OBJECT: To foster an interest in nature

MEETING—Thursday 3 May 2018
7:30 pm Australian National University
Jan Anderson Seminar Room, R.N. Robertson Building, Biology Place, ANU, ACT
Details back page

Human healing relationships with animals

Speaker: Saan Ecker

Dr Saan Ecker, who is an experienced human ecology researcher as well as a psychotherapist and provisional psychologist, will share information from research and her own experience on the therapeutic value of nature experiences. This will include providing evidence on the benefit of including of horses in therapy based on research conducted at her equine-assisted therapy facility near Canberra. She will also present evidence for the benefits of conservation work for improving mental health and well-being.

Saan and most of the Peakgrove herd, showing the way horses can focus on and attend to humans

Contents

A new survey – the Water Rat (Rakali) 2
A surprise visitor 3
Seeing the beauty in moths and insects up close 3
Our birds: a new publication 4
Conservationists plan a food drop to save migratory shorebirds from starvation 5
Record ACT breeding season for threatened little eagles 6
A good outcome 7
Correction 7
Raffle prizes needed 7
How a German migrant planted citizen science in Australia – and why it worked 8
Koels departing…less one from Fraser 9
A new survey – the Water Rat (Rakali)

The Field Naturalists Association of Canberra has agreed on your behalf to participate in a Spring survey of the Australian native water rat – rakali – in the Greater ACT region. We were invited to do so by Geoff Williams of the Australian Platypus Conservancy (APC), which is based in Victoria.

The FNAC Committee made a donation last year to the APC to support its work towards banning opera house style nets. Water rats, as well as platypus and turtles, get trapped and die in these nets.

The APC believes that a survey of water rats in our region is needed to help us understand what is happening to the population. So they approached the FNAC Committee. We agreed and provided the APC with a list of contacts for local like-minded organisations. Geoff will use these contacts to publicise the meeting and promote appreciation of the water rat and participation in the survey.

Last year, we booked Geoff Williams to be our guest speaker for our 2 August 2018 meeting following his offer to come up and speak to us about platypuses and nets. With the survey coming up, he will also talk about the rakali and the survey. However, with Geoff in Canberra for the meeting and the survey to follow shortly, it seemed only logical to adapt our August FNAC meeting to a public meeting.

The FNAC Committee will be planning and organising the public meeting. We have booked a larger room at the ANU for this purpose and will provide details soon.

A call for help to our members

Would you please contact Rosemary Blemings or Kevin McCue if you can help with planning and organising the logistics of the meeting? It is a relatively big undertaking and we need your help in the lead-up to the meeting and/or on the night.

How FNAC has helped so far

The APC received a small grant of $10,000 from the Norman Wettenhall Foundation for the Greater ACT region survey of the water rat. However, a gap in funding of approximately $12,000 remained. The FNAC Committee donated $1,000 from our conservation budget towards supporting the survey.

Reporting a sighting

Details on how to report a sighting will be provided in due course through the newsletter. We’ll provide photos or links to help you identify the animal in the water. You can also promote the survey among your family and friends. Spotting and reporting rakali in the region would make a morning or evening coffee by the lake or any water source, even more enjoyable.

Sightings with a photo should be reported to the Canberra Nature Map [http://canberra.naturemapr.org](http://canberra.naturemapr.org) You can do this any time as well as during the survey.

Wikipedia says

*Hydromys chrysogaster*, commonly known as rakali, rabe or water-rat, is an Australian native rodent first described in 1804. The change to the aboriginal name Rakali was intended to foster a positive public attitude by Environment Australia. It is the only member of the genus *Hydromys* with a range extending beyond Papua New Guinea and Indonesian West Papua. Having effectively adapted and colonised a unique niche of semi aquatic and nocturnal lifestyle, this species lives in burrows on the banks of rivers, lakes and estuaries and feeds on aquatic insects, fish, crustaceans, mussels, snails, frogs, birds’ eggs and water birds. Rakali have a body 231–370 millimetres (9.1–14.6 in) in length, weigh, 340–1,275 grams (0.750–2.811 lb) and have a thick tail measuring around 242–345 millimetres (9.5–13.6 in). Females are generally smaller than males but tail lengths are normally the same. They have partially webbed hind legs, waterproof fur, a flattened head, a long blunt nose, many whiskers and small ears and eyes. The body is streamlined with a skull that is large, flat and elongated, with two molars on the upper and lower jaw, similar to the False water rat *Xeromys meroides*. They are black to brown in colour with an orange to white belly, and dark tail with a white tip.
Seeing the beauty in moths and insects up close

Since getting involved in sightings for Canberra Nature Map, I have been a lot more observant of insects around my own property, mostly checking the shrubs out front most mornings and finding all sorts of interesting insects I have never previously noticed. Of course, not having to rush off to work anymore gives me much more time and opportunity for such observations.

I have also begun leaving my porch lights on at night to attract moths then check both screen doors when I get up in the morning. It is amazing the beauty and variety of moths I have been missing in the past. Some of the smaller moths are more difficult to photograph as are the concealer moths that close up their wings tightly even though they seem quite large when flying. I especially like the green blotch moths.

There are many moths that look similar but two of the larger ones are the Sinister, frilled bark moth and the White-patch Bark moth. I am also noticing the patterns of visitations. Usually, there are only one or two of these larger moths but it was exciting one morning to find 11 White-patch Bark moths (between the front and back door). I sometimes wonder whether the sparrows are coming in early and picking off the moths from the back door, but I have also noticed some other interesting behaviour, more noticeable with the larger moths.

I’ve noticed that some moths will stay in the same position for 24 hours, and sometimes even 48 hours before moving on. This is mostly at the front door as the afternoon sun hits the back door and the moths then tend to move out of the sun.

I’m not sure about the life span or breeding behaviour of moths, but I have also noticed that sometimes when I touch a moth that has been clinging to the screen door, it drops to the ground as if it was already dead and just clinging on somehow. I understand that some moths never eat once mature, surviving only for the purpose of breeding.

Once photographing the moths clinging to my doors, it is amazing to see the detail in each.

Alison Milton

A surprise visitor

After 25 years, the fish pond I built in my back yard is now in need of repair or replacement. Two days after first building the pond I was excited to hear a frog calling and located a reasonably sized frog among the rocks, but not knowing anything about local frogs back then could not now identify it. However, ever since there has regularly been frog spawn in the pond or other water sources in my back yard. A few years ago I saw some very small frogs hopping out of the way of my lawnmower, but again could not now identify them.

Deciding to replace the fish pond lining completely, I began preparations to remove the old lining. In recent times I have ventured out at night to listen for frog calls to identify my visitors, with no success. However, once I moved the rocks holding in the existing pond lining I began to hear the call of a frog every day as I continued working on ripping out the pond structure. Consulting the Frogwatch website it could be a Plains Froglet or Brown Toadlet.

During this process (but not related to) I went to check for moth visitors one night and was thrilled to see the profile of a frog on my back screen door. It jumped off into my banksia rose bush once I opened the door wielding my camera, but I managed to find, identify and photograph it. It was a Peron’s tree frog so it is exciting to know that I have more than one frog species around.

Alison Milton

Editor ‘note: Reports to the Canberra Nature Map require a photo with a GPS location, however, if you do not want to create a Canberra Nature Map account or do not have a GPS location, you can send your photo with a description of the location to myself or to Kevin McCue and we can upload the sighting for you. Reports without a photo, but with a description of the location, can also be sent to myself or Kevin.
Our birds: a new publication

Rich bird life, culture inspires Yirrkala teenager Siena Stubbs to become published author

ABC Radio Darwin By Jesse Thompson and Liz Trevaskis

Less than two years ago, Siena Stubbs was a 14-year-old schoolgirl and casual admirer of the birds in her hometown of Yirrkala.

Now, despite still living about a 700 kilometre drive from the nearest bookstore, she is a published author with a photography book to her name.

Our Birds, which has also been published under the Yolngu Matha title Dilmurrungu Wäyín Malaynha, draws inspiration from the rich bird life with which north-east Arnhem Land is teeming.

Growing up in the area, Siena would observe the birds on early morning walks with her father and learn about them on weekends crossing Yolngu country in a troopie.

“I’ve just grown up with this knowledge from all my family,” she told ABC Radio Darwin’s Liz Trevaskis in 2016.

“When we go out hunting and we see a bird and an animal or a fish or a tree, my mum likes to tell us the name and we all pronounce it and we sound it out and we try to remember it.

“The next time we go hunting we’ll remember that type of specific animal or plant.”

She eventually took to photographing the birds with a borrowed iPad, and when an aunty in Sydney later gifted her with a DSLR camera, she was able to capture Yirrkala birdlife in its full, rich colours.

“One year later, my aunty gave me a voucher for a photo book and I decided to create a book,” Siena said.

She sent copies of the photo book to family, and when her brother posted about it on Facebook, interest exploded, with people wanting copies for themselves, schools and libraries.

The only issue: Siena only had five copies.

When Ms Trevaskis made a call-out for potential publishers of Siena’s book on the ABC Darwin Facebook page, it reached the desk of Magabala Books, an independent publishing house in Broome. They reached out to Siena, and a book deal was hatched.

The teenager said she could not believe it when a prototype of Our Birds finally made its way to her hands last week, before being stocked in bookstores later this month.

Each page, filled with the vibrant birds, neon sunsets and untouched landscapes, contains brief descriptions of their relationship to Siena’s upbringing in Arnhem Land.

“When I observe the beautiful colours of Bilitjipilitj for a while, it makes me appreciate how stunning nature is,” she writes of the red-winged parrot.

The author has also listed both the bird’s common English name alongside its Yolngu one and their moiety.

In Yolngu culture, she explained, birds name themselves by the sounds they make.

“So the blue-winged kookaburra, up here, we have the blue-winged kookaburra instead of the laughing kookaburra,” she said.

“She makes the sound ‘garru garru’, so you see the name its given is garrukal.”

In Yolngu culture, everything from life forms to landmarks is assigned one of two moieties — Dhuwa and Yirritja — through which all of life is classified and connected.

It is a concept Siena acknowledged her readership may not be familiar with. But she is pleased to share it.

“I have always loved sharing my culture,” she said.

“Whenever people come and visit, I’m always keen to teach them, and just to know that people will have access to information like this makes me so happy.”

Published by Magabala Books (https://www.magabala.com/our-distributors)
Conservationists plan a food drop to save migratory shorebirds from starvation

By Stephanie Smail

Conservationists from around the world are warning huge numbers of migratory shorebirds could starve without human intervention in China, and they’re planning a food drop to help.

One of the coldest winters in decades in a nature reserve in eastern China has wiped out the clam population, the major food source for the critically endangered Great Knot.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature list the Great Knot as endangered, while the Australian Government considers it to be critically endangered.

A fund-raising drive is underway to pay for half a million dollar’s worth of farmed shellfish to feed the birds during their long flight north.

For the past few days coastal shorebird ecologist David Melville from the Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre has been watching the hungry birds arrive in China from Australia.

He said they were flying in and looking for food that was not there.

“Drastic problems call for drastic measures,” he said. His proposal is to leave supplementary food on the tidal flat for the birds.

“We’re trying to put out 500 tonnes of small clams over a period of four to six weeks,” Mr Melville said.

He said by their calculations that would provide sufficient food for the Great Knots over the period of time when they need to fatten up for their next stage of migration.

That next stage takes them from Siberia to the alpine mountain tops.

So far fund-raising has raised enough money to feed the birds for about three weeks.

However, Mr Melville said they needed the equivalent of $250,000 more to cover the three weeks after that.

Mr Melville said he hoped to start spreading the shellfish by boat next week.

Every year, millions of shorebirds fly between Australasia and the Arctic. But for many, this will be their last flight.

“The area is already used for clam farming. So it’s not a pristine natural area, it’s an actively managed and farmed tidal flat,” he said.

“We’re really just doing what the local fishermen do.

“They haven’t been able to source commercial clams to put out because the cold weather seems to have had an impact on a large area of the country.”

He conceded the scheme was interfering with nature, but he said the Great Knot needed all the help it could get.

“If we didn’t put the food out the birds would be out on the mudflats and probably end up starving to death,” he said.

Mr Melville said the birds population was in decline and had already take a big hit in 2006, when a major site in South Korea was destroyed through reclamation.

“We have a choice, yes we could let nature take its course and we could watch a critically endangered species get even more critically endangered,” he said.

“Or we could choose to intervene for what hopefully will be a one-off event and put supplementary feed out this year to tide over part of the population so they can migrate and breed successfully.”

This is just the latest in a string of threats to the survival of many migratory shorebird species.

The birds can travel up to 12,000 kilometres in one trip to and from places like Siberia or Alaska.

Every summer Australia hosts tens of thousands of the birds, who use the time to fatten up before making their return journey.

But the birds need places to feed and rest on the way, and the Yellow Sea was a crucial stopover.

Connie Lee, from the conservation group Birdlife Australia, said about 65 per cent of the shorebird feeding grounds have been lost to development in the region since the 1960s.

“So these places that these birds stop at are becoming smaller and smaller and there’s less and less space and less food,” she said.

“And because they’ve used up all their energy stores by the time they reach the Yellow Sea, they’re in no state to fly further if they have to.

Ms Lee said after years of catastrophic habitat loss, momentum was building to provide protection for migratory shore birds in the region.

“It’s really exciting to see a lot more enthusiasm in these parts of the world in terms of protecting these species,” she said.

In January this year China announced it would dramatically curb reclamation of wetlands for commercial development.

After years of bad news the University of Queensland’s Professor Richard Fuller said that announcement had given him hope for the birds’ future.

“It’s the best news I’ve had as a researcher working on these migratory birds in the past 10 years,” he said.
Record ACT breeding season for threatened little eagles

There has been a lot of interest and discussion about the plight of Little Eagles in the ACT region of late. The good news is that according to a *The Canberra Times* article of 18 April there has been a record number of Little Eagle chicks reared in the ACT this breeding season, prompting the territory’s conservator of flora and fauna, Ian Walker, to say the threatened species is “doing better than we feared”.

At least nine nesting pairs of little eagles were found during a research effort to monitor the birds during the 2017-18 breeding season. Six of the pairs laid eggs and four chicks were reared, one each from two of the nests and two from another. One pair incubated an infertile egg and another lost their egg to a predator. There is no known reason why the other pair failed to rear a chick.

While four chicks doesn’t sound like many, this is a record for the ACT. There is still not a lot known about the success rate for nesting Little Eagles, however, two nesting pairs in nearby NSW also hatched chicks: one fledged but the other chick died due to unknown causes.

Two live webcams were installed at one of the nests ahead of this breeding season. The nest chosen was used by a pair of eagles that successfully reared a chick in 2016–2017. The male of that pair was the bird that had been tagged and tracked to the Northern Territory. He returned to the nesting territory in August, but was never seen at the nest. Another male was subsequently seen with a female but it is not known what became of the tagged male. However, the pair did not use that nest but moved to a new nest about 2 kms distance. Camera footage later showed the original nest infested with beetle larvae so perhaps that is why they moved, but did not rear a chick.

The research team has also been monitoring one of the new chicks via satellite, having fitted it with a tracking tag in December, when she was large and almost fully feathered. The female chick travelled increasing distances from her nest as she got older, sometimes flying up to seven kilometres from her nest and more than 800 metres above street level.

Then on 11 March, at less than six months old, she left the ACT and was last recorded 1000 kilometres away in Queensland, north-west of Brisbane.

It will be interesting to see where she goes next and whether she’ll return to Canberra.

Don Fletcher says, “Who could not be excited by the map below, which illustrates what the words in the release are partly about? Who would not be joyful when increased searching this last season found that the number of active nests of a threatened species is actually at least three times higher than the two nests found by the normal search effort? The first is extraordinary and intriguing, the second positive and encouraging.”

On the attached map in yellow is the track to date of the juvenile female currently flying around Queensland, in red is the 2017 route of the tagged male to Daly Waters (NT), and in green the 2016 return from Wagga of the same breeding male. (The flow of GPS data from his tracking pack had stopped when he was still in the ACT then mysteriously resumed as he passed through Wagga on his way back to Canberra in 2016. In retrospect that may have been the final stage of a longer journey.)

These are preliminary research results but already they indicate that a locally based management strategy would be insufficient. (Some of the individual eagles of Queensland and the Northern Territory are literally the same individual birds that we are seeing in NSW and the ACT – where they are listed as a threatened species). An interesting question is what are the Little Eagles that remain in Canberra over winter?

But there are also questions of more immediate public interest:

Will our little bird in Queensland survive the winter? If she survives, will she return in spring, not until she reaches breeding age, or not at all? And if she returns, where will she have travelled before turning back?
**A good outcome**

In December last year I found a small Marbled Gecko stuck fast to a moth trap I had placed in the spare bedroom (due to a carpet moth infestation). Luckily it was still alive so I endeavoured to free it. Only later, after I posted the sighting to Canberra Nature Map did I get an email from Geoff Robertson saying that fly traps had been used to trap frogs for surveys, and the way to release them is to soak in cooking oil for an hour or two, then use fingers to free the frog. If only I’d known.

Instead, it took me an hour trying to use warm water to try to dissolve the glue, and my fingernails to pry the poor creature loose. I succeeded but its toes were still glued together and it still had glue on its feet. (I put it into a bug catcher and it stuck to the bottom until I smeared the bottom with talcum powder. (However, it then couldn’t cling to vertical surfaces and I feared that it wouldn’t be able to climb to find food, and thus survive. I kept it for a couple of days catching moths to feed it but it wouldn’t eat them.

In the end I decided that its best chance of survival was if I released back into the room where I found it. Hopefully it would find enough moths to eat and the carpet would wear the glue off its feet, or, as it was still young, the glue would come off when it next shed.

I noticed that one back foot seemed to be disfigured (glued together) and the toes on its front feet seemed to be shortened. I concluded that these disfigurements indicated that this was my rescued gecko.

I saw it again three days later while moving some photo frames, but then never saw it again, despite looking for it. This week, I spotted a Marbled Gecko on the bricks just outside my front door and took a photo. Zooming in on the computer I noticed that one back foot seemed to be disfigured (glued together) and the toes on its front feet seemed to be shortened. I concluded that these disfigurements indicated that this was my rescued gecko.

Presumably, the same gecko in Aprl

My ‘rescued’ gecko in December

I was very happy that it has not only survived, but managed to find it way back outside where it belongs. It is also now larger than when I first saw it, so no doubt the skin shedding helped remove the glue, but disfigured its toes in the process.

Still, a good outcome overall.

Alison Milton

**Correction**

Though most of you would have known who I meant, I owe an apology to Lucy for getting her surname incorrect on her article on Backyard buddies in last month’s newsletter. Her surname is of course, Bastecky–not Bastock. My fault entirely.

**Raffle prizes needed**

Once again, it is time to go through your cupboards for all those little items you no longer use or want and bring them along to donate as raffle prizes. As the saying goes, ‘One man’s junk is another man’s treasure’ (or woman as the case may be.

Pam does a wonderful job running the monthly raffle, but the success of it depends on getting contributions for the prizes.
How a German migrant planted citizen science in Australia – and why it worked

No doubt you have heard a lot about the ACT Citizen Science project, Canberra Nature Map, but surprisingly, this is not a new concept. This article provides a new insight.

In 1847, a young German named Ferdinand Mueller came to Adelaide with a dream: to be the botanist who catalogued every plant species in Australia, and gave women a rare opportunity to be involved in science. Off he went, collecting plants from Queensland to Victoria, up mountains and over deserts, for the better part of a decade. He demonstrated beyond any doubt that Australia was very large and had a lot of plants. Then inspiration dawned.

Mueller realised that the way to catalogue plants wasn’t to walk around Australia collecting them – but to sit very comfortably in Melbourne, collecting collectors. That’s exactly what he did.

He recruited, through advertisements in newspapers, teachers in country schools, and the contacts made on his travels. Over the next 40 years, more than 1,300 amateur enthusiasts would contribute to Mueller’s flora of Australia. His network spanned the continent, decades before Australia was a country. It included more than two hundred women and 20 young girls, the youngest just six years old when she sent Mueller her first plant.

One of the most prolific collectors was Mary Kennedy. She lived on a sheep station in Wilcannia in New South Wales, about as far inland as you could go at the time without falling off the map, with 11 children to raise. She collected more than five hundred plants. Along with the specimens themselves, she asked the local Indigenous people for the names of these plants and their uses; preserving a rich treasury of traditional knowledge that endures to this day. Mueller gave her a legacy in exchange, a species of grevillea named in her honour: Grevillea kennedyana.

A century would pass before the term ‘citizen science’ entered into the academic lexicon, and decades again before it gained deep credibility. In hindsight, we can see that’s exactly what Mueller’s project was: a pioneering scientific project powered by people. It satisfied the three criteria that we look for in any great citizen science endeavour today: quality science, linked with the community, and with a broader goal of making the world a better place.

Citizen science has to be good science

To be good science, citizen science must be consistent with the exacting standards we apply to every other experimental process.

Mueller knew that his claims to a comprehensive flora of Australia would be widely reported and intensely scrutinised. Tripping through the fields collecting wildflowers is easy. Peer-reviewed botany is hard. His collectors, including those with limited education or grounding in the scientific method, had to appreciate the difference. He made it his priority to explain.

When a woman on a sheep station picked up her basket and headed off into the scrub, or put the samples on the mantelpiece to dry, she did so in the name of science. It gave purpose to the collectors, and rigour to Mueller’s research.

Citizen science has to be a door to the world of science for the community

Mueller was an opportunist in his advocacy for amateur botany. He recruited children, because they were sharp-eyed and enthusiastic; school teachers, because they could outsource the work to students; and women, because he saw their talent going to waste.

In an era when women rarely went to university, or entered the professions, he offered a taste of a world that many longed to enter. They proved they were worthy of far more: full and equal access with men, on merit.

Times have changed, and very much for the better, thanks in large part to those female pioneers. The need for those doors to science in the community remains.

Citizen science has to make the world a better place.

In the end, that’s what makes it worth doing. That spirit shines through in the letters written to Mueller by farmers’ wives and stockmen’s daughters.

It’s the 1800s: the era of Banjo Paterson and Henry Lawson, when a newly prosperous people were falling in love with the bush. There’s talk of Federation in the newspapers. Here was a project that united men and women from every colony, with a mighty vision, and a love of country.

We often focus on the ‘science’ part of citizen science. The ‘citizen’ is important as well. It reminds us that we are part of something greater than ourselves, with a duty to generations to come.

There are some who believe that citizen science will be left in the twentieth century: a relic of an era before advances in artificial intelligence made human-power obsolete.

However, if humans today are anything like the humans of Mueller’s day, we will never stop inventing new ways to be useful.
Koels departing...less one from Fraser

From the Mt Rogers newsletter from late March:

This last week has been quiet in most areas of the ACT as the Koels begin their migration out of the region. Red Wattlebirds, Noisy Friarbirds and honeyeaters also move away. April is the time of traditional honeyeater migrations through the river corridors with thousands of several species passing through to warmer places. Small groups of these migrating species may pass through Mt Rogers.

One fledgling Koel won’t be migrating. Hayward found the injured chick on the edge of Mt Rogers and carefully took it home. It was after-hours. Ruth emailed a “what to do?” message but I didn’t receive it before they’d taken the little bird to the 24-hour Gungahlin Veterinary Hospital. The vet said it had ‘neurological damage’ and would need to be euthanised.

As Koels are still newcomers to Canberra I thought the Australian National Wildlife Collection would be interested in the bird as a specimen. I phoned the clinic-hospital, and the staff, understanding the situation, agreed to put the corpse in their freezer. I collected the surprisingly small bird and, a few days later, took it to the Australian National Wildlife Collection (ANWC) at Gungahlin.

The efforts of probable Wattlebird parents in raising the young cuckoo won’t be wasted as it is now in the research collection. The Injured Wildlife Hotline is 0432 300 033 and website, www.actwildlife.net.

When I took the Koel to Gungahlin I asked about Field Natters visiting ANWC and Leo’s genial but informative tour was the result.

P.S.

1. As they wouldn’t accept payment for their contribution at the Gungahlin Vet Hospital I made a donation to Pets in the Park at their suggestion. Canberra vets donate their time once a month to seeing and, if necessary treating, pets belonging to the homeless.

2. I bought Peter Marsack’s painting of a Speckled Warbler when Ian Fraser’s book A Bush Capital Year: a Natural History of the Canberra Region when the book was launched in 2011. We’ve enjoyed the little bird’s presence ever since but I decided it was time someone else had that pleasure. We gave the painting to the ANWC to thank them for hosting our visit.

Rosemary Blemings
Who are the Field Naturalists?
The Field Naturalists’ Association of Canberra (FNAC) was formed in 1981. Our aim is to foster interest in natural history by means of meetings and regular field outings. Meetings are usually held on the first Thursday of each month. Outings range from weekend rambles to long weekends away. Activities are advertised in our monthly newsletter. We emphasise informality and the enjoyment of nature. New members are always welcome.

If you wish to join FNAC, please fill in the member application below and send it in with your subscription to the FNAC Treasurer at the address below.

President: Rosemary Blemings, et al
Email: fieldnaturalist@yahoo.com.au
Website: under construction
Editor: Alison Milton All newsletter contributions welcome. Email: apm56@optusnet.com.au

Field Naturalists’ Association of Canberra
GPO Box 249
Canberra ACT 2601

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

Family name: .......................................................... First name: .................................................. If a family membership, please include the first names of other members of the family:

 ........................................................................................................................................................................

Postal address: ........................................................................................................................................

Suburb: ............................................. State: ............. Postcode: ............ Home phone: .................

Work phone: ....................... Email address: ..........................................................................................

Subscription enclosed: $.........(Single/Family $25) Donation: $...........

How did you hear about FNAC? Please circle: FRIEND? OTHER? Please specify:

Monthly meeting venue: Jan Anderson Seminar Room, R.N. Robertson Building, Biology Place, Australian National University.