

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**  
**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.

Guest speakers are: Kevin McCue who will speak on Exploring Central Asia on the Silk Road and Andy Russell who will update us on the Southern Tablelands Ecosystem Park (STEP).



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

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# Thank you Field Natters

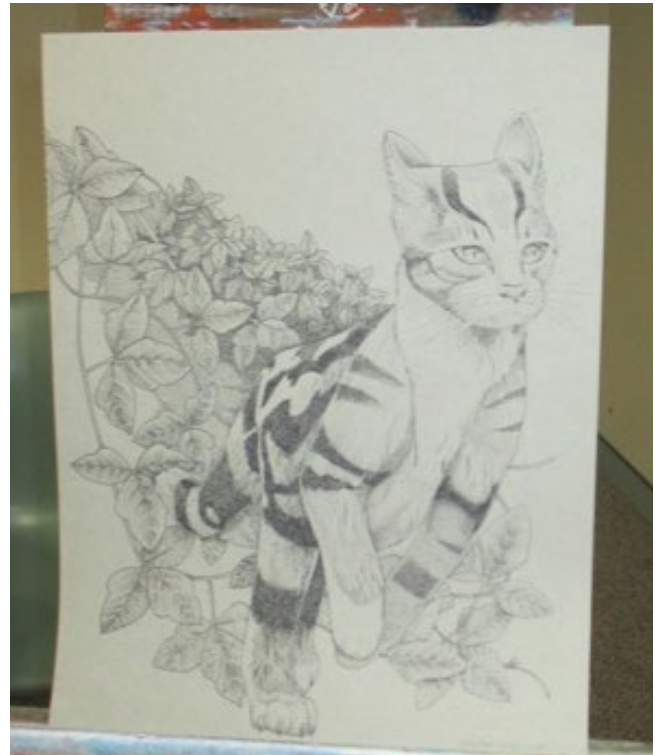
Thank you all for making the Field Nats meeting on 6 July run so smoothly and, I think, professionally.

You helped set up the room, you made the technology work, you welcomed our visitors, MC'd the evening and introduced our member-speaker Erin, you asked thoughtful questions, set up supper, brought easels, ran the raffle, brought visitors, were prepared to sell books and were prepared to learn about a rather obtuse-sounding subject on a chilly winter's evening.

I am still lost for words to describe Erin's presentation and her work. I'm currently reading Julian Cribb's *Open Science: sharing knowledge in the global century*. You can be sure Erin ticks many of Julian's boxes as she brings science, accuracy, imagination and vibrancy to, it seems, whatever she undertakes and interprets.

As Maureen noted 'she is also prepared to illustrate what we would regard as ferals, even regard them as adorable,'...which just goes to show the born naturalist in Erin's colourful character.

**Rosemary Blemings**



## *We know they're clever*

On Friday 7th July at 08.40 I scattered some porridge oats outside the back door because I'd heard the Magpies calling.

I misread the Magpies. They went off to more pressing business elsewhere.

A Currawong turned up and began eating the oats.

I resentfully shooed it off and covered the oats with the light-weight doormat.

The Currawong returned, ate the uncovered oats and, after less than 5 minutes, began lifting up the mat's edges to reach the hidden oats. The mat's flapping down was disconcerting but the bird overcame its fear.

Before long it tried pulling the mat up so that oats were better exposed.

Another Currawong turned up and, within a minute, learned the value of lifting and pulling by watching.

I wonder if anyone has studied this species, these 'birds we love to hate', in any depth?

**Rosemary Blemings**



# Pristine paradise to rubbish dump

For the full story see [The Conversation web site 17 July 2017](#).



*The same beach on Henderson Island, in 1992 and 2015*

There are only 23 years between these two photos, and the transformation is terrifying – from pristine South Pacific gem to the final resting place for enormous quantities of the world’s waste. This is not waste that was dumped directly by human hands. It was washed here on ocean currents, meaning that this is not just about one beach – it shows how much the pollution problem has grown in the entire ocean system in little more than two decades.

Henderson Island is a brutal wake-up call, and there are undoubtedly other garbage islands out there, inundated and overwhelmed by the waste generated in the name of progress. Although the amount of trash on Henderson is staggering – an average of 3,570 new pieces arrive each day on one beach alone – it represents a minute fraction of the rubbish produced around the globe.

## *Recycling for nature*

Some years ago I replaced my letterbox. The old one has been laying on the ground next to my driveway so I recently decided to use it to create a native bee hotel. Now I wait for Spring to see if the bees actually move in.



**Alison Milton**

# Seeking roost site data

A message from Ryu Callaway

I am currently compiling data on roost sites around Canberra of communally roosting species. Communally roosting species refers to those species for which dispersed individuals of one or more species gather to roost together overnight. Some examples of communally roosting species include, but is by no means limited to, Cockatoos, Corellas, Starlings, Ibis, and Cormorants. Data are being gathered for any and all such species.

It is intended that this will feed into a proposed annual roost census starting next year, which will aim to have all known roosts of select species surveyed simultaneously by COG members and fellow birders to gain a better idea of the population of those birds in Canberra. The data being sought are as follows:

## Roost flight observations

By combining roost flight observations from multiple observers, a fairly good idea can be obtained of where unidentified roosts in less frequented locations may occur. Some species are also easier to count on their roost flight.

Roost flights generally take place in the evening or dusk as birds head for their roost site, and can consist of one or few very large flocks moving purposefully in a set direction, or constant movement of individuals and small groups in a consistent direction over a duration of time. You can expect to see similar movement repeated on differing days.

Please supply the following details:

- Species
- Coordinates or address of the location from which you made your observations

- If birds are not flying directly overhead or through the immediate vicinity, please also provide an approximate location or landmark over which they are likely to be flying

- For example, if your observations are of birds moving in the valley as viewed from the top of a hill, or of distant high-flying flocks.

- Direction of flight (The direction in which they are heading, such as E or NW, although obvious landmarks that birds are headed for is also okay)

- Contact details of observer (name and email)

- Any other useful notes (timing of flight (e.g. 40 to 15 minutes before last light), the sort of flight, rough flock size or the number of flocks etc.)

## Roost site observations

Roost sites are locations where communally roosting birds gather to sleep overnight.

Please supply the following details:

- Species
- Location (coordinates, along with a description or map to identify the expanse of area would be appreciated)
- Rough indication of the number of birds (are we talking a few dozen, a few hundred, or thousands?)
- Direction of arrival (if known: do birds fly in from all directions, or perhaps only from the southern and eastern aspects?)



- Seasonality (if known: is this roost used all year, seasonally, sporadically, or temporarily?)

- Contact details of observer (name and email)

- Any other useful notes (timing of arrival (time before last light), etc.)

- If multiple species share the roost site, please make a note of that and supply details for each species if they differ.

- While not necessary, it would be great if the species of tree for roost sites could be mentioned if known. Photos can also be submitted to Canberra Nature Map for ID.

Decimal coordinates are preferred. This can easily be obtained through clicking on the location in satellite view on Google Maps, and copying the coordinates.

Please keep an eye out for roost flights and roost sites over the coming weeks and months, and email these observations, along with details of any communal roost sites that you may already know of, directly to me at [roostcensus@canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:roostcensus@canberrabirds.org.au)

Ryu Callaway

## Activities

### Sunday 6th August: Spotlight walk on Mt Majura

Need to meet at about 4.45 pm, before sunset but details will be finalised closer to the date. Meanwhile, if anyone is interested in a spotlight walk, please contact Jenni Marsh 0408 429 214, email: jennimars@yahoo.com

Some Conservation Council activities that may interest you.

### October 2017: Walk the Border, ACT – A Watershed Walk

Walk the Border is a new event, which will be both an historic event and assist as a fundraiser. The ACT's border is 306 kms long and crosses a variety of the ACT's ecosystems, from ones that are nationally threatened to ones that have been severely modified since European settlement.

The walk is being led by Conservation Council president, Rod Griffiths, who will be joined by a range of other fund-raisers, who can join the walk for part of a stage or any number of stages.

The walk is planned to take 21 days commencing on 7 October 2017 from Hall, following the border in a clockwise direction. The route will take in some of the ACT's roughest and most beautiful country and the source of the ACT's water supply. Yet many of the stages will involve easy and accessible components allowing for varied involvement by participants.

The walk will be exciting, challenging, and will allow those participating to experience parts of the ACT less travelled, and for the wider community to gain a better understanding of the heritage and environmental diversity of the ACT.

Contact [info@conservationcouncil.org.au](mailto:info@conservationcouncil.org.au) for more information or if you would like to help.

### Environment Exchanges 2017

Environment Exchange events are held monthly to provide for informed, in-depth discussions on environmental issues in the region. Member groups are encouraged to attend and to publicise the events to their members and supporters. The Conservation Council 'Environment Exchange' series is held at the Renewable Energy Hub, 19-23 Moore Street, Turner (just off Barry Drive). All events are scheduled from 12-2:00 pm starting with a light lunch (donations welcome). Proceedings commence after people have gathered some food and we try to finish just after 1.30 pm but allow time for people to continue to mingle. We have moved the events to Tuesdays rather than Thursdays and have adjusted for public holidays.

The next events in our series are (click to book):

- Tuesday 29 August: How the wheels are turning — a bigger picture of transport in the ACT **BOOK NOW**
- Tuesday 26 September: Special event — Ben Ponton, Director-General, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate to speak to us on environment, planning, sustainable development issues in the ACT **BOOK NOW**
- Tuesday 31 October: Biodiversity Offsets – are they working in the ACT? **BOOK NOW**

### Early warning ramble: 46th Black Mountain spring wildflower ramble

WHEN: Saturday 14 October 2017 - 9.30 am sharp to 12 noon or later. WHERE: Belconnen Way entry just before Caswell Drive turnoff - watch for balloons. Celebrate the spring flowering on beautiful Black Mountain with a social ramble for wildflower lovers in the tradition established by Nancy Burbidge, and continued by George Chippendale. Discover the surprising diversity of tiny orchids, bush peas, wattles and billy buttons on easy bush tracks with experienced guides and good company. All springs are not the same. The pattern remains but timing and abundance vary with the weather. Friends of Black Mountain welcomes all comers, be they experts or those who have never slowed down to see the somewhat cryptic diversity. We plan several guides, with helpers, who will take different directions.

BYO morning tea, water, hat, sunblock and stout shoes. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL** to ensure we have enough guides. Contact [friendsofblackmountain@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofblackmountain@gmail.com) or Libby Viccars 02 6296 1936.

Month	Speaker	Topic
3 August	Kevin McCue Andy Russell	Exploring Central Asia on the Silk Road Southern Tablelands Ecosystem Park AGM
7 September	Martin Royds	Organic/non-industrial farming
5 October	Alex James and Jennie Curtis	Small Farms network
2 November	Meredith Cosgrove	Photographic guide to ACT native plants
7 December		Xmas party

# Get children outdoors to play and learn on outdoor classroom day

The ACT Government established Nature Play CBR to encourage children to get out and experience the great outdoors. As part of this campaign they are promoting Outdoor Classroom Day.

Outdoor Classroom Day is a global campaign to celebrate and inspire outdoor learning and play. On Thursday 7 September 2017, join Nature Play CBR and thousands of schools around Australia by taking lessons outside and prioritising play-time.

Anyone who has seen the impact that learning and playing outdoors has on children knows how powerful such experiences can be. Learning outdoors creates lasting memories, helps build a greater awareness of the environment, provides more opportunities to think independently, and gets children feeling challenged and excited by learning. Children are more active when they play outdoors: It is essential for their healthy development and enjoyment of childhood.

Nature Play CBR and our sister organisations are proudly leading this campaign in Australia and we're calling on teachers, parents and anyone who cares about childhood to get involved in the campaign on Thursday 7 September 2017.

If you're a teacher, educator or school administrator and new to outdoor learning, why not use Outdoor Classroom Day to try it out? Or, if you're already involved in outdoor learning, use the day to celebrate what you do and inspire other teachers around the world to join in.

If you're a parent, talk to your child's school about the importance of outdoor learning and play. Ask them how they will get involved and

offer to help out on the day if they need a bit of extra support.

If you work or volunteer for an organisation that cares about children, nature, education or the environment, speak to us about how you can get involved.

We've got lesson plans, posters, inspiration, hints and tips – everything you need to celebrate an amazing Outdoor Classroom Day!

Find out more and sign up today at:

[www.outdoorclassroomday.com.au](http://www.outdoorclassroomday.com.au)

Here's something really exciting to look forward to in September. If old clothes are needed encourage people to learn about OP SHOP shopping.

See if the schools' P&C and management would allow a pile of soil to come in as mud-pie ingredients, or clay for making pots.

Bring in a pile of branches to make cubby houses.

How about old-fashioned games such as gum-boot tossing?

See if your nearest Landcare or Parkcare Group would stage a bushwalk or an exploring, surveying or photographic adventure in your nearest open space.

Are there artists who could offer drawing or sketching opportunities? Or potters who could help mould vessels.

Let's join in reinventing curiosity, imagination and having a go at something different!

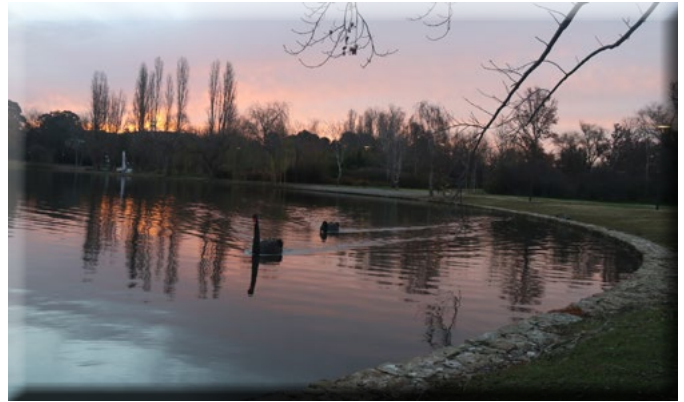
**Rosemary Blemings**

## BUTTERFLY NEWSLETTER: DID YOU KNOW?

Suzi Bond, lead author on *Field Guide to the Butterflies of the ACT* sends out a newsletter about butterflies in the local (ACT) region in the form of email updates. These emails note particular species flying, or something exciting that has been seen, or they call for records of particular species. Suzi mostly sends them out during spring–autumn, which are prime butterfly seasons in the ACT. Suzi says she would welcome butterfly stories from readers of News of FOG, and that anyone can ask to be on her newsletter mailing list by emailing her at [chowchilla29@yahoo.com](mailto:chowchilla29@yahoo.com)

# Winter delights

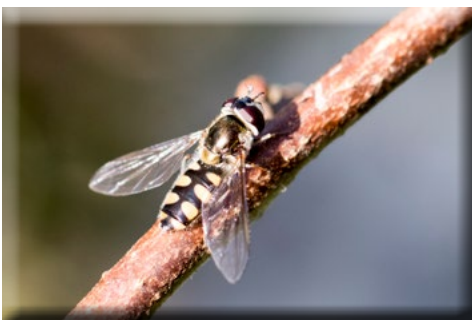
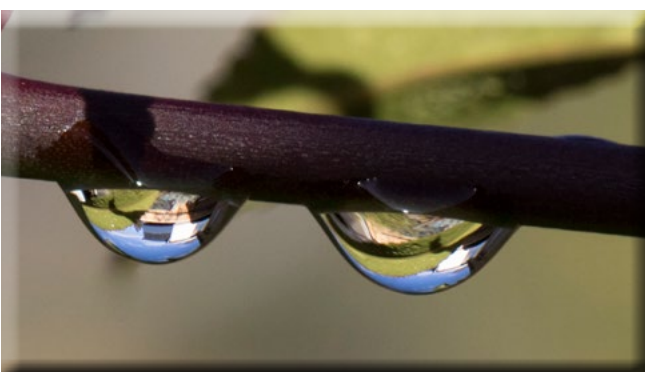
Winter has provided some interesting opportunities for photographs. A brilliant red sunset one evening, however, I was on the wrong side of the Regatta Point hill, but still got a couple of lovely shots on the pond.



We've had some chilly frosty mornings in July great for taking some frosty photos and puts a new meaning on frozen veges.



Then rain this week provided an opportunity for some interesting raindrops.



Though perhaps most interesting was the discovery of a hoverfly on my native mint bush. Is this unusual for this time of year?

**Alison Milton**

## Income and Expenditure Statement for Year Ended 30 June 2017

	2016 \$	2017 \$
<b>Income</b>		
Membership subscriptions	1,425.00	1,250.00
Raffle	364.20	335.20
Tea money	70.90	83.10
Donations	875.00	970.00
Interest received (Term deposits)	507.14	320.03
Interest received (Cheque account)	0.26	0.24
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,242.50</b>	<b>2,958.57</b>

	2016 \$	2017 \$
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Affiliation fees	150.00	100.00
Bank fees	4.50	0.00
Newsletter printing	374.70	360.00
Postage	480.00	445.00
Post Office Box rental	191.00	196.00
Presentations (Speakers and ANU)	40.00	85.49
Student prize vouchers	250.00	300.00
Registrar General's fees	0.00	0.00
Insurance	360.00	390.00
President's / Secretary's stationery	0.00	0.00
Treasurer's stationery / Common Seal	0.00	0.00
Auditor payment / Web hosting	199.00	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,049.20</b>	<b>1,976.49</b>
<b>Income exceeds Expenditure by</b>	<b>1,193.30</b>	<b>982.08</b>
<b>Donations to Environmental Organisations</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>1,500.00</b>
<b>Monies transferred from Term deposit</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>

## Financial Situation at 30 June 2017

<b>Cash at Bank</b>	<b>\$3,554.50</b>
Term Deposit (a)	\$10,261.710 (2.50% p.a.; 6 months; \$126.34 interest est.)
Term Deposit (b)	\$4,058.32 (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 3 AUGUST 2017 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?

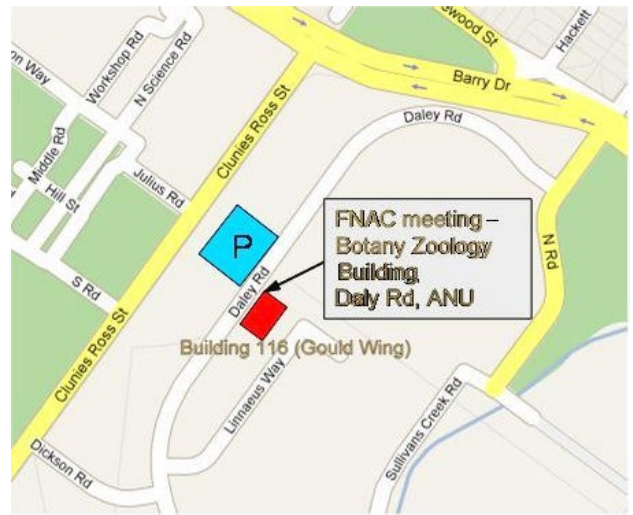
The Field Naturalists' Association of Canberra (FNAC) was formed in 1981. Our aim is to foster interest in natural history by means of meetings and regular field outings. Meetings are usually held on the first Thursday of each month. Outings range from weekend rambles to long weekends away. Activities 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 Blemings, et al

**Email:** fieldnaturalist@yahoo.com.au

**Website:** under construction

**Editor:** Alison Milton All newsletter contributions welcome. **Email:** apm56@optusnet.com.au



**Monthly meeting venue:** Division of Botany and Zoology, Building 116, Daley Road, 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: