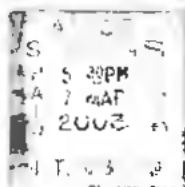


If not claimed within 14 days please return to the Alice Springs Field
Naturalists Club Inc. PO Box 8663, Alice Springs, NT 0871



March 2003



President	Bob Read	8952 1935	rread@octa4.net.au
Vice-President	Kevin Boyle	0422006140	
Publicity Officer	Rosalie Breen	8952 3409	
Secretary/Treasurer	Lyndal White	8955 0525	LMP56@bigpond.com
Property Officer	Kaye Percy	8952 3405	
Public Officer	Sue Fraser	8952 5728	suefra@hotmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Beth Hansen	8953 3728	hansenbeth@bigpond.com

Web site <http://www.octa4.net.au/alicenats>

Alice Springs Field Naturalists Club

March 2002

CLUB NEWS

NEXT MEETING

March 12th 7.30pm at OLSH staffroom, Sadadeen Rd. Guest speaker: Rachel Paltridge on "Threatened Species of Central Australia". Note that Rachel and Steve McAlpin have just published a book of this title.

TRIPS

Sat March 8th Night walk (approx. 2 hrs) around the Ilparpa Claypans. Meet **7:15pm** in front of Elsa Corbet's place in Palm Court (next door to Windmill Restaurant). Off street parking available. Bring a torch. Supper afterwards at Elsa's. Contact Bob Read on 8952 1935.

KINDRED ORGANISATIONS' ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Please confirm details with the organisations listed.

Dates	Activities	Venues / Contacts
Mar 13th, 4-5.30pm	Tour of Coolabah Swamp area – a gem of a site for environmental education. With representatives of Greening Aust., Landcare, Waterwatch & Dept. IPE	Meet at the corner of Stotts Terrace and Undoolya Rd. (Parking at Centralian College)
Mar 15, 9am- 12.30pm	Native Propagation Workshop. GA members free; non-members \$10.	Greening Aust. Bushcare Nursery. ph. 8953 2882 to register
Mar 28, 3.30pm	Rangeland Biology & Ecology Seminar: Dionne Walsh, CLMA on Images of Change: 45 yrs of monitoring pastoral lands in C. Aust.	CSIRO Conf Rom
Mar 31 st – Apr 6 th	Arbor Week	Contact GA office ph. 8953 2882
Apr 2, 7.30pm	Aust. Plants Soc. monthly meeting: "Selecting plants – what to look for & what to avoid."	Botanic Grdn, Ph. 8952 5229
May 7 th , 7.30pm	Aust Plants Soc. Guest speaker on <i>Acacia peuce</i>	Botanic Grdn. Ph. 8952 5229

Coolabah Swamp – a local environmental education resource

Date: Thursday 13th March

Time: 4.00pm – 5.30pm

Meet: Corner of Stotts Terrace and Undoolya Rd. (Parking at Centralian College)

Come and Join Michelle Rodrigo (Greening Australia), Ann Grattidge (Landcare) and Felicity Forth (Waterwatch) and Robbie Henderson (DIPE) for a revealing tour of Coolabah Swamp – a gem of a site for environmental education. Coolabah Swamp can provide perfect excursion site for introducing and exploring a range of topics.

Coolabah Swamp is otherwise known as Ankerre Ankerre, meaning “place where Coolabahs are found”. It is a patch of remnant bushland remaining in the middle of town. This site is important to the local Arrernte people as a meeting place. The Coolabah trees represent Yeperenye caterpillar people standing and looking for Jay Creek People coming for ceremony.

Coolabah Swamp has undergone a number of changes with increasing urban development of Alice Springs. In particular drains and roads have totally altered the natural flow and ponding of water that is vital for the germination of Coolabah trees. Changes to the water use in Alice Springs has lead to the water table in the town basin (underneath Coolabah Swamp) to rise and bring salts that are normally deep in the soil profile to the surface. Rising water tables, salt and reduced ponding of water has caused a decline in the health and recruitment of Coolabah trees, and possibly resulted in an increase in the cover of salt bush.

The Swamp is an ideal educational resource for looking at specific issues such as:

- An introduction to soils- there are a number of open cut drains to look at soil profiles
- Looking at underground water and rising salt as there is a bore within the swamp that can be easily monitored for depth and salinity.
- A case study of the role of the community in conserving the environment and the multiple perceptions of land and how it should be managed.
- Land reclamation in action - Greening Australia can assist schools to participate in Landcare works by growing plants, which can be later used in swamp rehabilitation projects.
- Impacts of urban development on our natural environment

Visiting Darwin ?

The NT Field Naturalists Club Inc. in Darwin generally meet on the 2nd Wed. of each month, from 7.45pm in the seminar rm of the Faculty of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies (bldg 30), Casuarina Campus of NTU. Contact the Secretary, 8927 5384 (h).

Information from one of their recent newsletters:

- “New” butterflies species for the Top End include the Wide-brand Sedge-Skipper, Orange Palm-dart, Scalloped Grass-yellow, No-brand Crow, Small Ant-blue, Black Ant-blue, Silky Azure, Bright Cornelian, Samphire Blue, & Plumbago Blue.

Photo of a Pied Cormorant that Barb Giffedder took out at 2 mile waterhole, near Glen Helen last October.
It had just swallowed an enormous fish and let her approach really close to it.



Alice Springs Field Naturalists at the Xmas Party at Simpson's Gap, December 2002

