

OBJECT: To foster an interest in nature

August 2015
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GPO BOX 249
CANBERRA ACT 2601

FIELD NATURALISTS' ASSOCIATION OF CANBERRA INC.

FIELD NATURALIST

MEETING—THURSDAY
7:30 pm Australian National University
Gould Seminar Room, Building 116, Daley Road, 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.

I heard the Field Naturalists are about to hold their Annual General Meeting and are looking for committee members.

An historical comparison of the vegetation of South Africa and Australia

Speaker: Liz Trusswell

Liz will relate what we know about the separation of the continents surrounding the Indian Ocean and their shared plant groups.



Snow and ice in the Guthega River returning from the July outing.

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President's report September 2014-July 2015

The Field Naturalists have a wide range of interests. This is clearly seen in the topics presented at our monthly meetings. We are indebted to our speakers who give freely of their time. In the past year we have heard from Adrienne Nicholson and Cecilia Melano on Kamchatka, David Dedenczuk on Molluscs; Pat Wright about the Wattle; Ken Hodgkinson on Grasslands and their care; Danswell Starrs about Freshwater Fish Ecology; Daniel Carmody on Christmas Island; Naarilla Hirsch and Don Beer on the new Asteraceae section in the Australian National Botanic Garden; Mary Lovett spoke about the Pilbara area of WA; Ben Wallace on Australian Epiphytes; Doug Laing on Canberra Birds – a Century of change; and Matthew Higgins, who took us on a journey from Mt Ainslie to Kosciuszko. Warwick Wright produced our Speakers Program.

Our monthly outings have been rescued from obscurity by Warwick Daniels, who has taken us to Monga State Forest Reserve, Lowden Forest in Tallaganda State Forest, Tharwa Sandwash and the Settlers Track. Tony Lawson led the Black Mountain and Red Hill walks. There are more to come.

The Field Nats members work well together to make our meetings and association run smoothly. Rosemary Blemings meets and greets, sends out the newsletter and liaises with the Conservation Council, Pam Fenning runs the raffle, and Shirley Daniels and Adrienne Nicholson provide supper. Tony Lawson sends out NatChat emails. Alison Milton produces Field Natter and I encourage other members to send in articles to be published. Bob Lehman is our steadfast and hard working treasurer who

ensures we stay in the black. Committee members contribute incisive comments when making decisions and FNAC members attend meetings and show the depth of their interest and curiosity by asking astute and reasoned questions of our speakers. Many thanks to you all.

We have financially supported the Friends of Black Mountain and two organisations which have lost all government funding: the Conservation Council and the Environmental Defenders Office. It is imperative they be kept afloat.

After two years in this role I am stepping down and wish my successor all the very best.

Rosemary von Behrens
Outgoing President

Frozen noses

The other morning it was -5°C and I wanted to photograph the frost. Imagine my surprise when I found a twig covered in frozen saw fly larvae! They saw me too and amazed me by wagging their backsides, trying to squirt me with pungent ooze, which is typical behaviour of saw fly larvae when they feel threatened.

Their front ends, head and forearms were hanging onto the twig, but they were frozen solid onto the twig! How is it that they are even alive! They must have very different biology to us because if our heads, shoulders and arms were frozen, we would certainly be dead.

Very strange. I wonder if they will survive multiple days of frost. I wondered if they thawed during the day and went about eating as normal and snuggled up again for the next night.

This clutch of saw fly larvae seems early to me, I thought they emerged in the spring.

Margaret Kalms



Field Naturalists' Association of Canberra Inc.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

7 August 2014

The meeting was chaired by Rosemary von Behrens, beginning at 7.40 pm.

The Minutes of the 2013 AGM were provided.

The President, Rosemary von Behrens, gave a brief verbal President's report and indicated that she had a written report. Rosemary von Behrens highlighted the good meetings and outings that had been held and the conservation efforts of the Field Naturalists. She thanked the Committee for their support. Her report was accepted: moved Warwick Daniels and seconded Bob Lehman.

The Treasurer's report, prepared by Bob Lehman was distributed together with the Auditor's report and treasurer's comment. Bob spoke to the report. Bob Lehman moved it be accepted, seconded Jean Geue.

Sandi Jack was to be approached to act as auditor in 2015. Moved: Bob Lehman; Seconded: Kevin McCue. Accepted.

Bob Lehman also provided a brief statement, supported by financial data, of the Funds Transfer from St. George Bank to Beyond Bank.

Moved Bob Lehman that the annual Membership subscription remain at \$25; seconded Adrienne Nicholson. Accepted.

Warwick Daniels agreed to act as Returning Officer.

All positions were declared vacant.

The following office-bearers were elected unopposed:

President: Rosemary von Behrens

(moved: Adrienne Nicholson; seconded: Kevin McCue)

**Vice-President:
Rosemary Blemings**

(moved: Margaret Kalms; seconded: Bob Lehman)

Secretary:
Vacant (To be determined by Committee members.)

**Treasurer:
Bob Lehman**

(moved: Rosemary von Behrens; seconded: Jean Geue)

**Committee:
George Heinsohn**

(moved: Rosemary von Behrens; seconded: Dierk von Behrens)

Margaret Kalms

(moved: Rosemary Blemings; seconded: Kevin McCue)

Dierk von Behrens

(moved: Rosemary von Behrens; seconded: Margaret Kalms)

Kevin McCue

(moved: Jean Geue; seconded: Adrienne Nicholson)

Tony Lawson

(moved: Dierk von Behrens; seconded: Bob Lehman)

The following responsibilities were also allocated:

**Public Officer:
Rosemary von Behrens**

**Editor, 'Field Natter':
Alison Milton**

The following responsibilities are to be determined by Committee members:

1. Conservation Officer 1
2. Conservation Officer 2
3. Newsletter printing and distribution
4. Organiser of meetings
5. Organiser of outings
6. Responsibility for Supper at meetings

Pam Fenning agreed to be responsible for the raffle at meetings.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm, and was followed by a members night of short presentations:

David Dedenczuk
Topic: shells - molluscs

Cecilia Melano
Topic: Kamchatka: Part 1

Adrienne Nicholson
Topic: Kamchatka: Part 2

The AGM Minutes were prepared by Bob Lehman, FNAC Treasurer.

Income and Expenditure Statement for Year Ended 30 June 2015

	2014 \$	2015 \$
Income		
Membership Subscriptions	1,275.00	1,400.00
Raffle	350.50	335.70
Tea Money	44.90	100.00
Donations	130.00	728.00
Interest Received (Term Deposits)	1,694.94	464.34
Interest Received (Cheque Account)	17.25	9.79
Interest received (cheque account)	59.00	17.25
Total	3,512.59	3,037.83

	2014 \$	2015 \$
Expenditure		
Affiliation Fees	50.00	150.00
Bank Fees	0.00	23.50
Newsletter Printing	493.00	458.11
Postage	450.00	432.99
Post Office Box Rental	173.00	181.00
Presentations (Speakers and ANU)	20.00	74.70
Student Prize Vouchers	500.00	0.00
Registrar General's Fees	0.00	0.00
Insurance	370.00	370.00
President's / Secretary's Stationery	100.00	41.95
Treasurer's Stationery / Common Seal	250.00	0.00
Auditor Payment	100.00	100.00
Total	2,506.00	1,832.25
Income exceeds Expenditure by	\$1,006.59	\$1,205.58
Donations to Environmental Organisations	\$350.00	\$4,000.00

Financial Situation at 30 June 2015

Cash at Bank	\$2,619.21
Term Deposit	\$15,133.47 (2.65% p.a.; 6 months; \$200.52 interest est.)

Bob Lehman
Treasurer FNAC (Inc.)

AGM nomination form

Notice of annual general meeting

We apologise. This form was accidentally omitted from last month's newsletter and the one which was then sent to those members receiving an electronic copy contained last year's dates. Members were informed at the June and July meetings this year that the AGM would occur in August, and were asked to think about volunteering for the committee or suggesting how they could help the Field Nats.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO ALL MEMBERS THAT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Field Naturalists Association of Canberra will be held on Thursday 6th AUGUST 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Seminar Room, Building 116, Gould Wing, Daley Road, ANU.

Business:

- a. To confirm the minutes of the last preceding annual general meeting.
- b. To receive from the committee, auditor, and servants of the Association reports upon the transactions of the Association during the last preceding financial year.
- c. To elect the officers of the Association (President; Vice President; Treasurer; Secretary) and the ordinary committee members
- d. To appoint the auditor and determine his/her remuneration
- e. To conduct other business of which notice has been given

Nominations for election of members of Committee shall be made in writing (see below) and shall be delivered to an officer of the Association by Tuesday 4 July . If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies on the committee, the candidates shall be deemed to be elected and further nominations shall be received at the Annual General Meeting.

NOMINATION FORM

I hereby nominate _____

BLOCK LETTERS

A member of the Field Naturalists Association of Canberra Inc

For the position of _____

Name of Proposer _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Name of Seconder _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Acceptance of Nomination

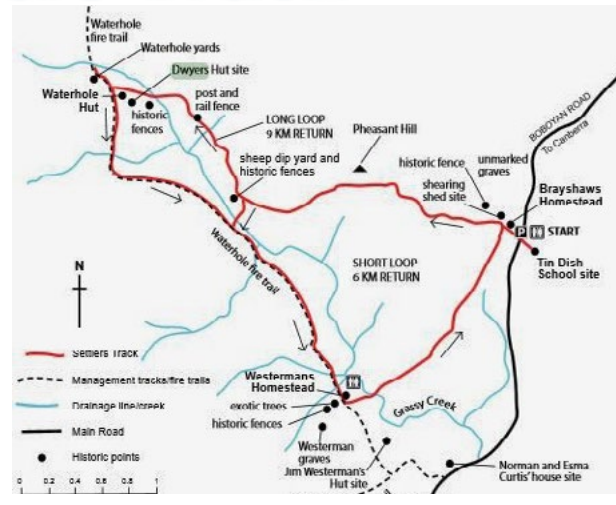
I _____ accept nomination for _____

Signature of Nominee _____ Dated _____

The Settlers Track

The Settlers Track begins from Brayshaws Hut in the Namadgi National Park then loops round to Westermans Homestead close to the NSW border.

The morning of 6 July started off with a chilly -6°C as we met at the Namadgi Visitors centre for the drive out to the start of the walk. To attest to the cold conditions there were small patches of snow in places along the track. We saw many plants, some boasting seed pods, and mosses and an interesting turquoise fungi on a piece of wood.



Activities

Sunday 9 August, 2:00–4:00 pm Coleman Ridge Nature Trail

For our August outing, we will explore the Coleman Ridge Nature Trail. The 2.7 km track explores the interesting features of the reserve, including the woodland, the wildlife and the history of the area. We will meet at the entrance at the end of Kathner St at 1:55 pm. Coleman Ridge Nature Reserve Parkcare is an active group and hosts a good [website](http://www.coolemanridge.org.au/) (http://www.coolemanridge.org.au/) with plenty of information on the reserve, including its geology and plants. The web site also includes a [nature trail brochure](http://www.coolemanridge.org.au/images/brochure.pdf) (http://www.coolemanridge.org.au/images/brochure.pdf) A [map of the reserve](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/___data/assets/pdf_file/0007/390589/cnpmap-cooleman.pdf) is available from the TAMS web site (http://www.tams.act.gov.au/___data/assets/pdf_file/0007/390589/cnpmap-cooleman.pdf). Over 300 species of plants have been recorded. And plenty of interesting bird sightings are reported by local ornithologists on the COG chatline. Let's keep our fingers crossed for a fine day.

Month	Speaker	Topic
6 August	Liz Trusswell	An historical comparison of the vegetation of South Africa and Australia and AGM
3 September	Pat Wright	Celebrate our Wattle
1 October	Kate Grarock	Mulligans Flat and Bettong project
5 November	Ian Fraser	How Australian Birds Got English Names

Even as we approached Westernmans Homestead later in the afternoon, ice still remained frozen in the rut of the track. Most interesting however, was where the water had drained away leaving a shelf of ice hanging precariously above the ground.



The great escape

Recently, someone suggested that the Canberra lorikeet population had originated from escapees from the walk-in aviary at Federation Square and I have indeed seen parrots clinging to the net from the outside. This was again the case in early July.



I watched as a Rainbow lorikeet made its way up the netting to the roof then flew off—but it was soon back again landing on the top of the netting. A caged lorikeet was clinging to the roof netting nearby and they appeared to be talking to each other. With Spring around the corner I wondered whether they were ‘lovers’: perhaps had been a pair within the aviary but one had escaped. I felt a bit sad at the estrangement.

As I watched, the ‘free’ bird kept hopping backwards while the one inside the netting followed. Suddenly, I was amazed to see the caged bird pop its head out of the netting and they flew away together (I’d like to say ‘into the sunset to live happily ever after, but it was mid-morning). Did the free bird actually just lead its mate to the hole in the netting?

While lorikeets may not be endemic to the ACT and perhaps shouldn’t be here, I have to admit that I felt little flush of delight that they had been reunited.

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 von Behrens **Phone:** 6254 1763

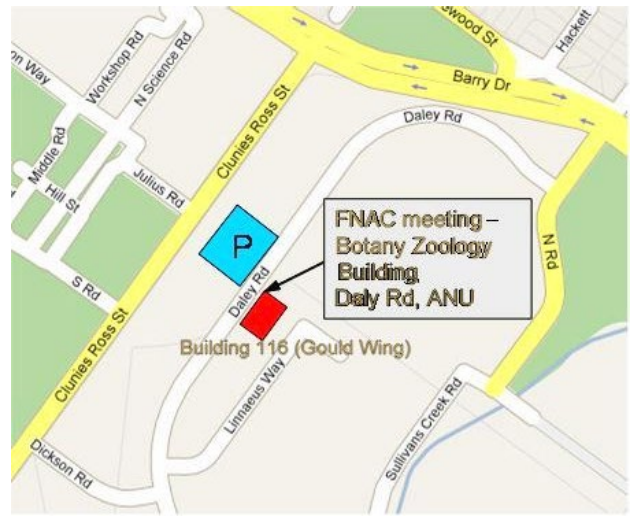
Email: fieldnaturalist@yahoo.com.au

Website: under construction

All newsletter contributions welcome.

Email: alison.milton@health.gov.au

Editor



Monthly meeting venue: Division of Botany and Zoology, Building 116, Daley Rd, Australian National University. (The Xmas meeting is at the adjacent building 44 and will start at the earlier time of 6:30 pm.)

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: