

MEETING THURSDAY NOVEMBER 5

7:30 pm Australian National University

Meeting details back page



"A week in Kruger"

Chris Bunn

Chris is a long term member of Field Nats showing enthusiasm for wildlife, science and social activities. He has generously contributed his skills serving as editor for four years and vice president for ten years!!

In June this year he spent a week in Kruger National Park, travelling with the chief veterinarian. He has some absolutely stunning photographs of the wildlife and landscapes of Kruger. Some really up close and personal. He also considers the ecology of the region and will expand on the problem of elephant over population within the park - similar to our kangaroo issue but on a much bigger scale.



Contents

Page

| | |
|--|-------|
| Canberra Day Long Weekend Field Trip to Kioloa | 2 |
| ANU Public Lecture - Climate Change and Global Health | 2 |
| Minutes of the AGM 1st October 2009 | 3 - 4 |
| Note for Committee Members | 4 |
| The Waterhouse Natural History Art Prize | 4 |
| Why bees are dying | 5 |
| Introducing the editor - Margaret Kalms | 5 |
| October Outing - Black Mountain Wildflower Ramble | 6 |
| Australian Botanic Gardens Lunchtime Talks | 6 |
| Christmas Meeting - 3rd December | 6 |
| November Outing - A Walk in Mulligan's Flat Nature Reserve | 7 |
| Member's Night | 7 |
| Conservation Council | 7 |
| Contact details and map | 8 |

**CANBERRA DAY LONG WEEKEND
FIELD TRIP TO KIOLOA
Friday March 5th to Monday March 8th, 2010**

Expressions of Interest

The ANU's Coastal Campus at Kioloa is a *biodiversity hotspot* located on 860 acres adjacent to Murramarang National Park, south of Bawley Point, via Termeil. It is an environmental research station which provides access to flora and fauna of diverse eco-systems including beach and coastland, rainforest, dryland forest, heathland and tea-tree wetlands. It is approximately two and a half hours drive from Canberra.



In late summer the critically endangered *Hooded Plovers* should still be nesting, and we may see the highly endangered *Pied Oyster Catcher* and the endangered *Sooty Oyster Catcher*. The *Greater Glider* and the *Yellow-Bellied Glider* are among the many different sugar gliders in this area. We may be able to see and hear the *Green and Golden Bell Frogs*. And, there is always time to swim and surf.

Kioloa is very busy at this time of year and we have been able to reserve three self-contained cottages for our group.

Each cottage consists of three twin-bedded rooms, a living area, small kitchen and bathroom. The approximate cost for a bed is around \$30.00 excluding bed linen and towels (\$60 if only one person in the room).

If you would like to join us on this trip you need to register your interest now.

We would like to release any spare accommodation to Kioloa before December. A more detailed program of activities and catering arrangements will be available later.

**Please telephone Sylvie on or
email to [sylviesampson\(at\)bigpond.com](mailto:sylviesampson(at)bigpond.com)**

PS from the editor It is a great place with lots of interest, BUT we must book early.

See more at [http://kioloa.anu.edu .au](http://kioloa.anu.edu.au)



ANU Public Lecture - **Climate Change and Global Health**

Speaker/Host: Professor Tony McMichael and Professor John Mackenzie

Venue: The Finkel Lecture Theatre, The John Curtin School of Medical Research, Building 131, Garran Rd

Date: Monday, 16 November 2009

Time: 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Enquiries: [Jonathan Herington](mailto:Jonathan.Herington@anu.edu.au) on

web: http://billboard.anu.edu.au/event_view.asp?id=52079

FIELD NATURALISTS' ASSOCIATION OF CANBERRA INC.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OCTOBER 1st 2009

The meeting was chaired by Benj Whitworth, beginning at 7.55pm.
 The Minutes of the 2008 AGM were unavailable. They will be distributed for consideration at the November 2009 general meeting.

The President, Benj Whitworth, gave a brief verbal President's report and indicated that he would provide a written report in due course. Benj highlighted the good meetings and outings that had been held and the conservation efforts of the Field Nats. He thanked the Committee for their support. His report was accepted: moved by Dierk von Behrens and seconded Pamela Finger.

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. Pamela Finger moved it be accepted, seconded Jean Geue.

It was agreed that the committee's recommendation that the annual subscription be increased to \$25. Moved Bob Lehman, seconded Margaret Kalms.

Philip Bell agreed to act as Returning Officer.
 All positions were declared vacant.

The following office-bearers were elected unopposed:

| | | |
|----------------|---|-------------------|
| President | : | Benj Whitworth |
| Vice-President | : | Chris Bunn |
| Secretary | : | Tony Lawson |
| Treasurer | : | Bob Lehman |
| Committee | : | Margaret Kalms |
| | : | Rosemary Blemings |
| | : | George Heinsohn |
| | : | Pamela Finger |
| | : | Helen Dowsett |

The following responsibilities were allocated amongst the Committee:

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Public Officer | : | Chris Bunn |
| Assistant Secretary | : | Rosemary Blemings |
| Conservation Officer | : | Rosemary Blemings |
| Asst Conservation Officer | : | Tony Lawson |
| Assistant Treasurer | : | Pamela Finger |
| Editor, "Field Natter" | : | Margaret Kalms |
| Assistant Editor | : | Chris Bunn |

Details of 2009 elections:

| Vacancy | Nominee | Nominator | Seconder |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| President | Benj Whitworth | Rosemary Blemings | Pamela Finger |
| Vice President | Chris Bunn | Tony Lawson | Benj Whitworth |
| Treasurer | Bob Lehman | Pamela Finger | Dierk von Behrens |
| Secretary | Tony Lawson | Bob Lehman | Jean Geue |
| | | | |
| Committee: | | | |
| | Helen Dowsett | Tony Lawson | Pamela Finger |
| | George Heinsohn | Rosemary Blemings | Bob Lehman |
| | Dierk von Behrens | Margaret Kalms | George Heinsohn |
| Assistant Secretary | Rosemary Blemings | Benj Whitworth | Margaret Kalms |
| Assistant Treasurer | Pamela Finger | Dierk von Behrens | Maureen Bell |
| Editor, Newsletter | Margaret Kalms | Dierk von Behrens | Helen Dowsett |
| Other elected positions: | | | |
| | | | |
| Assistant Editor | Chris Bunn | Benj Whitworth | Maureen Bell |
| Conservation | Rosemary Blemings | Benj Whitworth | Dierk von Behrens |
| Conservation | Tony Lawson | Dierk von Behrens | Pamela Finger |
| Public Officer | Chris Bunn | Rosemary Blemings | Jean Geue |
| Newsletter print'g & distn | - | | |
| Meetings & Outings | - | | |

No-one offered to take on responsibility for the Newsletter printing and Distribution, or Organiser of Meetings and Outings.

George Heinsohn agreed to be responsible for the Tea and coffee at Meetings, while Pam Fenning again agreed to be responsible for the Raffle at Meetings.

The meeting closed at 8:50pm.

The AGM Minutes were prepared by Tony Lawson, Secretary FNAC.

Note for the committee;

We have a Committee Meeting every two (odd) months on the third Wednesday of the month, from 7:30 to around 9:30 pm at the offices of the Conservation Council in Childers St (the demountable near the Street Theatre). The next Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 18 November.

At the November Committee meeting, the main item will be planning the walks and talks for 2010. Rosemary has found a speaker on bats for February. The plan is as for 2009 that we share responsibility for finding speakers and outing leaders. Tony Lawson is offering to co-ordinate this but not to organise all the speakers and outings.

We also need to review progress with a new website, and continue to find someone to look after printing and distribution of the newsletter.

A Big Thank You

A big thank you to the retiring Committee members for all that they have done, in some cases over many years. Thanks to Sylvie Sampson, Paula Harwood, Debbie Saunders, Philip Bell and Dierk von Behrens. We hope that some of you will be able to take on future responsibilities when your personal circumstances change

Tony Lawson

The Waterhouse Natural History Art Prize

Matilda Michell from Sydney, won overall prize of \$50,000 with her painting, 'Fish'.



There is a brilliant "biodiversity" exhibition at the National Archives.

It's an exhibition of The Waterhouse Natural History Art Prize prizewinners creations. The Prize emanates from South Australia but the 837 entries came from around Australia and the world. 101 entries were selected for exhibition and the catalogue reiterates what a difficult task the judges and curatorial team must have had. There are paintings, works on paper and sculpture & objects as categories. There is something there for everyone and

children may be inspired in their craft endeavours by the entrants' imaginative application of everyday materials.

The exhibition is on until November 15th. There's other material there on exhibition also, of course. Free parking is available nearby. I caught the #3 bus.

Rosemary Blemings

www.thewaterhouse.com.au

Why are bees dying around the world?



Apis mellifera, also known as the European honeybee, accounts for nearly all bees managed by beekeepers around the world. *Apis mellifera*, are vanishing from many countries. A report from the National Research Council in the United States stated: "Pollinator decline is one form of global change that actually does have the credible potential to alter the shape of the terrestrial world." Bees are essential in the production of 90 commercially grown foods including apples, almonds and apricots.

One identified cause is known as Colony collapse disorder (CCD) a phenomenon in which worker bees from a [beehive](#) or [European honey bee](#) colony abruptly disappear. While such disappearances have occurred throughout the history of [apiculture](#), the term *colony collapse disorder* was first applied to a drastic rise in the number of disappearances of Western honey bee colonies in [North America](#) in late 2006.

The cause or causes of the syndrome are not yet fully understood, although many authorities attribute the problem to [biotic](#) factors such as the bee mite [Varroa](#) mites and [pathogens](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/cite_note-CCDWG-6) including the protozoa *Nosema*. Other proposed causes include environmental change-related stresses, malnutrition, [pesticides](#) and migratory beekeeping. Malnutrition can especially arise with reduced biodiversity, large areas under monoculture may provide an over abundance, but only for a short time e.g almond trees. It has also been suggested that it may be due to a combination of many factors and that no single factor is the cause.

A new documentary full length film, the "Vanishing of the bees" has just been release in Britain. It particularly highlights the danger from pesticides for bees.

Rosemary Blemings

Photo: Margaret Kalms

Introducing the editor - Margaret Kalms

Field Naturalists gives a warm "Thank You" to our former editor, Chris Bunn who put in four years of dedicated service. I was appointed editor at the AGM and this is my first newsletter. I greatly appreciate the experience and help from Chris Bunn and the committee who are giving me advice and assistance.

I have been a member of Field Naturalists for several years and a committee member for two. As the daughter of a botanist and zoologist, I grew up with a deep awareness of other species. My family home was near bushland and many happy hours was spent playing in the creek, exploring and bushwalking. As an adult I have taken my family camping to many National Parks. Once the demands of parenting eased, I studied ecology. My recent employment has included working for the Department of Environment, Water,

Heritage and the Arts where checked the potential for development proposals to impact on species protected by the EPBC Act.

Photography is a passion of mine and I sell nature greeting cards to raise money for the Australian Wildlife Conservancy. Thank you to all who bought cards at the AGM, raising \$50 for this worthy cause.

All contributions are greatly appreciated. Have you been on a FNAC outing? Have you observed something interesting? This is YOUR newsletter. Make this newsletter a reflection of your interests and community events.

Margaret Kalms

[margaret\(at\)ecospirit.com.au](mailto:margaret(at)ecospirit.com.au)

October outing - Black Mountain Wildflower Ramble



The 38th Burbidge/Chippendale spring wildflower ramble kept up a great Black Mountain tradition on Saturday 10 October 2009. The weather was smiling on us, we attracted people enthusiastic about looking at our sometimes cryptic flora and found lots in flower. There were 35 people on the walk and enough knowledgeable people for us to break up into small manageable groups. Thanks ANPS, NPA, U3A, Botanic Gardens Friends and Field Naturalists for sponsoring the walk. Offering a spring ramble to a mixed group of societies is valuable in bringing wildflowers lovers together and it's great fun.

After an initial introduction under the powerlines, everyone broke up into small groups and there was great interest shown in orchid identification. Laurie Adams (our flora expert) provided us with his updated fourteen page 'Key to the trees and shrubs of Black

Mountain, Mt Ainslie and Mt Majura, based on vegetative characteristics'. This was received enthusiastically and a number of people keyed out plants. In addition, people had brought field guides such as David Jones' orchids, Betty and Don Woods' wildflowers, Friends of Aranda Bushland's Our Patch and Ian Fraser's wildflowers.

We ate morning tea at the Spider Orchid patch (*Arachnorchis atrovessa*) on the first corner of the fire trail and arrived at Little Black Mt saddle at noon. We saw the unusual *Comesperma volubile* (Love Creeper) and the rare *Lyperanthus suaveolens* (Brown Beaks). We found three flower spikes of the *Lyperanthus* orchid this year. Good news, it is slowly recovering from the control burn in August 2003. The two or three sites on Black Mountain are the only ones in the ACT. Other species in flower included *Diuris negromontana* (Donkey or Tiger Orchid), shiny purple Glossodia major (Waxlip Orchid), white musk smelling *Caladenias* (now renamed), *Thysanotus patersonii* (Twining Fringe Lily), *Craspedia* sp (Billy Buttons), various Bacon and Eggs Peas, *Microseris lanceolata* (Yam Daisy) and *Xerochrysum visosum* (Sticky Everlasting).

Thanks for the great support by Laurie Adams and members of ANPS with useful plant identification skills. We missed Peter Ormay and trust he will join us again next year. I've been organising the ramble since 2004, so I'm happy to organise another Black Mountain wildflower celebration at about the same time next year.

Jean Geue

Australian National Botanic Gardens Lunchtime Talks

(12:30 – 1:30 pm, Thursdays, February to November)

The Australian National Botanic Garden Lunchtime talks are held every Thursday in the Theatrette. Forthcoming talks are:

| | | |
|--------|-----------------|---|
| 5 Nov | Dick Schodde | <i>Birds</i> |
| 12 Nov | John Mackay | <i>The Canberra Arboretum – 2013 and beyond</i> |
| 19 Nov | Rosemary Purdie | <i>Charles Darwin – Botanist Extraordinaire</i> |
| 26 Nov | Heino Lepp | <i>Fungal Illustration – 600 odd years</i> |

(last talk until February 2010)

Christmas Meeting - 3rd December

There is no formal meeting in December, instead we get together for a for a couple of hours for a social Christmas celebration. Bring something to eat and drink. We share some Christmas treats.

It is held in the staff room downstairs.

If the weather is good we sit outside and enjoy the birds and sunshine.

Note: we meet a bit earlier - 6:30pm.



November outing - A Walk in Mulligan's Flat Nature Reserve

Saturday 7 November 10: - 1:00 pm

With the good recent rains and under the protection of the recently constructed Sanctuary Fence, Mulligans Flat is looking better than it has for years. The wildflowers are abundant at the minute, and the birds are breeding.

We will meet at the Mulligans Flat Carpark, off Amy Ackman Street, Forde.

For further information contact Tony Lawson on or [tlawson\(at\)homemail.com.au](mailto:tlawson(at)homemail.com.au)

Members Night

After the AGM we had four short presentations by members. Margaret Kalms gave an amusing account of her experiences with administering the EPBC Act. Then Tony Lawson told us about what had been happening with the Southern Tablelands Ecosystem Park, of which the Field Nats have been a supporter. This was followed by well presented account by Geoff Robertson of the various ecosystems that are to be found within the

Southern Tablelands region - which stretches from Crookwell down to the Victorian border, and from Batlow in the West to Braidwood in the East. Lastly, Pam Finger gave a photographic preview of her garden which was to be on show as part of the Open Garden Scheme later in the month.

Thank you to each of them for their presentations.

Tony Lawson

Conservation Council

The Field Nats are a member of the Conservation Council ACT. They have recently started a program of monthly fora (generally on the 4th Thursday). The next Member Group Forum will be at Havelock House on 12 November, at 5:30 for 6:00 pm.

Each month the Conservation Council holds a forum to discuss a variety of fascinating topics relating to our local environment. These fora give member groups regular opportunities to learn of new projects and programmes in and around Canberra. The fora will also give members an opportunity to better understand the activities of the Conservation Council, allow members the opportunity to drive Council priorities and also assist the Council to more effectively advocate on member group issues.

Meetings are open to all member groups and their guests (bring as many of your members as you would like) – the more the merrier!

November Member Forum - 12th November :

“The Next 30 Years - Our Vision/Blueprint for an Ecologically Sustainable ACT
(combined with AGM and a workshop on CONSACT's Strategic Plan)

Venue: Havelock House **Time:** 5.30 for a 6pm start

Last Forum for 2009: 17th December

The Future of Molonglo: Canberra's Newest Suburb

Venue: Havelock House

Time: 5.30 for a 6pm start

(third Thursday - because of Xmas)

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 the member application below and send it with your subscription to the FNAC Treasurer, GPO Box 249 Canberra, ACT 2601:

President: Benj Whitworth, tel mobile:

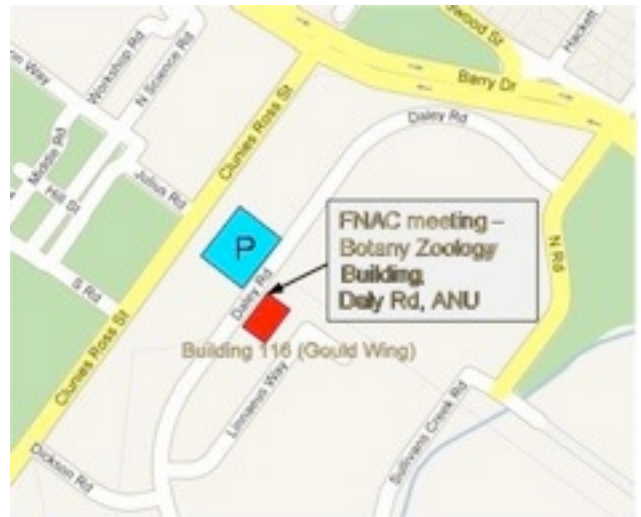
Secretary: Tony Lawson, tel [fieldnaturalist\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:fieldnaturalist(at)yahoo.com)

Website:

Newsletter editor: Margaret Kalms [margaret\(at\)ecospirit.com.au](mailto:margaret(at)ecospirit.com.au)

Tel:

Published and distributed by Bob Lehman



Monthly meeting venue: Division of Botany and Zoology, Building 116, Daley Rd, Australian National University. Park (occasionally) at the adjacent Building 44.

Meetings start at 7:30 pm and are followed by refreshments.

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: