

# LAND FOR WILDLIFE



## & GARDEN FOR WILDLIFE



**Land for Wildlife and Garden for Wildlife**

**Central Australia Newsletter**

June 2018

## From the Land for Wildlife Coordinator

It's hard to believe we are nearly half way through the year already! What a whirlwind few months. The Land for Wildlife team are over in WA for a couple of weeks so with the technology of mailchimp, this is being sent remotely while we enjoy a bushwalk through Boranup forest and get our feet wet in the cold waters of Hamelin Bay. The newsletter is a quick one this month as a result, but there are plenty of great events coming up that we thought you should know about!

The team will be back in time for the Alice Springs show, where we will have a stall to engage the masses on wildlife habitat conservation and restoration! Come and have a chat, buy a book and update us with your contact details if you've moved since we heard from you last. We will be sharing the site with the Australian Plants Society this year that will be selling some native grasses, forbs, shrubs and trees—so pop on over to their table and buy yourself a plant to fill that gap in the garden. Don't forget to check out the [Vegetation Maps](#) on the Land for Wildlife website first to get an idea on what you could plant to suit your block.

Is there something native flora or fauna related that you want to learn about? Drop us an email and let us know and we'll do the dirty groundwork and research to find out!



A Wasp making some moves to shift a Spider. There was some tugging and pulling and a few small gains.

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## Ecological Consulting News

Land for Wildlife Central Australia is hosted by *Low Ecological Services P/L*, an ecological consulting group based in Alice Springs that conducts a range of biodiversity surveys, ecological monitoring and desktop assessments in the Northern Territory.

The consultants are lucky to be able to get out in the field regularly to collect data and monitor ecological communities and on occasion, there are some noteworthy species that are worth sharing with our members.

A recent field survey by the Low Ecological Services P/L team came across a few specimens of *Eremophila cordatisepala*, found 270 km east-north-east of Alice Springs. The gorgeous purple-flowering *Eremophila cordatisepala* is a small shrub 25-50 cm in height. The species is classed as Near Threatened species under the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act (TPWC Act), and the observed location is considered at the extreme of its range.

You can learn about *E. cordatisepala* on the [NT Flora](#) website and view distribution and classification information via the [Atlas of Living Australia](#) website.

The same survey site also showed up a Fat-tailed False Antechinus (*Pseudantechinus macdonnellensis*), which is a dasyurid that is commonly found in the rocky environments of Central Australia and was originally discovered in the MacDonnell Ranges, hence the species name. The species was first described in 1896 by Sir Walter Baldwin Spencer, who placed it in the genus *Phascogale*, it was then reassigned to the genus *Antechinus* and has since been placed in the genus *Pseudantechinus*.

Living up to around seven years, the tail stores fat that acts as a food reserve but when food is plentiful it feeds on insects such as Beetles, Grasshoppers and Termites.

Like several other small mammals, *P. macdonnellensis* can go into a state of daily torpor to reduce energy expenditure in the harsh environment. Torpor is a state of physical inactivity, where the body temperature and metabolic rate are reduced, generally associated with rapid drops in environmental temperature or diurnal patterns.

The species is classified as Least Concern according to the IUCN Red List due to the widespread nature of its range.

You can learn about *P. macdonnellensis* on the [IUCN](#) website and view distribution and classification information via the [Atlas of Living Australia](#) website.



**Top: A Near Threatened *Eremophila cordatisepala* found east-north-east of Alice Springs (Image K. Degnan).**  
**Bottom 3-Panels: A Fat-tailed False Antechinus (*Pseudantechinus macdonnellensis*) found during a recent Low Ecological Services P/L survey (Image X. Tingle).**





# Junior Ranger

**Want to be a Junior Ranger this year in Alice Springs?**

Junior Rangers need to be:

- between 9 and 12 years of age
- keen to get out and about, get grubby and have heaps of fun making new friends in the great outdoors
- be able to commit to attending ten events over the ten weeks of term three

Discover the natural and cultural environment through practical nature based activities while having fun and making new friends!

Enrolments are now open, visit:

<https://nt.gov.au/leisure/parks-reserves/become-a-junior-ranger>

## Junior Ranger

Junior Ranger enrolments are open! Applicants are expected to commit to the 10 week program beginning in Term 3 during the week of July 23rd. Optional activities will be offered during this time also. Sessions will run on Tuesday or Wednesday afternoons, please select your preference in the application form (5.00pm -6.30pm). There are a total of 30 places available.

Enrolment forms can be downloaded from the NT Government [website](https://nt.gov.au/leisure/parks-reserves/become-a-junior-ranger).

For any questions about whether you think this program might be suitable for your child or for further information, feel free to get in touch with Jennifer Kreusser ([Jennifer.Kreusser@nt.gov.au](mailto:Jennifer.Kreusser@nt.gov.au), Community Engagement Ranger – Alice Springs and Tennant Creek Regions, Commercial and Community Partnerships, Parks, Wildlife and Heritage Division).

## Australian Plants Society Katherine Flora Brochure

The brand new 'Flora of the Katherine Area' brochure is now available from APS Alice Springs. They will be available for sale at their monthly meetings and the Alice Springs Show stall for \$5 each.

The Central Australian Flora: Forbs and Small Shrubs, as well as Central Australian Flora: Trees, Large Shrubs, Grasses and Sedges, is also available for the same excellent price.

Grab your copy ASAP to have a small portable guide in your glovebox!





## A Snippet From Significant Trees

### » *Lemon-scented Gum (Corymbia citriodora)*

As the name suggests, this gum emits a wonderful lemon scent from the foliage most of the year round. The species comes from temperate and tropical eastern Australia, but has proven it that it is also quite at home in the dry central Australian climate, with this specimen growing to the largest of its species in Alice Springs CBD. This quiet achiever can be seen on the corner of Bath and Parsons Street. The presence of this tree is an expression of comparatively recent use of Australian native trees for landscaping. Unfortunately, the use of this species in Perth's Kings Park has resulted in weed-like colonisation, but locally it's not considered invasive.

While we're talking about the register, a quick update on the progress of the Darwin and Katherine region registers — both are nearing completion and within the next few months the interactive map for the ENTIRE Northern Territory will be launched online. Stay Tuned!

*View the [NT Register of Significant Trees](#) webpage to learn more about the register. The NT Register of Significant Trees was established by the National Trust NT and Greening Australia and is managed by Land for Wildlife Central Australia.*



A Lemon-scented Gum (*Corymbia citriodora*) is listed as #12 on the central Australian portion of the NT Register of Significant Trees.

PALM VALLEY & ENVIRONS

Au plein air artworks by  
DEBORAH CLARKE

Olive Pink Botanic Garden  
June 23rd - July 6th  
Opening 3pm 23rd June



IT'S BACK!

# POP UP DISCOVERY TRAIL



Come along to the Alice Springs  
Telegraph Station from  
June 30 to July 22, 2018 and try  
out the Pop Up Discovery trail!

Grab your FREE map from the  
Trail Station and join in the fun!



[www.parksandwildlife.nt.gov.au](http://www.parksandwildlife.nt.gov.au)  
[www.facebook.com/ParksandWildlifeNT](https://www.facebook.com/ParksandWildlifeNT)



**NORTHERN  
TERRITORY**  
GOVERNMENT





## Further Reading

Click the link symbol to be redirected to the article



*Article* • Wheelie interesting nesting box trial aims to save threatened Australian bird species



*Article* • Wedge-tailed eagles found dead after 'clearly intentional' mass killing in East Gippsland



*Article* • Philanthropists' \$1m pledge aims to double largest cat-free zone



*Project Summary* • Feral cat distribution, abundance, management and impacts on threatened species: collation and analysis of data



*Article* • Penguins found dumped in bin in Tasmania, with public asked to help solve mystery

Cheers,

*Caragh, Candice and Bill*

*Do you have any stories or images to share? Get in touch! We are always looking for members to share their experiences via our social media and newsletter. Email us with your suggestions of articles or topics that you wish to hear more about.*

All images and articles by C. Heenan, unless specified otherwise.  
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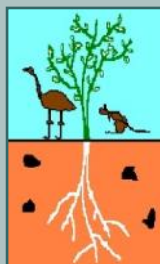
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