



July 2012

Alice Springs Field Naturalists Club Newsletter



Major Mitchell Cockatoos show their beautiful colours. Photo by Jim Lawrence taken at Duck Swamp on Henbury Station.

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

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NEXT NEWSLETTER

The deadline for the next newsletter is **Friday 27th 2012**. Please send your contributions to Emily Findlay robbiemily@hotmail.com or Barb Gilfedder fedders@octa4.net.au

MEETINGS.

- Wed 11 July **ASFNC** Meeting 7.00 pm at the lecture theatre in the Higher Education Building at Charles Darwin University. Speaker - **Ken Johnson** on early naturalist HH Finlayson. Vice President Sue Fraser will chair meeting.
- Wed 8 Aug **ASFNC** Meeting 7.00 pm at the lecture theatre in the Higher Education Building at Charles Darwin University. This meeting is our Annual General Meeting and Members' Night. All members are invited to bring something interesting to the meeting, either a real natural history object or collection, or photos on a thumb drive or disc.
- Wed 4 July **APS** Meeting Speaker - **Chris Day**, Every Day Sustainable Living, South Australia – organic gardening with permaculture principles and an update on the Flinders University permaculture garden.

FIELD TRIPS / ACTIVITIES.

(A/S Show weekend 5-7 July. Please support the Australian Plant Society Stall. Look at the display of native flowering plants, a poster display of "After the Fires", have a chat and buy a plant. Even volunteer to help on the stall, if you wish. Contact Connie Spencer 89524694)

- 14-15 July **ASFNC Alcoota Fossil Dig site**. Either day trip or camp Saturday night. Talks, demonstrations, chance to try your hand at digging. (See *item on page 9*) Leader Lee Ryall. Ph 0417401237 ryall.lee8@gmail.com
- Sat 21 July **ASFNC** Sat 21th July. A **walk out from Jim's Place (Stuarts Well)** to explore those interesting rocks you pass on the Highway. About 2 hours. After the walk we can have lunch with Dinky and Jim Cotterell with stories and song, in the roadhouse. Leave 8.30am from Information Bay opposite Old Timers. Ring Rosalie 8952 3409
- Long w/e 4-6 Aug **ASFNC** Drive and camp along the **Finke River**. Leaders Jim and Marg Lawrence, Ph 89 525049
- (Eco Fair OPBG - 10,11,12 Aug) ASFNC decided not to participate with a stall this year. However it will be well worth a visit to see all the other stalls, displays and demonstrations.)
- Sun 12 Aug **Quarterly Shorebird Count** at Alice Springs Sewage ponds. Counters and scribes very welcome. Please contact Barb Gilfedder. Contact details below.

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Lets Go Fishing – Fish of the Lake Eyre Basin

June Speaker: Angus Duguid, Report by Sarah White

Angus came to talk about the fish of the Finke River catchment which he has been fascinated by for the last twelve years. Despite being a botanist, Angus admits that he finds catching and studying our local fish addictive. Angus had been surveying the fish populations of permanent waterholes in the Finke catchment as part of a federal government funded project; the Lake Eyre Basin Rivers Assessment. So little is known about the basin and the most accurate mapping available is large scale and in some places completely inaccurate. It seems unbelievable that this is the first systematic fish survey of the Finke River system. Angus told us about an historic map he found at Jim's Place from 1948. The map's authors, working with Traditional Owners had mapped 39 springs that aren't found on any other published maps.



Waterhole downstream of Snake Hole, fed by a salt spring and called "Salty Snakes's Tail Waterhole" by Angus

The Finke River catchment area is unique as far as Australian rivers go. Angus described it as a very dynamic system especially when you consider that unlike the Murray it is unregulated, rarely flows and still has a good level of species diversity. The headwaters of the Finke are found in the hills of the MacDonnell Ranges and the river flows south east to the Simpson Desert. The Finke is considered a part of the Lake Eyre Basin even though it doesn't reach Lake Eyre any more. It is estimated that up to 30,000 years ago the Finke and Lake Eyre were connected. The encroachment of dunes through the Simpson Desert and the gradual warming of central Australia as the continent shifts north are two of the most likely causes.

The nine species of fish found in the catchment survive in anything from fresh to hyper-saline water. They're pretty tough little fish. Angus told us some stories he'd heard of fish what these fish are capable of; like travelling up to 10km through water left in tyre tracks and jumping up a 2m high waterfall at Elkedra station. There are also stories about fish aestivating in damp sand during dry periods and coming out again when the river flows. Central Australian fish are tough to survey and identify. Fish surveys are conducted using fyke nets set overnight and also a seine net, strung out between two people walking through the water. Angus and his colleagues have caught hundreds of catfish in a night using fyke nets. However, the best way to see some species, especially gudgeons is by spotlighting at night.



The fish - not to scale: *Ambassis muleri* Glassfish; *Amniataba percooides* Banded Grunter; *Melanotaenia splendida* Desert Rainbowfish; *Leiopotherapon unicolour* Spangled Grunter; *Mogurnda larapintae* Finke Mogurnda / gudgeon; *Craterocaphalus sp.* Lake Eyre Hardyhead; *Nematalosa erebi* Bony Bream; *Chlamydogobius japalpa* Lake Eyre Goby; *Neosilurus hyrtlii* Hyrtl's Catfish. **Photos by David Schmarr**

The importance of the survey work Angus is taking part in is to develop a good enough understanding of fish populations to be able to monitor river health across the Lake Eyre Basin. The results of the current surveys will help identify key waterholes and habitat for the fish and help to protect them.

Duck Swamp, Henbury Station

ASFNC Weekend trip – 26-27 May 2012

Written by Barb Gilfedder. Photos by Jim Lawrence and Barb Gilfedder

We obtained permission from Ross and Sally Morton on Henbury Station and from Rebecca Pearse of RM Williams. Angus Duguid had previously helped us find a route using Google Earth and gave first hand advice. A few of us had travelled out to check the route on 9th April. Henbury Station has been recently purchased by RM Williams Agricultural Holdings. They are attempting to establish a model for carbon farming - and at the same time meet international benchmarks for long-term biodiversity conservation of an under-protected arid Australian environment.

On the way down we saw quite a few raptors - Brown Falcon, Whistling Kite, Nankeen Kestrel and a pair of Black Falcons perched in adjacent trees. There were also a few Black-faced Woodswallows and some green flashing flocks of Budgerigars. First stop after the homestead was beside a very large Blue Mallee, *Eucalyptus gamophylla*. A Crested Bellbird was calling, while some of us took the opportunity to struggle up the steep sandhill. Lots of bird and tiny mammal footprints and very green Goodenia seedlings covered the top, and several very healthy Camel Poison Bushes, or Sandhill Corkwood, *Gyrostemon ramulosus* showed up well against the red sand. A Wedge-tailed Eagle soared overhead.

Next stop was the Harts Camp Waterhole (right). A Pied Cormorant took off as we arrived; several White-faced Herons watched from a high perch for our departure; Little Corellas shouted in the distance; Striated Pardalotes were calling from the tops of the Red River Gums; Magpie Larks and Black-fronted Dotterels patrolled the edge of the water; Galahs did a flypast; schools of tiny fish were visible in the clear water along with tiny macro-invertebrates; Jim found part of a Yabby claw, so they are resident here as well. At Harts Camp waterhole, Rosalie threw her algae net into the water and found two filamentous algae, *Spirogyra* and *Zygnema* and a number of different diatoms. BUT the big find was a charophyte. See separate article on page 6.



We had lunch at the small waterhole that the road detours around. It is surrounded by red sand and a few handsome Coolibah trees. There were Kangaroo and Emu footprints, some full of water and edged with green algae which was mainly the microscopic single celled desmid *Closterium* with a few of another another, *Cosmarium*. The water was very cloudy red and we couldn't find the Shield Shrimps we saw last time. However there were very large tadpoles and active Seed Shrimps, swimming around with just their eyes above the water. Flocks of Budgerigars and Zebra Finches kept flying nervously down to the edge for a quick drink.

Early afternoon we reached our destination – Duck Swamp (picture p4 top middle). We were surprised to see feathers on the edge of the first roundish claypan, then, finding several shot gun cartridges we realized there had been shooting there. The ducks were keeping well over to the other side of the water, and no wonder if they had been shot at. Over the course of the 24 hours we were there, we did identify Pink-eared Ducks, Grey Teal, Coots, Australasian Grebes, Hardheads and Wood Ducks on the water, Fairy Martins swooped over it; a Black-tailed Native-hen, Willy Wagtails, Black-fronted Dotterels, Zebra Finches, and Magpie Larks were busy around the edges, Grey-crowned Babblers, Spiny-cheeked and White-plumed Honeyeaters were in the undergrowth, while overhead a pair of Whistling Kites, a pair of Hobbies and a lone Wedge-tailed Eagle took turns stirring up all the other birds.



We set up our camp in a fairly clear patch opposite the metal yards, and then decided to walk right around the complex of three water-filled Lakes. The most westerly lake is surrounded mainly by River Red Gums *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, while the others are mainly by Coolibahs, *Eucalyptus coolabah* subsp. *Arida*. It was wonderful walking along the water's edge under the shade of so many beautiful old Eucalypts. This year's rain and filling of the lakes had triggered off a big germination event, and in some places the Eucalypt seedlings were like grass blades in a lawn. Occasionally we veered off up the surrounding sandhills, finding beautifully flowering Thryptomene, *Aluta maisonneuvei* bushes in one patch (picture p4, top right) and elsewhere yellow-flowering burr-daisy *Calotis erinacea* and Desert Rattlepod, *Crotalaria eremaea*, green-flowering Parrot-pea, *Crotalaria cunninghamii* and purple-flowering Sandhill Fuchsia, *Eremophila willsii*. A tree overhanging the water was encrusted with the exuvia of Dragonfly larvae.

It is always pleasant camping out, and this is such a beautiful place. A Rufous Whistler flew into a tree above our heads, Major Mitchell Cockatoos screamed past (they had been enjoying the Paddy Melons near the water), a Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo perched long enough for us to see his incomplete striped identification jersey, and Yellow-throated Miners chased each other noisily.

We shared nibbles (Thanks Morgan), then rugged up and gathered around the camp fire boiling billies and chatting while we enjoyed our evening meals. It was a cool night and I was grateful for the warm swag as I lay watching myriad of stars overhead. A pack of Dingoes had a good howl to lull us off to sleep.

The following morning we were serenaded by a Pied Butcherbird while a flock of Galahs looked like Christmas decorations sparkling in a dead tree. Another walk took us East from the camp across a series of dry claypans, all different, all interesting. The first surrounded and well treed with Coolabahs, large Lignum *Muehlenbeckia florulenta* spheres and flowering fans of *Eragrostis australasica* grass: the next one more like a flat paddock, although also surrounded by a tree circle, with a few standing and a few fallen dead tree trunks in the middle: the next almost bare dried mud and not surrounded by trees. As we walked we startled a Brown Quail, saw Australian Ringnecks fly through the trees, Zebra finches, White-winged Fairy-wrens and Chestnut-rumped Thornbills flittered in the shrubs; a pair of Little Eagles were quickly identified using the apps. on Sarah's phone: a pair of Red-capped Robins tried to remain incognito by turning their backs to us. Connie found the shiny black fruits on *Solanum quadriloculatum* that looked like luscious cherries, but are poisonous (*top left*). At this stage I turned back, but others continued with the walk finding a claypan with a very shiny dry mud surface and another full of Mulga trees, *Acacia aneura*. Fascinating how the claypans are all such individuals.



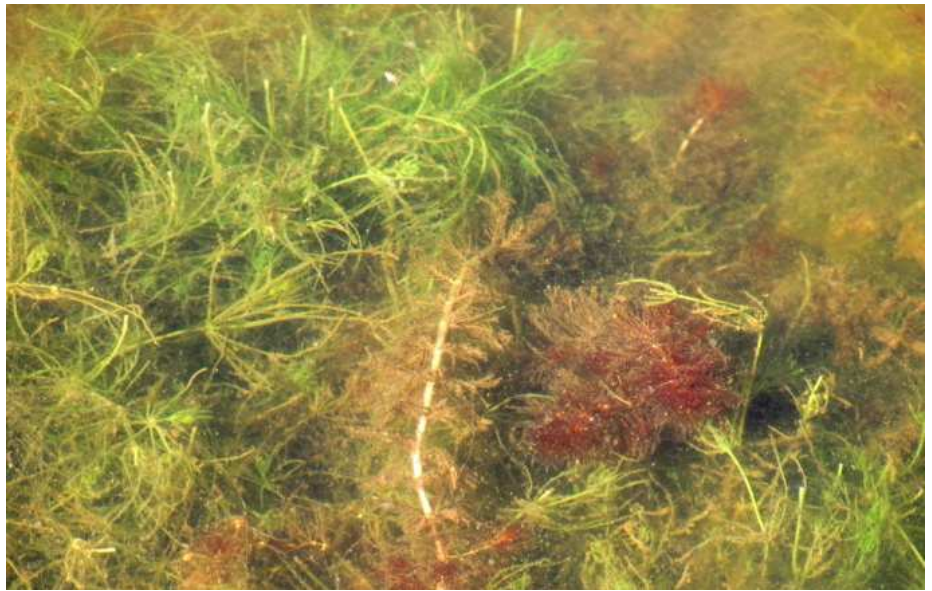
On the way home, we stopped a couple of times for interesting plants. Connie found some *Eremophila maculata* flowering, one a beautiful pink (*bottom left*), from which she took a small amount of cutting material for the Olive Pink Botanic Garden's Growers Group to try and propagate. In the same area *Eremophila duttonii* were also displaying their lovely shiny red and yellow flowers (*bottom right*). The other stop was to look for *Eremophila macdonnellii* which we had seen on the way in, but rather than this, we found blue-flowering *Halgania cyanea* and delicate mauve *Scaevola parvifolia* (*bottom middle*). A couple of Red-tailed Black Cockatoos swooped down for a quick drink as we passed Harts Camp Waterhole. Then a quick photo shot as we crossed the Finke River, of the old, large, struggling River Red Gum that has had a quantities of sand washed away from around it, exposing surface roots and also many vertical ones that chase after the water level as it falls in dry seasons. Later Rebecca Pearse said she thought it was the one mentioned in Strehlow's book 'Journey to Horseshoe Bend'and it was back on the bitumen and home.

Everyone said the really enjoyed the weekend and we hope Field Nats can organise another trip there before too long.

Charophyte Find

by Rosalie Breen

On the recent FN trip to Duck Pond on Henbury Station, we stopped at Harts Camp Waterhole on the Finke River. There was some green plant growth in the water which on close inspection could have been the elusive Charophyte, a type of alga that visiting speaker Joan Powling exhorted us to be on the lookout for. I took a sample home and sent it to expert Michelle Casanova in Victoria. She identified it as *Chara contraria* var *behriana*, "first collected by Ferdinand van Mueller near Bethany (SA) and has rarely been identified since."



Green Chara growing in the water. The reddish plant is Milfoil Photograph Barbara Gilfedder.



Specimen photograph by Joan Powling

Charophytes grow submerged in water in all types of freshwater wetlands, looking like a flowering plant. The picture shows the basic structure. Quite delicate; a long stem, which is actually one cell long, with whorls of branchlets, a bit like leaves, at each node. Hair rootlets anchor them to the sand or clay at the bottom of the water body. They are the most complex of the algae but are really ancient, dating back to Silurian times, being the closest living relative of the ancestors of land plants

The reproductive system is simple. Male organs are orange or green spheres called antheridia, growing usually on the branchlets. When mature the sperm cells swim to the female cells, oogonia. These can be on the same plant or in other species on different plants. After fertilization they are termed oospores, forming a thickened outside wall which has a pattern of spirals on the surface (seen in an electron microscope and indicative of different species). These spores can withstand drought years, staying dormant in the soil, to be one of the first plants to colonize after rains replenish the wetlands. More often found in clear and low nutrient water, they are considered an indication of high water quality and a healthy ecosystem. They provide a habitat for other algae and invertebrates and food for these and for waterbirds. Being green, photosynthesis provides their energy from the sun. They are useful in helping to clear turbid waters by trapping sediments and absorbing nutrients and can assist in stabilizing the soils.

There are two main genera found in Australia. - *Chara* and *Nitella*. Often they feel rough from calcium carbonate encrustations. Some charophytes have an unpleasant odour, this one was not smelly and was only slightly gritty.

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Rosalie in action at Harts Camp Waterhole

Perhaps with our new knowledge we might find some more charophytes to extend the distribution information in the Northern Territory.

Morgan Flint. In the end, it was all too easy..... to get into Mordor, I mean. When Andy Hayes was not assuring me that he would give us the key to the newly-established locked gate, until the Friday evening before we were due to leave, I began to think that we might not even get to first base. In the end, he was “generosity” itself and we left town in good spirits. We found that his caution re visitors was not without foundation; on three occasions, he found calves which had been shot, and then butchered, but only for the shoulders, cheeks and tongue; how weird is that????

Our group consisted of Layne and John from Yulara, Megg the Kelham, Leigh and Neil and their gentlemanly and softly-spoken mate from Melbourne, Bob and “Tracker” Libby and I completed the party. We set up camp a few hundred metres from Wallaces Springs. For my part, Sunday evening around the campfire was very enjoyable, with (how shall I put it?), robust debate on a wide range of issues. We heard that dark-pigmented people are going to rule the earth in a couple of centuries. Then Megg gave us a bit about the Great Fire of London, and later, she and I couldn’t agree on the first democratically-elected state in Germany. It was on for young’n’old.



After hearing the Donkeys braying during the night, we were lucky enough to see a few. Layne Stephenson

Neil Woolcock. The road into Mordor Pound is a bit challenging for an X-Trail (or more specifically for me), but Morgan led us ably through all the obstacles until we arrived at what looked like a nice camp site next to a dry creek bed. There we all set up camp under the watchful eye of Captain Flint. Some of us then climbed up a nearby hill for a fantastic evening view. We seemed to have chosen a campsite right in the middle of the pound, and were rewarded with 360 degree views from the hill.

Soon there was a campfire burning and we all settled in to enjoy a few beers and wines before, during and after dinner. Eventually we all drifted off to bed and did our best to stay warm through a very cold night. John Stephenson keeps warm by expending energy snoring loudly. We could hear cattle mooing and dingoes howling, and so we were careful to pack all our food away. Leigh was bit confused in the morning when some people said they’d heard some donkeys during the night. She thought all the noise was John. Maybe it was!??

The next day we headed up another hill for a look over the pound. It’s an amazing vista. We could see a waterfall on the nearby ranges that we thought was Jennings Gorge, but wasn’t, and went to have a look at that after lunch. This is a pretty unique little spot, with water trickling over a dip in the ranges and down into a top pool, then into a smaller pool and then a smaller one. Quite beautiful!

We dropped the key back at Garden Station then picked up the Arltunga Road again and stayed on that for about 1 hour before stopping for lunch on the banks of The Hale River. We were lucky enough to get a very clear sighting of some Striated Pardalotes before setting off again, arriving home about 4:00pm, tired but relaxed and exhilarated by the weekend’s experiences.

Megg Kelham. Two words sum up this years Mordor Pound excursion – pure joy, the kind of joy that comes with warm sunny weather, good food, interesting company, beautiful surrounds and a spirit measure of challenge. The latter came in the form of driving from Garden Station to Mordor along a track so overgrown I spent the first half hour faithlessly wondering if our fearless leaders had made a mistake! Apologies! Rain has just worked its road disguising magic. Gloriously tall grasses, fresh tree saplings and a couple of seriously deep looking washaways obscured the way. John and Layne led in their sturdy 4WD ute, kindly worrying about how my two door RAV - affectionately known as Sylvia - would cope. Neil, Leigh and their visitor Bob were also, I think, a little worried about clearance levelsMorgan and Libby brought up the rear, ensuring no one got lost. And Sylvia? What can I say except that she bounced her way through everything she came across along with the best of them! What fun!



Our camp, a shady spot encircled by Eucalypts in the bed of a river whose water was two shovelfuls of sand beneath the surface – was classically Centralian. As soon as I set up, I climbed the smaller of two hills to be rewarded with perfect views of the pound. Breathtaking! I climbed the second hill the next morning to get my bearings before investigating the map. Trephina Gorge was easily recognisable, and for once I think I understood what the map was trying to tell me. The waterfall up the road from the camp, with its still running water and ferns made me truly believe I had arrived in some kind of hobbit heaven. Unfortunately none were spotted. The lone Swan swimming on the lake just past the Arltunga turn off was the only unexpected bird life I spotted. The scenery was a bit too captivating for me to focus on much else. Truth to tell, I also missed the plant and bird focussing enthusiasm of more knowledgeable field natters. Thanks Morgan et al for a gorgeous weekend.

Bob Cooper. An Outsiders Perspective. Having known Neil and Leigh for many years, I was really looking forward to another two week stay in Alice with them. Being a Melbourne-ite, I was also happy to get away from the cold, wet and windy weather down south this time of year. However, I did not expect the fantastic added bonus of a long weekend away with the Field Nats. Being a bushwalker of old, this weekend took me back to those early adventures of going away with a small group of people with a common interest of exploring new areas, taking in the diversity of flora and fauna, inhaling the vista the wide open spaces provide, and just enjoying great company – especially around the camp fire at night over a few wines and some chocolate! Our Camp site on the banks of a wide sandy river bed was a perfect location, right in the middle of Mordor Pound. This allowed us to leisurely explore several areas on foot, both for 360 degree views on a couple of the hills dotted throughout the Pound, as well as quite a high waterfall (nothing flowing), which would spill off the range on the north side of the river where we camped. What struck me most was the diversity of native vegetation and the number of wild flowers in full bloom for this time of year. In the high country of Victoria where I did a lot of my early hiking, you would have to wait until summer to see such colour. After a leisurely three days, we finished off a perfect trip with a picnic lunch in an idyllic spot on the sandy banks of the Hale River on the way home. My only downer was not having gaiters to keep the mass of grass seeds out of my socks and boots. But I will certainly have them for another time – which I really hope there is for me. Hope it's not too long.

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Ooraminna Rockhole Trip 17 June

Participants have been telling me how much they enjoyed the trip out to this historically interesting place...but I just have some photos of interesting rock formations on the way in and a lovely male Painted Firetail. Many thanks to Jim Lawrence for leading the trip and taking these photos.



Alice Springs Field Naturalists Club Incorporated Annual General Meeting

When: 7.00pm Wednesday August 8th

Where: CDU Higher Education Building Lecture Theatre.

If you would like to nominate yourself or another member for a committee position please contact a committee member.

Annual membership fees will also be due at this meeting. Please help your Treasurer by renewing promptly.

ALCOOTA WEEKEND REMINDER

The 14th and 15th July is the open weekend at the Alcoota dig. Come for Saturday only, or indulge in one of those memorable winter camping nights and stay the weekend. There will be a talk about local (extant) birds from Ian Archibald, a chance to inspect the local plants in the company of Peter Latz, and wonderful opportunities to lie in the dust extracting tiny fragments of bone from the sand, bones that belonged to creatures that gathered around the Alcoota waterhole as the land was drying up millions of years ago.



Cowpat Hill showing one of the excavation sites.

Saturday 14th July

From 10.00 to 10.30 am. Induction for those wishing to excavate.

10.45 am to 12.00 pm. Tour of the fossil sites and guided geology walk led by Adam Yates

12.15pm – 1.00pm. Excavation techniques demonstration. Adam Yates and Jared Archibald

1.00 pm – 2.00 pm. Lunch.

2.00 pm – 3.30 pm. Guided Plant Walk. Peter Latz.

Excavation will be running from approximately 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm for those inducted and wishing to participate.

7.00pm – 7.45 pm Talk: Alcoota and the Changing Face of Australia's Biosphere. Adam Yates

Sunday 15th July

8.00 am – 9.30 am. Guided bird walk. Ian Archibald

10.00 am – 11.15 am. Guided geology walk for those who missed Saturday morning's walk. Adam Yates

The rest of the day will be spent excavating; visitors who wish to participate and have gone through the induction are welcome to participate. Those who would rather walk around the scientific reserve or visit Gemtree are welcome to do so.



Excavating just one fossilised bone can be a long process

Information about staying at Alcoota.

There is no accommodation on the reserve. People will need to camp. Facilities provided include rainwater tanks with drinking water, a long drop toilet, a shower and a firewood barbecue. The shower is heated by a donkey that needs to be lit beforehand. Visitors will be responsible for their own meals.

Please bring your own drinking bottle, sturdy covered footwear, sunscreen and a broad brimmed hat or baseball cap.

If you are interested in the trip, please contact Lee Ryall on 0417401237 or at

ALICE SPRINGS FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB INCORPORATED
Minutes of general meeting at Higher Education Building, Charles Darwin University
Wednesday 13th June, 2012.

Present: Members, visitors and apologies as per attendance book.

Previous minutes – correction in correspondence out – The thank you card was sent to Andrew Bridges, not Glenn Marshall, for the Eco-link talk. Minutes accepted with this correction.

Business arising from the minutes:

Nil

Correspondence in:

- NT Nature newsletter.
- WA Naturalists. No longer issuing hard copies.
Neil to ask for a link to each other's websites.

Correspondence out

Thank you to Peter Latz for his talk on early Hermannsberg naturalists, Blind Moses and other stories.

Treasurer's Report:

No change during May. Balance remains at \$2746.62

General business

None

Recent activities/trips:

19 May APS planting workshop at Olive Pink, interesting but poorly attended.
26 - 27 May Excursion to Duck Swamp on Henbury Station. Excellent trip
5 vehicles, 10 people for an overnight camp. Rosalie found an alga rarely identified since collection by Ferdinand Von Mueller.
2 - 3 June Mordor Pound led by Morgan Flint. 8 participants, 4 vehicles
Andy Hayes of Garden Station is becoming less enthusiastic about allowing people on his property as he has had 6 calves killed recently.

Future activities:

17 June Ooraminna Rock hole with Jim Lawrence.
24 June Palaeontology talk at the NT Museum in the Strehlow Centre.
7 - 8 July Show weekend. There will be an APS stall.
Would welcome volunteers to assist.
14 - 15 July Alcoota dig.
21 July Walk from Jim's Place – Rosalie as leader
Aug. long weekend Finke River. Need high clearance 4WD. Leaders Marg and Jim Lawrence

Sightings

Striated Pardalote – Hale Creek (Neil Woolcock)
Pallid Cuckoo – Mordor Pound (Neil Woolcock)
Princess Parrots – Newhaven (Bob Read)
Bustards – Newhaven (Barb Gilfedder)
Thorny Devils – Canning Stock Route (Rhondda Tomlinson)
Orange Chats, Banded Lapwings and Brolga – Stirling Swamp (Bob Read)
Little Eagles – Duck Swamp (Barb Gilfedder)

Next meeting: 11 July Speaker : Ken Johnson on H.H.Finlayson early naturalist who collected in Central Australia in the 1930's (Rosalie to remind Ken and bring the club computer)

Supper : No volunteers

Note taker : Lee Ryall.