



*OBJECT: To foster an interest in nature*

## MEETING THURSDAY 4th November 7:30 pm Australian National University

Meeting details back page

# Mountain Pygmy-Possum and Climate Change

Dr Linda Broome will talk about the National Recovery Plan for the Mountain Pygmy-possum and the threats to their survival. Her research includes annual field surveys and bioclimatic modelling of habitat.

For nearly 25 years Dr Linda Broome of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water has been studying this rare and endangered possum. She believes urgent action is needed to halt the decline in numbers. The possum relies on snow cover for its winter hibernation. Global warming is reducing snow cover and thus the possum's habitat.

Photo: Rebecca Plum and Char Corkran, with permission, DECCW

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## Outing - 21st November, Goorooyaroo Nature Reserve, 2:00-4:00pm

We will be joining Friends of Grasslands (FOG) for a walk through Goorooyaroo Nature Reserve, led by Sarah Sharp. The Reserve comprises an important area of endangered Red Gum, Yellow Box grassy woodland. There should be plenty of fauna and flora to enjoy.

You can find some information about the Reserve at;

<http://www.ourenvironment.org.au/nature-reserves/285-mulligans-flat-and-goorooyaroo> .

There is a map at;

[http://www.tams.act.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0012/13305/cnmapgoorooyaroo.pdf](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0012/13305/cnmapgoorooyaroo.pdf) .

There are two entrances to the NR off Horse Park Drive. We will be meeting at 1:50 pm at the Southern entrance which is not far from the junction with the Federal Highway. Sarah will have a key so that after car pooling we will be able to drive in and head up to the northern part of the Reserve which is not usually readily accessible.

To register or for further information, please contact Tony Lawson on 6161 9430 or [tlawson@homemail.com.au](mailto:tlawson@homemail.com.au) .

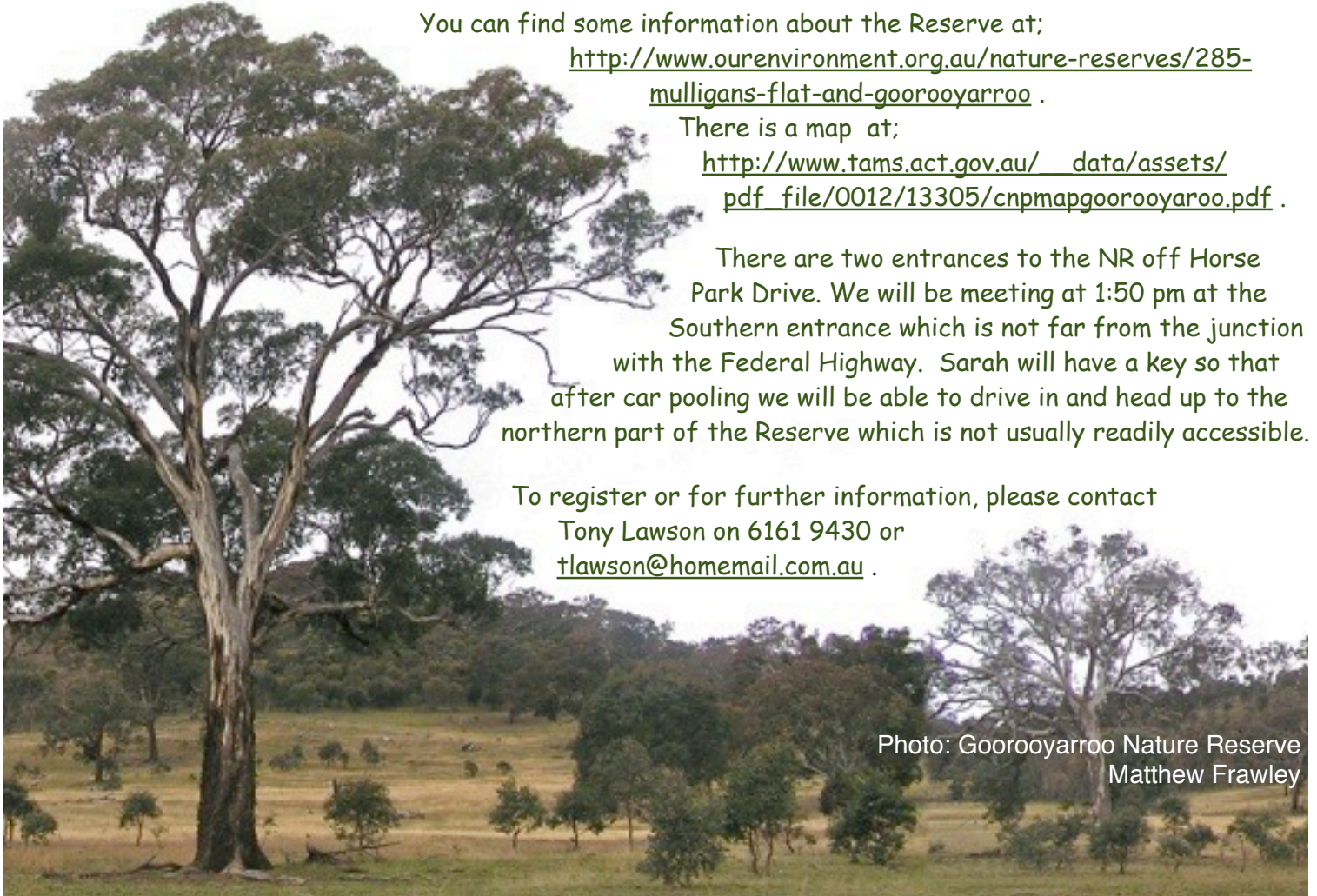


Photo: Goorooyaroo Nature Reserve  
Matthew Frawley

## Wayside stop en route to Melbourne

For anyone travelling to Melbourne via the Hume and wanting to avoid McNasty's, I can recommend a delightful Parks Victoria rest area for your lunch - the Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park about 25-30km south of Wodonga and before Wangaratta. The well marked rest stop has picnic shelter, toilets and a loop walk through open box-ironbark forest, past a dam and old gold mine shaft.

We took this walk at the end of September and in the 15 or so minutes saw 15 species of wildflower including diuris, glossodia and pink and blue caladenia orchids. The area is a breeding area for the Regent Honeyeater.

Maureen Bell

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## October AGM

Congratulations to Chris Bunn on his election as our new president. Chris has been an active member of FNAC and has served on the committee for a number of years. He will make an excellent president.

Congratulations to Benj Whitworth on his election as vice president. Benj has been our leader for many years. Although he is stepping down from president, he will share his enthusiasm and knowledge. Congratulations and welcome to the new committee.

We are very fortunate to have such a strong team of dedicated and knowledgeable volunteers. For full details see page 3.

Margaret Kalms



**FIELD NATURALISTS' ASSOCIATION OF CANBERRA INC.**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - OCTOBER 7<sup>st</sup> 2010**

The meeting was chaired by Benj Whitworth, beginning at 7.45pm.

The Minutes of the 2009 AGM had been previously published in Field Natter and were sent out to the NATChat chat group. Copies were also made available at the meeting. The minutes were passed. Moved Tony Lawson, seconded Chris Bunn.

The President, Benj Whitworth, handed around and presented his President's report. Benj highlighted the good meetings and outings that had been held and the good communications efforts via the newsletter, the website, and the chat group. He thanked the Committee for their support. His report was accepted: moved by Benj Whitworth and seconded by Warwick Daniels.

The Treasurer's report, prepared by Bob Lehman was distributed together with the Auditor's report and treasurer's comment. Bob first spoke briefly about his website and then turned to his Treasurer's report. He moved it be accepted, seconded by Rosemary von Behrens. There was agreement with the committee's recommendation that the annual subscription be Maintained at \$25. Moved Benj Whitworth, seconded Tony Lawson.

It was agreed to re-appoint James Collins as the auditor for 2010-11. Moved Bob Lehman, seconded Dierk von Behrens. Bob announced that though he was willing to stand again as Treasurer and Webmaster, this would be his last term in those positions.

Kevin McCue agreed to act as Returning Officer.

All positions were declared vacant. All positions were declared vacant.

These office-bearers were elected unopposed:

President	:	Chris Bunn
Vice-President	:	Benj Whitworth
Secretary	:	Tony Lawson
Treasurer	:	Bob Lehman
Committee	:	Margaret Kalms
	:	Rosemary Blemings
	:	George Heinsohn
	:	Pamela Finger
	:	Rosemary von Behrens
	:	Dierk von Behrens

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
Newsletter printing distb'n	:	Rosemary Blemings
Webmaster	:	Bob Lehman
ANN Canberra 2012	:	Rosemary von Behrens
Coordinators	:	Dierk von Behrens
Outings organizer	:	Rosemary von Behrens
Meetings organizer	:	Benj Whitworth

Details of 2010 elections:

<b>Vacancy</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Nominator</b>	<b>Seconder</b>
President	Chris Bunn	Tony Lawson	Dierk von Behrens
Vice President	Benj Whitworth	Bob Lehman	Rosemary Blemings
Treasurer	Bob Lehman	Benj Whitworth	Tony Lawson
Secretary	Tony Lawson	Alan Ford	Benj Whitworth
<b>Committee:</b>			
	George Heinsohn	Rosemary Blemings	Sylvie Sampson
ANN Canberra2012	Rosemary von Behrens	Benj Whitworth	Pam Fenning
ANN Canberra2012	Dierk von Behrens	Tony Lawson	Kevin McCue
Assistant Secretary	Rosemary Blemings	Tony Lawson	Kevin McCue
Assistant Treasurer	Pamela Finger	Tony Lawson	Dierk von Behrens
Editor, Newsletter	Margaret Kalms	Bob Lehman	Chris Bunn

Shirley Daniels 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 8:30 pm, and was followed by a very good Members night of short presentations:

Black Ridge	Rosemary von Behrens
Volcanos	Kevin McCue
Lake Eyre and surrounds	Alan Ford
Peru	Kaye Hahn
Nature by Numbers	Margaret Kalms

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

# Outing to Secret Creek Sanctuary

A joint outing with ANPS and FNAC

A big "Thank You" to Shirley and Warwick Daniels who organised a very successful combined trip for Australian Native Plant Society and FNAC to Secret Creek, a wildlife sanctuary near Lithgow; [http://ausecosystems.org.au/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=40&Itemid=54](http://ausecosystems.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=40&Itemid=54).

We were given a private walk through the bush and a guided tour of the quoll breeding facilities for an affordable \$15. Scurrying around us were dozens of long-nosed potoroos, parma wallabies, brush-tailed rock wallabies, red-necked pademelons and rufous bettongs. It was exciting to see so many rare and endangered animals at the sanctuary. This was the way the Australian bush was like before modern settlement. The enormity and extent of Australia's wildlife loss was clear.

It was exciting to hear that Trevor Evans, manager of Secret Creek Sanctuary, has been awarded Australian Geographic Society's Conservationist of the Year; <http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/society/2010-ag-awards-conservationist-of-the-year-trevor-evans.htm>. He very much deserves this award.

He is a passionate campaigner for Australia's threatened wildlife. It is clear that our current reserve system is not providing adequate protection for our unique wildlife. Many species breed very well when given space within feral-proof enclosures. It seems the main threats to our wildlife are feral predators (fox and cat), and competition from feral herbivores.



Photo: Long-nosed potoroos Margaret Kalms



Photo: Trevor Evans feeding the animals at Secret Creek. Margaret Kalms

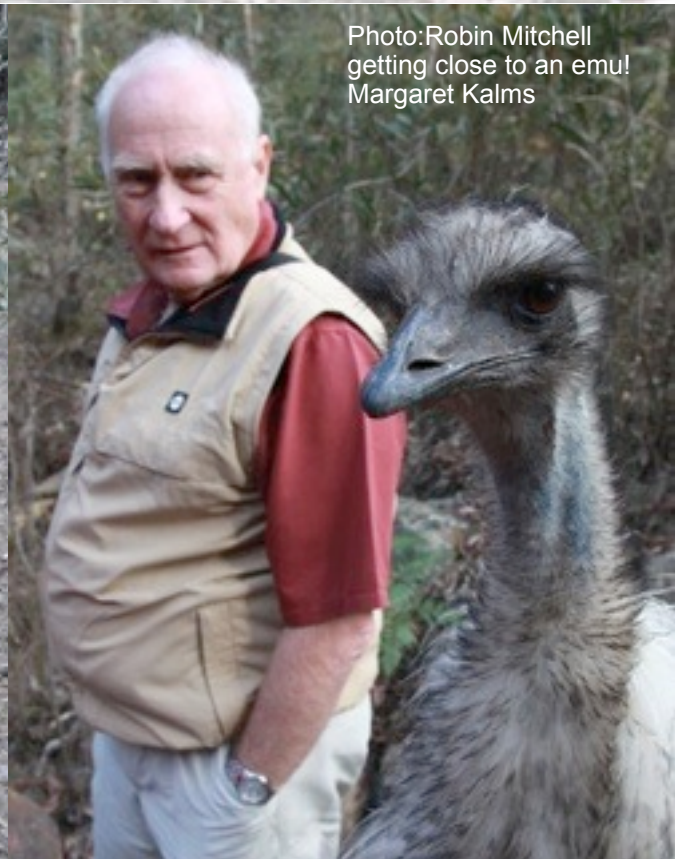


Photo: Robin Mitchell getting close to an emu! Margaret Kalms



Secret Creek has a thriving population of free ranging rufous bettongs, parma wallabies, brush-tailed rock wallabies, red-necked pademelons and long-nosed potoroos. Trevor Evans keeps careful records and exchanges animals from other sanctuaries to maintain genetic diversity. He even imported some brush-tailed rock wallabies from New Zealand where they had become a pest on an island offshore from Auckland!

I am very encouraged that Trevor Evans has pledged his support for the mountain pygmy possum breeding programme. He has already established a breeding facility for three species of quoll and I am confident that he will succeed in breeding all of these sensitive species. He showed us some baby quolls and explained some of the challenges of a captive breeding programme.

All this effort takes considerable funding. We can become active partners in this work by becoming an Australian Ecosystem Foundation member or wildlife sponsor. Membership is a modest \$15 and sponsorship varies from \$10 per month for rufous bettongs up to \$30 per month for a rare black eastern quoll.

Margaret Kalms

Photo: Eastern quoll at Secret Creek  
Australian Ecosystems Foundation Inc



### Can the past secure pygmy possum's future?

The fossil record shows that for at least 26 million years, the pygmy possum's ancestors dwelt happily in lowland rainforests that had rocky floors, says Professor Archer, of the UNSW School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences.

With global warming threatening to shrink its habitat even further, he has called on conservation authorities and fellow scientists to seriously consider his plan to test whether the possums could be successfully re-established in lowland forests similar to those where they formerly thrived.

Research by colleague Dr Linda Broome, of the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, has shown that only about 2,000 of the possums – *Burramys parvus* - remain in the wild and that their numbers are declining at an alarming rate.

Professor Archer says: "We don't know why they are so restricted now but they were clearly once much more widespread, so there's good reason to believe they could still survive and thrive at much lower altitudes."

Three UNSW research students are already working on aspects of this project.



Photo: Dr Linda Broome  
with permission, DECCW

Extracted from: <http://www.science.unsw.edu.au/news/pygmy-possum/>

Support the mountain pygmy possum by donating to the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife;  
[http://www.fnpp.org.au/OurProjects/Plants Wildlife/Mountain Pygmy Possum.htm](http://www.fnpp.org.au/OurProjects/Plants_Wildlife/Mountain_Pygmy_Possum.htm)

## Bruce Ridge - a Walk in Spring

You don't have to go far to see interesting natural history in Canberra.

I went to Bruce Ridge 29th September, along Purdie St. The birds were good, with Common Bronzewing, a grey currawong, 2 noisy friarbirds, 3 treecreepers, 2 choughs, 2 spotted pardalotes and 4 striated honey-eaters. But the flowers were awesome with heaps of *Olearia*, early wattle, another wattle and some Cootamundra wattle, egg and bacon peas- *Dillwynia sericea* and *riparia*, heath-*Leucopogon parviflorus*, a few *cryptandra* left, still some purple flowering peas-*hardenbergia*, *glycine clandestina*, *Hovea linearis*, many finger orchids of multiple species. This is a prolific spring, just flowers everywhere.

We organised a walk for there in August, and it was good, but unfortunately was a month too early for this profusion.

Benj Whitworth

Photo: *Hardenbergia*  
Margaret Kalms



THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM PRESENTS

## THE WATERHOUSE 2010 natural history ART PRIZE

This annual exhibition that promotes excellence in natural history art, is on at the National Archives until Sunday, 14 November.

The thirty one art works on display show an amazing diversity of technique, media, style and message. There are works on paper done with pen, paint and collage and sculptures using wood, metal and glass.

A local artist, Nikki Main won the major prize of \$50,000 with her glass work, "Flood Stones".

It is an iridescent work that shows different facets with each direction you look at them.



The People's Choice award was won by Indiana James with his wedge-tailed eagle, "Restraint". It is made from recycled corrugated iron. An iconic piece many Australians would be able to relate to.



<http://www.thewaterhouse.com.au/page/default.asp?site=1&page=&id=>

## Christmas Meeting - 2nd 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.**



## NATURE BY NUMBERS

I presented a short movie clip last month, "Nature by Numbers" by Cristobal Vila, Zaragoza, Spain. Humble apologies for it being a series of still images. This was due to slow downloading.

You can see the movie by visiting the website; <http://etereaestudios.com>

Margaret Kalms



Continued from last month...

## A List of Threatened Species and Ecological Communities in the ACT

Common name	Scientific name	Declared status
A leek orchid *	<i>Prasophyllum petilum</i>	endangered
A subalpine herb	<i>Gentiana baeuerlenii</i>	endangered
Brindabella Midge Orchid	<i>Corunastylis ectopa</i>	endangered
Brown Treecreeper *	<i>Climacteris picumnus</i>	vulnerable
Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby	<i>Petrogale penicillata</i>	endangered
Button Wrinklewort **	<i>Rutidosia leptorrhynchoides</i>	endangered
Canberra Spider Orchid	<i>Arachnorchis actensis</i>	endangered
Grassland Earless Dragon **	<i>Tympanocryptis pinguicolla</i>	endangered
Ginniderra Peppercress **	<i>Lepidium ginninderrense</i>	endangered
Golden Sun Moth **	<i>Synemon plana</i>	endangered
Hooded Robin *	<i>Melanodryas cucullata</i>	vulnerable
Little Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i>	vulnerable
Macquarie Perch ***	<i>Macquaria australasica</i>	endangered
Murray River Crayfish ***	<i>Euastacus armatus</i>	vulnerable
Natural Temperate Grassland **	<i>An ecological community</i>	endangered
Northern Corroboree Frog	<i>Pseudophryne pengilleyi</i>	endangered
Painted Honeyeater *	<i>Grantiella picta</i>	vulnerable
Perunga Grasshopper **	<i>Perunga ochracea</i>	vulnerable
Pink-tailed Worm Lizard	<i>Aprasia parapulchella</i>	vulnerable
Regent Honeyeater *	<i>Xanthomyza phrygia</i>	endangered
Silver Perch ***	<i>Bidyanus bidyanus</i>	endangered
Small Purple Pea *	<i>Swainsona recta</i>	endangered
Smoky Mouse	<i>Pseudomys fumeus</i>	endangered
Spotted-tailed Quoll	<i>Dasyurus maculatus</i>	vulnerable
Superb Parrot *	<i>Polytelis swainsonii</i>	vulnerable
Striped Legless Lizard **	<i>Delma impar</i>	vulnerable
Swift Parrot *	<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	vulnerable
Trout Cod ***	<i>Maccullochella macquariensis</i>	endangered
Tuggeranong Lignum ***	<i>Muehlenbeckia tuggeranong</i>	endangered
Two-spined Blackfish ***	<i>Gadopsis bispinosus</i>	vulnerable
Varied Sitella	<i>Daphoenositta chrysoptera</i>	vulnerable
White-winged Triller	<i>Lalage sueurii</i>	vulnerable
Yellow Box/Red Gum Grassy Woodland *	<i>An ecological community</i>	endangered

The Statutory Action Plans for the species marked (\*) are now contained in the [ACT Lowland Woodland Conservation Strategy \(Action Plan No. 27\)](#). The Statutory Action Plans for the species marked (\*\*) are now contained in the [ACT Lowland Native Grassland Conservation Strategy \(Action Plan No. 28\)](#). The Statutory Action Plans for the species marked (\*\*\*) are now contained in the [ACT Aquatic Species and Riparian Zone Conservation Strategy \(Action Plan No. 29\)](#).

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, Ph: 02 6272 3192 W
Mob: 0400250230

Secretary: Tony Lawson, Ph: 02 6161 9430
fieldnaturalist(at)yahoo.com.au

Website: http://www.fieldnatscanberra.com

Newsletter editor: Margaret Kalms margaret(at)ecospirit.com.au
Mob: 0414 652 567

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.

The Australian Kangaroo Survey

This notice is to announce the online survey 'The Australian Roo Survey' which is part of my PhD on the Human Dimensions of the Kangaroo in Australia at the University of Western Sydney;

http://pubapps.uws.edu.au/news/index.php?act=view&story\_id=2825

This notice will assist in distributing the survey link as widely as possible so that I get a broad diversity of public opinion.

As a public opinion survey you don't have to be knowledgeable about kangaroos as the questions cover general topics relating to them.

I would also greatly appreciate you forwarding this email around to all your friends, family, colleagues and organisations around Australia so that they may also take part in the study. It will only take about 10 mins to complete.

The survey is open to ALL Australian citizens and residents over the age of 18.

To complete the survey go to www.kangaroosurvey.com and click on the 'Start Survey' button.

NOTE: if you want to Google the survey, you must type in 'kangaroosurvey' (one word, no gap).

The final question allows you to write any additional comments. All survey responses are completely anonymous.

This is the first time a national survey on kangaroos has been done, so it is an excellent opportunity for you to have your say.

I hope you enjoy doing The Australian Roo Survey.

Regards,

Pip Chalk

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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: