

OBJECT: To foster an interest in nature

June 2023

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FIELD NATURALISTS' ASSOCIATION OF CANBERRA INC.  
JAMISON CENTRE ACT 2614  
GPO BOX 708

FIELD NATTER

## MEETING—Thursday 1 June 2023

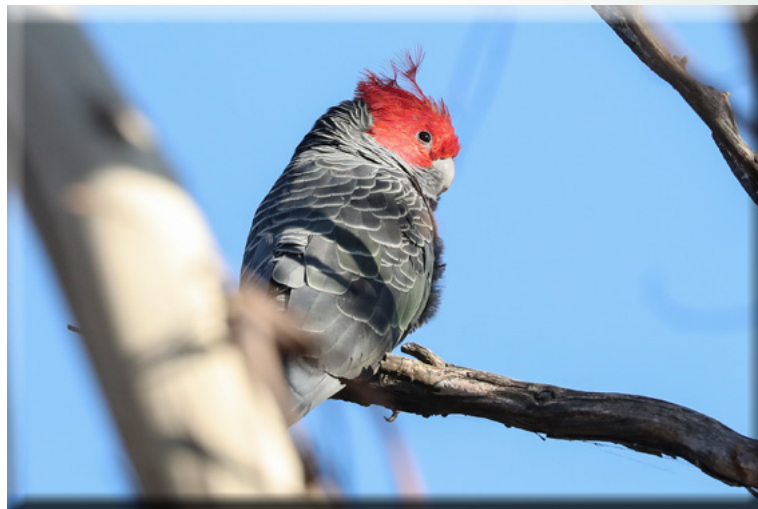
7:00 pm Australian National University

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

### Grassy landscapes and the people who care for them

Speaker: Jenny Horsfield

Jenny Horsfield is a Canberra writer with a special interest in the stories of the people and the landscape where she lives. She has twice been the recipient of an ACT Writers and Publishers non-fiction Book of the Year award. Jenny is Chair of MOTH (Mindors of Tuggeranong Homestead) and for the past decade has been leading a move to bring life back to the old Tuggeranong Creek with the creation of wetlands on the homestead property, a project which will happen later this year under the Healthy Waterways program. Jenny is currently writing a book *Our grassy landscapes and the people who care for them*, and will talk about the many stories this has uncovered, at the meeting.



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## At home and abroad

I finally managed to photograph one of my house guest skinks – it was cooperative enough to stay on the mulch for me! I've not managed to identify it.



Visiting at STEP, this fungus was impossible to miss. There were masses like this around the base of every *Eucalyptus nortonii* I could see along the contour. Andy Russell identified it as Spectacular Rustgill – *Gymnopilus junonius*. The caps reach a fairly spectacular size as they age! Andy says this is the second year they've grown here.



## A facebook page for FNAC

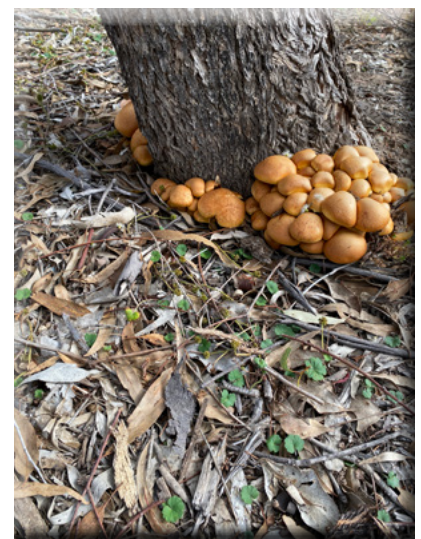
FNAC now has a Facebook page. You can find it at:

<https://www.facebook.com/FieldNaturalistsAssociation-Canberra/>

All members are encouraged to post their sightings and observations and nature related news stories. A photo and a brief description are all that is required. We'll also use the Facebook page to advertise FNAC activities, including our monthly meetings and field outings and any relevant events from other like-minded organisations.

Please check out the FNAC page. You don't need to be a Facebook user to view the FNAC page though if you want to post, or comment on another post, you will need to sign up for an account.

If you are a Facebook user and would like to help as a moderator or administrator for the FNAC page let Janet know (Janet-Stein01@gmail.com). Janet would also welcome any photos that capture what FNAC is about to use as a cover (banner) photo for the FNAC page.





## It's Gang-gang time again

In recent times there have been concerns about how the Gang-gang would survive after all the environmental disasters. So I am delighted to report that about 25 of them are visiting us as usual on our bush block on the eastern edge of Queanbeyan. It is so nice to hear their squeaking and wheezing calls and to see all the leaves and new shoots they regularly prune from the top of large gum trees. Noticing the eucalyptus smell from the debris on the ground means to look up to see Gang-gangs in the tree tops.

I said visiting us as usual because my records going back to 1995 show that Gang-gangs are regularly here at this time of year. Often a few hanging around, but sometimes a flock of 20 or more and over 40 in 1998 for example. Similarly we get flocks of Yellow-faced Honeyeaters passing through, maybe the odd White-naped Honeyeater with them.

There have been some changes in timing (climate change ?) but it is uncanny how often birds return at just the same time. We usually have a pair of Scarlet Robins staying around for the Winter and they arrived back right on time on 5 April. On the other hand Friars have formed little flocks and gone north.

Everyone will have noticed the profusion of blossoms on Eucalypts this year.

We have had flocks of very noisy feasting Rainbow Lorikeets. We also had two Musk Lorikeets feeding with the Rainbows, the first time we have recorded them here. The yellow flash on their side stands out.

**Colin Pask**

## More Gang gangs

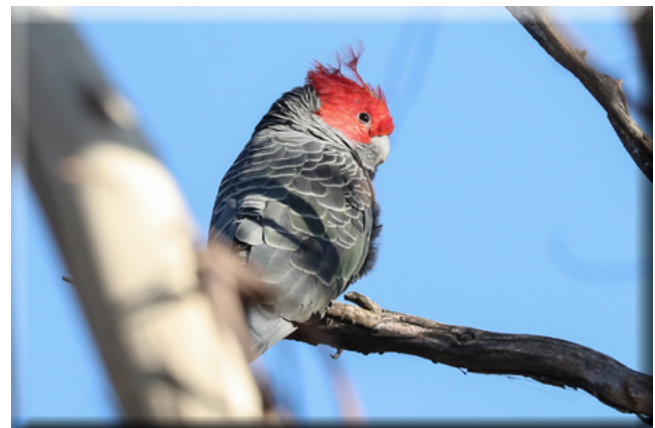
Colin has noted the annual sightings of Gang Gangs at his property. It's known that these are now an endangered species.

This month I had my brother visit from Queensland so I took him out to nearby Shepherds Lookout. We were delighted to see around four Gang Gangs:

two immature males, a female and an unidentified fourth bird.

My brother was quite chuffed as he had not seen a Gang Gang previously, however, I was quite disappointed as meeting a couple of guys there, they said we had just missed a pair of Wedge-tailed Eagles flying very close overhead.

Looking at Canberra Nature Map, Gang Gangs have been reported at Shepherds Lookout previously but I think these must be historical COG records as I couldn't find any recent reports with photos so I was quite happy to get some lovely photos.



**Alison Milton**

## Raffle prizes needed

As always, we need prizes for our monthly raffle. This is our only fund-raising event and is funded through members' generous donations, mostly consisting of items no longer needed or wanted at home. Fresh garden produce is also highly prized.

Please 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), and if you are a gardener with fresh produce to donate, this would be greatly appreciated.



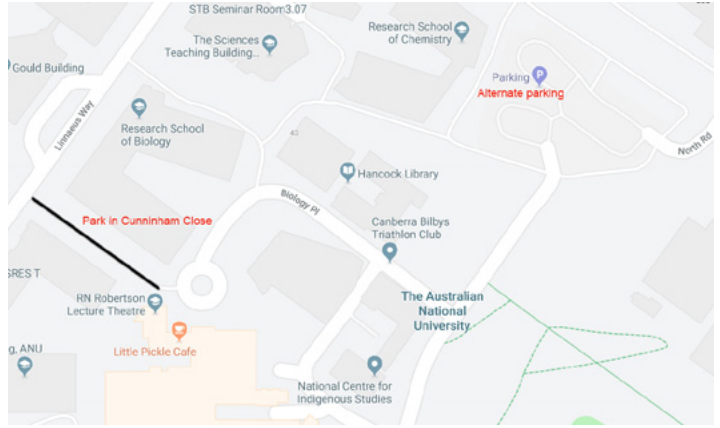


Field Naturalists' Association of Canberra Inc.

### 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 I  
[president@fieldnatsact.com](mailto:president@fieldnatsact.com)
- Email:** [secretary@fieldnatsact.com](mailto:secretary@fieldnatsact.com)
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- 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 708**  
**Jamison Centre ACT 2614**



### Membership application or renewal

Surname: ..... 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: .....

How did you hear about FNAC? Please circle: Friend

Other Please specify: .....

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

*Subscription renewals are due on 1 July each year*

**Pay by post (include completed form)**

Field Naturalists' Association of Canberra  
GPO Box 708  
Jamison Centre ACT 2614

**Bank transfer (renewals only: form not needed)**

Account name: Field Nats  
BSB: 325 185  
Account number: 03545251  
Reference: **Please include your name**