

OBJECT: To foster an interest in nature

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GPO BOX 249  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

FIELD NATURALISTS' ASSOCIATION OF CANBERRA INC.

# FIELD NATTER

## MEETING—Thursday 6 September 2018

7:30 pm Australian National University

Jan Anderson Seminar Room, R. N. Robertson Building, Biology Place, ANU, ACT

Details back page

### Annual General Meeting

A brief AGM. Please don't stay away because it is our AGM. We would WELCOME any new people on the committee so please speak up at the meeting OR tell someone beforehand. We need a few more hands on board.

Guest speakers are: Kevin McCue who will speak on volcanic activity and Alison Milton who will take us through her first year of retirement, observing nature through photography.



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## Rakali launch report

The August meeting launched the Rakali survey with speaker Geoff Williams talking about this native Australian rat and its similar appearance to a platypus when seen in the wild, but with similarities to the otter, showing why it is colloquially known as the Australian otter.

Shortly before the meeting, Rosemary Blemings visited Dymocks, Canberra Centre, to collect the book *Exploring Soils*, a short-listed picture book, and came across small square greeting cards from Oh susannah! Illustration. In the series there were several Australian animals, including 'our' Peacock Spider.

Finding Suzy's website and contacting her, Suzy was very keen to follow up on the Rakali and paint an image for the launch of the survey. She hoped to attend but might bring her baby...! A later email said she couldn't attend because she was flying to Melbourne on 3 August with her little one. Rosemary arranged to meet Suzy at the ANBG where she gave Rosemary this painting framed in recycled French Oak.



After Geoff's presentation, Rosemary had these thoughts about bringing much of what we learned together through the painting and:

- capitalising on its being August; almost-prime Rakali sighting time
- using Suzy's image as the drawcard for Rakali awareness around our region with additional images of what spotting a Rakali or its ripples around our waterways is more likely to look like



- perhaps devising laminated posters that also give the Conservancy's reporting details and Canberra Nature Map's
- connecting with all groups whose members are likely to be walking near lakes, creeks, rivers and in Rakali-possible locations on a 'Let's see how much Rakali information we can gather' basis.
- this connecting could build on the inter-agency co-operation that Geoff's presentations may have stimulated... he's spoken at Jerrabomberra Wetlands and Waterwatch and the 'rangers' are obviously informed
- Rakali could be the impetus for greater outdoor activity and 'community engagement' opportunities including Nature Play CBR for young people
- fresh air, exercise, social walks, photography and birdwatching can all have wider benefits through citizen science
- This could also be an impetus for FNAC being better known or at least having more and more people subtly becoming naturalists by reading the landscape, noting species interactions and understanding inter-relationships as we constantly strive to do.

Rosemary asks: "What do you think of some of these ideas, please!"

Since the launch of the survey a few new sightings have been added to the Canberra Nature Map records and The Canberra Times published an [article](https://www.canberratimes.com.au/national/act/ask-fuzzy-on-the-look-out-for-canberra-s-otter-20180816-p4zxs9.html) in their newspaper on Sunday 19 August (<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/national/act/ask-fuzzy-on-the-look-out-for-canberra-s-otter-20180816-p4zxs9.html>) though with no mention of Field Nats.

## Donations for wombats

Sleepy Burrows Wombat Sanctuary needs bath towels and bath sheets (nothing smaller) and woollen blankets without an open weave. The latter are made into pouches. They also need and use Weetbix, paper towels and sweet potatoes. Actually, some cotton pouches with long shoulder straps for carrying/hanging would be very useful and could be made out of sheets if you felt inclined. About the size of a reusable shopping bag would be perfect, or maybe even slightly bigger. They would need to be fairly deep.

I am prepared to take any of these donations to Monika in Crace if you have them as she goes to Sleepy Burrows once a week. Please could we just have a one-off effort and bring any donations to the AGM in September?

Thanks

**Rosemary von Behrens**

Just for fun, you may like to look at this uTube video of Wombat graffiti.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jmccJgw66vA>

## Artwork for sale

*You may recall that Catherine Lidden presented to the Field Nats a while ago and amazed us with her very detailed nature artwork. She has sent us the following offering to sell some of her wonderful pieces.*

I need to make room in my drawers as I seem to have lots of unframed work! I've decided to have a sale. I'm willing to sell these unframed but with double mats, a pastel trap and a foam core backing so they can be put straight into the frame of your choice. Basically the sizes are:

Small, 18 x 18 cm \$150

21 x 31 cm gallery price framed- \$ 610, now \$300

Slightly bigger, approx 25 x 33. gallery price framed- \$ 680, now \$350

Large, approx. 33 x 45 gallery price framed- \$ 950 now \$400

These are not prints but originals that have simply never been framed! You'll find a Macaw, Meerkat, Elephant, Lioness, Red Panda, Pelican, Green Tree Frog, Black Breasted Buzzard, Gang Gangs, Otter, Frogmouths and a Cheetah. Because you have either bought or shown interest in my work you are getting notice of this sale before I put it on Facebook.

Check out the paintings on my website under a new gallery 'SALE'. Click on the images for the sizes and prices.

Thank you for your custom.

[http://www.catherinelidden.com/gallery\\_739708.html](http://www.catherinelidden.com/gallery_739708.html)

## French theme park deploys birds to collect litter

A theme park in France is set to deploy six 'intelligent' birds to pick up rubbish and spruce up the grounds.

The rooks at the Puy du Fou theme park in the west of the country have been taught to collect cigarette ends and other small bits of rubbish.

They then deposit the litter into a small box, which will deliver some bird food as a reward for their hard work.

The first feathery cleaners have already been put to work.

Nicolas de Villiers, the head of the park, told AFP news agency that it was not just about keeping the area clean.

'The goal is not just to clear up, because the visitors are generally careful to keep things clean'.

It was also about showing 'that nature itself can teach us to take care of the environment'.

He added that the rooks, which are a member of the crow family that also includes ravens and jackdaws, are 'particularly intelligent' and 'like to communicate with humans and establish a relationship through play'.

This is not the first time that birds have displayed their intelligence. Earlier this year, scientists created a vending machine that showed the crow's ability to solve problems.

The machine required a particular size of paper token to release a treat.

Scientists found that the crows could remember the right size of paper, and they even trimmed bigger pieces until they could fit into the machine.

## Gloomy octopus

The gloomy octopus, named for large eyes that can give the animal a doleful appearance, is the most common local octopus in NSW waters. *Octopus tetricus*, to use its scientific name, has usually been thought of as a solitary animal, and that has been the stereotype associated with most octopus species for many years.

The recent discovery of a site in Jervis Bay, where these octopuses gather in quite high numbers, is challenging that perception, and revealing some striking behaviours.

The site consists of three rocky outcrops, around which octopuses have built up an extensive bed of discarded scallop shells, mixed with some human debris.

We think there is a process of ‘positive feedback’ operating at the site. As scallops are brought back to the site to eat, the discarded shells provide material for additional octopuses to dig burrows. The shells line and stabilise the shaft-like dens. When the site was discovered in 2016, a total of 15 octopuses were present, along with several unoccupied dens.

This is the second site of its kind discovered. The first, reported in 2012, seems to have been formed around a discarded object, now very encrusted, of human origin.

The second site, which is entirely ‘natural,’ shows that the same gathering of octopuses can occur without a ‘seeding’ of the process by a human artefact.

At both sites, octopuses engage in quite complicated interactions – they produce displays, probe each other with their arms, and often try to evict other octopuses from their dens.

Other individuals of this species probably do live more solitary lives – when observed around Sydney, for example, they are almost always alone. This suggests that the octopuses have an ability to individually adapt their behaviour according to their circumstances.

### Accident versus intent

The Octlantis site does raise interesting questions about what the octopuses intend to do, and which effects of their actions are entirely inadvertent. Questions of ‘intent’ are very difficult in work on animal behaviour, but it is thought that some distinctions can be made – provisionally at least – in these terms.

Octopuses collect scallops for use as food. This requires them to make excursions from their den and find their way home. They bring the scallops home to eat because it is safer than eating in the open. They also dig dens

in the shell bed, and sometimes arrange shells and other objects around the edge of their den.

It seems quite likely that the collection of scallops and the building and maintenance of dens are all intentional behaviours (in a low-key sense of that term).

Dens are sometimes maintained with some care, and octopuses will expel debris either by carrying it away, or with use of their jet propulsion mechanism, the ‘siphon.’ But this does not imply that octopuses have any inkling that when they bring scallops back to the site, they are improving the den-building possibilities for themselves or others. Those effects may be entirely inadvertent.

Work is continuing on these animals and their unusual homes. One interesting question is whether other octopus species behave like this in some circumstances.

Another is why we observe groups of gloomy octopuses at these particular sites, and not in other areas where a solid object has been placed on the sea floor in what looks like similar circumstances.

How many octopuses’ gardens are out there, waiting to be discovered?

## Employment opportunity: National Parks and Wildlife Service Hawkweed Eradication Program 2018-19

**Note: this is a paid position for up to six months:  
15 October–12 April 2019**

**Applications close on 9 September. Contact  
Jo Caldwell for full details, [jo.caldwell@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jo.caldwell@environment.nsw.gov.au) mobile 0409 095 280.**

National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is seeking four Field Officers 1/4 to work on the

Hawkweed Eradication Program 2018–19. We are seeking to employ previous NPWS volunteers, staff and others who have expressed an interest in working on the Hawkweed Eradication Program and with NPWS. NPWS will conduct a ‘Suitability Assessment’ to select and appoint staff (i.e. the roles will not be advertised, but applicants will be interviewed based on their applications).

# NatureArt Lab Workshop

## The Theory, Art and Practice of Nature Photography

Damien Esquerre is a PhD student at RSB and nature photographer. He is running a Nature Photography workshop at the NatureArt Lab in Griffith, Canberra during September. This a comprehensive theory and practice workshop that covers all topics in nature photography, starting from the basics, and taking you into the technical grounds of wildlife, close-up, landscape and flash photography and digital post-editing, composition and light among many other subjects.

This is late notice as the first theory session is just one week away but Damien has informed me that he still has places available (limited to 10 students).

Theory sessions: 6, 13, 20 and 27 September (6.00 pm - 9.00 pm)

Practical session: 23 September (8.40 am - 3.00 pm)

Workspace A, M16 Artspace, 21 Blaxland Crescent, Griffith

Cost \$350

For more information and where to book:

<http://www.desquerre.com/workshops.html>

<https://natureartlab.com.au/collections/adult/products/the-theory-art-and-practice-of-nature-photography-with-damien-esquerre#>

[www.desquerre.com](http://www.desquerre.com)

Aimed at: people with no to medium experience in photography, interested in learning technical skills to shoot a diversity of subjects and styles, including close-up, wildlife, landscapes and abstract photography. Learn to use a

camera in manual mode, understand the basic concepts of photography, and learn how to expose, compose and get sharp images. Learn to do art with photography.

Includes: 4 theoretical sessions of 3 hours (12 hours of lectures in total).

Half-day field tutorial at the Australian Botanical Gardens to put your theoretical knowledge to the test, do some exercises and shoot your own images. Then after lunch, we will go back to the studio for a digital workflow workshop, starting with importing your photos, organising and sorting them, developing your RAW images and some retouching them in Photoshop.

Light tea/coffee and snack breaks during theoretical sessions and light meal in half-day field tutorial.

Requirements: Have a digital camera with manual mode (preferably, although not strictly necessary, a DSLR with at least one lens).

Optional but strongly suggested: a tripod.

It will help you enormously to carefully read your camera manual before the workshop.

For the digital workflow workshop: a laptop with Adobe Bridge and Adobe Photoshop installed.

Contact:

Email: [esquerre.damien@gmail.com](mailto:esquerre.damien@gmail.com)

Phone: +61451988230

## Winner of the Field Naturalists' Prize for 2017

The Field Nats provides \$300 annually for this prize. The 2017 winner is Krish Sanghvi.

Krish is currently writing up his research as an Honours student in the ANU's Head Laboratory. Megan Head is the Leader of the Lab.

Krish says, research in the Head Lab focuses on the evolution, ecology and physiology of sexual reproduction. Specifically, we are interested in how the environment (social and physical) influences the ecology and evolution of reproductive traits and how interactions between the environment and reproductive traits can generate biodiversity and lead to speciation. Within this focus our research also addresses questions regarding coevolution both within species (i.e. between males and females) and between species (i.e. Hosts and sexually transmitted infections).

Our research incorporates a wide variety of methods (molecular techniques, quantitative genetics, physiological performance measures, experimental manipulations and field observations) to address these research topics from different angles. I have also worked on many study systems (e.g. lizards, fish, insects), always chosen to best address the questions at hand.

We hope Krish will come to a meeting to tell us more about his research when this busy period allows him to focus on other aspects of life!

**Rosemary Blemings**

# President's report: Field Naturalists Association of Canberra Inc. 2017-2018

Our monthly meetings have continued to present new information, exciting projects, challenging ideas, brilliant images and emissions-free journeys to members and visitors.

Martin Royds introduced us to the processes of regenerative agriculture. Their farming has strong links to reading the landscape and the work of Charlie Massy.

Our members excelled with diverse and engaging presentations in November 2017 when the speaker 'defaulted'.

Julie Armstrong brought local and international perspectives to bees' problems.

Karen Hanson introduced us to life in Yap and the challenges facing Micronesia.

Bruno Ferronato updated our understanding of local turtle species, Turtlewatch and Waterwatch.

Saan Ecker brought new ideas around the wellbeing–interactions horses provide for people.

Nicki Taws described the scraping method of restoring native grasslands; the nearest site being at Kama Nature Reserve.

Greg Baines illustrated a range of declines faced by local trees and showed the diverse research efforts that aim to understand and remediate the losses.

National Parks Association, ACT partnered with Field Nats to launch the ACT region's Rakali Survey project. Geoff Williams presented *Hydromys chrysogaster*.

The AGM will include members updating us on volcanic activity and photographs from retirement's leisure opportunities.

Rainer Rehwinkel and Sarah McKenna will, respectively,

present on Timor Leste's natural history and AWC's proactive work countering the effects of feral animals.

We've adjusted ably to the move to the Robertson Building and are very grateful for the assistance of Jack Egerton, other ANU personnel and Erin as we unravelled the mysteries of the new meeting room's technology.

## Outings

Alison has again included an activities section in the Field Natter. This made Field Natters aware of other organisations' natural history related activities and field trips.

Jenni Marsh organised another of her popular Spotlight Walks that seek out the Sugar Gliders and other nocturnal species.

Jean Geue has organised the Chippendale wildflower rambles on Black Mountain each October. These continue, guided by Friends of Black Mountain naturalists and their associates.

Andy Russell lead a walk through the Southern Tablelands Ecosystem Park for and with Friends of Grasslands and continues photographic accounts of this unique botanic garden of local species within the National Arboretum.

Field Natters joined Friends of The Pinnacle on a Suzi Bond Butterfly walk. It was windy but there were many sightings to enthral and inform us.

Some of the Open Gardens Canberra events were publicised. Field Natters enjoyed exploring the habitats created in others' gardens.

Photographic and the Art of Science exhibitions have been publicised.

As mentioned last year there is a need for a members' sub-group to organise regular outings for FNAC and/or to keep in touch with other groups for sharing potentially relevant and informative activities.

Your committee members have met regularly and convivially.

Rosemary vB has written up and circulated the meetings' Minutes concisely and in a timely manner. She has bravely survived making the transition to the Robertson building's technologies. Erin has come to the rescue several times.

Kevin and Margaret have each chaired meetings as Vice Presidents. Dierk has kept us in touch with other organisations' activities and events, particularly the complexities of the Conservation Council's roles. Dierk and Rosemary vB have provided the suppers' necessities allowing for vital networking after meetings.

Bob Lehman, as well as being Public Officer, has steered us through the necessary changes and complicated intricacies of FNAC's finances. He will explain the simpler system devised and how members' contributions have been spent. We have bought FNAC a dedicated laptop for the Treasurer's documentation.

Bill keeps us up-to-date on natural history around the world and, in particular, how migratory birds are affected by development's excesses.

Lucy followed her passion for Platypus and natural history itself by guiding our involvement in the campaign to ban Opera House yabby traps. This led to our hosting the ACT region's launch of the Rakali Project in conjunction with Kevin–lead involvement of NPA ACT.

Rhian took us on another journey that connected people to nature by organising the announcement of the shortlist for the Environmental Children's Book of the Year at Civic Library. Children, families, Bill, Lucy and Dierk were present. We all enjoyed Brian the Bettong's presence in Mulligans Flat's Millie's capable hands.

George is always ready with insightful questions and keeps deliberations in balance borne of decades of natural history experiences.

We made a submission to an ACT Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee's Nature in Our City urging co-operative, respectful

approaches to bringing people closer to the natural world that surrounds and creates the region's uniqueness.

Alison's life has been even busier since her retirement as she has brought new sightings and photographic experiences to meetings and regularly in the Field Natter. Her capabilities as newsletter editor are much appreciated and admired.

Pam generates valued income for FNAC by co-ordinating the monthly raffle. We all enjoy the raffles informality and the chance to rehome items from our cupboards.

The commitment of these cited members continues to be really

encouraging and supportive, thank you. Just as supportive are the decisions of members to attend meetings, to make the effort of coming to hear and learn from presentations. It's not an easy task to find the new venue. Members bring observations, realia, NPA's publications, amazing questions and comments into Field Nats' brand of natural history appreciation, citizen science and study.

Krish Sanghvi our FNAC Prize-winner is busy writing up his Honours thesis so we may not have a chance to meet him just yet. He has received his \$300 prize.

**Rosemary Blemings (nominal)  
President**

## Signs of Spring

Spring is just around the corner and we are already seeing signs of this season of breeding and regeneration of nature. While the ground, ponds and dams are very dry, reflecting that we are once again in drought mode, the birds at least are showing signs of this brightest of seasons.

At the botanic gardens the resident Satin Bowerbird has been rebuilding his bower and decorating it with blue objects for a few weeks now, and has been observed dancing and displaying said objects to a disappointingly, uninterested female. Better luck next time.

The Spotted Pardalotes that have nested in the same site for many years now, have once again begun working on their nest. This year



however, they are not using the same hollow as previous years and seem to have made a number of attempts at a new hollow (at the same location). The most obvious hollow seems to be a decoy as while I was expecting them to enter this hollow they instead entered a much more obscure hollow a short distance away. Both male and female are regularly going in and out.



The grevilleas at the gardens are beginning to flower and I have seen a few insects lately: including a dragonfly at the Pinnacle and a Meadow Argus butterfly at Hawker, plus some records of insects being posted to Canberra

Nature Map and I spotted my first hoverfly and Cabbage White Butterfly.

There have been reports of the return of cuckoos: a Bronze Cuckoo at Dunlop; a Horsefields Bronze Cuckoo at Forde, a Shining Bronze Cuckoo in Hume and a Fan-tailed Cuckoo in Throsby.

Surprisingly, I haven't yet noted any magpie nests but my resident magpies have been spotted carrying bits of fluff that they have plucked from the torn fabric of a chair in my front yard: no doubt to line a nest nearby.

The Weeping willows along the Melba stretch of Ginninderra Creek are showing a tinge of green from their buds.

So while the winds may be howling outside my window right now we can feel that Spring is on the way and look forward to the warmer weather and the delight of nature's regeneration.

**Alison Milton with  
contributions from Rosemary  
Blemings**

## Income and expenditure statement for year ended 30 June 2018

	2017 \$	2018 \$
<b>Income</b>		
Membership subscriptions	1,250.00	1,275.00
Raffle	335.20	247.00
Tea money	83.10	75.65
Donations	970.00	860.00
Interest received (term deposits)	320.03	309.00
Interest received (cheque account)	0.24	0.26
<b>Total income</b>	<b>2,958.57</b>	<b>2,766.91</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Affiliation fees	100.00	100.00
Bank fees	0.00	0.00
Newsletter printing	360.40	424.60
Postage	445.00	400.00
Post Office Box rental	196.00	201.00
Presentations (speakers and ANU)	85.49	79.75
Student prize voucher	300.00	300.00
Registrar General's fees	0.00	0.00
Insurance	390.00	400.00
President's / Secretary's stationery	0.00	0.00
Treasurer's stationery / Common Seal	0.00	0.00
Auditor payment / web hosting	100.00	100.00
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>1,976.89</b>	<b>2,005.35</b>
<b>Income exceeds expenditure by</b>	<b>\$981.68</b>	<b>\$761.56</b>
<b>Donations to environmental organisations</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>
<b>Monies transferred from term deposit</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>

## Financial situation at 30 June 2017

Cash at bank	\$3,119.50
Term deposit (a)	\$10,261.71 (2.50% p.a.; 6 months; \$126.34 interest)
Term deposit (b)	\$4,058.32 (1.30% p.a.; 3 months; \$14.27 interest)

## Financial situation at 30 June 2018

Cash at bank	\$2,228.07
Term deposit (a)	\$10,387.76 (2.35% p.a.; 6 months; \$126.90 interest)
Term deposit (b)	\$3,536.89 (2.15% p.a.; 3 months; \$19.01 interest)

**Bob Lehman**  
Treasurer FNAC (Inc.)

## Activities

### 13 September: NABG Thursday talk; Dr Erin Walsh 'History, human brain and scientific illustration'

Erin spoke the Field Nats on her scientific illustration. She will present a talk that brings together history, the human brain, and the place of scientific illustration in academia and the world at large. Drawing (pun intended) from her scientific and artistic practice, the talk will conclude with some step-by-step examples of how her illustrations are created.

Erin is a post-doctoral research fellow at the Centre for Research on Ageing, Health and Wellbeing. The focus of her research is the impact of high blood glucose on the ageing brain. Alongside research, she works as a scientific illustrator, offering assistance with stimuli preparation, data visualization, and figure preparation for scholarly publication or engaging the general public with science.

### 21 August to 27 September: 'The Natural World' photography exhibit, Discovery Centre Gallery, CSIRO Black Mountain

Formally opened by renowned architect Tony Trobe on Wednesday 22 August at 5:00 pm. The exhibition is open from 9 am to 4.30 pm Monday to Friday. Entry to the exhibition is free.

### Wednesday 5 September, 5.15 for 5.30 pm: Re-imagining Australian mammals; National Library of Australia

Dr Carolyn Young presents the results of her Creative Arts Fellowship research on endangered small Australian mammals, focusing on the original plates for John Gould's *Mammals of Australia* (London, 1863). Following the presentation, Genevieve Jacobs and Simon Corbell will officially launch the book *Grassland in Transition* by Dr Carolyn Young and Dr Sue McIntyre. Presented in association with Dr Young's solo exhibition *Inhabiting the Woodlands*, on show at the Goulburn Regional Art Gallery from 31 August to 13 October 2018. Dr Carolyn Young is the 2018 Friends of the National Library Creative Arts Fellow.

Conference Room, free (includes refreshments). Bookings are essential. [Book online](https://www.nla.gov.au/event/re-imagining-australian-mammals) (<https://www.nla.gov.au/event/re-imagining-australian-mammals>) or by phone 6262 1111

### 10 September, 8:30 am to 9:30 am: Stand against extinction – Parliament House lawns

Australia is in the grip of an extinction epidemic. We need to highlight this on Threatened Species Day 2018. The Australian Government is not taking its responsibilities to protect our unique wildlife seriously. This Threatened Species Day, we're calling on national leadership to end this tragedy. We're going to turn out in force on Parliament lawn in Canberra - plus some exciting visual props, great speakers and a cast of diverse and unexpected allies - to make the biggest noise we can. Join us and hundreds of others from around Canberra as we speak out about and unite behind this urgent cause. Afterwards, you can check out the stalls and mingle with like-minded people!

## How far from the nest?

As I've written before, I feed the local magpies in my backyard. Some of the chicks become quite friendly eating from my hand, mostly while perch somewhere safe like on the clothesline.

I've often wondered just how far from 'home' the young chicks venture once unceremoniously kicked out of home by their parents. Not at all like *Homo Sapiens* as I watch my neighbour cope with her eldest child leaving the nest to rent a flat with his girlfriend, and her two daughters also preparing to travel overseas in a few months. Even at 21 years, she is not ready for them to leave. But I digress.

Living in Higgins, I have had magpies approach me at Kippax, The Pinnacle and near the Hawker shops. All seem to recognise me as a source of food and I imagine that they are some of my 'babies'.

However, today I was visiting the peninsula at Lake Ginninderra photographing birds, when this magpie flew across the lake squawking and landed near my bag.

Actually, I didn't see where it came from but just spotted a bird flying across the water, at first thinking it was a commorant. It continued to squawk and when I walked back towards my bag it



walked right up to me and seemed to be asking me to feed it.

Is this female bird also one of my 'babies'? If so this is the furthest from home I have found them. I would love to be able to tag them to study their behaviour further.

**Alison Milton**



Field Naturalists' Association of Canberra Inc.

### 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

**president@fieldnatsact.com**

**Email:** [secretary@fieldnatsact.com](mailto:secretary@fieldnatsact.com)

**Website:** [www.fieldnatsact.com](http://www.fieldnatsact.com)

**Treasurer:** [treasurer@fieldnatsact.com](mailto:treasurer@fieldnatsact.com)

**Membership:** [membership@fieldnatsact.com](mailto:membership@fieldnatsact.com)

**Newsletter Editor:** [editor@fieldnatsact.com](mailto:editor@fieldnatsact.com)



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

**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: