

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

October 2007



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Web site: [www.geocities.com/alicenats](http://www.geocities.com/alicenats)

# Alice Springs Field Naturalists Club 2007

## MEETINGS

**7.30 pm** on the second Wednesday of the month.

**Venue:** Olive Pink Botanic Garden, Tuncks Road

**Oct 10.** Speaker Steve Morton from the CSIRO.  
“Why biologists find Central Australia so interesting”.

**Nov 14.** Last meeting of the year

**Feb 13. 2008 First meeting 2008**

## TRIPS / ACTIVITIES

**Sat 13 October.** Buffel Grass Eradication Bee at Elsa Corbett’s place “Pitchi Ritchi” on Palm Circuit. Bring a plate for breakfast, and digging tools. (Mattocks are best.) Billy tea provided. Start 7.30 a.m.

**Sat 27 October.** Telegraph Station. Walk in the park. Tentative 6 a.m. start. Meet at the gate. (Gate opens at 8am). Early start before the heat of the day. Contact Rosalie Breen on 8952 3409

**Sat 24 Nov.** Moonlight cycle to Picnic Spur off the Larapinta Bike Trail.

**Sun 2 Dec.** Birdwatching at the Alice Springs Sewage Ponds. Meet at the gate at 7 a.m. Contact Liz Carpenter 8953 6750.

**Sun 9 Dec.** Christmas Break-up. Breakfast at Simpsons Gap.

## TRIP REPORT

### **WALK TO EMILY GAP**

Sat 15 Sept 2007

By Liz Carpenter

Trips with ASFNC are always full of surprises.

The first for the day was the revelation that there was a walking track to Emily Gap out back of the Golf course. We gathered in the cool of the morning at 7.30 at the eastern end of Stephens Road. As the sun was rising over the tree tops and rapidly becoming very warm, we realized that we would not need our jumpers for the walk. We meandered from a dusty to a not so dusty track before meeting up with a firm defined track that led us along side of the East MacDonnell Range to the Gap.

We chanced upon a “Bower Bird” type rubbish dump and a couple of electricity lines that dropped down from (or up?) the range. We stumbled across a couple of large cleared patches, one square and one round. Someone decided that this was a place for the occult and best left alone.

A handful of Euros bounced ahead of us up and down the ridges.

The track climbed up to a lookout marked for trail bikers with a pole and rusty drum jammed near the top. From here we had great views to Mt Gillen in the west and Mt Benstead in the NE. Not so great was the roar of trail bikes that interrupted the morning quietness.



Mt Gillen from the Trail Bike marker

Photo: Liz Carpenter

Our track led us through delightful Mulga and Wattle Groves where there were Masked Woodswallows and an occasional honeyeater. At one spot we were watched from a ridge top by a handsome Dingo which took off once we all stopped and stared back.

At around 1115 am as we approached Emily Gap and were admiring the pale Victoria Wattle and the deep golden Colony Wattle along side the creek, we were surprised by Gavan tromping down a ridge. He had climbed up to see where we were.

We had walked 7 km. Our return journey back to Stephens Road in Gavan’s trusty 4WD was 23km via the bitumen.

Thanks to Rosalie for a pleasant and interesting walk.

Thanks to Gavan for his generosity in bringing the seven of us home the quick way.

Birds seen or imagined to be seen were:-

Wedgetail Eagles  
Nankeen Kestrel  
Galahs  
Grey Shrike-thrush  
Masked Woodswallows

Ring-necked Parrots  
Singing Honeyeater  
Brown Honeyeater  
Mistletoebird

## **ABC GARDEN FAIR**

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2007

By Rosalie Breen

Along with many other environmental interest groups the Field Naturalists had a stall at this year's Garden Fair at Olive Pink. Our emphasis this year was local lizards. With a display of 11 photos taken by members Barb Gilfedder, Jenny Purdie, Ian Fox, Eric Tan and Rosalie Breen, and Peter Nunn from the Desert Park, participants had to match the number of the photo with the name of the lizard on the entry form. It created a lot of interest with 55 people "having a go", which included looking through the reference books and discussions. The lucky number draw was won by Peter Lawrence from Wallan in Victoria, who was thrilled to receive a copy of the locally produced book *Reptiles and Frogs of Alice Springs* by Nic Gambold and Deborah Metters.

Thanks are due to the photographers who submitted pictures. Those not used in the competition will be included in a collection for the club. We also had albums of past activities put together by Rhondda and Barb, which visitors and members enjoyed looking through. Thanks also to the helpers who manned the stall and showed what a friendly group of people we are: Bob Read, Rhondda Tomlinson, Barb Gilfedder, Bill Smyth, Liz Carpenter, Sue O'Callaghan, Iain Campbell and Rosalie Breen.

Next year it might be frogs and snakes – so get out there and photograph snakes (preferably with a tele-lens on your camera)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **GREAT AUSTRALIAN MARSUPIAL NIGHT STALK**

Come along for a FREE slideshow about the marsupials of Central Australia, both rare and common! Finish off the night with a spotlight walk spotting some of our astonishing fauna.

#### **Ormiston Gorge Visitor Centre**

7-9pm Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October

#### **Alice Springs Telegraph Station buildings**

7-9pm Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October

#### **Simpsons Gap BBQ area**

7-9pm Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October

#### **Bookings essential:**

Call Michael Barritt at Parks and Wildlife on 89518247  
or email at: [michael.barritt@nt.gov.au](mailto:michael.barritt@nt.gov.au)

Copy deadline for articles for the  
next newsletter;

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

**PHOTOCOPYING**

**COURTESY**

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# ALICE SPRINGS FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB INCORPORATED

## Minutes of the General Meeting held at Olive Pink Botanic Garden

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2007

**Open:** The Vice-President, Liz Carpenter, declared the meeting open at 8:10pm  
**Present:** As per attendance book (16 members and 1 visitors).  
**Apologies:** Jo Smith, Bob Read, Max & Sue O'Callaghan

**Minutes:** The meeting resolved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting held Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> August 2007 as a true and correct record of that meeting.

### Correspondence In:

"The Web" Threatened Species Network newsletter Winter 2007

"Fleurieu Bird Encounter" Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc

### Correspondence Out:

Nil

### Treasurer's Report:

Nil

### General Business:

Audited Annual Report to Business affairs has been accepted.

### Speakers:

C Schlesinger for October

### Outings:

Sat 15 Sep 07	Day walk from end of Stephens Road to Emily Gap on north side of Heavitree Range. Approx. 7km. Meeting 7:30 end Stephens Rd. Contact: Rosalie Breen on 8952 3409
Sat 29 Sept 07	Half-day walk north from Corroboree Rock. Meeting Date Farm 7:30. Contact: Bob Read
Sat 13 October	Elsa's Place in Palm Crt at 7:30 to clear buffle grass. BYO plate for morning tea.
Sat 27 October	Telegraph Station walk. Contact Rosalie Breen 8952 3409
Sat 24 November	Moonlight cycle to Picnic Spur, leaving from Flynn's grave
Sun 2 December	Sewage Ponds. Meet at gate at 7:00am. Contact Liz Carpenter on 8953 6750
Sun 9 December	Simpson's Gap. Breakfast for Christmas break-up.

**ABC Garden Fair** to be held on Sat 22 September, 2007 at the Olive Pink Botanic Garden. Rhonda to organise the roster of volunteers

**Gate Opener for Oct:** Connie Spencer      **Supper for Sep:** Rhonda Tomlinson      **Note taker for Sep:** Rosalie Breen

### Sightings:

- 30 Major Mitchell's Cockatoos and 1 Sulphur-crested Cockatoo at AZRI.
- 8 Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, 8-12 Wood Sandpiper, Common Sandpiper, Australian Pratincole, Whiskered Terns, Cockatiels and Black Falcon at Sewerage Ponds
- First call of a Channel-billed Cuckoo, Rainbow bee eaters, Budgie Flocks.

**Meeting closed:** 9:16pm.