

November 2013
ISSN: 1836-2761



GPO BOX 249
CANBERRA ACT 2601

FIELD NATURALISTS' ASSOCIATION OF CANBERRA INC.

FIELD NATTER

MEETING—THURSDAY 7 November
7:30 pm Australian National University
Gould Seminar Room, Building 116, Daley Road, ANU, ACT
details back page

Intriguing links between the birds of New Guinea and Australia

Speaker: Leo Joseph

Leo Joseph has been watching and studying Australian birds since he was but a lad growing up in Adelaide. Joining the South Australian Ornithological Association in 1971 marked a point of no return because it was then that he started meeting other, like-minded people and travelling around the countryside looking at birds. He very early became interested in evolution and how it has been that the different birds in Australia have come to be distributed the way they are across the landscape. This interest along with reading the works of Canberra ornithologists Dick Schodde and Joe Forshaw alerted him to the importance of knowing and understanding something of the birds of New Guinea if you really wanted to understand the birds of Australia, and vice versa. So, many years later, after living and working in Uruguay in South America and Philadelphia in the USA, Leo returned to Australia in 2005 and has started to include New Guinean birds in his research and in his birdwatching activities. IN the talk, he will try and convey something of the intriguing links between the birds of the two areas and will touch on logrunners, sooty owls, honeyeaters, parrots and others. He is currently setting up field work in the savannas of southern Papua New Guinea.

Contents

AGM President's report October 2012–September 2013	2
Black Mountain wildflower ramble	3
Raffle items wanted	3
Activities	3

Field Naturalists Association of Canberra AGM

5 September 2013

President's report October 2012–September 2013

Our year began in October 2012 with the Australian Naturalists Network visit from the 13th to 21st. Sixty-one interstate naturalists spent nine days in our company; we visited many of our national institutions and local parks. Thank you again to those FNAC members who rallied and helped make it such a success. We have passed on the \$2,000 given to us by Chinchilla (2010) to Hobart which will hold the next Get-together in 2014. A special thank you to our treasurer Bob Lehman who performed a major task professionally.

Despite being a small Association we have managed to hold our regular monthly meetings and outings; please see table below. The

numbers attending the outings vary considerably. If you are aware of any speakers we could invite for 2014 or outing destinations please let your committee know.

We are an aging but talented population and I am endeavouring to attract younger people with the much appreciated help of Audra Johnstone in the ANU Research School of Biology, Evolution, Ecology and Genetics, and Cathy Gray in the Fenner School of Environment and Society, who each kindly send out notifications of our meetings to their students. The Chronicle also mentions our notice when it prints its Billboard and members inform other relevant organisations.

Unfortunately progress on our proposed brochure and internet access have both been slow. I take responsibility for that. They are still a work in progress. I would like to thank our previous webmaster, Bob Lehman, for his years of work on the web and his diligent role as Treasurer, Rosemary Blemings for Newsletter send out, Tony Lawson as Secretary, Chris Bunn for years of Newsletter editorship, Pam Fenning for running the raffle, Shirley Daniels for supper, Dierk von Behrens - co-opted to the committee for support and outings and our new newsletter editor Alison Milton. For all your help, ideas and attendance at meetings I am grateful.

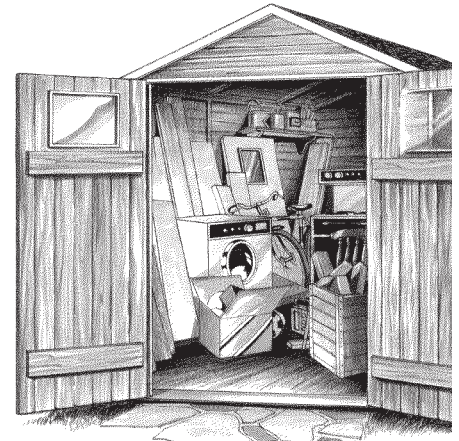
Rosemary von Behrens

2013 Speaker program and outings leader & location

Month	Speaker/outings	Topic/outing location
7 February	Scott Ryan	Brush-tailed rock-wallaby research at Tidbinbilla. Lake Ginninderra and creek
10 Feb	Tony Lawson	
7 March 10 Mar	Michael Pennay, Maree Kerr, Darren Leroux Maree Kerr	Batwatch, bats and hollows Commonwealth park - bats
4 April 14 Apr	Brian Garms Rosemary von Behrens	What can native insects tell us about controlling invasive species? Mulligans Flat woodland sanctuary
2 May 5 May	Prof Richard Baker Dierk Von Behrens	"Traditional ecological knowledge: the Yanyuwa" Mount Taylor
6 June 9 June	Dr Marianne Horak Rosemary von Behrens	The scribbly gum moth (Canberra the scribbly moth capital). The eucalyptus trail in the Australian National Botanic Gardens
4 July 7 July	Dierk Von Behrens, Rachel Marks Tony Lawson	
1 August 4 August	John Turnbull Tony Lawson	Australia's grass trees Geo Science Australia
5 September 14 Sept 22 Sept	AGM, David Dedenczuk Jerrabomberra friends Ginninderra Falls Association	Marvellous world of molluscs. Jerrabomberra wetlands View of proposed Murrumbidgee Gorge National Park
3 October 6 Oct	Trish McDonald The von Behrens	
7 November November	Dr Leo Joseph (australianwildlifecollection) Tba	
5 December	Christmas party	Fnac community get-together

Black Mountain wildflower ramble

The October wildflower ramble on Black Mountain was well attended, with the need to break into four separate groups. Following the tradition set by Nancy Burbidge and George Chippendale this was the 42nd annual Black Mountain wildflower ramble. These are just some of the flowers in bloom.



Raffle items wanted

Want to get rid of that clutter?
Why not donate unused items to the FNAC raffle. You might even win it back!

Activities

10 November: Mt Aggie in the Brindabellas

Mt Aggie is accessed via the Cotter/Brindabella/Mount Franklin Roads even though it is located just over the border in NSW via an unsealed and curvaceous road (in German - Kurvenreichstrecke - curve rich stretch). My research has it in the Bimberi Nature Reserve, Namadgi National Park and the Brindabella National Park despite the fact that it is stationary, geologically speaking. It is now 10 years since the fires. Approximate walking distance is 3 kilometres. Please ring Rosemary von Behrens on 6254 1763 if you wish to participate. Departure time is 8:30 am. Sunscreen, hat, good walking boots, water and lunch is required.

Month	Speaker	Topic
7 November	Dr Leo Joseph Australian Wildlife Collection	New Guinea Australia connections
5 December	Christmas party	



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.

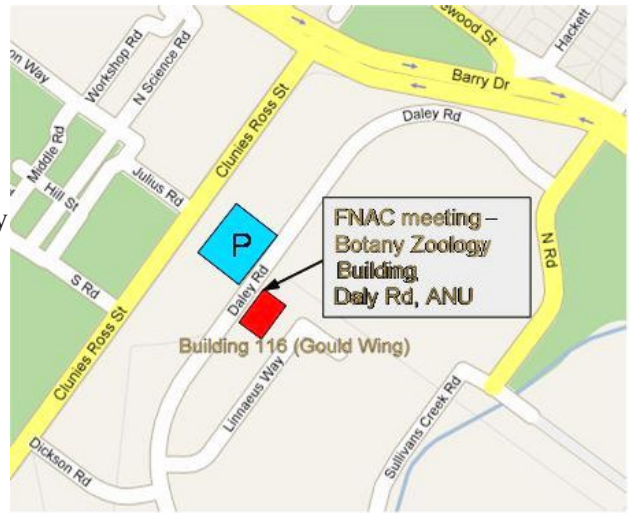
President: Rosemary von Behrens pH: 6254 1763

Email: fieldnaturalist@yahoo.com.au

Website: under construction

All newsletter contributions welcome.

Editor



Monthly meeting venue: Division of Botany and Zoology, Building 116, Daley Rd, Australian National University. Park (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: