



August 2013

## Alice Springs Field Naturalists Club Newsletter



Mitchell Grass at Alcoota Reserve. This is probably one of the very few remaining 'pure' Mitchell Grass habitats. The scientific reserve area was fenced off about 15 years ago. 'Dry Jungle' remnant in background; Photo by Dave Sutton

**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

**Postal Address: P.O. Box 8663  
Alice Springs, Northern Territory  
0871**

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**Web site:**

<http://www.alicefieldnaturalists.org.au>

## NEXT NEWSLETTER

The deadline for the next newsletter is **Friday 23 August 2013**.

Please send your contributions to Barb Gilfedder at the email listed below. Please send photos and text separately.

### ASFNC MEETINGS

- Wed 14 Aug **ASFNC Meeting 7.00 pm** at Lecture Theatre in Higher Education Building at the Charles Darwin University - **Annual General Meeting** – see below and **Members' Evening**. Please bring along items of interest or books or photos to share. REMINDER: membership fees are due.
- Wed 11 Sept **ASFNC Meeting 7.00 pm** at Lecture Theatre in Higher Education Building at the Charles Darwin University - Speaker: Lisa Nunn " Sri Lankan birds and other wildlife"

### ASFNC FIELD TRIPS / ACTIVITIES

**If you wish to take part in any of these trips or activities, it is advisable to ring or email the leader of that particular trip beforehand, as information can change.**

- Sat 17 Aug Walk and talk with traditional owner, Jean Mack at **Standley Chasm**. Meet at Flynns Grave 9.30am Leader Barb Gilfedder. (Unfortunately it was necessary to cancel the **Dulcie Ranges** weekend. We hope it can be rescheduled for later in the year.)
- Sun 25 Aug **Planning meeting** Sunday afternoon - Desert Park Courtyard 2.00pm. Please bring along ideas for trips and speakers. If unable to attend, please pass your ideas on to a Committee Member.
- Weekend  
31 Aug-1 Sept **Duck Swamp, Henbury Station**. Limited number of vehicles. 4WD needed. Contact: Barb Gilfedder.

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY Contact: Jo Smith [joschep1@gmail.com](mailto:joschep1@gmail.com)

- August 25 **Araluen garden walk and talk with Ian Coleman**. Meet at 10.00 am near the Central Craft building.
- Wed 4 Sep 2013 **Scott Pullyblank and Rebecca Duncum on Alice Springs Desert Park record keeping**. Meet 7:30pm Olive Pink Botanic Garden.

### ARID LANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

Cnr Warburton St and Lindsay Ave. Contact: Nicole Pietsch, Phone: 08 8952 2497, Email: [communications@alec.org.au](mailto:communications@alec.org.au)

- Sun 11 Aug** *desertSMART Ecofair - Biodiversity Matters Walk and Talk - 10am Olive Pink Botanic garden. Cost: Gold Coin donation*
- Weekend** *Finke Gorge Field Trip with NT National Parks and Wildlife. Participants will leave from ALEC 9am Saturday Morning, and return Sunday afternoon. Cost: \$80, \$70 ALEC members, \$60 Concession*
- 31 Aug – 1 Sept**
- Sat 7 Sept** **Threatened Species Day Community BBQ - 4pm at Ilparpa**. Join us at the Ilparpa Claypans where the Alice Springs Field Naturalists Club will be hosting a guided walk through the Intertexta forest. This will be followed by picking up some rubbish and a family community BBQ. Please bring a salad to share and non-alcoholic drinks of your choice. Meat and vegetarian options provided.

President	Barbara Gilfedder	8955 5452	fedders@octa4xxx.net.au
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Treasurer	Jill Brew	8953 0551	jillinalice@westnetxxx.com.au
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Newsletter Editor	Pam Keil	8955 0496	pamelakeil@yahooxxx.com

Please delete the xxx when emailing – their placement is an attempt to stop some spam emails.

## July Speaker – Chris Watson. Report by Lee Ryall; Photos by Chris Watson.

### “Wildlife on Galapagos and mainland Ecuador”

On 10 July Chris Watson blasted our senses with brilliant, sometimes iridescent plumage, weird shapes, intense, dark eyes, and the occasional fantastically coloured reptile or crab in the contrasting settings of the bare, volcanic Galapagos islands and the Ecuadorian rainforests.

#### Galapagos: geology

The Galapagos consist of 61 islands and islets straddling the equator in a geologically complex area where a number of tectonic plates meet. The islands are the result of a mantle plume similar to that under Hawaii. Volcanoes form over the plume, but as the Nazca plate moves towards the south-east, the volcanoes cool and contract, while new volcanoes build islands (3 million years young) over the plume area. The latest eruption occurred in 2008. The oldest islands are approximately 10 million years old and lie in the south-east of the group - spectacular formations such as that of Kicker Rock.



Marine Iguana



Swallow-Tailed Gull

Animals and birds on the Galapagos are fearlessly unconcerned with the presence of humans, so Chris took a number of extremely intimate and beautiful close-ups. Outstanding examples included the pinkish ridge plates at the back of the palate of the Swallow-tailed Gull, and the shining crimson line around the same bird's eye. The sky-blue, almost turquoise of the webbed feet of the Blue-footed Booby was stunning, as was the brown velvet sheen of the young Nazca Booby's head.

We saw photos of Chris communing closely with a Frigatebird, and heard how they play around approaching aircraft, and chase Red-tailed Tropicbirds, catching them by their handsome tail streamers. The Frigatebirds puff up their bright red sacs to display, making a contrast with their dark eyes and the green overtones in their head plumage. They are great squabblers, even stealing each others' eggs.

Mocking Birds are the local Babblers, sitting on camera bags, chatting and curious. They are different on each island - though the differences were often negligible. Similarly, the differences between the dark Darwinian Finches were hard to notice, despite their momentous role in history.



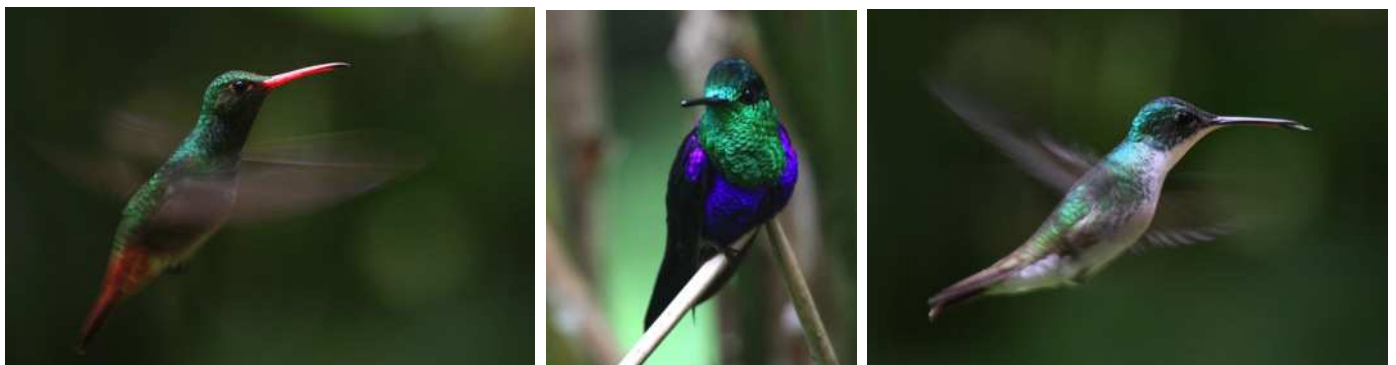
From top left: Blue-footed Booby (eye); Great Frigatebird; Galapagos Penguin; Blue-footed Booby (feet)

**Mainland Ecuador**

In contrast to the Samphire, Cactus and Prickly Pear of the Galapagos, Chris and Sam were in the cloud forest (the not quite rainforest due to elevation) in Ecuador around Mindo.

Hummingbirds are common on Galapagos as on the whole South American continent- they 'buzz' walkers, or hover closely, staring into their faces. The problem with photographing them is their 'here one second, gone the next' action, but

Where else in the world can you go and swim with penguins, seals and....hammerheads?



Hummingbirds from left: Rufous-tailed Hummingbird; Green-crowned Wood-nymph; Andean Emerald

## Alcoota Reserve: Weekend Trip 13 & 14 July; Report and photos by Rhondda Tomlinson

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July. This was my chance for payback to Bob Read for the many trips I have been with him in the past. I picked him up at 7:00am and fully loaded we headed to the Sargent Street sign on the North Stuart Highway to meet up with Lee and other adventurers. 7:30am we were on the road and headed north then east en route to Gem Tree to meet up with Bridget and the rest off to Alcoota. Adam led the way and all arrived in convoy just after 10:00am.

We were given the choice of viewing the fossil dig or setting up camp. The first was the unanimous choice as all were keen to see what was going on and some people had only come for the day. Adam took one group to the main pit and Jared the other to the iconic Cow Pat Hill.

We were told about the history of the dig, the effect the landscape had on the jumble of bones and the many animals so far that have been identified. Cow Pat Hill had virtually been discontinued as an exploration site for safety reasons.



This year they opened a new pit, this time with help of a mechanical digger. This was proving to have some interesting finds.

In the main pit there were many bones partly exposed and in the process of being gradually uncovered and hardened to try to preserve them and minimize the shattering of the brittle structure. One very large leg bone was most prominent. A couple of young budding palaeontologists had earlier unearthed some interesting finds. A part of a jaw bone was one's pride and joy.

In the afternoon Peter Latz took us on a plant walk where he talked about the landscape and how he was working on ridding the excised area of Buffel Grass and that Mitchell Grass was becoming more prominent and many native species were gradually regenerating. Rain and **NO** fire would be an ideal happenings to assist the vegetation. We also looked at the Native Orange and he talked about the medicine qualities of other plants and trees in a small remnant area of dry forest. Peter pulled up a very dead and so dry plant that even the soil did not cling to its roots. This he put in a plastic bag and spat water on it and said that before we leave this plant will be starting to shoot.

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Late afternoon Ian Archibald led a bird walk through quite a varied habitat which included crossing a dry river bed. A flock of budgies flew overhead which is always a cause for great excitement. Bob and Ian compiled bird lists. On the way back to camp through the Gidgee trees and grass lands we were escorted by an amazing sunset due to clouds building up.



After tea Adam had a slide show on what had been of interest phenologically over the last year. It was not long after that weary souls started heading for their swags with a little concern over the few drops of rain that had fallen earlier, but clear starry skies prevailed. Sunday morning dawned bright and clear and by 8:30am Ian was rounding up people for a bird walk. Some were lazy responses but about 6 people set off to see what was out and about. Ian had previously been around this area on a reconnaissance in preparation for the weekend and was disappointed by the number of birds that had shown themselves. However the binoculars were well applied and lots of calls of "there goes..." and "bird" and "it has landed in that tree", etc. I saw Bob adding to his bird list on many occasions. Being a non-birdo I saw many

fascinating River Gums and Gidgee Trees to photograph and the habitat variations were amazing.

Thank you Ian! They were two great walks.

Unfortunately it was time to pack and head for home but first a quick check on Peter's resurrection plant and he was right - some very tiny green shoots were just emerging.

Thank you so much to Adam and team for this unique opportunity to come to see the Alcoota Fossil Dig.



**Alcoota Weekend Trip : A story in photos by Dave Sutton**



**From left to right; top to bottom:** 1) Peter Latz working, South Pit. He said he has been slowly unearthing one of the larger bones for 2 years; 2) Jawbone from (leopard-sized) Alcoota Marsupial Lion and showing (nearest camera) groove for large forward-sloping canine fangs; projection on top right is remnant of large pre-molar described as a 'shearing bolt-cutter'; Smaller molar sockets to left of this; At top left is a large hollow where jawbone muscle was anchored. Size of hollow suggests big muscle → powerful (carnivore) jaw; 3) Dropped fruit from sub-tropical Bush Orange (Latz nature walk). It was in remnant of a 'dry jungle' habitat most likely similar to what was present 8M years ago. This habitat has a convergence of both sub-tropical and desert Bush Orange species. Unique... 4) "No comment"; 5) Close up of the hard white chert ('Silcrete') capping. Harder than the underlying coarse red sandstone (see also 'CowpatHill-top' image). This has resulted in an 'inverted' landscape where the original creek-beds are now higher than the surrounding country; 6) Gidgee, nature walk Saturday afternoon with Peter Latz. 'Dry Jungle' remnant can be seen at base of hills in distance; 7) Adam Yates describing how the harder Chert (Silcrete) capping has led to 'inverted' landscape. He is standing on (white) Chert outcrop. Red sandstone in foreground; Vegetation difference (resulting from fencing) is also visible in distance; 8) Cowpat Hill at sunset.

## Alcoota Reserve from Google Earth courtesy of Dave Sutton:

The fence-vegetation boundary is VERY visible from space. Looks like fencing the reserve area really helped along the Mitchell Grass etc. (See photo on front cover)

Image date is 2003 - it would be interesting to see a current image

## The Alcoota Dig: Getting to Know our Past

### Report by Lee Ryall

At Alcoota this year the dig encompasses three pits of approximately 8 million years' age, and 2 pits on Cowpat Hill which are higher up (more recent) in the Waite Formation. The fauna in the pits on Cowpat Hill align with finds in Beaumaris, Victoria where volcanic rocks can be dated to 6 million years ago. No volcanics are available for the main dig at Alcoota, so dating is less accurate, but changes in some of the fauna between sites indicate it was probably about 2 million years earlier.

On Cowpat Hill, bones were laid down in a fluvial environment and represent a gradual accumulation as animals died around the river. In contrast, the earlier pits all present tangles of bones (known as 'bone beds'), indicating some sort of extinction event. They probably represent a group of animals 'tethered' to a water source which was slowly drying up in severe drought conditions. As the plants were eaten, and the distance to fresh food increased, the creatures were stuck by the water-source until they died or were killed by predators. Ironically, the bones, drying in the sun, were then swept into a higgledy-piggeldy jumble by a mudflow when the drought broke. Subsequently, each time it rained, the clay in which the bones were buried expanded and contracted, alternately crushing and releasing and fracturing them. This accounts for the extreme fragility of the bones, and the need for delicately gluing them together before they are moved. (Photos show *Alkwertatherium* skulls emerging and being glued.)



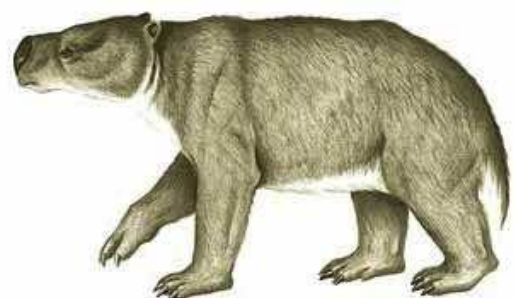
### Birds

The main pit is peppered with giant tibias from *Dromornis stirtoni*, possibly the largest bird that ever existed (reconstructed image at left). Other bits and pieces from *stirtoni* and its smaller relative, *Ilbandornis* (about emu size) include breastbones, pelvises, ribs and toe bones. The quantity of bones indicates the large number of the birds, and the lack of juvenile bones tells us they were probably seasonal breeders. Slicing teeth at the

back of the jaw for cutting through tough stalks suggest they were browsers, eating branches and leaves of shrubs and trees. Their digestive process included the use of gizzard stones to help grind up these tough items. Many beautiful smooth examples turn up in the dig. The birds didn't fly- not at 500kg, but occasional bones of flying birds such as eagles and flamingos also appear.

### Marsupials

The big birds weren't the only browsers. Marsupials browsed the area as well - both the sheep-sized *Kolopsis* (reconstructed image at right), whose bone numbers indicate it roamed in large herds, and the cow-sized *Plaisiodon*, which was also common. There were also several snouted marsupials - *Palorchestes* and *Pyramios* who may have dug up roots and tubers.





*Alkwertatherium* (reconstructed image at left) had long claws which it may have used to rip bark off trees or dig up small plants. Even *Hadronomas*, the squashy-faced ancestor of the short-faced kangaroo, nibbled leaves as well as grasses. The prevalence of browsers rather than grazers at Alcoota, deduced from the teeth in the many jaws found, suggests that the environment was dominated by shrubs and trees rather than open grasslands. Although no fish bones have turned up, a few pieces of snake-necked turtles do occur.

### Predators

Marsupial lions and wolves (thylacines) preyed on the herds of birds and animals, but the most common predator was *Baru*, a large crocodile whose solid arms and long claws indicate that it was especially adapted to prey on land-based mega-beasts, rather than being confined to the water. Lots of 'scoots' the attractive, ornamented bones that give crocodiles their knobby armour, have turned up in the dig. At the Cowpat Hill site, there are also remains of *Quinkana*, a formidable relative of *Baru*, which would hide behind bushes before attacking.

Thank you to the Museum of Central Australia, Adam Yates, Jared and Ian Archibald and Peter Latz who gave us the opportunity to wander back 8 million years and shared their knowledge so freely. It was a fantastic opportunity to watch a picture of the past being built up, clue by clue, and to get to know our heritage.

(Image at right: Thylacine jaw fragment)



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### **Speaking of Snake-necked Turtles: A story and photos from Jenny Purdie**

Long-neck Turtle spotted in the Limmen Nat Park; it was slowly crossing the road so we stopped and carried it to the side in case it got run over. He was about 30 cm in diameter.





## Hugh Gorge Trip:

### Rosalie Breen (report and photos)

Two cars and seven people left on Saturday afternoon to tackle the rough, slow track to Hugh Gorge. On the way, I was entranced by the *Eremophila latrobei* in full bloom. With the sun behind, the flowers shone almost transparent luminous pink. Another light glory appeared on top of the ridge west of the campsite. As the sun was sinking behind the ridge it lit up the branches of the trees on the skyline, a brilliant white, like snow. The students who arrived late afternoon provided beautiful harmonious singing, adding to the splendour and atmosphere of the evening camp in the bush under a full moon.



The Hugh Walkers



In the morning we set off before the students up the gorge on Larapinta 5. First we needed to cross over rocks through the pools or waterhole of the river, negotiating the bulrushes which shed feathers on clothes if you got too familiar. Then it was a secret covered track among the tea tree close to the rising west wall on which were clinging flannel flower *Actinotus schwarzii*, and the daisy *Olearia stuartii*. Eventually you emerge into the stony and sandy river bed among the river red gums and numerous shrubs and other trees. Evidence of the mighty power of water rushing through the gorge came from flood debris high up and great trees uprooted and tree trunks carried along and caught and tangled in the vegetation.

We left the main river to explore the first side gorge. This went gradually up among beautiful shrubs, twisting trees, and a few small pools of water which hosted algae and a few water animals. All this takes time, and we had plenty of time to investigate the many different plants or admire the patterns on rocks or marvel at the views of the steep red hills of the Chewings Range through which cuts the river. One spot was a sunny terrace of rock, just perfect for relaxing or lunching. I stayed here waiting for the walkers to dribble back from their further explorations upstream.

Thanks to Colleen for a leisurely and beautiful day. Visiting Hugh area is always a delight well worth the long hard drive in. Usually the visits there involve "big time" walking, so I enjoyed this one, being able to take time and relax.



Algae from the Hugh Pools

### Colleen O'Malley

Highlight of this walk for me was being serenaded to sleep by South Australian Steiner students singing in their camp just a little way off from us, then walking in morning sunlight backlighting amongst almost unrecognizable plants, logs and pools of water all coated with fuzz from *Typha* seeds. The side gorge we ventured up was even more stunning than I'd remembered and seemed to go meandering westwards forever - we really must google-earth it and follow it to its end point one day.....

## Gavan Breen

We spread ourselves out in the camping area, but then, with the best sites gone, a party of sixteen 17-or-so-year-old schoolboys and girls and three teachers arrived. They were from Willunga Waldorf School, 40 km south of Adelaide. The Waldorf schools, also known as Steiner schools, are based on the philosophy of a German philosopher, Rudolf Steiner, founder of a theory called Anthroposophy. Look it up on Wikipedia. One aspect of these schools that Rosalie (at least) found very impressive is that teachers are allowed a lot of flexibility in how they design their curricula. Another thing is that the kids can sing, and let their camp neighbours hear them.

One child — no, sorry, one Childs taught us how to heat and eat marshmallows. You impale it on a stick, called a marshmallow stick — and hold it in the flame for a few seconds, so that the outside melts. Then you suck the melted layer off and put the remainder back in the fire for another heat treatment. The aim is to see how many cycles you can do. Sometimes it catches alight, but you just blow the fire out — not the campfire, the burning marshmallow — and carry on as if nothing had happened. Try it sometime, it's nice.

When it was getting on towards bedtime for all good little walkers, eight o'clock, two of the teachers, having heard that we (most of us) were Field Nats, came to visit out fireside. The botany teacher, David, wanted to learn as much as he could of Central Australian botany before our campfire died out. He had been taking students to Tasmania in several earlier years, but they had had to change to a different area and he was feeling a bit lost. I think we helped him a lot.

## Connie Spencer (report and photos)

Our wander up the gorge was exactly that with no particular destination — just turn around when it was time to make tracks for home.

We passed through thick Tea Tree, with an upper storey of River Gums (photo). We crisscrossed the valley floor on rock bars and stepping stones so as not to get our feet wet and we brushed past and ducked under sharp Cycad fronds. We admired a stand of Native Pine and a forest of Pink Fire Bush *Rulingia magniflora* which has had a name change and is now *Commersonia magniflora*. However, by far the highlight for me was discovering two tiny succulent plants from the Portulacaceae family.



We were having lunch, some of us up on a large rocky slope, when I spied a tiny Pink Rock Wort *Sedopsis filsonii* in a rock crevice (left photo). This tiny succulent with pink flowers (centre photo: taken at Stanley Chasm 2010) is endemic to central Australia, growing on rock outcrops, often on shallow soil or gravel on rocks. Some of my companions didn't seem to share my enthusiasm for this discovery but they did scramble up the rock slope and have a look anyway! Whilst searching for more Pink Rock Wort, I came across numerous *Grahamii australiana* (right photo). A note in the *Vascular Plant Checklist for the Southern Bioregions of the Northern Territory* says that most Australian states treat this plant as *Anacampseros australiana*, a more interesting name by far (from the Greek, *anacamppto* I restore; and *eros*, love: a name of a plant supposed to have the power of restoring love). This little succulent has tuber-bearing root-stock, fleshy leaves and small pink flowers on long stalks. It is found Central Australia, Queensland and South Australia. Both of these plants have been grown in the Desert Park Nursery, the latter readily self-seeding into surrounding pots!

What an absolutely “get away from it all” weekend. Totally relaxing, especially for those of us who didn't have to negotiate the rough track and, as always, great company. Thank you Shrike!



## Reminder: August Meeting is the AGM & Membership Fees are due...

Membership fees are due as from the Annual General Meeting in August.

Prompt payment would be appreciated, paid at meeting nights or posted to the Treasurer (P.O. Box 8663) or direct into the club account at Westpac BSB No.035-303 and Account No 100981.

Be sure to put your name in the payment details.

If personal details have changed please indicate these, especially your email address.

New members to fill in the complete form.

### Minutes from last year's AGM attached at end of newsletter.

Please read these minutes prior to attending the meeting. The AGM will be followed by a brief monthly meeting and then member's night. Bring something interesting to share!



Field Naturalists in their natural habitat.  
Photo by Rosalie Breen; Hugh Gorge Trip

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

Alice Springs Field Naturalists Club Inc

PO Box 8663, Alice Springs NT 0871

Name(s)  
.....

Address: .....  
.....  
.....

Phone contact:

(home)  
.....

(work)  
.....

(mobile)  
.....

Email (print carefully)  
.....

Renewal/new membership

Payment enclosed \$ .....

***Please circle relevant membership***

Fees: Family \$30. Concession \$25

Individual \$20 Concession \$15

Life member 10 times annual fee

Interstate past member. Newsletter only \$10

Subscription year begins at August AGM.

**ALICE SPRINGS FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB INCORPORATED**  
**Minutes of general meeting at Higher Education Building,**  
**Charles Darwin University Wednesday 10 July 2013**

Following presentation by Chris Watson on Galapagos and mainland Ecuador.  
Thank you to Lye Lang for supper and to Lee Ryall scribe.

**Present:** 20 Members and visitors and 2 apologies as per attendance book.

**Meeting commenced :** 8.05pm

**Previous minutes – accepted.**

**Business arising from the minutes:**

- Pam Keil has updated the Newsletters on our web page.

**Correspondence:**

- Emails to Barb from 2 people enquiring about membership.
- Telephone conversation from Paul Hartwig, ranger at Henbury Station re forthcoming trip to Duck Swamp. Barb will contact him again in the near future to confirm arrangements.
- Email from Bill Low re seminar on 19 July at 3.30pm at CDU, by veterinary epidemiologist, Dr Edward Okoth from Kenya. "A science mystery and a life journey"
- Email from Nicole Pietsch (ALEC) inviting participation in Ecofair in August. Barb circulated to Committee, but no positive responses, so declined..
- Email from SE Australian Naturalists Association inviting participation in Spring Camp in Numurkah Victoria, October 11-14. Forwarded to members.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Subs :               \$50  
Debits:             \$91.99 stationery and printing ink  
Bank interest:    \$2.69  
Balance in bank at end of June \$3054.46

**General business:**

- Bec Duncum (Treasurer APS ) has agreed to audit our financial accounts.
- Planning meeting to be held at ASDP Sunday 25 August

**Past Activities/Trips discussed:**

- Enjoyable trip to Hugh Gorge

**Future activities:**

- Alcoota 13-14 July
- Shorebird count at Alice Springs Sewage Ponds Sunday 28 July
- APS Event : Araluen garden walk and talk with Ian Coleman 25 August 10.00am.

**Sightings:**

- Bev Gray           6 Wedge-tailed Eagles in Crispe Street feeding on dead Euro.  
                          Scaly-breasted Lorikeets in Gillen
- Connie Spencer   a flock of about 50 Red-tailed Black Cockatoos near Heffernan Rd.
- Barb Gilfedder    a small snail, which turned out to be a feral, *Cochlicella acuta*. Thank you to Mark Carter for identification Not all small cute snails are natives, and this one is the carrier of a liver fluke.

**Next meeting:** AGM and Members night.

Members are encouraged to consider nomination for ASFNC committee and to bring something of interest to share to the meeting.

Scribe: Barb Gilfedder

Supper: Rhondda Tomlinson

Meeting closed 8-30pm

**ALICE SPRINGS FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB INCORPORATED**  
**Minutes of Annual General meeting held at the Higher Education Building, Charles Darwin University –**  
**Wednesday 10th August 2011.**

The President Barb Gilfedder declared the AGM open at 7:00pm

**Present:** 20 members and 1 visitor as per attendance book. **Apologies** :3 members as per attendance book.

**Minutes of Previous AGM :**

Minutes of the 2011 AGM were displayed on the screen. Rhondda Tomlinson moved that the minutes be accepted, seconded by Rosalie Breen. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The audited report for the year 2011- 2012 was presented by displaying on the screen. A copy is available to members. Acceptance of Treasurer's report moved by Michael Laflamme, seconded by Connie Spencer. Motion carried.

**President's Report:**

Barb Gilfedder presented the President's Report. Copy on file. Acceptance of President's report moved by Jim Lawrence, seconded by Pam Keil. Motion carried.

**Election of Office Bearers and Appointment of Committee Members:**

All positions were declared vacant. Chris Watson presided over the election process.

**President :** Barb Gilfedder was nominated by Pam Keil, seconded by Connie Spencer. Nomination accepted and Barb Gilfedder was elected unopposed.

**Vice President:** Lee Ryall was nominated by Barb Gilfedder, seconded by Rosalie Breen. Lee was not present but had previously indicated that she was willing to accept the position. Lee Ryall was elected unopposed.

**Secretary:** Cecily Sutton was nominated by Barb Gilfedder, seconded by Neil Woolcock. Nomination accepted and Cecily Sutton was elected unopposed.

**Treasurer:** Jill Brew was nominated by Connie Spencer, seconded by Rhondda Tomlinson. Jill was not present but had previously indicated that she was willing to accept the position. Jill Brew was elected unopposed.

**Property Officer:** Sarah White was nominated by Rhondda Tomlinson, seconded by Barb Gilfedder. Nomination accepted and Sarah White was elected unopposed.

**Public Officer:** Current incumbent, Rhondda Tomlinson indicated that she was happy to continue in this position and was reappointed.

**Committee Member:** Connie Spencer was nominated by Rosalie Breen, seconded by Pam Keil. The nomination was accepted and Connie was elected unopposed

**Committee Member:** Rosalie Breen was nominated by Connie Spencer, seconded by Pam Keil. The nomination was accepted and Rosalie Breen was elected unopposed.

The President, Barb Gilfedder, resumed chairing the meeting.

**Newsletter:**

Current editor, Emily Findlay is translocating to Darwin. President Barb Gilfedder thanked her for her efforts. Pam Keil offered to take over the position. Gratefully accepted.

**Membership Fees:**

The Acting Treasurer, Rosalie Breen, proposed that the fees remain the same as for the previous year ie:

Family - \$30.00, concession \$25.00 Single - \$20.00, concession \$15.00

Life member - Ten times normal fee.

Interstate subscriptions for newsletter - \$10.00.

Chris Watson seconded motion that fees remain the same. Motion carried.

**Website Manager:**

Thank you to Pam Keil. Pam agreed to continue this duty.

**Close:** There being no further business, the President declared the 2011 AGM closed at 7.26pm