

September 2012  
ISSN: 1836-2761



FIELD NATURALISTS' ASSOCIATION OF CANBERRA INC. GPO BOX 249  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

**FIELD NATURALIST**

*OBJECT: To foster an interest in nature*

**MEETING—THURSDAY 6th September**  
**7:30pm Gould Wing, Building 116**  
**Australian National University**  
Venue details back page

## Reducing the threats to pollination

### Dr Denis Anderson

European honeybees, which are the dominant pollinators of food crops, are under threat in Australia from several exotic species.

CSIRO's ground breaking research has raised awareness of the biosecurity threats posed to Australia's pollination services by investigating pests and diseases of honeybees.

Several exotic species pose a significant threat to honeybees in Australia and the whole of the Australian bee-keeping industry.

One in every three mouthfuls of food that we consume comes to us through the aid of pollination by honeybees.

CSIRO's research has helped drive a shift in policy and perception which has led to the recognition of honeybees as Australia's key pollinator of over A\$2 billion dollars of agricultural production, adding to the profitability and viability of key agricultural industries and the communities that depend on them.



Dr Denis Anderson is recognised as an international bee researcher and expert. He, along with his team won the 2007 CSIRO Medal for research achievement



What bird is that? No it isn't an aberrant mistletoe bird. Nor does it occur in Australia.  
(see page 3)

## Diary of Events

### Club Nights

**October 4** Annual General Meeting and preparation for the Australian Naturalists Network (ANN)

**November 1** **Bill Gammage** author of Biggest Estate On Earth: How Aborigines Made Australia

**December 6** Christmas function

### Outings

**Sunday September 9 Black Mountain. Forest trail.** This Forest Trail walk starts and finishes at the parking area half way along the road to the summit.

The parking area is on the right hand side as you are driving up Black Mountain.

Meet at the car park 1/2 way up at **10 am**.

We would like to do an anti-clockwise walk and begin on the same side as the car park, hopefully the sun will still be shining on this section. The entrance is the right-hand downhill one at the northern end of the car park.

For more information including a map visit the website at:

[http://www.tams.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/154546/Black\\_Mountain\\_Forest\\_Trail\\_selfguide.pdf](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/154546/Black_Mountain_Forest_Trail_selfguide.pdf)

## Protect the Laws that Protect the Places You Love

On Tuesday 14 August 2012, the Conservation Council ACT Region was at the launch of the combined environment group campaign, Protect the Laws that Protect the Places you Love, at Parliament House.

Under pressure from big business and the mining industry, federal and state governments have announced an aggressive plan to wind back essential environmental protection laws. In the guise of cutting 'green tape' government and industry propose to hand important federal approval powers to the states, and fast track approvals for large developments.

This will remove essential federal protection for our special places and wildlife and accelerate mining and other destructive development in our forests, woodlands and along our coasts.

In response to these threats environmental organisations across the country have come together to launch a national campaign to defend and strengthen our environmental protection laws.

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TAKING ACTION VISIT**

**WWW.PLACESYOULOVE.ORG**

It is essential that the Prime Minister hears community support for the laws that protect the places we love—**email Prime Minister Gillard today.**

Prime Minister Julia Gillard

Canberra office: (02) 6277 7700

Email: [Julia.Gillard.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Julia.Gillard.MP@aph.gov.au) OR <http://www.pm.gov.au/contact-your-pm>



## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO ALL MEMBERS THAT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Field Naturalists Association of Canberra will be held on Thursday 4th October 2012 at the Division of Zoology and Botany, Building 116, in the Australian National University and will include discussion on the final arrangements for ANN.

### 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 Committee shall be made in writing (see below) and shall be delivered to an officer of the Association by Monday September 22. 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Acceptance of Nomination

I \_\_\_\_\_ accept nomination for \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_

Presidential Musings

Chris Bunn

Apologies are due. Because of an oversight on my part the time for last month's outing was missing. We are also experiencing difficulties with our website, which is currently 'frozen'. The fault is not ours (and especially not Bobs) but with Yahoo. Hopefully we can recover, but in the meantime our distribution of the newsletter is disrupted.

You should by now have received your detailed program for ANN in October. If you can reply by the end of August it would be greatly appreciated.

The AGM is also due in October and the club urgently needs fresh blood on the executive. The current executive cannot be expected to continue indefinitely.

ANN UPDATE – August 2012 DRAFT

Dear Field Natters,

A sincere thank you to those of you who have volunteered to help with the visit of 70 interstate Field Naturalists. You will be contacted soon, if that hasn't been done already.

You should have received several sheets in the mail from our Treasurer Bob Lehman outlining the costs associated with the various activities for our local members. These are to assist in covering the costs of the coaches, CSIRO/Yowani/CIT room hire and the food presented on these occasions. We have chosen private coaches in order to keep the groups together, to enable explanations to take place over the intercom when needed, to help with parking, and to fit our schedule. School bus and peak hour bus needs precluded any other choice.

The Monday evening speakers are Dr Gavin Young on Fossils (Yass) and Dr John La Salle on the Atlas of Living Australia. Thursday evening we have the writer, broadcaster and local naturalist Ian Fraser on why the ACT is such a fantastic place to be a naturalist, followed by Don Macgregor who has added to his visual collection on Lyre Birds. If you missed him in February you can enjoy him on October 18th.

A point of clarification for Tuesday 16 October. The morning and lunch break (3 -4 hours) will be spent at Mulligans and/or the accessible end of Goorooyaroo. In the afternoon the group will divide into two and visit Gold Creek alternating through the Reptile Centre, even then I suspect it will be crowded.

One needs to practice visiting Mulligans Flat Nature Park I have discovered after being geographically embarrassed. The arrow signs suddenly pointed the wrong way. However, it did present an enjoyable experience. We observed an echidna waddling among the trees and I leant against one to take a photograph, only to have it come right up to me and spend some time sniffing my leather boot. Its nose was about the length of my little finger and it poked its way up and down the length of the boot before deciding this was unnatural, did not belong in its environment and the best thing to do was to hide its face in the litter. I had to remove my foot from underneath it in order to escape. So cute! Big pleasurable sigh. Terrible photos.

Please do not feel offended by Friday 19 October being for the interstate visitors. They will be visiting the ANBG and CSIRO Herbariums, and the National Wildlife Collection. The numbers are strictly limited, they have a choice of one only, and our volunteers won't even get to accompany them after ensuring they are in the right place at the right time. FNAC can arrange future visits for our members. Requests to visit the Insect Collection were denied because of the severe financial constraints placed upon them. Our October Newsletter will have the times ANN should be visiting the Archives for the Waterhouse Prize, and the Library for the Lewin exhibition (on rotation) should you wish to join them for that, but you will have to arrange your own transport.

The farewell evening dinner is at the Canberra Institute of Technology.\* The Australian Naturalist Network has a Get-Together every two years. The Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club in Hobart is the next host and its representative, Simon Grove, will be at our dinner with a presentation to encourage us to visit Hobart in 2014.

\*If you enrol to come and have special dietary requirements please let Rosemary von Behrens know on 6254 1763 please.

A joint program by the Rotary Club of Cairns and Cairns Men's Shed has led to the construction and sale of more than 900 metal cages and the capture of more than 10,000 myna birds in the past nine months. Anyone wanting information on myna birds in Cairns should visit [www.cnsrim.org.au](http://www.cnsrim.org.au)

The bird on page 1 is a Sira barbet, a newly identified bird species living in the high cloud forests of Peru. A team of

# Census of the Vascular Plants, Hornworts, Liverworts and Slime Moulds of the Australian Capital Territory

Version 3.0

8th June 2012

**B.J. Lepschi, D.J. Mallinson and D.C.Cargill (editors)**

## Introduction

This Census lists the scientific names of the native and naturalised vascular plants (Pinophyta and Magnoliophyta), hornworts (Anthocerophyta), liverworts (Marchantiophyta) and slime moulds (Myxogastria) known to occur in the Australian Capital Territory, but excluding the Australian Commonwealth Territory of Jervis Bay on the New South Wales south coast. All records are based on herbarium specimens housed in the Australian National Herbarium (CANB). This version of the Census updates version 2.0 (12th December 2008). Future versions of the Census will provide additional coverage of remaining cryptogamic groups including mosses, lichens, algae and fungi.

As with all censuses, this is a work in progress, and changes to the taxa listed can be expected as new collections and data become available. The Census compilers welcome any feedback – please contact them at [canbr-info@anbg.gov.au](mailto:canbr-info@anbg.gov.au) if you have any comments or corrections.

## Statistics

Summary statistics for the ACT flora are as follows:

GROUP	Species (total)	Taxa (total)	Indige- nous species	Indige- nous taxa	Intro- duced (EA) spe- cies	Introduced (Aust.) spe- cies	Intro- duced (EA) taxa	Intro- duced (Aust.) taxa
<b>Vascular plants</b>	1645	1684	1043	1070	554	42	564	44
<b>Hornworts</b>	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Liverworts</b>	77	77	75	75	2	0	2	0
<b>Slime moulds</b>	27	27	27	27	0	0	0	0

**Note – The above article is just an introduction. To view the data go to the following website:** <http://anbg.gov.au/cpbr/ACT-census-2012/index.html> The census should be very useful in deciding plant identification discussions (or maybe just further the debate).

The website was located by Tony Lawson.



**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:** Chris Bunn (02)62412968/0417407351

**Email:** fieldnaturalist@yahoo.com.au

**Website:** www.fieldnatscanberra.com

All newsletter contributions welcome, material published does not necessarily reflect the views of the club



**Monthly meeting venue:** Division of Botany and Zoology, Building 116, (Gould wing) Daley Rd, Australian National University. Park (occasionally the adjacent building 44). Meetings start at 7:30 pm and are followed by refreshments.

**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: