

OBJECT: To foster an interest in nature

March 2023

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

FIELD NATTER

March 2023 newsletter

No evening meetings until further notice



Food and a drink



*The very hungry caterpillar
Emperor Gum moth larvae*

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Miniature marvels

When battling through the rank grasses to reach and behead St John's Wort, small green orchids were found in new locations. Two that I cut off in error, finished flowering at home dried out and then dusted the windowsill with minute seeds smaller than these dots...



Thanks to John Fitzgerald, I confirmed that each speck of dust was a seed. How incredible that so much propagule and genetic material can be stored in such minute seeds.



The marvel of miniaturisation that something so tiny can contain everything needed to start the next generation with help from associations with the soil's extensive fungal network.

Rosemary Blemings

Backyard youngsters

We have had a few youngsters turn up in our backyard of late; Pied Currawongs, Magpies, Red Wattlebirds (no Koel chicks), Galahs, Crimson Rosellas, Superb Fairy Wrens, a Spinebill or two and a Satin Bowerbird. The latter is a newcomer though we have had occasional visits from mature birds in the last year or two.



Also, with the return of the warm weather we have seen mixed flocks of small birds again; mainly Silvereyes (the figs are ripening), thornbills and wrens.

Kevin McCue

FNAC Survey of members

Twenty-six FNAC members completed the recent survey designed to canvas views on a range of topics including the resumption of regular meetings, field outings and growing the FNAC membership.

Survey respondents were keen to see the resumption of regular meetings with invited speakers and social engagement afterwards. They also strongly supported the continuation of regular, local field outings with at least some scheduled for weekends to attract a broader cross-section of the community. Having a regular schedule of activities, posted to events notice boards and on social media, was also seen as important to attract and retain new members.

The current statement of FNAC's aim was seen to adequately reflect members' vision for FNAC though one member noted that the term 'natural history' may not be widely understood by the general public and require clarification. Survey respondents had many great suggestions to attract and retain new members and to foster an interest

in natural history consistent with this aim. Some of these were helpfully accompanied by an offer to assist in organising them, while others will require someone to come forward to take on the commitment if they are to be acted upon.

While no one volunteered to take on the vacant FNAC positions of President or Secretary there were generous offers to assist in other capacities, notably as a Meetings Organizer and as Field Trip/Outings Coordinator.

Thank you so much to all who participated and especially to those who have offered to take on important roles or to assist with specific tasks. Your insightful comments and thoughtful responses will help shape the future of FNAC. The Committee will now meet to consider the survey results and formulate a response.

If you want a hard copy of the full survey results, please contact Rosemary Blemings.

Janet Stein

Pinnacle species hits new record

The webmaster for The Pinnacle Nature Reserve has been keeping a record of the native species reported from the reserve. The list doesn't match the number of species listed for the reserve on Canberra Nature Map as it doesn't include exotics and some records that are identified only to Genus so may be duplicates. Based on these criteria in mid-February the 900th native species was recorded on Canberra Nature Map.

Eucalyptus beetle larvae survey

I am hoping to remove the confusion of identifying beetle larvae and matching them to the adult beetles. With this in mind I have just completed the first stage of a survey that I hope to continue with further specimens.

I successfully raised six species of larvae to a definitive conclusion. Two other results were inconclusive as in one case I most likely had two similar looking larvae specimens and two types of beetles emerged.

In the other case, two beetles developed but it was prior to starting the survey and I hadn't properly documented the larvae. This was very annoying as this beetle is one of the lesser reported species.

I'm now looking for help in collecting larvae from areas to which I have difficulty in getting to on the bus. More details can be found on the home page of the Canberra Nature Map web site.

Alison Milton

Biodiversity Network

This week the Conservation Council launched the Biodiversity Network Paper – a tenure blind framework for biodiversity conservation in the ACT. To combat biodiversity loss across the Territory, the Conservation Council's Biodiversity Working Group and Friends of Grasslands have co-authored this paper that outlines a key part of the solution to protecting and enhancing the ACT's remaining natural places: The Biodiversity Network. You can read the full paper on the [Conservation Council web site](https://conservationcouncil.org.au/publications/) (<https://conservationcouncil.org.au/publications/>).



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.

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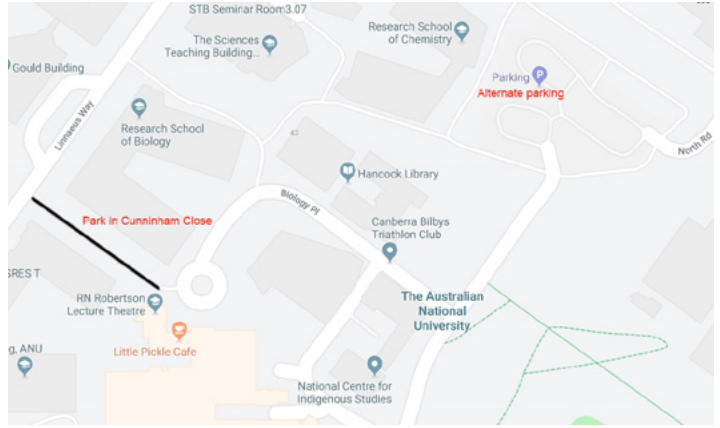
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Monthly meeting venue: Jan Anderson Seminar Room, R. N. Robertson Building, Biology Place, Australian National University

Field Naturalists' Association of Canberra
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Membership application or renewal

Surname: First name:

If a family membership, please include the first names of other members of the family:

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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**