

OBJECT: To foster an interest in nature

August 2016
ISSN: 1836-2761



GPO BOX 249
CANBERRA ACT 2601

FIELD NATURALISTS' ASSOCIATION OF CANBERRA INC.

FIELD NATURALIST

MEETING—THURSDAY 4 August 2016
7:30 pm Australian National University
Gould Seminar Room, Building 116, Daley Road, ANU, ACT
details back page

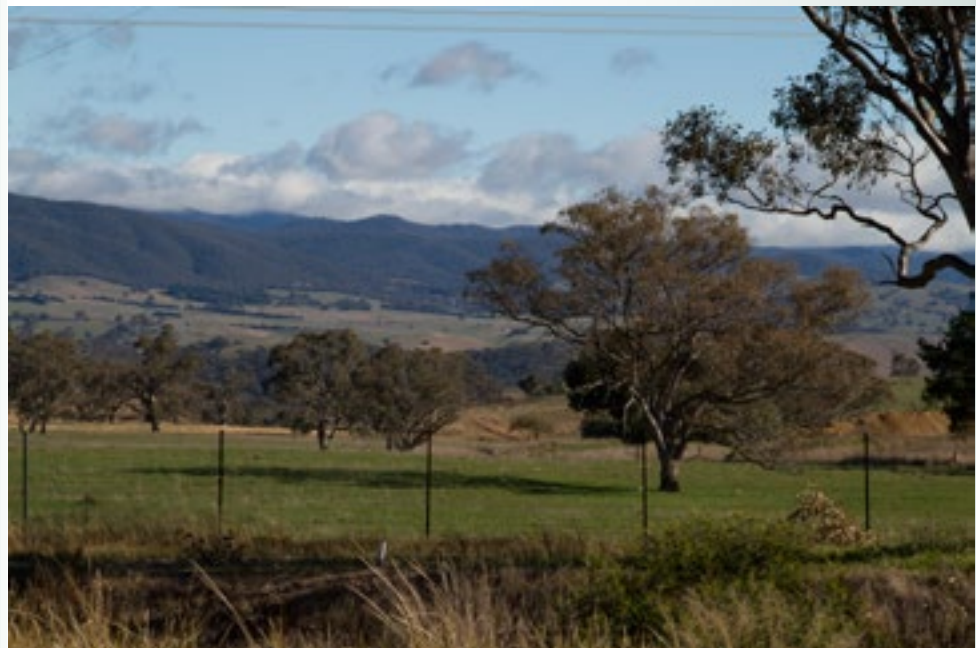
Annual General Meeting



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.

Besides the AGM agenda of appointing a new committee for the 2016–17 year, there will be five speakers giving short talks on their specific areas of interest, more details of which are on the next page. Hope to see many of you there.



Contents

Speakers for the August AGM	2
Brisbane or the Mediterranean?	2
One more for the list	3
Budget statement	4
AGM nomination form	5

Speakers for the August AGM

Kevin Squair

'Mandy and Kevin were on Lady Elliot Island in February and saw the turtles hatch. They have a short video of it and also have video of Noddy Terns, tropic birds, sharks and turtles swimming, which are all very interesting. 7 videos; total 9 minutes'.

Well before the days of Canberra Nature Map Kevin gave us glimpses of the species that fascinated them in Weetangera and is no stranger to FNAC field trips. Mandy has an abiding interest in *Lepidoptera* that included assistance with Michael Braby's *Butterflies of Australia*. (The second edition is now available.)

Adrienne Nicholson: Galapagos Islands

Jenni Marsh: Sugar gliders

Jenni has already lead one spotlighting walk that Field Natters thoroughly enjoyed and another is scheduled for August when the parks reopen at night after the culling. Mt Majura and Mt Ainslie are real natural history hotspots so having Jenni's experiences to guide us should spur us to further visits. These 'mountains' are so close to the suburbs and the city it's amazing how much wildlife is there for those who know where to look.

Bill Murphy

Bill has some interesting news and comments on bird banding and birds' mammoth migratory journeys. Bird migration has been in the news again lately as wetlands, swamps and mangroves are destroyed for the benefit of commerce. This in spite of knowing that these habitats are vitally important for their hosted species as well as people who depend on fish stocks. There are some active bird-banders based in Canberra but it will be interesting to hear more about the citizen science and professional ornithology behind their activities. Bill and Vicky have lost no time in studying and enjoying Canberra's wildlife and habitats since moving here.

Bob Lehman

Bob's talk centres on an archaeological dig at Warburton Range near WA's eastern border. Carbon dating showed traditional Aboriginal people lived in the area as far back as 10,800 years before the present. The countryside was quite pretty with low hills, open plains and relative abundance of good food, both plant and animal types, including kangaroos and emus. Also to be shown, in brief, were some of the people they met and activities taking place at Warburton Range.

Brisbane or the Mediterranean?

Last month I had to make an unexpected mad dash up to Brisbane.

My flight out of Canberra was delayed by at least two hours due to fog and left after I should have arrived in Brisbane. However, perhaps in hindsight this was a blessing as, as we approached Brisbane harbour the sea was at low tide exposing the ocean

floor and sand dunes between Stradbroke Island and the Moreton Bay shore. The colours were like photos I've seen of the Mediterranean or the Caribbean. Absolutely beautiful. I don't think I've ever flown into Brisbane at low tide before.

I also loved the ripples of the darker sand deposits at the river delta, as we approached the runway.



One more for the list

Over the past few months I've reported on small birds visiting my yard. This weekend I had one more to add to my list.

About to take the dogs out for a walk I saw two birds fly into the gum tree out front. I immediately thought they were unfamiliar so grabbed my binoculars and was delighted to see that one was a male golden whistler.

Abandoning the dog walk I raced for my camera but by time I had it set up with the appropriate lens it had gone, but not far: it was just down the street in a neighbouring gum tree. However, I was unable to photograph it before it took off.

I took the dogs for their walk and on my return about two hours later I again looked for my new visitor. I was delighted to find it in my Chinese Elm tree and it obligingly hopped onto a branch in full sunlight so that I was able to get a decent photo.

Just one more species to add to my list of local visitors.

While on my recent trip to Brisbane I didn't get much of a chance to observe or photograph the wildlife or anything else (as I had hoped) but I did manage some photos of the butcher birds that my sister feeds daily.

She has two males (or perhaps one juvenile) and one female that wait in nearby trees until she makes an appearance. As soon as she appears on her front porch they swoop down for the daily morsel, with rival noisy miners trying to infiltrate.

Growing up with our own chooks, mum used to curse the butcher birds as pests as they stole the chicks, but now I realised that they actually have a beautiful bird song.

I also had a family of four at my house just a few minutes up the road and put food out for them also. They didn't need any 'taming' to come to my porch rail. However, while I do feed native birds I think that my sister over feeds them, putting out way too much mince, then complaining about the noisy miners coming in to feed also. Perhaps I should send her the link to the bird feeding and watering survey.



Female Butcher bird



Month	Speaker	Topic
6 August	Various	AGM plus guest speakers
3 September	Pat Wright	Celebrate our Wattle
1 October	Kate Garrock	Mulligans Flat and Bettong project
5 November	Ian Fraser	How Australian Birds Got English Names



Income and Expenditure Statement for Year Ended 30 June 2016

	2015 \$	2016 \$
Income		
Membership Subscriptions	1,400.00	1,425.00
Raffle	335.70	364.20
Tea Money	100.00	70.90
Donations	728.00	875.00
Interest Received (Term Deposits)	464.34	507.14
Interest Received (Cheque Account)	9.79	0.26
Total	3,037.83	3,242.50

	2015 \$	2016 \$
Expenditure		
Affiliation Fees	150.00	150.00
Bank Fees	23.50	4.50
Newsletter Printing	458.11	374.70
Postage	432.99	480.00
Post Office Box Rental	181.00	191.00
Presentations (Speakers and ANU)	74.70	40.00
Student Prize Vouchers	0.00	250.00
Registrar General's Fees	0.00	0.00
Insurance	370.00	360.00
President's / Secretary's Stationery	41.95	0.00
Treasurer's Stationery / Common Seal	0.00	0.00
Auditor Payment / Web Hosting	100.00	199.00
Total	1,832.25	2,049.20
Income exceeds Expenditure by	\$1,205.58	\$1,193.30
Donations to Environmental Organisations	\$4,000.00	\$2,000.00

Financial Situation at 30 June 2016

Cash at Bank	\$3,554.50
Term Deposit (a)	\$10,000.00 (2.60% p.a.; 6 months; \$130.00 interest est.)
Term Deposit (b)	\$4,000.00 (1.40% p.a.; 3 months; \$14.00 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 4th AUGUST 2016 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 _____



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: