



OBJECT: To foster an interest in nature

MEETING THURSDAY 2nd September
7:30 pm Australian National University
Meeting details back page

Namadgi: Firestorm to Verdant Regeneration
Booroomba Rocks and Cypress Pines Walks
Speaker: Jean Geue

Jean Geue has recorded the succession of verdant regeneration after the devastation of the January 2003 firestorm. Jean is a compulsive photographer of wildflowers and vegetation communities - in many cases had taken the same spot on each visit. Her photos tell the story of change and renewal in our beloved bush.

Jean's photos cover 1998 to 2009 both before and after the 2003 fire, with visits in about two yearly intervals. She will show how key species responded and the dramatic changes her in favourite spots. Jean was on the visit to Booroomba Rocks when the group discovered *Dampiera fusca*, a new species for the ACT, and has documented its appearance and decline. She will then share her experience by taking you walking in both places, visit by visit over the years including the Field Naturalist's one in May 2009.



Mt Tenant 17 April 2002



Mt Tenant 20 August 2003

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Outing - Bruce Ridge - Sunday 5th September 2:00 pm

Bruce Ridge is an interesting walk in the middle of Belconnen. The site has been impacted substantially with past fires, the building of a road, and impacts from the drought. This walk will be a follow-up from the walk we did in 20006 to see how things have progressed. The spot we will be visiting faces North and is one of the earliest flowering sites in Canberra nature parks that Benj is aware of. In June Benj visited this site and it was surprisingly moist, there was a lot of growth and even some flowers. We will see the recovery of the site from fire, and 'progress' with the new road. Heading along the bike path around the AIS there are good stands of scribbly gums and white barked brittle gums and some very large applebox trees. *Hardenbergia*, many species of *acacias* and other heath plants should be in flower. Honeyeaters should be observed in their return migration and hopefully we still see some winter birds such as scarlet robins and golden whistlers. We may head across the new road where there are good stands of mature Yellow box and Redgum.

Meet at the Corner of Purdie and Haydon Dr, Bruce. There is parking along Purdie St. Walking should be easy, but bring suncream and wet weather gear if required.

Benj's new number 0402 307 695.

Next meeting, October is our AGM and Members Night

We are looking for several speakers to give short presentations, of say 15 - 20 minutes at our October Members Meeting. Contact a committee member for your ten minutes of fame! Contact details back page.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO ALL MEMBERS THAT THE GENERAL MEETING of the Field Naturalists Association of Canberra will be held on Thursday 7th October, 2010 at 8:00 pm at the Division of Zoology and Botany, Building 116, in the Australian National University. After the general meeting members will give short presentations on a variety of natural history topics.

Business:

- a) To confirm the minutes of the last preceding annual general meeting.
- b) To receive from the committee, auditor and servants of the Association, reports upon the transactions of the Association during the last preceding financial year.
- c) To elect the officers of the Association (President; Vice President; Treasurer; Secretary) and the ordinary committee members.
- d) To appoint the auditor and determine his/her remuneration.
- e) To conduct other business of which notice has been given.

Nominations for election of members of the committee shall be made in writing and shall be delivered to an officer of the association by Monday 27th September. If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies on the committee, the candidates shall be deemed to be elected and further nominations shall be received at the annual general meeting.

I hereby nominate
BLOCK LETTERS

A member of the Field Naturalists Association of Canberra Inc.

For the position of

Name of proposer

Signature Date

Name of Seconder

Signature of Seconder Date

Acceptance of Nomination

I accept nomination for

Signature of Nominee Date

4th November - Pygmy Possums

Speaker: Linda Broome, NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water.

Linda has studied Pygmy Possums for twenty years and regularly runs field trips to study them. She is a recognised expert and I am looking forward to hearing more about her work.

Margaret Kalms



Photo for illustration only
M Kalms

Wood Duck Family

A Short story by Benj Whitworth

I was walking by the Academy of Sciences 23 April and saw a pair of Wood Ducks with 5 chicks, a few days old. Is that 'early' or 'late' breeding. These arguments come up every year, with comments in the last few years that wood ducks breeding in June mainly being 'early' (whereas I would always consider them to be 'late') Also, my observation of Brown treecreepers hanging around a hollow the other day, diamond firetails displaying, plus swallows at a nest this morning, and striated pardalotes hanging around hollows.

Perhaps we just really need to take a step back. Perhaps it is just our UK/N Eurocentric 'history' where we see 'four seasons' based on an environment that has very obvious seasonality. Canberra does 'sort of' fit this viewpoint, but most of Australia does not, with most of Australia being controlled by rainfall rather than date, with 'ephemeral' rainfall in the Centre and Northern Australia being 'wet and dry' rather than having 4 seasons.

Maybe we aren't that different here in Canberra. The warm temperatures seem to be lagging later into the year. When I was a kid I'm sure March/early April was freezing. This year there have been many flowers in autumn (*hibbertia*, *goodenias*, *tricoryne* even some trigger plants) and last year lots of grass seeds at this time of year, when I remember very few flowers at this time, previous to that. Is this lag due to climate variability or climate change? Is late breeding just the 'ephemeral' adaptation of Australian nature making the most of the conditions. One reason why Australian finch species have become so popular in captivity around the world is that most will breed at any time of year/adapt to local seasons as long as the conditions are right. Whereas even after 50 years in captivity some European finches still have set times of year when they breed in Australia. Perhaps we need to use 'seasonality' as a classificational system to help us define 'the exception' rather than as the rule. Maybe temperature and rainfall would be more appropriate than date and season.

Sorry this is late being published. Editor

Leap into Frogwatch this Spring!

Limnodynastes Fletcheri

Photo: M Kalms

- Find out all about our local frogs
- Learn how to identify different frog species
- Take action to protect these fascinating creatures

Preparations are in full swing for this year's ACT and Region Frogwatch Program, and I hope that you are enthusiastic to participate in this year's activities! Please forward this email to others you think may be interested.

Frogwatch is an exciting community activity that is open to everyone with an interest in frogs. Frogwatch aims to involve large numbers of volunteers to undertake frog monitoring in the ACT and region.

To participate, simply come along to one of our free Frogwatch training events, where you will learn all about our amphibian friends. You will receive your free Frogwatch Kit that includes all you need to know to participate in the ACT and Region Frogwatch Census in October 2010.

If you have participated in the Frogwatch Census in previous years, but do not wish to attend any of the training events, please let me know and I will register your interest and arrange to get a copy of the Frogwatch Census Kit to you if you require one.

Latest news... you can find the 2009 Frogwatch Report online

Coming soon... online site registration and data entry... please be patient (and gentle) as we make this important transition!! An email with details will be sent in coming weeks.

FROGWATCH TRAINING EVENTS 2010 - DETAILS

This year ACT and Region Frogwatch in conjunction with local frog experts will be conducting a series of Frogwatch Training Events. You will only need to attend one of these to participate in the spring Census in October. We recommend attending one of the Introductory Seminars if you have never done Frogwatch before, or if you'd like a refresher on the basics of Frogwatching. The Advanced Field Trips are suitable for experienced Frogwatchers who would like the opportunity to learn more about frogs and frogwatching.

RSVPs are essential.

To register your interest in the Frogwatch Census, please contact:

Emma Keightley - ACT & Region Frogwatch Coordinator

Ginninderra Catchment Group

Ph: 6278 3309

Email: frogwatch@ginninderralandcare.org.au

Introductory Seminar - Frogwatch Basics

This seminar is essential for the first time Frogwatcher or as a refresher for those who have participated in previous years. It will cover all you need to know to participate in the 2010 Frogwatch Census, including identifying frog species, using Frogwatch Field Data Sheets, undertaking habitat assessments and performing your first frog monitoring activity.

This seminar will include a short walk outside to practice our frog identification skills. Please be prepared by bringing sturdy shoes, a torch, and wet weather gear if necessary.

Note: both of these introductory seminars will cover the same information - you only need to attend one evening.

Introductory Seminar 1

DATE: Wednesday 15th September, 2010

TIME: 6:00 - 9:00pm

VENUE: Queanbeyan Public School, Isabella St Queanbeyan.

RSVP: ESSENTIAL

Above: *Litoria caerulea*

Photo: M Kalms



Introductory Seminar 2

DATE: Wednesday 22nd September, 2010

TIME: 6:00 - 9:00pm

VENUE: Australian National Botanic Gardens - Education Centre (Crosbie Morrison Building) Clunies Ross St, Acton

RSVP: ESSENTIAL

Advanced Frogwatch Training Field Trips

These field trips are aimed at experienced Frogwatchers, who would like to further develop their identification and monitoring skills. Participants will have the opportunity to investigate important components of frog habitat, and talk with expert ecologists in the field. Each field trip will involve walking as a group to observe a number of sites throughout the evening. Please be prepared by bringing sturdy shoes, a torch and warm clothing and wet weather gear if necessary. In case of severe weather conditions, participants who have registered will be advised of an alternative venue closer to the date.

Field Trip 1 – Queanbeyan Region

DATE: Monday 11th October, 2010

TIME: 6:00 - 8:30pm

LOCATION: Queanbeyan Region..

LEADER: Dr David Hunter

Field Trip 2 – Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve

DATE: Tuesday 12th October, 2010

TIME: 6:00 - 8:30pm

LOCATION: Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve.

LEADER: Dr Murray Evans

Field trip 3 – Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve

DATE: Tuesday 13th October, 2010

TIME: 6:00 - 8:30pm

LOCATION: Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve.

LEADER: Dr Will Osborne

The ACT and Region Frogwatch Program is coordinated by the Ginninderra Catchment Group with the assistance of funds made available through the Caring for our Country Initiative with the support of the ACT Natural Resource Management Council.

The Ginninderra Catchment Group would also like to acknowledge the generous contributions of Dr Murray Evans, Dr Will Osborne and Dr David Hunter as well as the Australian National Botanic Gardens.

Litoria raniformis

Photo: M Kalms

**Australian Naturalists Network Canberra 2012**

The 6th Get-together of the Australian Naturalists Network (ANN) is underway in Chinchilla, Queensland as you receive this newsletter - from Tuesday 24 August to Saturday 4 September (12 days). These Get-togethers are held every two years. Previous ones have been held in Alice Springs; Launceston, Tasmania; Darling Ranges, WA; the Australian High Country, Victoria & NSW; and Darwin, NT.

The Canberra Field Nats have agreed to host the 7th Get-together in Canberra – hence

ANNCanberra 2012.

We have chosen the dates from Saturday 13 October to Sunday 21 October (9 days), which we think will directly follow the Floriade Festival in 2012. There should be a lot of Spring activity at that time.

There is a great deal of work to be done beforehand and even more during the Get-together so we will be looking for plenty of help, to plan and organize the event and to run the many outings and talks that we will have to provide. We have to organize accommodation for around 100 people, plus transport

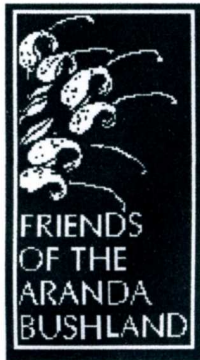
to get them around, a suitable meeting place for evening talks, as well as providing an interesting and varied program of activities.

Thank you to those who have already volunteered to help. Rosemary and Dierk von Behrens have agreed to co-ordinate the organization of the event.

We also have to provide information on what there is to see and do in and around Canberra, and what information is available on the local flora and fauna and ecosystems. We need to provide regular circulars to those naturalists who express an interest in coming. The first circular has already gone out to Chinchilla for the benefit of people attending that Get-together. We plan to put all of the information that we provide on our website – see www.fieldnatscanberra.com. The first circular is already up.

At this stage the priorities are sorting out accommodation and transport options and finding a suitable meeting place. Any suggestions are most welcome. We are also after ideas for suitable outings and leaders and evening speakers.

Tony Lawson



Friends of Aranda Bushland

invites you
to celebrate our 20th anniversary

Sunday 12 September 2010

1pm to 3.30pm or 2.20pm for talk

We will celebrate our 20th anniversary on Sunday afternoon, 12 September from 1pm to 3.30pm with a short wildflower walk, a talk by Dr Rosemary Purdie on things botanical and a celebratory feast with hot drinks provided by PCL rangers and eats by ourselves. If you don't want to walk join us before 2.20pm for the talk and feast.

It should be a great time for wildflowers given the recent rains. We will take a short walk up and down Aranda hill breaking into small groups if many are interested.

Rosemary will talk on Black Mountain Interlopers

[Synonyms: blow ins, floaters, foreigners, invaders, weeds ...]

Springtime brings a flurry of native plants strutting their blooms on Black Mountain. But what's that I see tucked away on its slopes and valleys? - oh no, interlopers!! There are the usual woody suspects, like Cootamundra Wattle, and species of Crataegus and Pyracantha. But there's also a surprisingly high count of other woody species, both non local natives, and non-natives. What are they, where are they, and how did they get there? And are some really interlopers, or have we just failed to notice them before? And does it really matter anyway?

Dr Rosemary Purdie is a botanist who has spent most of her life working on heritage and environment matters in various state and national government agencies. As an "inner O'Connor" resident she considers Black Mountain to be part of her back yard. In this talk, she will share some of the results of a survey she carried out, in June-July-August last year, on the distribution of its tree and shrubs species.

All welcome - especially those who have contributed to parkcare.

Enter Aranda Bushland at lowest Bindubi Street gate by the horse paddock and look for the balloons.

RSVP to FoAB.20Years@gmail.com for catering.

Contact: Jean Geue, convenor on 6251-1601.



Australian National Botanic Gardens

Lunchtime Talks - September 2010
Thursdays, 12:30pm

2nd Hawthorn Eradication - An Aranda Bushland Story - **Jean Geue**, see below for more detail

9th Place Names - How do we get them? - **Brian Fox**

16th This Generous Earth - **Jackie French**

23rd Increasing Frost Damage in a Warming Climate - **Marilyn Ball**

30th Epiphytes - **Ben Wallace**

Flora and the Law Exhibition

(Sat 11 Sept – Sun 10 Oct)

The exhibition is on for the period of Floriade. It explores themes involving the High Court, legislation and Australian flora. Posters will explain the significance of some landmark High Court decisions, the plant breeders rights story for the *Correa* 'Canberra Bells', CSIRO's work on threatened grassland species and orchids, CITES and orchids, various historical themes and more. The ANBG and CSIRO are exhibition partners.

Entry is free: Monday – Friday, 9:45 – 4:30 pm; Sunday, noon – 4:00 pm.

Hawthorn Eradication

An Aranda Bushland Story

Speaker: Jean Geue

This is a presentation on hawthorn thicket to diverse woodland in 20 years! This talk coincides with Aranda Bushland's 20th Anniversary and covers a reasonable slice of history. Includes are photos by Pam Macdonald and myself covering 18 years.

It tells the story of how Friends of Aranda Bushland demolished a 300 x 100 metre hawthorn thicket over eight months in 1992 with enthusiastic work parties led by Colin and Pam Macdonald.

The story continues on how we blitzed subsequent weeds and have continued with hawthorn hunts at least three yearly with a five to fifteen year plan to remove the seed source of hawthorns and briars in the adjoining rural lease. I'm looking at the weed control techniques we use, our successes and setbacks and how weedbusting can be all that is needed to encourage natural regeneration of resilient diversity.

Jean Geue

Put yourself in the picture!

Enter the
Ecology in Action
Photographic competition



Help the ESA celebrate our 50th anniversary year by creating a visual record of ecology in Australia and the people who make it happen.

2 categories: 'Ecologists in action' and 'Ecology in Action'

Great prizes

Total prize pool of \$2700

Peoples' choice award

Enter as many time as you like

Entry is free

Winners will be displayed on the ESA website and at ESA's 2010 Annual Conference.



Entries close 17th September 2010

For more information, including entry forms and conditions, go to www.ecolsoc.org.au

Ecological Society of Australia - celebrating 50 years



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:

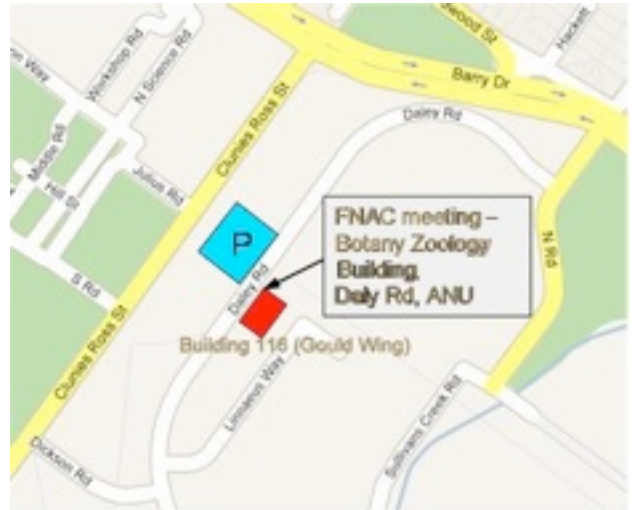
President: Benj Whitworth, Ph: 02 6272 3192 W
Mob: 0400250230

Secretary: Tony Lawson, Ph: 02 6161 9430
fieldnaturalist@yahoo.com.au

Website: <http://www.fieldnatscanberra.com>

Newsletter editor: Margaret Kalms margaret@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.

Committee members

Please make a note in your diaries. We meet every odd month on the 3rd Wednesday at the Conservation Council Office in Civic.

Next meeting: 15 September at the earlier time of 5:30pm.

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: