

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

September 2007



President	Bob Read	8952 1935	rhread1@bigpond.net.au
Vice-President	Liz Carpenter	8953 6750	lizcarpenter@bigpond.com
Secretary	Bill Smyth	8959 5203	William.Smyth@cdu.edu.au
Treasurer	Sarah Wilson		sarahsg2@dodo.com.au
Property Officer	Rosalie Breen	8952 3409	rosalie.breen@email.com
Public Officer	Rhonda Tomlinson	8953 1280	rhonda.tomlinson@nt.gov.au
Newsletter Editor	Liz Carpenter	8953 6750	lizcarpenter@bigpond.com

Web site : 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

Sept 12 Speaker Mike Green "Meteorites, clues to Solar System evolution, and central Australian impacts.

TRIPS / ACTIVITIES

Sat 15 Sept Day walk from end of Stephens Road to Emily Gap on the north side of Heavitree Gap. 7.30 a.m. start. Contact Rosalie Breen 8952 3409

Sat 22 Sept ABC Garden Day at Olive Pink Botanic Gardens. Volunteers needed for ASFNC stall. Contact Rosalie Breen 8952 3409.

Sat 29 Sept Half day walk north from Coroborree Rock. Meet at old Date Farm, Palm Circuit. Contact Bob Read 8952 1935.

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.

TRIP REPORT

MOUNT SONDER

"What goes up has to come down".
28th & 29th July 2007

By Rhondda Tomlinson



Albert Namatjira's painting of Mt. Sonder.

3.00pm Saturday we set off from the Flynn Memorial on the Larapinta Drive – Rosalie (Leader), Bob, Bev, Liz and Rhondda.

Our first stop was at the sink hole near the bore at the turnoff onto Namatjira Drive. Bob was keen to take some photos of the sink hole, especially the entrance to what appeared to be a cave. The decision was not to explore any further as the necessary equipment was absent. Bob did climb part way up the windmill ladder for a better all over photo.



Bob part way up the windmill

Photo: Rhondda Tomlinson

Next stop was just after Glen Helen to climb a hill to look for the Spinifex Bird. This mission was reported as successful after going up and then down the hill.

We arrived at the upper camping ground at Redbank Gorge in time to setup our tents before dark. We settled to eat tea by the light of a near full moon. Up the hill on foot a stranger came and asked if we were the Field Naturalists. It was Michael, a friend of Liz's from Adelaide, so lots of introduction and chatter followed.

Day 2 I heard someone's alarm go off at 6.00am so slowly the action started and we managed to start our up, up, up hill walk at 7.30am.

4½ hours later I finally made it to the top with much encouragement from Rosalie. We stopped many times to take photos and admire the spectacular scenery. We met an Italian guy who was on his way down and he had walked the Larapinta trail in 12 days. He walked one section per day. Wow! What a legend.

The 360° grandeur at the top was even more breath taking. Though as Bob will tell you the "Top" is not the top but the cairn was good enough for me.



Looking back down from where we had come

Photo: Rhondda Tomlinson



Looking down on the Rocky Bar Gap area and out toward Glen Helen - part 2 of Stage 11 of the Larapinta Trail.

Photo: Rhondda Tomlinson



Looking up to where we still had to go.

Photo: Rhondda Tomlinson

1.00pm and the decision to descend was made. Me, being the slowest took 3½hrs to join the others at the car park. Sore feet and knees were part of the conversation as well as being somewhat proud of our efforts and the magical views we experienced.

Thank you to Rosalie as leader and a special thank you from me for your support and pushing me up and down the hill.

WALLACE POUND

Sat 4-Mon 6 August 2007

By Morgan Flint



The cairn at one 'top' of Mt. Sonder, with the other 'top' in the distance.

Photo: Rhondda Tomlinson

Bob did have it in mind to aim for the top, top but time, difficulty and down and up again proved a better decision to rejoin the party after consultation with Michael. We rested and ate lunch with the magical world below and a wedge tail eagle gave us a professional demonstration of flight while being chased by a Peregrine Falcon.

I was almost going to say that the weekend had “wine, women and song”, and then stopped myself because whilst there were women and the odd glass of Kevin’s “rooly nice” Shiraz wine, was there really any song? “No”, was the answer to my own question. But then I remembered that in high in a Euc. near one of our camps there was a nest. Taking it in turns to go and get food for their hungry little chicks were mum and dad Brown Falcon. And that’s where the song of sorts came in. Mozart wouldn’t have quite used the word “song”....a rasping, half-strangled, drawn-out squawk is probably a better description of the birds’ sound, in flight. Anyway, that made the trip complete in the “wine..... etc” stakes. And some of us like me, had never seen adult birds sitting on chicks before.

But there was much more to our trip into the Pound. The ranges around us loomed much larger around us than the Chewings out where I live. they were closer to us and therefore so much more immediately spectacular. The gorges were narrow and sheer, and so rust-red they almost glowed, and with the Ghost Gums finding a way up out of the rock faces, into the light of day, like we know them to do so well.

Jenny was in her element, finding and photographing a host of flowering plants she had never seen before, or if she had, the stridently coloured blooms on display had her snapping away furiously. There was a *Hakea*

grammatophylla here, the Pink Fire-bush (*Rulingia magniflora*) there; somewhere a little further on, she found a fine specimen of showy Indigo, Basedow's Indigo (*Indigofera basedowii*). None of those three she had seen in flower before. Then we came across a number of splendid flowering Round-leafed Wattles *Acacia strongylophylla*, (and commonly know also as Wait-awhile Wattle and Skeleton Wattle). Finally, and in that very same gorge, a flowering Holly Leaf Grevillea had her just about running short of memory.

For her part, Rosalie was constantly seeing a rock of some considerable fascination to her good self, prizing it out, giving it the once-over, before handing it to Gavin, to be examined in detail at 40 Chewings St.

Bob Read really does have the patience of Job, you know. "Bo-arb, what bird is that?" "Bo-arb, stop, what bird is making that sound, over there?" "Bo-arb, I just saw a bird which flew in a hopping-type fashion. What was it?" (The quotes are from me, and must be read in a slow, child-like whine). The answers were forthcoming, of course, and I learnt a great deal, as I always do when I'm out on these Nats excursions. We saw and heard, for example, Zebra Finches by the score. But we also saw Painted Finches in the gorges where there was water. These are the only two finches found in Central Australia (up to past Tennant Creek, as a matter of fact). I learnt too, that the honeyeater with a yellow throat is the Grey-headed Honeyeater.

On one of our walks to a spring, (one of two), we were treated to the lovely song of the Grey Shrike-thrush, and at the same place, I learnt that I could identify the sound of a Rufous Whistler. (Well, I could then).

One of the highlights was the Budgerigars, hundreds in some of the flocks. Gavin said "thousands" but Rhondda and Liz think Gavin was exaggerating a bit. Certainly there were 200 at a time. They didn't pour or fall in unison like water out of a jug, like Finches do, but they swooped and wheeled, dived and turned together in big arcs, as if guided by.....well, what is it? I know we were all impressed. Thank goodness for the two-way radios in the cars....." budgies at three o'clock!!"

Needless to say, being the frivolous, Devil-may-care group that we are, there were funny moments, such as someone screaming "look out!!!" or "Run for your lives!!!" It was to warn us of a small herd (12) wild donkeys galloping along; Rosalie, Bob and I thought it was Gavin who was striding ahead, as if there was no tomorrow. And later, while having lunch, Rosalie had put on to the ground, the dried head of a donkey (which Gavin had been asked to carry a long, long way). "Look on the road, a head", said some wag in the group.....an old joke which not everyone got.

A great trip (thank you), and one that should be a feature of the annual calendar of our outings.

SPRINGS IN WALLACE POUND

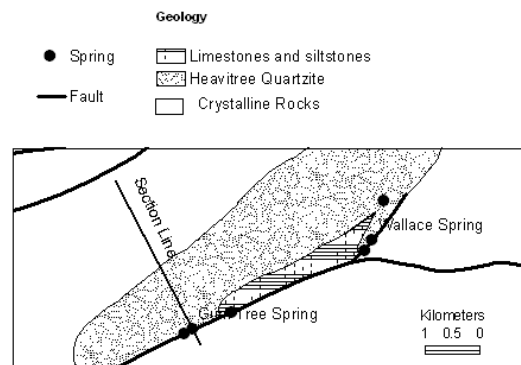
By Bob Read

Wallace Pound is area of old crystalline rocks, partly enclosed by ridges of younger (only about 700 million yr) Heavitree Quartzite, a hard silicified sandstone. The sandstone has been folded double so that there are older rocks on each side of it, in a structure known as a syncline, see section. Some limestones and siltstones younger than the sandstone are present.

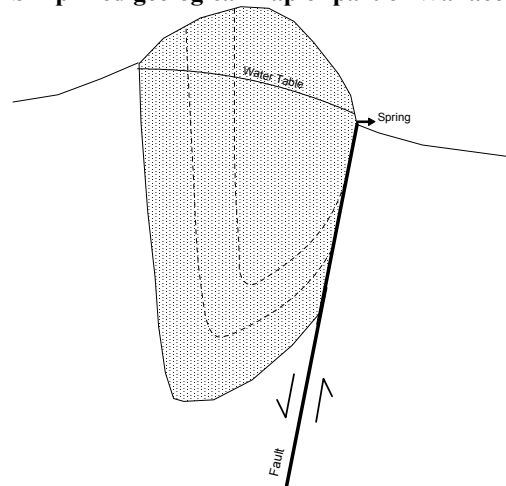
A number of springs occur on southern side of the northwest wall of Wallace Pound as shown on the map. Four of the five springs lie on a fault line⁽¹⁾ between the sandstone and the old crystalline rocks. Water, which originated as rainfall that soaked into the sandstone ridge, is dammed against the low permeability rock south of the fault and is emerging as springs. The sandstone near the fault is probably better fractured and more permeable, which would help conduct water to the springs.

The spring water is very fresh, less than 100 mg/L dissolved salts, compared with about 450 mg/L in Alice Springs water supply. The only similarly low salinity waters that I know of in the Centre are some of the springs in the Chewings Range.

(1) A fault is a break where the rock on one side has moved relative to the other.



Simplified geological map of part of Wallace Pound



Diagrammatic section

A WALK ON THE WILDSIDE

Larapinta Trail section 10
Ormiston Gorge –Glen Helen
13.4 km
August 18 2007

By Kaye Percy.

Arriving at Ormiston Gorge & Connie organizing the car shuffle to be at Glen Helen our destination, 11 eager walkers were ready to hit the trail.

Having walked this section a few times myself I have found it to be an interesting & popular easy to medium day walk & well marked. Progressing along through a gully the trail follows a creek bed where Red Mallee is quite prominent, Lemon & Red Kangaroo Grasses are also evident. At the 1 km mark one is able to see 3 mountain ranges, Heavitree to the north, Pacoota to the south & Chewings northeast. Continuing along many plant species are seen, Curry Wattle, Desert Rose, Native Plum, Jasmine, Supplejack growing out of a dead Bean Tree, Boobialla, Fan Flower, heaps of daisies growing on the limestone hills, Bloodwood, Dead Finish, Grevillea. Sighted birds so far Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, Yellow-throated Miner, Western Gerygone, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, Willy Wagtail. Reaching Hilltop Lookout 5km good views of the surrounding area are had. Mt Sonder west, junction of Ormiston & Davenport creeks south, where these 2 creeks meet the Finke River begins & some of the trail we had just completed. Quite cool & windy on top so only a quick stop here.

6.2km lunch stop, rocky outcrop with Spinifex partly sheltered from the wind. Back on the trail inland snail shells were sighted, also Bush Banana, Wild Passion fruit, Harlequin Mistletoe, Native Currant, Beefwoods, Acacias, Mulga, Sennas, Dolomite Fuchsia, Mistletoe, Zebra Finches, Whistling Kite, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, & a Gum Leaf Grasshopper.



The Walkers not walking

Photo: Rosalie Breen

7.8 km quick rest stop in Ormiston Creek surrounded by Red River Gums, Inland Teatrees, splendid colours in the river stones, very peaceful.

9.4 km We come to the junction of Ormiston & Davenport creeks & the beginning of the Finke River system, at this crossing there were quite a few clumps of pink Sea Heath growing. Now on our way to 2 Mile Waterhole & window in the rock, we heard a dingo calling, came across a Praying Mantis egg case. Well we weren't disappointed once we reached 2 Mile Waterhole, sighting Cormorants, Coots, female Darter, Rainbow

Bee-eaters, Dusky Moorhen, Purple Swamphen, Port Lincoln Parrot, Rufous Whistler, Black Swan, White-backed Swallow, Grebes & Hardhead ducks.



The photographers

Photo: Rosalie Breen

Great way to end our days walk, then a short walk along the road to Glen Helen return trip to Alice Springs.

Thanks go to our leader Connie & drivers of the cars for the great day out.

BIRDWATCHING WITH LIZ

Alice Springs Sewage Ponds
Sunday 26 August 2007

By Connie Spencer

Another glorious morning in Central Australia – perfect for a visit to the sewage ponds with Liz as our leader.

We were very fortunate to have two scopes on the outing – Liz with her prized new possession and Barb with her trusty older one. It certainly makes a difference when trying to see the finer details of the birds and being able to distinguish between, eg. a Wood and a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.

Our first stop was about 30 m from the gate where we observed the Horay-headed Grebe with its head of black and white plumes and the Australasian Grebe with its black head and neck and yellow eye. We also saw several Pacific Black Ducks.

A little further along the bank but in a different pond we spotted three Wood Sandpipers with their dark white spotted back. There was excitement amongst the knowledgeable when Barb spotted a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – apparently the first sighting this year for Barb and Liz. The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper has a scalloped back as opposed the spotted back of the Wood Sandpiper. At one point we were able to observe the two species close together which made it much easier to see their differences.

Our next lesson was distinguishing between the very attractive Black-fronted Dotterel with its red eye, the

Red-kneed Dotterel (not very well named in my opinion) and the Red-capped Plover.

Further along we came to a large congregation of Red-necked Avocets in the shallow waters of the Ilparpa Swamp next to the sewage ponds. In this same area we spotted half a dozen Black-tailed Native-hens foraging amongst grasses along a spit in the swamp. Joan, a visitor and keen birdwatcher from Sydney, was especially happy to see this bird as it was new to her.

At the bird hide where there are reeds on the edge of the pond, we were serenaded by a Reed Warbler but he didn't show himself.

Two and bit hours later we gathered at the gate to say our good-byes. Thanks to Liz for leading the walk and to Bill, Barb, Rhondda, Rosalie, Rita & Joan for their good company.

The above is only a selection of the birds we observed – Liz has a complete list with approximate numbers.

BIRD LIST

Numbering System as used by BirdsSA

A 1-3

B 4-10

C 11-30

D 31-100

E 101-300

C Hoary-headed Grebe

B Australasian Grebe

A White-faced Heron

A Black Swan

C-D Pacific Black Duck

D Grey Teal

D Pink-eared Duck

D Hardhead

C Australian Wood Duck

B Whistling Kite

A Black Falcon

C Black-tailed Native Hen

D Eurasian Coot

A Masked Lapwing

B Red-Kneed Dotterel

B Red-capped Plover

B Black-fronted Dotterel

D Black-winged Stilt

E Red-necked Avocet

B Wood Sandpiper

A Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

A Whiskered Tern

A Little Corella

A White-backed Swallow

C Fairy Martin

B Tree Martin

B Richard's Pipit

B Willy Wagtail

B Clamorous Reed-warbler

A Little Grassbird (call only)

B Variegated Fairy-wren

A Yellow-throated Miner

A Magpie Lark

A Black-face Woodswallow

C Torresian Crow

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE NOTE FRONT COVER. NEW COMMITTEE AND CONTACT DETAILS

2007 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The club continues in a healthy state with an increased membership.

Despite a few anxious moments it has been possible to find speakers for all meetings.

Once again we have had a good program of excursions. Attendance at excursions has been erratic, sometimes near the upper limit for safe management and sometimes looking like a committee meeting.

With our current membership our finances are sound. Annual income from membership fees has continued to grow, giving us a comfortable surplus. This is largely due to the newsletter being printed for us by L. J. Hooker Ltd.

Liz has again done a wonderful job as newsletter editor. All ten editions have been published, and each has been well filled. Longer standing members may recall the time when the newsletter was only one or two sheets, and contrast it with the present one.

This year we have changed the committee meetings to planning meetings which are open to all members. The hope is that we will get more input to our program from members outside the committee. However I would remind all members that they are free to suggest any ideas for excursions to the committee.

I would like to thank the committee for their efforts, and indeed thank all those who have contributed to the running of the club in any way. Connie, the outgoing secretary has put in a sterling effort, and graciously came back to the position when Jane was forced to resign.

Robert Read
President

KINGS CANYON-GILES TRACK

12-16 July 2007

By Rosalie Breen

This was a four day trip and no one else wanted to join in, so Gavan and I set off on Thursday to travel via the Mereenie Loop road, collecting the obligatory permit at Glen Helen. After a wait watching a scoop digging out the road and filling up a truck, just past Redbank, we travelled on. The road wasn't bad at all, scenery great and passed fields of pink and white heath myrtle and stands of Kurrajong trees. At a lookout, (which is the only place where you can stop!) we caught a view of our destination, the George Gill Range with Carmichael Crags standing out over the plains.

We passed the Kings Canyon Resort and called in to KC itself, being stunned by the number of cars and people. It was after three so we tried the creek walk, very nicely graded for tourists and ending on a platform for a view of the waterfall and the sheer cliffs of the canyon. No more can you saunter up the creek right to the base, marvelling at the gigantic squared blocks of rock which have fallen into the creek eons ago.

On our way to Kings Creek Station we passed Kathleen Springs turn off so decided to have a look in there. The track is constructed to wheelchair standard and passes old fences and yards and drinking tanks, used for cattle in a similar manner that the Luritja people used the gorge as a trap for animals when they returned from drinking at the water hole. The end of the track is another platform for looking at the water and the creeping swamp fern (a relict from a more tropical climate) and rushes.

The camping at the station was good. There's plenty of room so not crowded in. We forgot to collect firewood so didn't have a fire. But we could have. Info on the Giles Track was a little hard to obtain. Fires are allowed or at least not banned.

Next morning we drove to Kathleen Springs, left the car at the parking place and set off with our packs up onto a ridge. First stop was overlooking the springs and the valley leading into it. Surprisingly one of the main plants on the rocky hills was what I thought were upright and tidy caustic vines. It was *Euphorbia sarcostemmoides* growing in abundance, a bit like Sennas do. The Range is cut by creeks which run down to the sand plains below. Each was fascinating. Exploring downstream we found waterholes with a big drop and mostly inaccessible, with a sandy run out winding further down in a chasm. Native pines grew around and the red Holly Grevilleas, as well as the eucalypts. They also act as refuges for the rare hill mulga, being protected from fire.

At one creek we saw in the distance what looked like a bare tree trunk which rose twisted round and down again. That had to be investigated and turned out to be the root of a fallen tree. (Must have been pot bound)



Tree Root

Photo: Rosalie Breen

The path was often along wide rock ledges and as we approached Lilla we mislaid the markers a couple of times when they dropped off onto the next ledge. At this mid point you could go to Lilla parking spot making it a day walk or continue on, down into another creek and up the other side, this time on a not so wide ledge as we gradually regained height with good views of the winding and deepening creek bed. The designated campsite for the overnight walk is in Reedy Creek, but as we approached we were on the edge of sand plains, on top of the range! Desert oaks and yellow and white grevillea and more heath myrtle were growing. The red sand beckoned so we decided to camp here in as sheltered a spot as possible, because the wind was blowing cold. It was very pretty and a good fire made a pleasant (and warm) spot for tea and sleeping. A dingo called in the evening, and camel footprints passed close. The sand made clear tracks of many other animals too. (needed an expert or the book Tracks and Traces)

Next day wearing all our clothes we set off and at Reedy Creek we discarded a layer or two and went exploring again. Possibly upstream are better and bigger sandy places among the rocks of the creek bed for camping, but down is a spectacular canyon waterhole and a fascinating multi-trunked eucalyptus tree. A rope would be needed to access the water although there was a small pool adjacent to the track. We had carried all our water needs. Up to the tops again, it was more open, then a garden of plants. Blue brunonia, newcastellia, daisies, a big Solanum, desert rose, sennas among many shrubs of witchetty and bigger trees. King's Canyon Park lies at the intersection of three biogeographic regions, MacDonnell Ranges, Great Sandy Desert and Finke, so it has a great diversity of plants.

We had a long stop at the lookout overlooking Kings Canyon itself, the sand plains around and the well known beehive rock formations. Fantastic. What struck me the most were the two white lines, scars on the ridges. One was the climb up for the ridge top tourist walk looking

very steep and the other on another ridge, more gradual which was the track leading down. Later we discovered these are constructed tracks and steps about a metre wide, necessary to prevent erosion and a safer path for the many, many tourists. Well done, but? At our feet at the lookout were lots of the best blue in the world – *Halgania* - in flower.



Beehives at Kings Canyon

Photo: Rosalie Breen

Then it was down into the domes and terraced streetways of lost cities

The track wound around to negotiate the creek gorges. One in particular involved sidling around on steep sides, and looking (or not) deep down. Another spot passed a waterhole with lush water plants, a haven for birds. So this was a long lunch stop, relaxing in the sun and enjoying the birds.



Kings Canyon from Lookout

Photo: Rosalie Breen

The domes are sandstone in layers broken or weathered, looking like brickwork. Some places the layers were tilted but still maintained the even beehive shape. In between are often deep gullies supporting rich vegetation including cycads, a refuge for rare plant and animal life. The Mereenie Sandstones is quite porous and stores water above an impervious layer below, so that water trickles out all year. Again we had to be alert for track markers. I missed one and found myself looking way down to a flat valley at Gavan with no obvious way to reach him. Back tracking, I found a triangle with an extra mark “go down” and an arrow pointing straight down pencilled in.

Eventually and sadly we met up with the trail of tourists from the Rim walk and descended on the track of one of the scars. At the end was a notice telling people not to go up this way except if you were walking the Giles Track. (This was a piece of information I was unable to find out – that it was allowable to walk this bit in the anticlockwise direction). (Rim walk is only one way, clockwise)

In the car park we asked the driver of a pie/drink/ice-cream van from the resort, who was just packing up to leave, for a lift to the main road. We would have hitchhiked from there, but they took us all the way there. An extra 50 km for them.

Back home at our camp ground we had a shower and then from the shop a camel burger with nearly the lot for tea. Thoroughly recommended. We decided that having had a wonderful walk experience just the two of us with beautiful scenery and vegetation, the thought of restricted traipsing with the tourists was not appealing so no Rim walk, and we left for home early morning. Travelling this time on the Ernest Giles Road through beautiful desert oak country and sandhills which we explored and then more open and dry country, with breakaway hills and past Henbury Meteorite Craters, which we didn't explore, and home for late lunch.

I would recommend an extended visit as there are lots of walking options. A day walk Lilla to the Canyon probably the best part of Giles Track.



Gorge near Lilla

Photo: Rosalie Breen

The Giles walk could be done in one day but little time for extra off track explorations.

Kathleen Springs and the first part of Giles Track from there to Wanga Creek and back would be another good one.

Kings Creek Station offers reasonably priced camping, of various types

LARAPINTA 9

Ochre Pits to Ormiston Gorge
33 km overnight walk.
June 30-July 1 2007

By Rosalie Breen

I desperately wanted to do this section, so Gavan came too, and Rosalie Schultz came as our third person (young and fit and reliable) It was a hard venture (for me), but a variety of beautiful country. First the Ochre Pits nature walk, then through Inarlanga Pass with lush vegetation including Cycads, and big rocks to negotiate, and a walk through Alice Valley between two big towering ranges. The camp at Waterfall Gorge was unbelievable with a gully dropping from nothing cutting a narrow and steep gorge, with falls, sandy spots, flat rock areas and a couple of rock pools. Camp spots were a bit few, so a small party for this walk would be recommended. Next day was a long steep climb to the top of the range. Here was a fantastic view looking into Ormiston Pound from “the other end”, we were just opposite Mt Giles. Then a walk along the tops for some kms until we dropped off down into the valley to walk towards Ormiston, traversing bare Spinifex hills, Mallee areas, limestone breakaways and troops of Bloodwoods marching down the hills and eventually reaching the river.

Thanks to Rosalie S for helping me to undertake this walk and to son Joseph for car ferrying services.

“AN ANIMAL WHOSE SPECIES WAS NEVER BEFORE FOUND IN THE COLONY”

By Rhondda Tomlinson

Recently I have been doing family history research and looking through the NSW Gazettes for the years 1803 & 1804. I came across two articles that I thought might be of interest.

Sunday August 21st 1803

Volume 1 Sunday August 21st 1803 Number 25

“An animal whose species was never before found in the colony, is in His Excellency’s possession. When taken it had two Pups, one of which died a few days since. This creature is somewhat larger than the Wombat, and although it might at first appearance be thought much to resemble it, nevertheless differs from that animal. The fore and hind legs are about of an equal length, having five sharp talons at each of the extremities, with which it must have climbed the highest trees with much facility. The fur that covers it is soft and fine, and of a mixed grey colour; the ears are short and open; the

graveness of the visage, which differs little in colour from the back, would seem to indicate a more than ordinary portion of animal sagacity; and the teeth resemble those of a rabbit. The surviving Pup generally clings to the back of the mother, or is caressed with a serenity that appears peculiarly characteristic; it has a false belly like the opossum and its food consists solely of gum leaves, in the choice of which it is excessively nice.”

Sunday October 9th 1803

Volume 1 Sunday 9th October 1803 Number 32

“Sergeant Packer of Pitt’s Row, has in his possession a native animal some time described in our Paper, and called by the natives, a Koolah: It has two young, has been caught more than a month, and feeds chiefly on gum leaves, but also eats bread soaked in milk or water.”



“I have since been described.”

**Alice Springs Field Naturalists Club Inc.
PO Box 8663, Alice Springs, NT 0871
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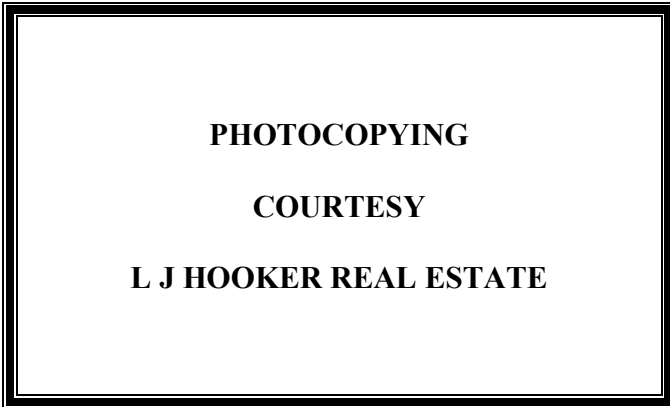
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Copy deadline for articles for the next
newsletter.
Friday 28 September 2007

ALICE SPRINGS FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB INCORPORATED
Minutes of the General Meeting held at Olive Pink Botanic Garden
Wednesday 8th August 2007

- Open:** The President, Bob Read, declared the meeting open at 8:10pm
- Present:** As per attendance book (13 members and 2 visitors).
- Apologies:** Karen May, Jim Gilfedder, Marg & Jim Lawrence
- Minutes:** The meeting resolved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting held Wednesday, 11th July 2007 as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Correspondence In:

Suzanne Elderfield	advising of change of address
NTFNC	<i>Nature Territory</i> August 07 Newsletter
WANC	<i>The Naturalists News</i> August 07 Newsletter
Tourism Top End on behalf of NTFNC	information for planning activities in association with the Australian Naturalists Network Campout at Mary River May 08
Young Achiever Awards	invitation to 2007/2008 official launch

Correspondence Out:

Peter Belbin thank you

Treasurer's Report:

Opening balance end June 07		\$2687.43
Plus annual subscriptions	\$25.00	
Less		
Postage stamps	\$100.00	
Insurance	\$300.00	
Closing balance end July 07		<u>\$2312.43</u>

General Business:

Speakers:

- Sep - Mike Green, geologist on a topic to be announced

Outings:

Sat 18 Aug 07	Day walk. Larapinta Trail Stage 10 – Ormiston Gorge to Glen Helen. Meet Flynn's Grave 7:30 am. Contact: Connie Spencer on 8952 4694
Sun 26 Aug 07	Sewage Ponds. Liz to put invitation on birdpedia.com website. Meet at the gate at 8:30am. Contact: Liz Carpenter on 8953 6750
Sat 15 Sep 07	Day walk from end of Stephens Road to Emily Gap on north side of Heavitree Range. Approx. 7km. Meeting place and time to be advised in newsletter. Contact: Rosalie Breen on 8952 3409

ABC Garden Fair to be held on Sat 22 September, 2007 at the Olive Pink Botanic Garden. Committee to plan theme etc. but will need members help on the day.

Gate Opener for Sep: Connie Spencer

Supper for Sep: Sue O'Callaghan

Note taker for Sep: Bill Smyth

Sightings:

- Liz reported 1 Common Sandpiper and 4 Wood Sandpipers at the sewage ponds.
- On a trip to Chambers Pillar, Joan reported seeing a nesting Mulga Parrot, 2 Wedge-tailed Eagles, Diamond Doves, Masked Woodswallows, a Cinnamon Quail-thrush, a Major Mitchell's Cockatoo & a Nankeen Kestrel on top of the Pillar
- Liz reported Brown Falcon nesting at Wallace Pound.

Meeting closed: 8:20 pm followed by a short presentation by Bob Read on the springs of the Chewings Range in particular Giles Yard Spring

