



February 2011

Alice Springs Field Naturalists Club Newsletter



2-Mile Waterhole - Photo by Rosalie Breen

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month (except December & January) at **7:00 PM** at Higher Education Building at Charles Darwin University. Visitors are welcome.

CONTENTS

Meeting...p2 Trips/Activities...p2 November Speaker...p3
Club Secretary...p4 Ooraminna Trip...p5 Simpsons Gap at Night...p6
2-Mile Trip...p7 Backyard Beetles...p8 Todd Flood session...p8
Xmas Breakfast...p9 Black Fly Larvae...p9 Harry Creek Trip...p10
New Members...p10 Jane Danne...p11
Tips for Newsletter contributions...p11 Minutes...p12

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NEXT NEWSLETTER

The deadline for the next newsletter is **Friday 25th February**. Please send your contributions to Emily Findlay – robbiemily@hotmail.com.

MEETINGS.

- Wed 9 Feb **Field Naturalists Club** Meeting, 7.00 pm at the lecture theatre in the Higher Education Building at Charles Darwin University (the brown building opposite the Desert Lantern Restaurant). Speaker: Jayne Brim Box on central Australian Wetlands.
- Wed 9 Mar **Field Naturalists Club** Meeting, 7.00 pm at the lecture theatre in the Higher Education Building at Charles Darwin University. Speaker: To be announced.
- Wed 2 Mar **APS AGM** at Olive Pink Botanic Garden at 7.30 pm followed by a short talk by Peter Fannin on “Presenting Plants in an Aboriginal Reserve”.
- Wed 6 Apr **APS** Monthly Meeting 7.30 pm at Olive Pink Botanic Garden. Speaker is Des Nelson on the John Maconochie Era in the Herbarium.

FIELD TRIPS / ACTIVITIES.

- Wed 2 Feb **APS BBQ** at Telegraph Station at **6pm**. BYO Everything.
- Sun 13 Feb **ASFNC** Looking at birds at the **sewage ponds**. Meet at the locked gate at **7am sharp**. Wear hat, closed shoes and carry water and binoculars. Contact: Barb Gilfedder 8955 5452.
- Sat 19 Feb **ASFNC** Sunrise from **Spencer Hill**. Meet at Gosse Street playground at **5.45am**. Contact: Rosalie Breen 8952 3409
- Sat 26 Feb **APS Outing** to the **Intertexta Forest** on the western boundary of Ilparpa Commonage. With the exceptional wet year we have just had this normally dry jungle has turned into a wet jungle and is even more of a haven for plants and birds. Alan Keeling has invited us to wander through *the forest* on the western side of the fence accessing it through a gate on his property. He has also invited us to have morning tea on his upstairs verandah following our wander. Meet **7.30 am** at the Information Bay on the South Stuart Hwy opposite the Old Timers Home. It will probably take a couple of hours – maybe less if it is really hot followed by morning tea. Alan advises long trousers as grass is tall and lots of fallen timber. Please also wear closed shoes. Contact Connie Spencer on 8952 4694 for further information.
- Sun 13 Mar **ASFNC** Early morning walk up **Cassia Hill at Simpson’s Gap**. This is a 1.5 km walk with elevated views of the range and Simpson’s Gap area. Meet **7 am** at Flynn’s Grave Memorial on Larapinta Drive. Contact Connie Spencer on 8952 4694 for further information.
- Sat 26/Sun 27 Mar **ASFNC** Overnight at **Trephina Gorge** – Afternoon walk on Saturday, nocturnal spotlighting walk on Saturday evening led by Pam Keil, camp at Trephina and another walk on Sunday morning. More details in next newsletter.
- Sat 2 April **ASFNC** Climb **Mount Sonder**. Contact Rosalie Schultz on 8953 4530.

President	Barbara Gilfedder	8955 5452	fedders@octa4.net.au
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October Speaker: Pamela Keil

**Field Notebooks and Nature Journals: Doorways to Discovery and Windows for the world.
My reflections on an excellent talk – Barb Gilfedder.**

If you look at a bush for five minutes, you will observe some interesting things, maybe some bees flying in or out, or the flowers or the seeds, but if you observe a bush for fifteen minutes you will observe ten times more about what is happening there.

Pamela Keil urged us to observe things more closely and do a second take. There is always something NEW to be learned about every organism, whether it is common or just discovered. A whole book has been written on the postures and interactions of the Silver Gull.

As children we constantly ask “Why?” until the adults get sick of it, and say “Just because it is!” As naturalists we should return to that state of questioning everything we see. “Why is the male Splendid Fairy-wren blue?” “Why has it evolved to be blue rather than red.” The duller grey brown female Fairy-wrens must find it attractive and choose to breed with the more brightly coloured males. We can say that it is the structure of the feathers that makes them blue, but that does not explain why they have evolved to be blue. Maybe if we observe long enough and ask enough we can find out.

Looking at a Mulga Tree recently Pamela noticed that there were old seedpods, newer green seedpods and flowers all on the same tree. This told her that there had been rain over a long period.

Pamela was born in Australia and lived in Camperdown until she was 18 months old, when her family went to America. She was a born naturalist, being able to identify the scats of several wild animals that visited her yard by the time she was three. She has lived in or close to national parks all her life. The small community she grew up in consisted of scientists involved with parks and the natural world, willing to share and explore with her. Her first camera was a Fisher and Price unbreakable model that she loved. Later her Grandfather passed on a camera that was the same age as her, but a big step up. At university she studied Behavioural Ecology and later did research into a particular breed of Montana spider for her PhD.

She has always loved photographing the natural world. Check out her wonderful photos on <http://www.betterphoto.com/?plkphoto> . There are wonderful wildlife photos there. Many of course from while she was in America but a growing number taken in central Australia.

To get back to the title, “Doorways to discovery”, Pam told us that every observation is eventually lost or partly lost, if not recorded. There are three main ways to do this:-

- Photos are a great way ... but not enough on their own. Add a scale to your photos, by including either a ruler or a 5 cent coin. Always date photos and write down where they were taken. Take a series of photos to describe a behaviour or a change.
- Nature Journals, where you can write down observation notes and do little drawings and diagrams.
- Field Notebooks, where you add facts and data sheets.
- or a combination of all three.

Write down time, temperature, location – either a place name or a GPS reading, weather, habitat, and other species around, not just the one you are focusing on, how many and their ages. All these details build up a total picture of your experience. Writing things down helps you remember them, but you also should share them. By doing this –you will discover more.

Which leads to "Windows on the World". This happens only if we share our photos, journals and notebooks. Our Field Naturalists newsletter is a great way to share things within our immediate community but maybe we should go further ... with an archive spot, a community database, or a blog. Give your notebooks to a science museum. Don't let your observations be lost.

Pam finished her talk by showing a few examples of field notebooks, even some wonderful ones produced by children.

Thank you Pam for your enthusiasm and for a fresh look at the how to be Field Naturalists.

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A note from outgoing Secretary, Shirley Goodman

Dear Fellow Field Nats,

All of a sudden the time has come for us to move on from Alice Springs and after some consideration Graham and I are moving to Cairns where Graham has a position teaching Maths and Physics at Cairns State High School.

I would like to take this opportunity to say 'Au Revoir' (until we meet again sounds better than goodbye!) and thank you to all members of the Alice Springs Field Naturalists Club. I was fortunate to hear about the ASFNC soon after we moved to Alice Springs in 2005 and I well remember my first activity with the club, a dawn walk up Spencer Hill led by Rosalie and followed by breakfast at her house! Since then there have been many walks, trips and club meeting nights and I have learned so much about the magnificent area in which we have been privileged to live.

I am indeed grateful for the friendship of so many people over the past 6 years.

I am sure that we will enjoy our time in Cairns. We have had a brief reconnaissance visit and I can see that The Esplanade will replace The Sewage Ponds as a regular spot for bird watching and we will be visiting the Flecker Botanic Gardens not Olive Pink. I am in awe of the rainforest where no two trees seem to belong to the same genus and so often leaves and flowers are high in the canopy making any hope of identification unlikely! I know that I am going to miss the wide horizons, the ancient stark beauty and the sheer ruggedness of Central Australia and I will always be grateful to have lived here.

In the short term at any rate I am sure that I will avidly read the ASFNC newsletters for a good dose of nostalgia and probably feel a bit homesick. However, we will be back because we still have one section of the Larapinta Trail to complete!

Best Wishes to you all as individuals and to the club as a whole,

Shirley

Ed: Thank you Shirley for your enthusiastic membership of the Alice Springs Fields Naturalists Club and for your hard work as the club secretary over the last couple of years. We will miss your happy disposition at our meetings and outings. We wish you and Graham the very best for your move to Cairns and hope that the wetter than usual 2010 in Alice has given you a taste of what it might be like exploring the wet tropics. We would love to hear about your rainforest encounters in future Newsletters, so please keep in touch.

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WANTED

New Club Secretary.

- To manage club correspondence
- Take minutes at meetings, distribute minutes to members
- Prepare and distribute agendas
- Keep Club records.

The position will be for 6 months until the next AGM in August.

If you would like to nominate yourself as secretary please contact Barb Gilfedder 8955 5452 fedders@octa4.net.au

Ooraminna Walk - 24 October. Leader: Rosalie Breen

Rosalie Breen - What a lot of people turned up!

First thanks to Jackie Shaughnessy for arranging for us to explore on Ooraminna private property and explaining the Drover's Boy film sets. Ted Egan had plans for that film but was unable to raise enough capital for it to go ahead. A pilot was filmed but that was as far as it got.

I had ideas for a longer walk but we had such a big group and no set track and there were so many flowers and other things to observe we went very slowly. Thanks are due too to those who helped keep tabs on the party. The wildflowers were at their best in this sandy country. We dawdled along exclaiming at each new find. And I delighted in the enjoyment of our members as they discovered so many beautiful new flowers.

My highlights were the rocks in all their fantastic weathered formations, with blue Rock Isotome tucked in many crevasses and cracks on the rock faces. (why and how on earth it chooses this habitat in beyond me) (*next page*) Its name is *Isotoma petraea*, the Peter bit means rock. The leaves are fernlike, being toothed and the white sap is quite poisonous and can irritate your eyes. So don't pick it.

The other highlight, was finding the rare and delicate Fringe Lily. (*above*) It is *Thysanotus exiliflorus*, the Greek word for the genus means fringed. As you can see it has three broad fringed inner petals (tepals) and three narrower petals, not fringed. Three or six petals, are a distinguishing attribute for the lily family *Liliaceae*, which are mainly temperate zone plants, so rare in dry regions. We first spotted it on rocky slopes but also found a few odd plants in the sandy area.

Then there was the "best blue in the world", *Halgania* spp. and another special blue, the Blue Pincushion, *Brunonia australis*. (*below*) By the way blue is my favourite colour.



Mandy Webb - It took about half an hour to get to Ooraminna down the Old South Road. We parked at the "Pub" and then walked a little way on the road that heads straight out East. We then turned off and headed South on a track that goes past some empty stock yards. (Not sure if they carry stock nowadays - they did until quite recently.) The Grevilleas and Desert Oaks were lovely and there were lots of different flowers and grasses. I thought I had discovered a new grass species until Barb gently pointed out that it was quite a common type but just at an immature (unopened) stage. On this theme, it was interesting how the plants behaved when picked. Some changed quite quickly, others over days, and others hardly at all after weeks. The adorable little Blue

Pincushion flower, *Brunonia australis* was one which changed very fast, losing its blue colour as the blue tips shrivelled, and turning beige.

There was a lot of stopping to check things out, collect a sample or three, take pix etc. We witnessed a rather tense stand-off between an ant-lion and an ant which tumbled into the "lion's den". I was also shown by Robbie that beneath the "dog poos made of dirt", was a hole that led to a Mole Cricket's house. Not having heard of a Mole Cricket before, or even noticed the "dirt turds", I have since noticed them quite a lot!

When the track ran out, we headed East to some little hills and some people climbed up for a look-out. We then followed a creek bed North to a track which lead back to the main east-west road. The hills are delightful - some like little battlements, with castellated ridges and spy-holes in the walls.

After getting back to the car park area we headed a short distance North, past the homestead and tourist chalets to a water hole. We ate lunch perched on some very comfortable and well- placed rocks. The bird life seemed unfazed. Large groups of Budgies, Diamond Doves and Zebra Finches took turns to whizz down to the water's edge, grab a quick drink and whizz back up to the branches above. The water was murky yellow-brown and we could not see anything much in it, but the setting was delightful.

Wendy MacTaggart - The Ooraminna circuit walk could be divided roughly into three sections. First part of the walk was through sandy desert oak country. The male oaks were spectacular, with their long pollinating extensions, that increase their usual drooping foliage creating curtains that shimmered in the light breeze. The amazing array of wildflowers and the birds all had fresh-looking brilliant colour. A couple of Mulga Parrots and a Grey Butcherbird delighted the bird watchers by remaining stationary for excellent viewing. The bright pink Broad-leaf Parakeelya *Calandrinia balonensis* was plentiful amongst the Spinifex, the pale pink *Isotoma petraea* was growing in the rocky outcrops and the clumps of Fringe Lilies were definitely a highlight.



The middle section was of rocky outcrops then followed a creek-bed which led to the third section across a sandy flat. This section was the most colourful. Crimson Chats brilliant in the sunlight, a Nankeen Kestrel in flight was identified by a black bar on the tail. There was such an abundance of wildflowers and native grasses with the Blue Pincushion *Brunonia australis* reminiscent of my grandmother's favourite blue English-garden cornflowers. I don't believe she would have realized we had our own Australian equivalent, I didn't know before this walk either.

Megg Kelham - Biggest crowd I've ever seen at a Field Nats day and I enjoyed being surprised by who of my friends and acquaintances turned out to be Field Nats too! Favourite moment was being rushed down a hill by Rosalie to look at a Fringe Lily and having Bob politely suggest that I not add one to my wildflower posy on account of them being so rare! Favourite sighting was the Mulga Parrot - what beautiful regal colours he has! Until then I had thought the only parrots we had in central Australia were "28's". Always delighted to learn something new! !



Barb Gilfedder - Ooraminna birds
 Galah ,Cockatiel, Budgerigar, Ringneck, Mulga Parrot, Grey Butcherbird, Zebra Finch, Spiny-cheeked Honey-eater, White-winged Triller, Black-faced Woodswallow, Diamond Dove, Crimson Chat, Crested Bellbird, Pied Honey-eater, Little Woodswallow, Rufous Song-lark, Crested Pigeon, Painted Finch. heard Black Honey-eater.

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Simpsons Gap – Evening animal hunt with Robbie Henderson - 6 November 2010

We had a very pleasant bbq at the Schools Camp area at Simpsons Gap with people socializing as they cooked and ate their varied dinners. It was good to see some new faces and get to talk to some of our newer members.

As the sun set, all 26 of us made our way down to the Gap itself. It was a lot of people so everyone didn't see everything but everyone saw some things they found interesting.

Wolf Spiders on the ground were easy to find as their eyes reflect torch beams really well; Orb-weaving Spiders, busy spreading their nightly webs occasionally had their guy lines disturbed as we passed, but probably appreciated the extra meals brought in by our insect-attracting torch beams; a Flat Spider *Hemicloea sp.* lived up to his name and disappeared into a very narrow rock crevice (*pictured below*); a Huntsman Spider, with only seven legs, sat obligingly on a Corkwood trunk to be photographed

Further along a few Geckos escaped our enquiring gazes too quickly, as did the beautifully striped Bush cockroach (*pictured below*).

Nearer the water we found the first frogs - Red Tree Frogs, *Litoria rubella*, with their disc toepads and dark stripe across their eyes, were quite common; only one larger but very green Centralian Tree Frog, *Litoria gilleni*, was found well hidden among green groundcovers; Spencers Burrowing



Frogs, *Limnodynastes spenceri*, breded with sand as camouflage, lined up along the sandy edges of the water.

As far as we could go, without getting wet feet, the front party surprised a little mousey thing. First it tried swimming to escape but then decided that climbing the rocks was a better option. It was much slower than a mouse and we got glimpses of it, as it made its way up the sloping face. Later Bob identified as a Stripe-faced Dunnart, *Sminthopsis macroura*.



On the return walk a largish Bat entertained us by fluttering through the torch beams, and making quite audible squeaks. Another Bat was found hanging from the toilet block roof. Geckos were on the walls, and lots more Red Tree Frogs around the water tank.

Rosalie spotted a strange looking House Centipede, *Allothereua maculata*, on the rocks. It has long legs that wave prettily as it walks and is quite harmless.

Thanks Robbie for all your expertise.

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Fish Trip to 2-mile waterhole with Robbie Henderson - 20 November 2010 - Pam Keil

Alice Springs Desert Park requested that the Field Naturalists help catch 6 Barred Grunters, 50 Sail-fin Glassfish, and any catfish we could find that would then increase the numbers of fish for breeding and display at the ASDP waterhole exhibit.

Spot-light netting after dark should have meant that the fish would be a bit easier to catch, perhaps sleeping, and less able to see us coming. However, we only had limited success with this method. We were able to see quite a few fish and did collect two of the nocturnal catfish that ASDP wanted (and was willing to pay a 6-pack of home brew for each one). We also caught quite a few small fish, which we brought back to a central bucket for identification. Turns out we caught a couple of small Desert Rainbow Fish and some Finke River Hardyheads. Unfortunately, these weren't on the Wanted Species List...

The following morning, after most had headed home, Michael and I (having offered to bring the two catfish to ASDP) were standing by the water watching schools of Grunters (mixed schools of Barred and Spangled) swimming merrily past. They seemed to be mocking us, dashing away quickly if anyone got too close. We decided to try for some using our umbrella net (which sits on the river bed and then is pulled up from beneath the fish as they swim over it). No luck, there either.

Glenn Marshall and his family were swimming nearby and his girls were complaining of being bored and scaring the fish away, so we decided to marshall their efforts to scare the fish into ASDP's large minnow net. Glenn and Michael stood on either end, stretching the net across a high flow area of the stream, while Glenn's three girls herded the fish down toward the net, splashing and stirring up the mud. After a few tries, they got it right and we got well more than the requested 6 Barred Grunters. We also caught many large

Desert Rainbow Fish, Hardyheads, Spangled Grunters, and Bony Bream. We brought 6 Barred Grunters and some Bony Bream back to Desert Park, and these (along with the two catfish) are now on display after some time in quarantine.

We never found even one Glassfish, When Michael and I went back with Jochem and other ASDP zookeepers a couple weeks later -- spot-lighting at night-- we caught a few more catfish and several prawns... but still no Glassfish. I'm starting to think they're a myth.

Ed: Check out next newsletter for some 'Fish facts and Photos' from Pam.

Bird List from the 2 Mile Trip – Compiled by John and Layne Wilkinson

Here is the Bird List for 2 Mile in order of recording. Total 33

PM: Brown Falcon, Whistling Kite, Diamond Dove, Australian Ringneck, White-faced Heron, Cockatiel, Magpie-lark, Australian Reed Warbler, Zebra Finch, White-necked Heron, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Eurasian Coot, Little Black Cormorant, Black-fronted Dotterel, Major Mitchell Cockatoo, Budgerigar, Willie Wagtail, Rufous Songlark, White-winged Triller, GreyTeal, Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, Darter, Pelican, Australian Hobby, Crested Pigeon, Red-backed Kingfisher, Southern Boobook (H), Owllet Nightjar (H),

AM: Great Egret, Striated Pardalote (H), White-plumed Honeyeater, Sacred Kingfisher, Dusky Moorhen




Flooding in the Todd Information Session

The community is invited to a free information session about the collection of rainfall and flood level data, the Counter Disaster Plan and the implications of sacred sites legislation for the Todd River.

5pm Tuesday 15 February 2011
Andy McNeil Room, Alice Springs Council Chambers

All Welcome. For more information contact the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport on 89519202.

www.greeningnt.nt.gov.au

Backyard Beetles by Mandy Webb and Jude Mapleson



Found in the backyard having fun in the *Dodonaea viscosa*. It looked like they were intent on grabbing the seeds with their front legs and sticking their sucking prong into them. We have had them identified as Family Scutelleridae Harlequin Bugs, Jewel Bugs, Shield Bugs. (and plant feeders).

CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST 2010

By Rhonda Tomlinson

I always look forward to and enjoy the Field Naturalists Christmas breakfast, sharing great food, and reminiscing about a year full of Field Nat adventures. The 2010's breakfast was held at the Desert Park picnic area, this is a great spot nestled in the foreground of Mount Gillen.



Mount Gillen was putting on its Christmas colours covered in a cloak of green with a highlight of red Ruby Dock thanks to 2010 being a wetter than usual year, in fact the beginning of December was heading to a near record annual rainfall. (The total for 2010 ended up being 770.0mm falling 12.5mm short of the record set in 1974).

When I woke it was clear and looked promising to be a lovely morning when suddenly a heavy shower started. By the time Rosalie Breen picked me up it had stopped raining but the threat was still present. Ever optimistic we set off, Christmas plate in hand to the desert park. On first arriving we wondered if it would be a lean and lonely Christmas celebration with only Rosalie, myself, Barb and Jim who had selected a table in a shelter

close to the car park as it was too wet and muddy to walk to the larger shelter. The 4 of us were wondering how many people would be put off by the weather.

But we should not have worried, as we know the Field Nats are an adventurous bunch and it would take a lot more than the threat of rain and an early start to keep us away. Not long and the table began to fill with wonderful festive food. Chairs were placed in every increasing circles around the shelter to fit us all in. The rain stayed away but not the familiar faces and the air was soon filled with the happy chatter of the Field Nats.

In the midst of all the celebrations, Barb told us that Shirley and Graham were leaving Alice Springs and the position of Secretary would be vacant. They will be a big loss to the club and everyone asked Barb to pass on our best wishes.

With bellies full of great food and heads full of social chatter the party started to break up. As empty plates were gathered and Christmas wishes shared, many were heading off to other functions. So a lovely Christmas celebration and a great year of Field Nat activity ended, with a backward look at Mt. Gillen towering behind us. What a perfect setting for an end of year celebration.

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Black Fly Larvae – Barb and Jim Gilfedder

Black Fly are in the Simuliidae family of insects. *Black Fly* larvae, which are dumb-bell shaped and soft, like to anchor their bottoms to rocks in fast flowing streams and capture plankton through feathery filters that sway in the current. We found these in the little creek that flows along Bridle path from Standley Chasm. I was amazed at the numbers of them and how they space themselves so evenly on the leaf or rock. Thank you to Jayne Brim Box for identifying them.



Harry Creek and further north along Stuart Highway – Nov 2010 - Barb Gilfedder.

Photos: New growth on old Bullock Bush trees *Alectryon oleofolius*: Yellow Everlastings *Xerochrysum bracteatum*: Mulga Parrots at Connor Well: Bob chasing grasshoppers: Female Bitterbush *Adriana tormentosa* var. *hookeri*: Time to refer to the book: Purple Sand Sage *Dicrastalis llewellenii*: Broad-leaved Parakeelya *Calandrinia balonensis*: Upsidedown Plant *Leptosema chambersii*.



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New Members

New members who joined towards the end of last year, Gail de Lucia, John and Ann Wilkinson, Katrina Stowe, Lisa Harris, Dorothy Latimer, James Cocking, Jim Knight, Anna and Max Melton, Dave Sutton and Maggie Turnbull. Welcome to the Alice Springs Field Naturalists Club.

Our Friend Jane Danne



I was recently saddened to hear of Jane Danne's death at the end of October 2010. Many Alice Springs Field Naturalists will remember her as a kind, friendly and enthusiastic member of our club over several years. Her ashes were scattered in the Ocean Grove Nature Reserve. If you would like to read about the "Celebration of her life" that has been put together by her son and her partner, I will forward the web address to you. Barb Gilfedder.

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Tips for Better Newsletter Contributions - Emily Findlay

We love to receive your contributions to the newsletters for without them we would not have a newsletter at all. To make my job as newsletter editor a little easier, I have put together the following tips for better newsletter contributions.

Text: Please save all text as a 'Word Document' this should have .doc after the name of the file. You can check what type of file your document is saving as when you hit save and you are prompted to give the file a name. The type of file will be represented after you type in the name e.g. 'FieldNats Newsletter.doc'

Images: If you are sending photographs with your article please don't embed them in the text as this makes it more difficult for me. Sending a separate document with the pictures pasted on or inserted in, is also difficult to use. It is best to send each image as separate attachments. jpegs are best, but I can also use bitmaps or tiff files. Please give your pictures a name e.g. 'Reef Egret.jpg' rather than leave the photograph number – P102065 is hard to identify.

Make a reference in your article where the image needs to be inserted e.g. (*insert picture of Reef Egret here*). Keep your pictures and images between 500kb and 1mb if possible, as bigger files take up a lot of space and are hard to email, I will have to reduce the size to put it in the newsletter anyway. Anything smaller than 500kb will not be very good quality.

If you have any doubt or need some help please email or call me and I can try to talk you through it. Your contributions are always welcome and we would love to have a few new contributors in 2011 so go on don't be shy, have a go!

ALICE SPRINGS FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB INCORPORATED
Minutes of General Meeting held at Higher Education Building, Charles Darwin University
on Wednesday 10 November 2010

Open: President, Barb Gilfedder declared the meeting open at 8.35pm.

Present: 24 people attended with 7 apologies as per attendance book.

Minutes of previous Meeting: The minutes of the October meeting had been circulated as part of the newsletter. The Minutes were accepted as circulated.

Correspondence In:

Western Australian Naturalists Club	The Naturalist News – November 2010
NT Field Naturalist Club	Nature Territory – November 2010
Australian Institute of Company Directors	Invitation to function about Company Directors course (inappropriate for ASFNC)
CSIRO	Recent publications
Forwarded from Sue O’Callaghan	Information on some animals seen on ASDP nocturnal walk. (To be forwarded to three members.)

emails:

Awards Australia	Calling for nominations for Young (14-26) Achievers Award – ideas?
Desert Park	Notification of Native Garden Walk on 14 Nov. at 11 am. \$10
Red Dirt	Announcing a visit to Alice Springs by a botanical illustrator, Mali Moir, next Sept. and asking for letters of support to be used to gain funding towards airfare,accommodation and workshop fees. Contact Barb for more details. (one member showed interest)
Uni of Leicester (forwarded by Megg Kelham)	Link to research about Botanic Gardens around the world and their role in educating the public. If interested contact Barb who will forward it to you. (To be forwarded to six members)

Correspondence Out:

Thank you note to Dr Michael Green for talk and recent trip
Thank you note to Estelle Marshall at Desert Park for invitation to Nocturnal Walk
Thank you note to Robbie Henderson for leading night walk at Simpsons Gap
Thank you note to Jackie and Graeme Shaughnessy for facilitating trip to Ooraminna

Treasurer's Report:

There is a current balance of \$2353.56

General Business:

- Barb asked for feedback about the new meeting venue at CDU. The venue has significant advantages of being convenient with no security issues which make it less stressful for organizers; the main disadvantage being the 9pm curfew which necessitates an early (7pm) start. The feeling was that this was the preferred venue and Barb will make bookings for 2011.

Outings/Trips

14 Nov	Drive to Harry Creek and possibly further up North Stuart Highway looking at plants with Connie Spencer.
20/21 Nov	Camp at Two Mile Waterhole near Glen Helen - look at what is there with Robbie Henderson.
5 Dec	Christmas/End of Year breakfast at the public area at Desert Park.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 9 February 2011. Guest speaker – to be confirmed.

Note taker: Jill Brew. **Supper:** Jill Brew.

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm.