

OBJECT: To foster an interest in nature

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

FIELD NATURALIST

MEETING—Thursday 2 December 2021 Christmas catch-up



Spotted on a weeding trip in the Aranda Snowgums by Kevin McCue.

Contents

October observations	2
Moth visitor	2
Superb activity	3
Activities	3

October observations

October has been an interesting time as I emerged from lockdown and was able to leave the local region to visit Campbell Park and find the rare Red-backed Kingfisher patiently hanging around until every birdo in the ACT managed to get a glimpse, and better yet, a photo.



While there, in one large tree I found nesting Nankeen Kestrels, Corellas, Cockatoos, Rainbow Lorikeets and Starlings. I also found the now infamous, Owlet Nightjar and a Shining Bronze Cuckoo.

Orchids have been superb this year. The Spider Orchids I found at Gossan Hill last year have had a bumper year. Across the road at Bruce Ridge, I've possibly found nesting Gang Gangs. They've been at the same hollow on a couple of follow-up visits.

Closer to home I've gotten back into the Pinnacle Reserve a number of times and found a number of newly recorded insect species for the reserve to the delight of the reserve's keeper of records.

There is also a lot of nesting happening. Normally I rely on John, who does regular surveys at the reserve, to let me know of nesting activity. This season I seem to be ahead of him finding nesting Satin Bowerbirds, Magpie Larks, Willie Wagtails, Spotted and Striated Pardalotes and Buff-rumped Thornbills.

I caught up with John and Barbara last Sunday as they were doing their annual BirdBlitz. I was allegedly there to look for flowering Sun orchids but joined them for their survey. This was very beneficial.

We heard Sacred Kingfishers in the distance near the woodland and I was lucky enough to actually see the pair today along the boundary track. We also found five other Sacred Kingfishers in two groups.

John led us to a family of Tawny Frogmouths in the Weetangera paddock, who had two chicks in a nest. Mum was sitting nearby.

I'd heard a report of another baby Frogmouth further west, and as luck have it, we met a woman who also told us about this with good directions on how to find the family. Again, a family with two chicks sitting with dad, and mum sitting on a branch just below.



Earlier, hearing a Kookaburra giving a low strangulated call, I paused to listen more closely and we then observed a bird bringing a lizard to a nest nearby.



Other highlights were a Satin Flycatcher and in the Weetangera paddock we flushed a Brown Quail.

My more recent trips to the reserve are partly due to helping out with a Superb Parrot survey. From this I've found a pair of nesting Kestrels regularly hunting in the paddocks along the back of Hawker as well as a pair of Black-shouldered Kites.

After several unsuccessful trip, I finally found the Sun Orchids in flower.



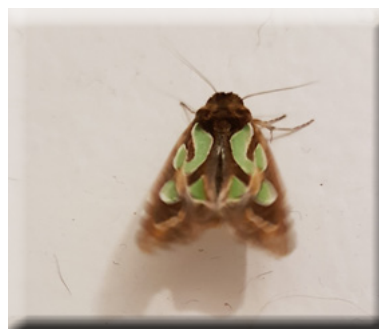
A great season that can hopefully, only get better.

Alison Milton

Moth visitor

Lucy snapped a photo this moth that came in through the front door. A Green Blotched Moth.

Have you ever seen anything more beautiful?



Superb activity

I watched a Superb Parrot for at least 15 minutes. It was foraging among Capeweed plants missed by the mower and at the base of a Eucalypt at the Mt Rogers carpark in Wickens Place, Fraser.



The seeds look unappetising to me and let's hope the birds' digestive system renders them useless.

Rosemary Blemings



Activities

Monday 1 November at 7.30pm: Free Platypus webinar

The Australian Platypus Conservancy, in association with ACT WaterWatch, is presenting a free online platypus information session. Details are in the [link](#) below. Feel free to forward to others who may be interested.

Register at: <https://actgov.webex.com/actgov/j.php?RGID=r5baa04886403d4afe105512a6d8a2572>

Sunday 5 December, 9.30 am – Property on the Yaouk Road on the south-western edge of Namadgi National Park: Return: 5.30 pm or earlier as desired

This trip is to visit Janet Stein's property just south of Namadgi National Park. Carpooling is recommended. Meet at the carpark next to the public toilets in Tharwa on the left, just after crossing the bridge over the Murrumbidgee River. Bring lunch and drinks, hats and sturdy shoes or boots. Janet will boil the billy and make tea and coffee. There are no shops or facilities so please bring everything you need for a day in the bush. The property is 65 km from Tharwa via Naas / Boboyan and Yaouk Roads, including 34 km of gravel road that is generally in very good condition and suitable for 2wd vehicles (just take it slowly over the occasional pothole or cattle grid). Activities will be flexible depending on members' interests. Options to explore sub-alpine grassy woodlands, forests and wetlands and the ongoing recovery and regeneration following the Black Summer bushfires and subsequent erosion events. Note that mobile phone coverage is very limited. Weak coverage available only on the very highest points on the property, very patchy on the Boboyan Road.

RSVP: with contact details to JanetStein01@gmail.com by Sunday 28 November.

To help with carpooling arrangements please also indicate whether you either require or can offer a lift and for how many people.

Thursday 2 December as a reunion and Christmas Party

Would members like to gather from 6 pm at a venue to be decided, bringing food and drink for you and your guests and something to share? Be prepared to take any rubbish home again rather than clutter up public places' litter bins. Depending on where we choose and the day's weather we might be able to have a nature walk beforehand. Venue suggestions welcome.

Before December

Assuming there are a few more weeks of the wildflower spectacular we've been enjoying, if anyone would like to suggest a place to explore we could have a daytime activity or two in November. This would involve members being prepared to lead a walk that illustrates what's interesting about the site, reserve and sending me the details for forwarding to the membership. The leader doesn't need to have expertise on the flora and fauna as attendees can provide that between them! Please send your suggestions to [Rosemary Blemings](mailto:rosemary@blemings.org) rosemary@blemings.org



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

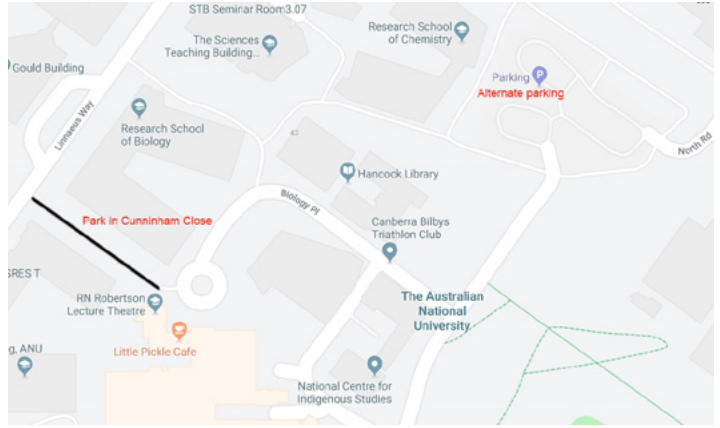
Email: secretary@fieldnatsact.com

Website: www.fieldnatsact.com

Treasurer: treasurer@fieldnatsact.com

Membership: membership@fieldnatsact.com

Newsletter Editor: 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:

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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**