaf oblanceolate, margins toothed, densely covered in bristly 2-armed hairs. It has only been recorded on *Orana* but I'm sure it occurs on many other properties with similar conditions. It is on a rocky slope in woodland. *Margaret Carnell*



You can see how serrated the leaves are in this photo. They are quite rough to touch



This gives you some idea of the size of the flower



As you can see there are not many flowers on the plant

Outing Report - The Aztec Temple, Girraween - 22nd March 2020.

We met at Weeroona Park, to depart at the usual time of 9.00am with a good number of people and by the time we arrived at the first stop had a total roll-up of twenty one. The stop along Pyramids Road for a brief side trip to an interesting rock outcrop gave us a different view of Mt Norman and we were lucky to see a number of flowering plants including the seldom seen ground orchid, Parson's bands, a Bunny orchid. There was a Jewel spider in its web nearby and we watched it catching the flies we brought with us as we stopped to look at it.



We continued on to Mt Norman Road and then parked at the northern entrance to the Creek to Peak Track for morning tea. The walk followed the service track which is also the cycle track to Mt Norman and we passed through Eucalypt forest which was recovering from severe bushfire in February 2019. We crossed Bald Rock Creek, with only a trickle of water, then left the track a couple of hundred meters further on to scramble up the Aztec Temple. On the way up the movement of a lizard caught Leon's eye and a closer look revealed a Leaf-tailed Gecko hiding in a small crevice. The incredible natural rock formations were a distraction from the steep

rough scramble to the top where we found a shady spot for lunch. We had a look at an old Lyrebird's nest built on a rock platform a couple of meters above the ground, and when Patrick and family went off to look for a boulder cave network they spotted another more current Lyrebird's nest built high in a rock crevice. We think it may have been in use as there were a lot of scratchings on the ground.

As there were no clear views from the top we walked down to the south through some more amazing rock formations and onto a large open expanse of granite with views to Billy Goat Hill, Twin Peaks and West Bald Rock. We came across a couple of man-made rock structures but after a lot of discussion couldn't decide on their purpose.



If you see a rock – Climb it!

One suggestion was for a Geo-caching location. We returned to the track and headed back to the cars, with some people taking a detour to photograph a large patch of Golden paper daisies along the way and we reached the cars at about 3.00pm for a cuppa to round off an enjoyable day.

Rob McCosker

Bird List: Rufous whistler, Brown thornbill, White-throated treecreeper

Plant List



Parson's Bands (*Eriochilus cucullatus*)

A ground orchid, Parson's bands *Eriochilus cucullatus*, Rock Isotoma *Isotoma anethifolia*, Queen of the bush *Pimelea linifolia*, Hoary sunray *Leucochrysum albicans* var. *albicans*, Golden everlasting *Xerochrysum bracteatum*, Showy podolepis *Podolepis jaceoides*, Billy buttons *Craspedia canens*, Yellow buttons *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, Granite daisy *Brachyscome stuartii*, White burr daisy *Calotis dentex*, White root *Lobelia purpurascens*, Trailing lobelia *Lobelia andrewsii*, Daisy

goodenia *Goodenia bellidifolia* subsp. *argentea*, Ivy-leaf goodenia *Goodenia hederacea* subsp. *hederacea*, Bluebells *Wahlenbergia communis*, *W. graniticola* and *W. stricta*, Golden weather grass *Hypoxis hygrometrica* var. *villosisepala*, Yellow rush-lily *Tricoryne elatior*, Wild iris *Patersonia sericea* var. *sericea*, Slug herb *Murdannia graminea*, Matrush *Lomandra multiflora* subsp. *multiflora*, Cockspur flowers *Plectranthus suaveolens*, Purple loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*.



Hoary sunray (*Leucochrysum albicans albicans*)

Also spotted hiding in a rock crevice as we walked past was a Leaf-tailed gecko.

Things that go bump in the night - Ring-tailed possum

We often hear a bump on the roof at night and recently went out with a torch to find this pair climbing down via the power cable. We think Mum's nest is in the Palm tree at one end of the house and she goes from it via the Liquidamber and power cable to the roof, runs all the way along the roof then jumps off into trees at the other end of the house to go foraging.



What have you spotted lately?

Because we can't have outings at the moment it has been suggested that we all take note of anything interesting or unusual and then share it in the magazine as Rob has done here.

Email your "spottings" to oranakm@bigpond.com

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 25th March 2020**

Meeting opened: 7.30pm with members heeding the Government Health directive to maintain 4 square metres isolation due to the Corona Virus.

Attendance: 7 with 4 Apologies as per attendance sheet

Minutes of the previous meeting:

confirmed by Trish McCosker seconded by Graham Rayner Carried

Business arising from the minutes:

Peter Haselgrove has replenished items in the First Aid Kit and added snake bite bandages.

Correspondence: as per folder

moved by Rob McCosker seconded by Lyn Collins Carried

Financial Report: Gunter Maywald provided a balance sheet, read by Rob in Gunter's absence, which showed a balance of \$1524.44 in the cheque account and \$34.20 in Petty Cash. The report was moved by Peter Haselgrove and seconded by Trish McCosker.

Outing Reports: Rob McCosker reported that 21 people enjoyed the outing to the Aztec Temple with perfect weather, a surprisingly good wildflower display and interesting rock formations.

Pre-outings: Mt Cordeaux was the suggestion by David Wilson for the April outing and he was to provide further information in the Newsletter. However see General Business below.

General Business: After some discussion about future meetings and outings due to the Corvid-19 pandemic, a motion was moved by Kris Carnell that the club go into recess, and cancel future proposed outings and meetings, until the executive committee decide when to resume, however a monthly newsletter will be maintained with items provided by members. The motion was seconded by Peter Haselgrove and carried.

Future of ANN Get-together. Peter Haselgrove pointed out that the organizing committee for the ANN Get-together had decided they should cancel the event due to the Corvid-19 Corona Virus pandemic and he moved a motion that the Stanthorpe Field Naturalists Club cancel the 2020 ANN Get-together. The motion was seconded by Trish McCosker and carried.

Specimens: Kris Carnell had a specimen of *Halgania brachyrhyncha* a member of the Boraginaceae (Borage) Family, which has only been found on his property at Severnlea.

Next Meeting: Cancelled

Meeting closed: 8.00pm

Presentation: The Kimberleys trip by Rob and Trish included pictures of the Aramac- Lake Dunn Sculpture trail, many of the gorges along the Gibb River Road, a visit to Caranbirini National Park and a helicopter trip from Cape Crawford into the more spectacular rock formations of the Lost World.