



CHRISTMAS PARTY !!

THURSDAY 2 December

6:30 pm Australian National University

Meeting details back page



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.



Our Christmas celebration is held in the staff room downstairs in the Botany and Zoology building (Building 44) next door and down stairs from where we usually meet.

Brindabellas - From mighty river to the roof of Australia Sunday 5th December: 9:30am

On Sunday we will take an investigative trip (for ANN) up from one of our mightiest rivers to the highest mountains peaks in Australia. After parking at Stromlo Forest Park on the corner of Coppins Crossing Rd and Uriarra Rd, We will carpool down to Uriarra crossing, one of the lowest points in the ACT. After investigating the Casuarina riparian vegetation, we will head to Uriarra village woodland's natural temperate grassland and grassy woodland. Heading up along Brindabella Road we will pass through every ecosystem type in the ACT, from Wet forest with some of the tallest trees in Australia (where we may also see Lyrebirds, whipbirds and rose robins), into montane forests of Brownbarrell, Mountain Ash, peppermint gums, then stands of regrowing Alpine Ash, into alpine Snowgums (with flame robins) and alpine grassland at Piccadilly Circus, and finish at Mt Gingera (with Bogong moths and alpine heath) one of the highest spots in the ACT. Flowering is later in these areas than in Canberra itself, and there should be plenty of flowers. Bring warm and wet weather gear, good shoes (although there wont be much walking), food for a picnic lunch and BBQ. The trip will take most of the day and should showcase the ACT in all its diversity. Call Benj on 0402 307 695.

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Committee Meeting

The next FNAC Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 19 January at 5:30 pm. Future meetings will be at 5:30 pm in odd numbered months at the Conservation Council offices.

Mount Ainslie Butterflies

Having just returned from some work in central NSW where butterflies were very plentiful, Prue and I went to check out the Mt Ainslie summit area this afternoon to see if anything similar was happening there. It was! Clearly some northern species have bred well and pushed south into areas they don't normally occur in. Star of the show was a Scarlet Jezebel (also called Northern Jezebel), not a species I have seen in the ACT before. Another visitor from the north was Glasswing, in good numbers, with up to 15 different individuals spread around the area. 3 other species we saw - Lesser Wanderer, Small Grass Yellow and Chequered Swallowtail occur in the ACT more regularly but don't breed locally. Interesting resident spp recorded included Moonlight Jewel, Golden Ant-blue, Dainty Swallowtail, Chequered Copper, Broad-margined Azure, Spotted and Imperial Jezebels, and Heath and Montane Ochres. All up 24 species in a bit over an hour, easily the most I have seen in a single visit here. Well worth a look, best time to go probably from lunchtime onwards. Most interesting bird was a Wedge-tail soaring way overhead.

Steve Holliday



Photo: Butterflies displayed at CSIRO entomology, Margaret Kalms

The Launch of The Atlas of Living Australia

The Atlas of Living Australia website went live to the public on 18th November and was announced via a media release from the Honourable Senator Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research titled "Opening our Eyes to Australia's Natural Heritage". The media release is on the ALA's home page and also available at: <http://minister.innovation.gov.au/carr/Pages/default.aspx>

While the site is still a work in progress, it already provides access to a variety of information about Australian biodiversity - animals, plants, fungi and microorganisms, including:

- species pages
- species names list
- ID information
- more than 23 million occurrence and distribution records
- information on key Australian biological collections
- mapping tools
- citizen science tools.

Through the Atlas, users can discover information on species in a particular area, in their neighbourhood or around their school.

Over the next eighteen months, the Atlas will continue to grow through the integration of more information on Australian biodiversity as well as the development of additional services and tools such as a Sensitive Data Service.

We value your interest in and support of the Atlas, and hope you enjoy exploring the site. I invite you to visit the website at <http://www.ala.org.au> and welcome your feedback.

Please send your feedback about the Atlas of Living Australia website to Lynne Sealie, Communications Manager, 02 6246 5901, lynne.sealie@csiro.au

Regards,

Donald Hobern,

Director, Atlas of Living Australia

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Atlas of Living Australia. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for 'Explore', 'Tools', 'Share', 'Support', 'Contact Us', and 'About the Atlas'. A search bar is located below the navigation. A prominent banner states: "The Atlas is a work in progress. This website is a window into what we are doing. We are busy integrating many more data sets and joining issues around surrounding data from different sources. We welcome your contributions. Learn more." Below the banner are three main action buttons: 'Get Started' (with examples, tours, videos and frequently asked questions), 'Explore' (information on species, maps, collections and reports), and 'Share' (highlight photos and information). There are also sections for 'News & Acknowledgments' and 'News & Events'. At the bottom, a section titled 'This Site is Now Live to the Public' provides information about the site's launch. The footer contains navigation links and a Creative Commons license.

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:

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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.

Wishing you all a
Merry Christmas
Happy New Year
and a refreshing
break

Urban Possum

An unexpected resident
found in the garden shed.

Photo: Phillip Bell



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: