

FROGWATCH 2015



Frogwatch is currently funded

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Hello everyone! Welcome back to another year of Frogwatch



Here a quick update of whats going on

cheerio
Anke Maria

What's happening?

New FW webpage is almost done (so they say). Migration of the last data should be completed soon which will lead to the next step: the testing phase. If you feel like a prime suspect to check out the new data entry surface before it is going live, just drop me a quick line!

Our financial situation

As you all know this year has started grimly as we have no Government support, till funding for the Census activities kicks in mid-year. This means that FW can only run for a few hours per week, through funds made available through the **ACT Herpetological Association (ACTHA)**, the NSW Heritage Grant for Environmental Education, and public donations.

Keep your fingers crossed for Northern Corroboree frogs

In mid December last year just over 200 adults frogs from two captive breeding programs (Toronga Zoo, Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve) had been released into the Brindabella National Park. This month Taronga Zoo's reptile and amphibian unit supervisor Michael

McFadden and NSW environment department's threatened species officer Rod Pietsch will be back to monitor how the frogs are doing. So if you are out and about in the area and hear someone yelling "hey frog", stay calm- you have just come across researchers counting frogs, as Northern Corroboree Frogs tend to like such yelling and respond to it with their typical "arc" or "squelch" sound.

If you missed the report on the release of the frogs, just check out this link:

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/endangered-northern-corroboree-frogs-released-into-brindabella-national-park-20141218-129k8q.html>

What's on in town?

Lots is happening in Canberra. Here a few suggestions from us:

LAST DAY TODAY!!!

Chemcert training for volunteers

Volunteers wishing to undertake weed treatment in ACT parks and reserves using herbicides are required by the ACT Government to have this training. The one day course is paid for by PCS and includes safe use, storage and handling of herbicides. The training is for those undertaking the training for the first time as well as renewals.

When: **Saturday 28th February 2015, 8:30 am-4:30pm**

Where: **Stromlo PCS Depot, 500 Cotter Rd, Weston Creek**

If you are interested in attending please **RSVP** to jasmine.foxlee@act.gov.au by **Monday 9th February**.



Forum on the state of native animals in the ACT

The ACT Division of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand is convening a one-day forum at the Australian National University. The event comprise 18 presentations on different topics and provides an opportunity to share knowledge and awareness about the state of native animals in the ACT.

We are very excited that Martin Westgate will present results from the first 10 years of FW data!!

When **Wednesday, 11 February 2015, 9:00 - 16:00**

Where **University House, ANU**

Cost Free for EIANZ members, \$100 for non members

Morning tea, lunch & post-forum drinks provided

ACTHA February meeting

This is a rare chance to attend a ACTHA meeting, without being a member. This month's topic will be a small departure from normal, but nevertheless, extremely interesting: An illustrated presentation on the natural values of the straight-line route between Canberra and Mt Kosciuszko, looking at animals, birds, plants, geology, water, snow, fire, climate and some underlying human stories of our high country. Cultural aspects of some species' stories will be discussed, and a little bushcraft thrown in. As well as celebrating biodiversity along the route, the talk will look at several key issues including feral species, local extinctions and climate change threats.

When: **Tues 17 Feb, 19:30 20:30**

Where: **Belconnen Soccer Club (Belconnen Way)**

National Landcare survey

If you are member of a ParkCare group, urban Landcare group, a rural landholder that has participated in landcare, a rural Landcare group or an individual landcarer, this one is for you!! The survey has been developed by the Federal National Landcare Program and offers a great opportunity to provide feedback on how well Landcare is functioning in the ACT. You will be asked questions about your group's priorities, resourcing and needs and how well some of the Landcare supports in the ACT are working. Information from the survey will provide information that will better support Landcare and Landcarers in the ACT; and will help inform the continuing design of the National Landcare Programme,

particularly in terms of how best to engage the Landcare community in the programme. Just follow this link

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ACTlandcaresurvey>

Formation of a Landcare peak Body in the ACT

The three Catchment Groups in the ACT, as Landcare networks, have been working together over the last six months to begin establishing a Peak Body for Landcare in the ACT. In this context Landcare is a broad term used to encompass Landcare, Parkcare, Friends of and Waterwatch groups, as it is used nationally.

The formation of a peak body is a crucial step to ensure existing groups in the ACT are supported into the future, have a stronger voice in NRM decision-making and that programs are designed and delivered **with** the groups, not **to** the groups. This will also increase the capacity of the community to plan and adapt to change. The peak body will work collaboratively and in partnership with other environmental NGOs, existing NRM networks and the ACT NRM Council/ACT Government and business partners.

If you would like to get more information on the new Landcare Peak Body follow this link:

<http://www.ginninderralandcare.org.au/sites/default/files/files/Release%20to%20all%20Landcare%20groups%20about%20Peak%20Final%201.pdf>

Ants on Black Mountain

Ants are renowned for being busy and social and fun to watch. The Black Mountain Nature Reserve has more species of ant than the whole of Britain (over 100 and 41, respectively). Join expert Ajay Narendra, ANU, to see which of them are active as predators and scavengers, and hear about their amazing navigation skills. Generally easy walk with some steep sections. Followed by light refreshments.

When: **Sunday 22 Feb, 16:00 - 17:30**

Where: **meet at Black Mountain car about two thirds up Black Mountain Drive (see balloons).**

If you are interested in attending please **RSVP** to friendsofblackmountain@gmail.com, or phone Linda (0437 298 711) or Jean (02 6251 1601).



Gang Gang survey during Muster Count week



The Gang-gang holds special significance for the Canberra Ornithologist Group (COG) and the ACT. It is the logo of COG and of the ACT Parks and Conservation Service. Despite this, little is known about the ecology of the Gang-gang within the ACT region, about its abundance, movements or what affects movement patterns, about its food preferences or seasonal distribution, or the frequency or success of breeding events.

As part of celebrating 50 years of activity in the ACT and region, COG is running a citizen science project to learn more about Gang-gangs within the COG Area of Interest which stretches from Goulburn to Adaminaby and Burrinjuck Dam to Lake Bathurst.

YOU can help by reporting whether Gang-gangs are **present or absent at your chosen location(s) every day of the week February 19-25 2015** using the paper or electronic form provided with the Muster Count Instructions.

Find more information on

<http://canberrabirds.org.au/observing-birds/gang-gang-survey/>

New Feral Fish Scan

Feral fish are a threat to our waterways. This new community surveillance project for the Upper Murrumbidgee gathers information on feral fish occurrence to improve river quality. Just go to www.feralfishscan.org.au. This project is part of the successful feralscan.org.au.

Australasian Bat night

Local councils, land-care groups, Field Naturalists, and community groups are encouraged to run bat activities during March and April as part of the 2015 Australasian Bat night. You can do anything from a Bat walk, building bat boxes, or holding a sporting event like a "Bike for Bats" or a "Midnight Bat Run". Please help by register an event and promote Bat Night in your networks.

For more information and to register contact Maree Treadwell Kerr at batnight.ausbats@gmail.com and check the ABS website <http://ausbats.org.au/>

Would you like to support Frogwatch with a tax-deductable donation?

FW is extremely grateful for any donations to get us through the next 5 months. Here are the options:

Direct deposit: Please ensure your surname is in the deposit reference line. An email confirming the deposit to ensure the tax receipt goes to the right person would be greatly appreciated.

BSB 032778, Account # 424126, Westpac

Cheques: Please make out to Ginninderra Catchment Group, Frogwatch and include your postal or electronic address for mailing out the receipt.

So much great stuff to see, hear and do!!

Hope you have found quite a few things suitable for yourself or your group/family/work place etc.

This is it for today!! Keep in touch

Anke Maria

*The ACT and Region Frogwatch Program is coordinated by the Ginninderra Catchment Group. It is currently funded through the **ACT Herpetological Association (ACTHA)** (main sponsor), the NSW Heritage Grant for Environmental Education, and public donations.*

