



The Granite Belt Naturalist

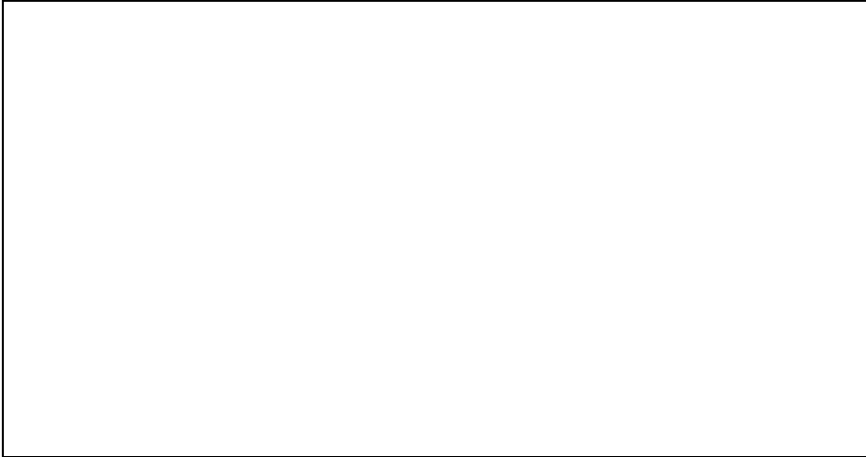


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Web site <https://mysd.com.au/fieldnats/>

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



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 - 2017/2018

President	Jeff Campbell	46811420
Vice-presidents	Kris Carnell	46835268
	Gunther Maywald	
Secretary	Rob McCosker	46835371
Treasurer		
Newsletter Editor	K & M. Carnell	46835268
Publicity Officer	Jeff Campbell	46812008
Librarian	Laura Maywald	46835371

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

Sunday 24th February: *Boonoo*
Boonoo/Basket Swamp with Gunter and
Laura Maywald
Wednesday 27th February: *Insects of*
Australia with Gunter Maywald
March 1st – 3rd: Camp-out at *The Gorge*
with Rob McCosker

**Deadline for next newsletter
11th March 2019**

Pre-outing Report – February 24th to Boonoo Boonoo/Basket Creek Swamp

One of the aims of this outing is to look for some insect on eucalypts and related plants and to demonstrate the “sweep tray” technique used for this purpose. The plan is to gather as usual at Weeroona Park at 9am and then drive to a site next to the Mt Lindsay Road near Bookookoorara Creek for smoko. The site has space for parking multiple vehicles off the road and has provided a good diversity of eucalypt leaf beetles on past visits. The diverse assemblage of eucalypt species here includes *Eucalyptus pauciflora*, *E. radiata*, *E. deanei* and a species of stringybark (probably *E. caliginosa*). There are plenty of small trees scattered over a fairly open site to allow easy walking and collecting. Unfortunately, the extremely low rainfall since October has really dried out this site and greatly reduced beetle numbers. Only a few were seen on the pre-outing visit on January 27. After spending some time at this site, we will drive a little further south to the point where the road to Basket Swamp joins the Mt Lindsay Road. This somewhat wetter site has a slightly different mix of eucalypts, with *E. obliqua* and *E. cameronii* being present. We will spend a little while here continuing to look for insects on the saplings by the road. A 2-hour effort on the pre-outing visit found 9 species here (a total of 24 specimens). This again is a much poorer result than would be expected at this locality in January in a normal season. Despite the lower number of eucalypt leaf beetles, there were plenty of large March flies and insect repellent may prove useful on the outing.

Afterwards, those who wish can continue to the Basket Creek Swamp picnic area. The road in is heavily pot-holed and high-clearance 4WD vehicles would be an advantage. The site will make a pleasant place for lunch and afterwards we can explore the surrounds for more insects and other fauna and flora. We anticipate a return to Stanthorpe by no later than 4pm.

Gunter & Laura Maywald 46810674

Pre-Outing Report - Clarence River Gorge Campout March 1st - 3rd 2019



Please Note – The Date is one week earlier than shown on the Nats Program

The proposed campout was for the Lionsville area in the northern part of Washpool National Park however the access bridge to the camping area was damaged in a flood so there is no access. Instead we will camp at the Clarence River Gorge, a privately run facility on Heifer Station. There is a comfortable two bedroom ‘Shack’ with all amenities

which sleeps up to 12 people at \$30 pp per night and camping sites outside the Shack at \$25 per night. Since first making enquiries 'The Shack' has been booked out so not available for us. We have booked a large grassy camping area with shady fig and mango trees and views to the Clarence River. There is a long drop toilet at this campsite and flushing toilets and showers at the farm house garden about 300m away. Property owners are Neil and Sue Winters on 02 66472173 - browse their website theclarencergeorge.com for more information.



There are walks along the river to the gorge and waterfalls and further upstream to the junction with the Mann River. Neil also offers half and full day boat trips into the gorge and this is reputed to be the best Bass fishing river in NSW. All catch and release lure fishing only.



We plan to drive down on Friday then do the about 6km return walk to the gorge and waterfall on Saturday - taking all day - with lunch at the falls. Grade for this walk is 7 as we are following cattle tracks most of the way on mostly level river banks with some rocky sections.

To get there Google maps advises the shortest route, allow 4 hours, is via the Bruxner Highway. We took 6 hours with stops for smoko, lunch and lookouts. Turning off 19km after Drake onto Plains Station Road, the road soon crosses the (Timbarra) Rocky River then

22km on, it crosses the Clarence River at Yates Crossing, a popular free campsite. Continue south for 24km to Baryulgil, then about another 40km to the Newbold Lookout for a brief stop to take in the view over the Clarence River. There are no signs for this lookout so look for it on the right, and there are no toilets, but we thought it would be a good lunch spot as there are covered tables and seats. There is a toilet 2km further along at the Lilydale Bridge, another popular free campsite, but quite exposed with no shade. Turn right at the Jackadgery Road and after crossing the Clarence River again at the Lilydale Bridge turn right onto Gorge Road and continue another 27km of good gravel road to The Gorge. Well, now that we have been there, most is good gravel except for the last 4km which is more stony and rough.



Alternatively travel down the Gwyder Highway, turning off 12km past Jackadgery, then after 9km turn right, then another 9km onto Gorge Road at the Lilydale Bridge, and continue 27km to The Gorge.

The round trip for us was about 550km driving down the Bruxner and returning on the Gwyder Highways and we plan to leave Stanthorpe at 8.00am if anyone wishes to travel with us in convoy. Would members intending to attend this outing please advise me in case there are changes and in case heavy rain closes the roads. This is a flood prone area.

Rob McCosker 0746835371 robinmcc@bigpond.com

Outing Report - Spirabo Forest Way 25th November 2018



Spirabo Forest Way

I was surprised when 19 people turned up for the day, as I was expecting about 6 with the weather forecast and the very unstable weather lately. We set off at 9.00am and stopped at Tenterfield's Rotary Park for a comfort stop before going on to Ottobeuren Park at the Dam for morning tea, with a chance to spot



Callicoma serratifolia

some water birds. We were grateful for the shelter as a short shower passed over while we were there. We drove on along Scrub Road with the headwaters of Tenterfield Creek on our left and passed through good farm land until the road descended to the State Forest and eventually Washpool National Park.

We stopped to look at the showy White Alder (or Black wattle) trees *Callicoma serratifolia* in bloom, and stopped again at the turn-off to the lookout to see the Mountain Pepper bush *Tasmannia stipitata* which unfortunately had finished flowering since we saw it on our pre-outing trip. A couple of us sampled the leaf and can verify that it is very peppery! The clouds cleared for us at the



View from Billyrimba Lookout

Billirimba Lookout so we had good views down to the floor of the Timbarra River valley, then decided to continue to a nice shady spot for lunch near the turnoff to 4 Bulls Hut, though it was a bit late. The Spirabo Forest Way continues through another section of State Forest before passing through two sections of Capoompeta National Park divided by farm land, and then along Ten Mile Road to Deepwater.

As it was then about 4.00pm some members decided to head straight home on the Highway while the rest

had smoko at the park in Deepwater then set off on the return route, driving first to Stannum then via Red Hill Road to Pyes Creek Road. This scenic road follows the creek valley for some distance and has ten crossings, all concrete, and the creek is lined with large Oak trees. There is quite a South American influence in this region with Bolivia not far away on the New England Highway and a property called Ecuador here on Pyes Creek. The owners were obviously keen gardeners as both sides of the road were planted up with exotics and substantial gardens were seen around the house. A little further along some people stopped to inspect and photograph the thoughtfully constructed mailboxes resembling the old houses there in scale model. The road eventually descended into the Mole River valley with more spectacular scenery, before continuing as Woodside Road until the Bruxner Highway, then on to the New England Highway at Sunnyside. I must apologise for getting back so late – my expectation of 5.00pm return was over an hour out, but with a nice sunny afternoon I hope no-one minded. - Rob McCosker



Plant List



Mountain Pepper Bush

Lomatia silaifolia Crinkle bush, *Ozothamnus diosmifolius* Sago flower, *O. obcordatus* Grey everlasting, *Cassinia straminea*, Golden cassinia (mistaken for Grey Everlasting initially), *Jacksonia scoparia* Dogwood, *Podolobium ilicifolium* Native Holly, *Tasmannia stipitata* Mountain pepperbush (– not in flower but seen abundantly along roadside and some people can verify that the leaves are very peppery when chewed !)
Billardiera scandens Apple berry vine, *Callicoma serratifolia* White Alder or Black wattle, *Hibbertia scandens* Climbing Guinea flower, *Hibbertia sp.* (very small flower) *Hardenbergia violacea* Sarsaparilla, *Dianella revoluta* Flax lily, *Dampiera purpurea* Mountain dampiera, *Stylidium graminifolium* Grass trigger plant, *Solanum amblymerum* Spiny kangaroo apple.

Snakes Alive.

On New Year's Day Kris's brother, Russell and his wife Jennifer went for a walk up our mountain. They were very surprised when they reached the creek, to find a red-bellied black snake swimming in a shallow rock pool, and apparently eating something on the edge of the pool. I wondered if it was eating tadpoles.

Report - Break-Up – Orana – December 9th 2018



Rob, Errol, Annette and Kris

The Break-up last year was combined with the Camera Club to say farewell to Errol and Annette Walker, long time members of both clubs. Guests started to arrive at about 3.00pm and we sat under the trees in the front yard for afternoon tea. It was very pleasant sitting in the shade, chatting but eventually, most people went for a stroll through the plantings in what was once orchard. The trees we received from Landcare have done very well on the whole, and there is now a forest where there were once weeds. There are still some of those, but apart from the woolly-butt the trees have done remarkably well. In some parts the *Acacia*

filicifolia have formed thickets and some tea-trees and *Cassinias* have grown of their own accord.

We started the barbeque at about 6.00pm in the old packing shed which is now Kris's workshop, so he spent quite some time cleaning it up to give us plenty of space. The building has lots of character having been built from recycled iron and trusses. The original wooden poles have been replaced with steel posts. It worked well having shelter from the wind. After we had eaten Rob and Kris each showed a program of past Nats outings in which Errol and Annette had been involved. It was lovely to see Errol and Annette and we had a very enjoyable break-up. Unfortunately there was no rain to disrupt proceedings this time.



Liz and Sue consulting *Flora of the Granite Belt*

Margaret Carnell

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc.
Held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St, Stanthorpe on Wednesday 28th November 2018**

Meeting opened: 7.35pm

Attendance: 14. Apologies 1 as per attendance sheet

Minutes of the previous meeting:

confirmed by R McCosker seconded by L Saunders Carried

Business arising from the minutes: nil

Correspondence: as per folder

moved R McCosker seconded by K Carnell Carried

Financial Report: Showed a bank balance of \$1572.54

L Saunders moved financial report be accepted, seconded by T McCosker Carried

Outing Reports: R McCosker reported that 19 people attended the outing to the Spirabo Forest Way, and a rather late return to Stanthorpe via Pyes Creek at about 6.00pm.

Pre-outings: Christmas Breakup at Kris and Margaret Carnell's property from 3.30pm on Sunday 9th December with BBQ from 6.00pm

Next outing on Sunday 24th February 2019 – Collecting beetles with Gunter Maywald

General Business: Jeff gave an account of the inaugural committee meeting for the ANN and will put a report in the next Newsletter.

Kris advised that although Granitenet is closing on 24/12/2018 our website will not be affected as it will be relocated.

Gunter presented a full list of Library items held by the Librarian, put together by Librarian Laura Maywald.

Specimens: Kris brought notes handed out on a Nats outing to Mt Speribo Forestland on 23rd April 1995, the same route taken on this months outing.

Kris also showed a Google Earth image showing the extent of the Demon fault line, which was seen from the Billirimba Lookout.

Rob brought Keith Williams book 'Native Plants Queensland Vol 1' with information about the flowering tree, Black Wattle, seen on the outing.

Next Meeting: Insects of Australia presented by Gunter Maywald on 27th February 2019.

Meeting closed: 8.15pm

Presentation: Kris gave a comprehensive presentation of the trip he and Margaret did to the Canberra Floriade, War Memorial and National Arboretum as well as the Japanese Gardens and Memorial at Cowra.