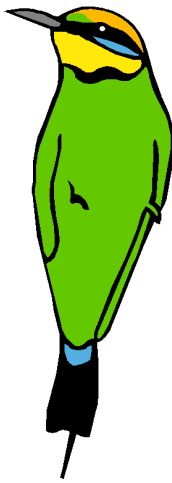


# GARDEN FOR WILDLIFE

## Landcare Achievements

Hello Garden for Wildlifers!

Welcome to the September 2009 Newsletter. It is with great pleasure that I announce the success of the Garden for Wildlife program in winning the Urban Landcare Group Award at the 2009 NT Landcare Award! Land for Wildlife was also a finalist for the Landcare Community Group Award, along with the Barkly Landcare & Conservation Association who won the award for all their great work in the Barkly. I have dedicated the Urban Landcare Award to all of you, as without the voluntary participation of landholders this conservation initiative would not work. So thank you everyone, and well done! It is such a great initiative and every little bit of habitat provided goes a long way in terms of wildlife corridors and the survival of our unique Central Australian ecosystems. The Garden for Wildlife program has now registered more than 70 500 square metres as recognised conservation protected land! An additional 10 481 hectares of land is protected for conservation by rural properties subscribed to the Land for Wildlife program!



To highlight some of the reasons we won the Urban Landcare Group Award, here is a fantastic example of a garden for wildlife!

### Property Profile: Peter & Blue of Tunga Court, Northside



Peter and Blue have created a garden that wonderfully demonstrates how you can improve wildlife habitat in the context of Urban Alice Springs, greatly increasing the local native species component while maintaining some of the long lived and useful introduced species until they can be superseded by local native species.

Peter explains: "There are a few elements to our garden which make it a little interesting. We have heaps of flowering plants, such as *Melaleucas* and *Eucalyptus*, which attract many nectar feeding birds, such as small honeyeaters. We have a resident Grey Shrike Thrush which loves our dense citrus fruit trees.

We have a fenced off section where I keep all my building materials which is great for lizards, away from dogs, and has a couple of great trees in amongst it. There is lots of leaf litter and rocks providing skink and gecko habitat. We have seen legless lizards living in leaf litter amongst shrubs and dead wood in the front yard.

The backyard is shaded by heaps of River Red Gums, which are full of lerp. The lerp in turn attract all the lerp-eating birds (although they are mostly dominated by White Plumed Honeyeaters!). The Red Gums also provide Torresian Crows with nesting sites - which is where our Channel-billed Cuckoo's lay their eggs! We have planted our veggie garden in raised beds so the Red Gums don't take all the veggie garden's water.

Peter and Julia sweep all their leaf litter into this rocky area, creating great reptile habitat



We have some open spaces for our regular Grey-crowned Babbler visitors, and White Cedars (*Melia azedarach*) that attract the Port Lincoln Ringnecks.

We have created a wetland using drainage channels where water flows to after rain. *Stemodia*

*viscosa* (Sticky Blue Rod), *Frankenia cordata* (Sea Heath), Curly Windmill Grass (*Enteropogon acicularis*) and *Cyperis spp.* grow well there.

Oh, and we unfortunately have a Big Headed Ant infestation which we are working hard to eradicate, using Amdro, and numbers have reduced drastically."

Congratulations to all you for contributing to Garden for Wildlife success.



If you have any garden stories, successes or ideas, share them with us! Let us know, you can email articles, stories, photographs, ideas, advice or queries to [lfw@lowecol.com.au](mailto:lfw@lowecol.com.au). We look forward to hearing from you!

## Dates to Remember

**Saturday September 19:** Desert Smart EcoFair @Olive Pink Botanic Gardens, 7am – 4pm

**September 19 – 26:** Red Centre Bird Week (see

<http://www.territorydiscoveries.com/experiences/bird-watching> for link to program)

**Sunday September 20:** Transition Towns and Community Garden Workshop 9-12pm Haaren House

**Tuesday September 22:** World Car-Free Day <http://www.worldcarfree.net/wcfd/>

**Friday September 25:** Presentation by Adam Leavesley, Grant Allan, Bush Fires Council Alice Springs on Bush Fire management planning in central Australia, 3.30 at CSIRO, Conference Room

**Wednesday September 30:**

The Great Australian Marsupial Night Stalk @Alice Springs Telegraph Station Kiosk, 7 – 9pm (see flyer below for details)

Comments due on EIA Review <http://www.epa.nt.gov.au/current/eia.html>

**Friday October 2:** The Great Australian Marsupial Night Stalk @Simpsons Gap BBQ Area, 7 – 9pm (see flyer below for details)

**Saturday October 3 & 4:** The Great Australian Marsupial Night Stalk @Ormiston Gorge Visitor Centre, 7 – 9pm (see flyer below for more details)

**Saturday October 10:**

Drive to Native Gap for lunch – Field Naturalists Trip, Leader Connie Spencer.

The Great Australian Marsupial Night Stalk @Trepshina Gorge Campground, 7 – 9pm (see flyer below for more details)

**Wednesday October 14:**

Field Naturalist Presentation. Peter Collins (Ex Warden at Broome Bird Observatory) talking about 'Waders, Flyways and Flagging', Olive Pink Botanic Gardens, 7:30pm

The Great Australian Marsupial Night Stalk @Watarrka (at picnic area near Gorge), 7 -9pm (see flyer below for more details)

**Tuesday October 17:** Visit the 'Land for Wildlife' area at OLSH Sadadeen Campus with the Field Naturalists. – Trip Leader is Rosalie Breen.

**Alice Springs Field Naturalist Society:** Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month (except December and January) at 7:30 PM at the Olive Pink Botanic Garden. Visitors are welcome. Contact President Barbara Gilfedder on 8955 5452 for more information and information on F.N. events.

## Announcements

I am pleased to announce that LfW/GfW has been awarded funding of \$10 00 by the Environment Grants Program to assist with coordination of the program.

Come and visit us at our stall at the Desert Smart EcoFair this weekend!

There have been reports that Big Headed Ants have gone ballistic in town since the rain so keep an eye out for those, and get onto them before they become a enormous problem for you!

Ilparpa rural Roe Creek area (and the Todd River as well) is also experiencing a massive germination of the invasive Mexican Poppy, which started before the recent rain. "Haven't seen it like this for almost ten years" says Rod Cramer of Temple Bar Caravan Park.

Garden for Wildlife has a display in collaboration with Olive Pink Botanic Garden on Plants in Flower from Vegetation Community 17, in the gazebo at OPBG.

You may have already noticed, but ... **Rainbow Beeaters are back!!** We heard their first distant familiar trills mid-August. They are flying down from the north to join us for the summer to feed on





our bugs, and will be so happy if it rains again this season.

See below for announcement from Michael Barrit of Parks and Wildlife about a new free slide show and spotlighting session of Central Australian Marsupials.



## Workshop

# 'Bare Earth to Biodiversity'

### Property Profile:

## Dylan & Jules of Raggat Street, Old Eastside

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September  
12:30 – 2pm

- Encouraging local native seedbanks
- Bush foods (for people and animals!)
- Working with a bare earth backyard
- Creating wildlife habitat, bird hollows
- A discussion on the balance of aesthetics, space & ecology

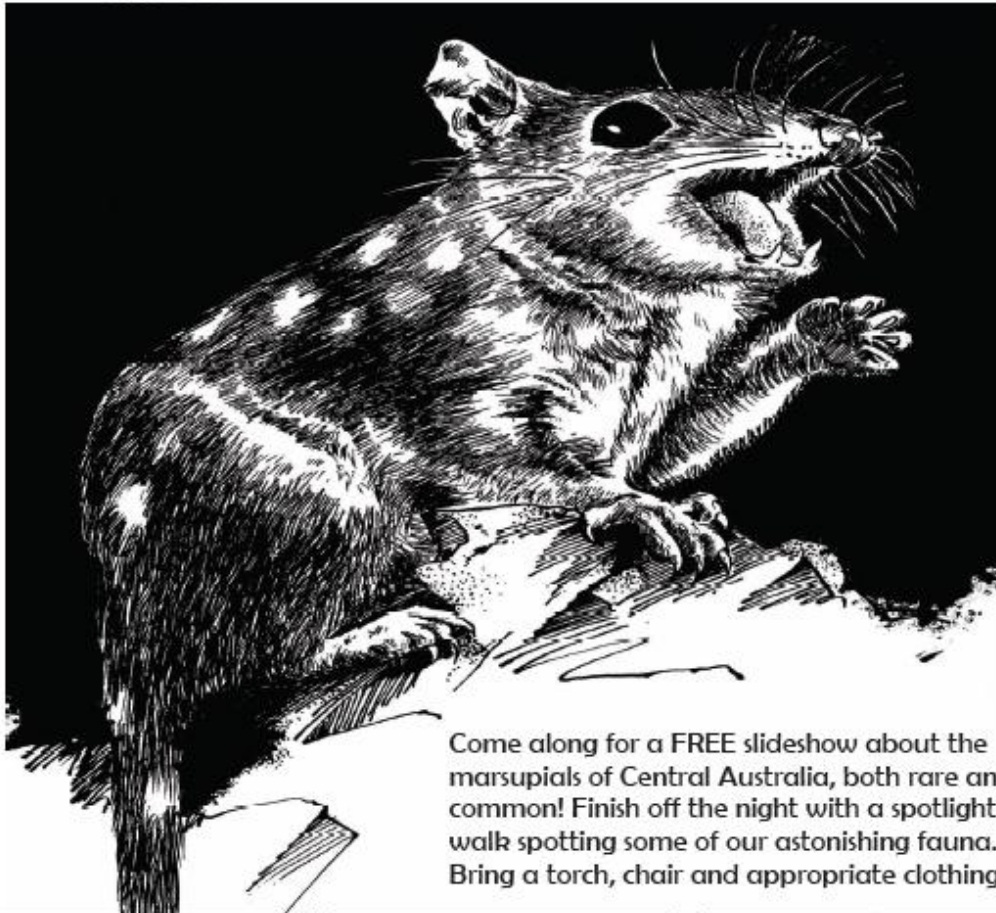


Come and tour Dylan's (of Tangentyere Nursery) garden and discuss the progress he has made in 9 months from bare earth to a garden for wildlife!

**Free!!**

**Numbers Limited, Bookings essential: 08 8955 5222**

# The Great Australian Marsupial Night Stalk



Come along for a FREE slideshow about the marsupials of Central Australia, both rare and common! Finish off the night with a spotlight walk spotting some of our astonishing fauna. Bring a torch, chair and appropriate clothing.

Alice Springs Telegraph Station Kiosk  
7-9pm Wed 30th Sept 09

Ormiston Gorge Visitor Centre 7-9pm  
Sat 3rd Oct 2009

Trephina Gorge Campground 7-9pm  
Sat 10th Oct 2009

Simpsons Gap BBQ area (right down at the Gap)  
7-9pm Fri 2nd Oct 09

Ormiston Gorge Visitor Centre 7-9pm  
Sun 4th Oct 2009

Watarrka (at Picnic area near Gorge)  
7-9pm Wed 14th Oct 2009

**Bookings Essential:** Call Michael Barritt at Parks and Wildlife on 89518247 or email at: [michael.barritt@nt.gov.au](mailto:michael.barritt@nt.gov.au)



Northern Territory Government

"The Northern Territory Government through the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport is pleased to sponsor Land for wildlife. This publication may not represent the views of the Northern Territory Government"

