Land for Wildlife and Garden for Wildlife
Central Australia Newsletter

100th ISSUE!

May 2017

From the Land for Wildlife Coordinator

Wow! Haven't we come a long way?! Land for Wildlife is celebrating the 100th issue of the Land for Wildlife newsletter and it's jam-packed!

Land for Wildlife has been busy this month wrapping up the data collection phase of the domestic cat monitoring and awareness in Alice Springs project so that the final phases of engagement with cat owners can get underway. We will also be expanding the tracking to Tennant Creek for a week next month. Stay posted for the results in June!

The Significant Trees Register has also had a spruce up and has been pushed into the digital age. Candice has been working hard to get it up and happening and her efforts have paid off! You can read more about it on page 2.

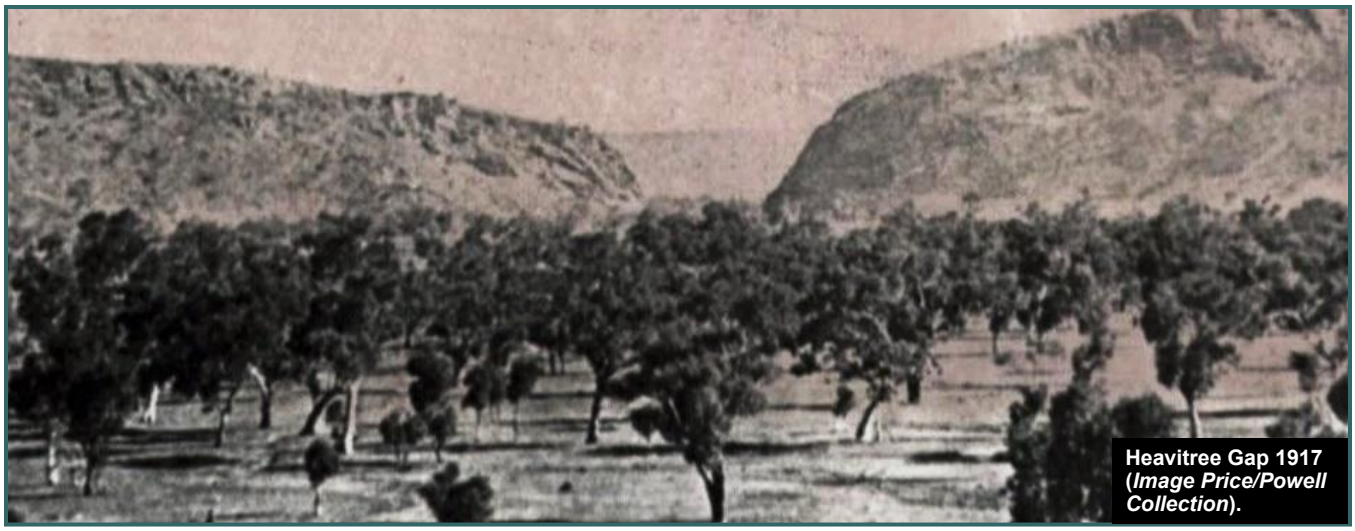
We are also in the lead-up to the Land for Wildlife 15th anniversary and the Garden for Wildlife 10th anniversary. We will be looking at hosting an event to celebrate so stay tuned for more information! If you have any great ideas on how we can celebrate, get in touch!

Until the next newsletter, stay warm 'wildlifers'!

A gecko is relocated from the Land for Wildlife kitchen sink to somewhere a little safer.

In This Issue

From the Land for Wildlife Coordinator • 1
Significant Trees Register Goes Online • 2
Slater's Skink – a Lesser-known Central Australian Resident • 3
Domestic Cat Monitoring and Awareness Wrapping Up • 4
Des Nelson Unplugged • 5-6
The Structure and Insulation of Avian Nests • 7-8
Ranger Guided Walks and Talks • 9
Feral Animal Trapping Services • 10
A Bundle to Carry • 11
Alice Springs Junior Ranger Program • 11
Upcoming Events • 12
Community Engagement Materials Updated • 12
Guess the Poo Competition Winner • 13
Ilparpa Claypans Lovers • 13
Feral Animal Updates • 13
Further Reading • 14



Heavitree Gap 1917 (*Image Price/Powell Collection*).

Significant Trees Register Goes Online

By Candice Appleby

As you may all recall earlier this year Land for Wildlife announced that we would be coordinating the rejuvenation of the *National Trust NT* Significant Trees Register. Overall, LFW coordinate the maintenance of the register for the entire Northern Territory on behalf of the *National Trust NT*, however initially we have decided to focus our energy locally and revitalise the Central Australia Register.

A lot has changed in the region in the past 28 years since the inception of the register in 1989. Several listings have been removed from the register, as they have made way for town development or simply suffered the fate of nature (like fire, hail, old age and white ants). Likewise numerous listings were added in the 90's when Greening Australia NT was managing the register.

Over the last few months we have made it a priority to get all this information into the digital age by GPS plotting each listing and getting all the information into an interactive database. After numerous site visits, sorting through old documents and culling expired listings, Land for Wildlife is excited to announce the Significant Trees Register (Central Australia Region) has now gone live!

Head to the project page at the Land for Wildlife website to read more about the register, see a list of the trees on the central Australian register, download PDF fact sheets about the trees and even take a 'virtual' tour of the register via an interactive Google Map.

Stay tuned for more updates to the register - next on the list to update is the Katherine- Daly Rivers Region. This is a region rich in Banyans, Boabs and historical blazes! Currently the Significant Tree Project is unfunded. Land for Wildlife is actively seeking funding to assist with the groundwork costs associated with reassessing trees and getting this information recorded on the database. Land for Wildlife would like to extend a great appreciation to our host Bill Low of Low Ecological Services *P/L* for his ongoing support. *Blog*►

~ Candice Appleby

Significant Trees Interview on ABC Breakfast with Stewart Brash

Candice Appleby woke up the Alice Springs community with her dulcet tones following the launch of the NT Register of Significant Trees. She was interviewed by Stewart Brash on breakfast radio about the register. Missed it? Don't fear! You can listen to it on our YouTube channel.

Slater's skink, *Liopholis slateri*, is a floodplain specialist (*Image C. Treilibs*).

Slater's Skink – a Lesser-known Central Australian Resident

By Claire Treilibs

Without fur, feathers, or large-adorable eyes, reptiles generally draw the short straw when it comes to popular appeal of our native critters. Some (mammal-centric) commentators might argue that reptiles lack charisma, but these scaly creatures have their own *je ne sais quoi*.

A lesser-known central Australian resident is the endangered Slater's skink (*Liopholis slateri*). With an air of nonchalance, these sly skinks laze outside their burrow entrances, peering through narrowed eyes, basking. Then – wham! At lightning speed, they pounce upon their prey – any ants or termites that might be wandering by.

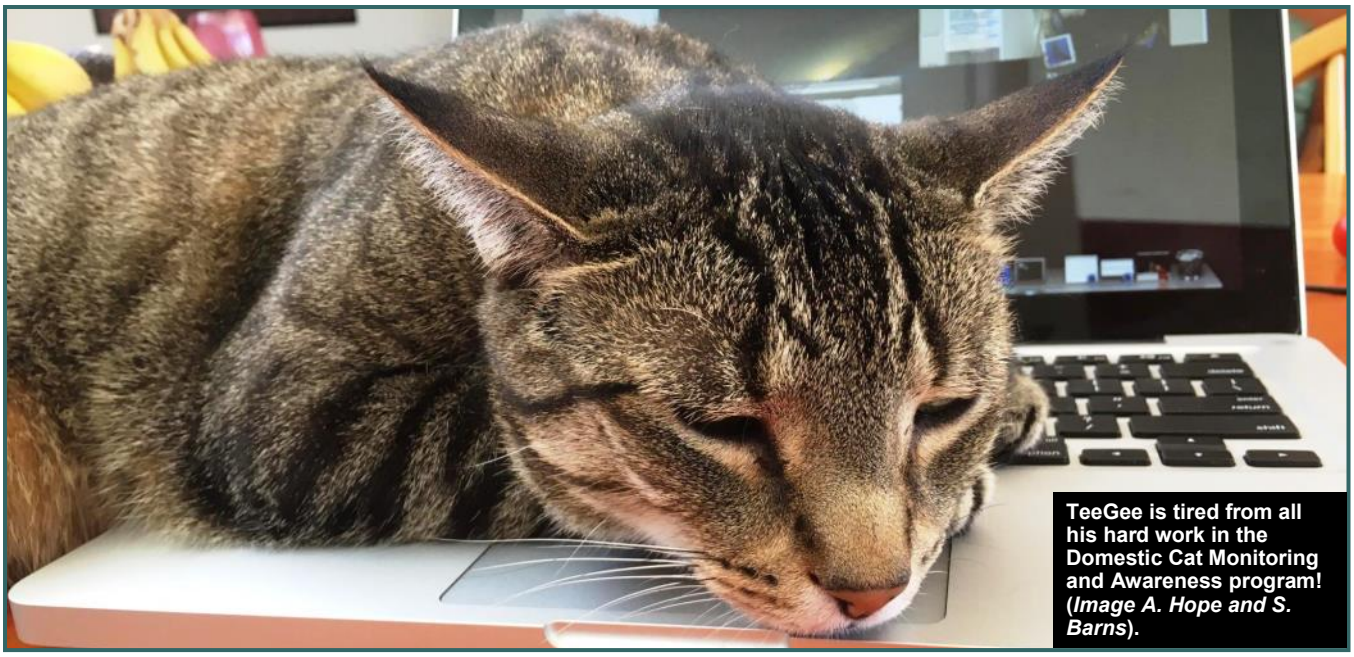
I got to know a population of Slater's skink over four years of a PhD study. I could tell who was whom from the spots and scale patterns on their faces. Once I found a way of recognising individuals by photograph, I could track them over time. Take 'Spotty' for instance. If I recorded where Spotty was when I snapped the photo, then I could track Spotty's whereabouts; which burrows she uses, and for how long. I found that these skinks were surprisingly mobile within the population compared with the more sedentary habits of many of their close relatives.

Slater's skinks are extraordinary in that they are specialist floodplain users. In fact, they only occur in the floodplains of the east and west MacDonnell Ranges. The entire global population occurs within 150 km of Alice Springs in 11 (mostly isolated) populations. Buffel grass, fire, climate change, and in some populations, cattle, are causing dramatic changes to their floodplain habitats and risking the future of this endangered skink.

Last month, indigenous ranger groups and other land managers got together to share information, discuss current monitoring and management of the skink, and how to help look after it in future. You can read more about the two-day Slater's skink forum on the ABC post and the TNRM post.

~ Claire Treilibs

Mugshots: Spotty, Kelly and Billy (Slater) (*Image C. Treilibs*).

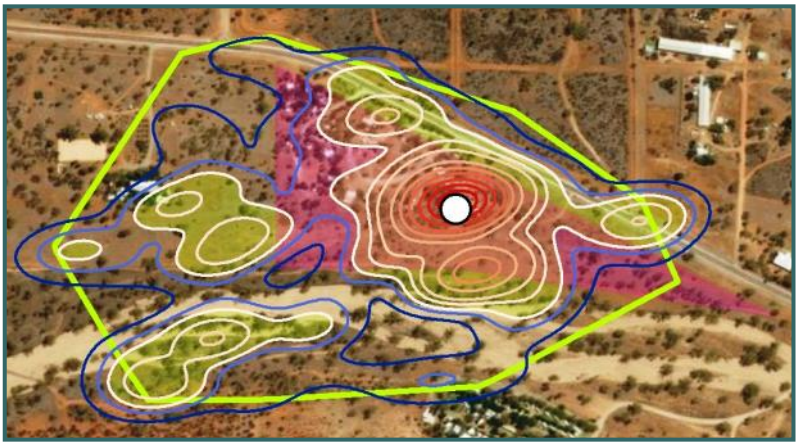


TeeGee is tired from all his hard work in the Domestic Cat Monitoring and Awareness program! (*Image A. Hope and S. Barns*).

Domestic Cat Monitoring and Awareness Wrapping Up

The Domestic Cat Monitoring and Awareness in Alice Springs program is wrapping up for another round and the cats are exhausted from all their hard work recording where they go and what they see. The tracker data has been through the wringer! Maps have been produced showing where the cats go and what their hotspots are. We will be running movements and distances through the calculator to get some statistics prepared. The final step in the process will be to collate the information and present this to the cat owners so they can see the results.

An additional monitoring round will take place in Tennant Creek in a couple of weeks if all goes to plan, with the intention of broadening the range of our community engagement. Several Tennant Creek residents with pet cats have offered to take part in the monitoring, with their data sneaking into the mix in the final couple of weeks of the funding round.



As a little taster of the data to come, this is the measured home-range of Possum, a young Tabby that spends a significant amount of time outside. Possum spends much of its time outside near the house (red hotspot) but the tracking data shows that Possum also spends a good proportion of his time near the main road, roaming in the riverbed and also in nearby bushland (90% of GPS fixes are within the green shaded zone). Not only does Possum roam on the large property, but he also visits neighbouring properties. Possum's video surveillance and tracking data will be presented to his owner in the coming weeks as the project is wrapped up for another year.

Are you interested in having your cat tracked but you haven't taken part in the monitoring yet? Land for Wildlife will look at continuing the monitoring process for members of the Land for Wildlife and Garden for Wildlife programs to engage with cat owners about responsible management of their free-roaming felines. *Blog*►

This project is supported by Territory Natural Resource Management, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.

Des Nelson Unplugged

Des Nelson and his prize Mulga (*Acacia aneura*).

Land for Wildlife has a tough task of identifying plants on member properties. A keen eye is required to tell the difference between some plants and when that's the case, we call on a local expert for assistance – Des Nelson. Des is a retired botanist that has spent much of his life in Alice Springs. While Des was born in Gunnedah in New South Wales, he moved to Cowra when he was young and then moved to Alice Springs in 1953, when he was 18.

Shortly after arriving in Alice Springs, he took on a job working as a jackaroo on a cattle station before moving to Canberra and working for the CSIRO in the Division of Entomology for six months. He soon decided that it was a little too chilly on the coast and made his way back to central Australia in 1955. Since returning to Alice Springs, he alternated his working career between working in a research chemistry laboratory, working for the CSIRO and working for the Alice Springs Herbarium – held at the Alice Springs Desert Park.

His role at the herbarium began in 1956, when he became the first assistant to George Chippendale, who founded the herbarium. George Chippendale was a great inspiration to Des and the passion for working with plants took hold as a result. As the first botanists to stock the herbarium, their role was to travel central Australia on bush trips searching for new plant species and collecting samples. This was the main drawcard to working in the botanical field – going out bush was more of an enticement than the botany itself, but botany was a means to getting out in the wild. The field trips gave him a chance to learn about plants.

While Des states that his interest in botany arose during his childhood, he was primarily interested in entomology, but also the natural world at large. He is a self-confessed "Nature Freak". While he never went through any formal training, he learnt as he went along, and he now has quite the knowledgebase.

George was a great influence for Des, who would often be left in charge of the herbarium when George went on interstate trips. In 1962, George had a severe car accident, which meant that Des was appointed the acting NT botanist – a big responsibility. Des was later made an inspector of noxious weeds. A new botanist arrived by the name of John Maconochie, who took on the task of managing the herbarium. The responsibility of these roles for Des gave the impetus to learn plant identification. He sat down with a microscope and a copy of the Flora of South Australia (best plant book relevant to the NT at the time) and taught himself the finer details of identifying plants. This included looking at tiny details such as the shape of the hairs and the venation of the leaves.

But Des suggests that some plants just aren't worth identifying to species. He agrees that the *Sida* species and other plants in the group Malvaceae are a little too tricky to bother getting specific about. Several other species are still a little tough and so he draws on the extensive knowledge of Peter Latz, Peter Jobson and Debbie Parsons at the Alice Springs Desert Park herbarium. Des recognises the importance of the herbarium, suggesting that books are often not enough to identify a plant to species. Once a book is published, it's immediately out of date because of name changes and reclassification due to advances in taxonomy through DNA analysis. He gets great satisfaction identifying plants and uses it not only as a challenge, but also as a good excuse to visit the herbarium. Des now has several plants named after him – the Des Nelson Wattle (*Acacia desmondii*) is a dense-canopied tree with dark green leaves and yellow flower spikes in spring, an attractive wattle to be grown in Alice Springs gardens.

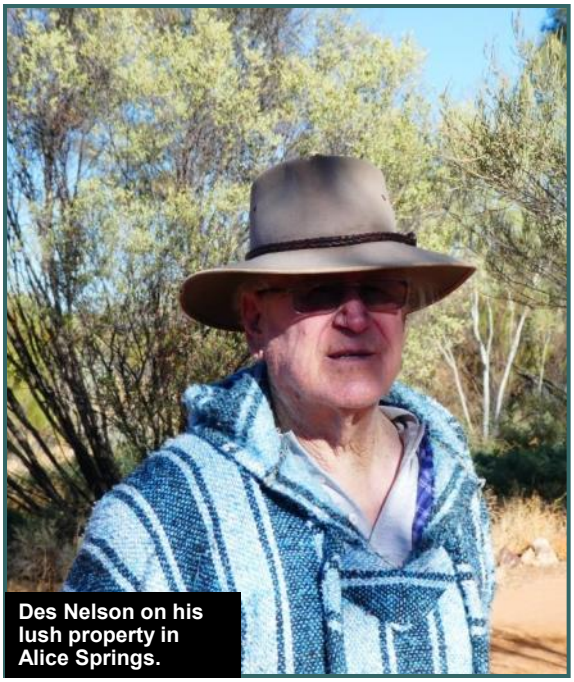
Des has also spent time working for the Division of Land Research and Regional Survey, working with the microclimatology group, conducting field trips to Mulga (*Acacia aneura*) and Spinifex (*Triodia sp*.) country to the north of Alice Springs. As a consequence of his time spent in Mulga country north of Alice Springs, Des is particularly fond of the tree, suggesting that Mulga country is his sacred site. He finds it fascinating how the seed beneath burnt mulga can grow back so readily. While Bloodwoods also restrict the growth of smaller plants beneath their canopy, Buffel Grass doesn't discriminate and grows right to the base of trees. This can be an issue for species such as corkwoods when fire is involved, as large trees can be readily burnt. He doesn't mind the smell of Gidgee either and is happy to spend time in Gidgee country, where others would balk at the concept.

While he enjoys the unique plants in central Australia, Des also enjoys the Top End, particularly the change in country between Alice Springs and Darwin. He reads the country and takes note of the species that predominate in each area. He also notes the abundance of wildlife in even some of the most barren regions along the southern Stuart Highway between Alice Springs and Adelaide.

His varied work career took him travelling to many places around Australia, including while doing ground-truthing for satellite imagery. He was asked to locate some of the strange locations that appeared in satellite images and do a description of the area on-site. Some of these trips took him to remote places of the Northern Territory and South Australia that he found fascinating, including a spot near Copper Hill Station with amazing "Moon Country".

Some of his work with the CSIRO was in the fields of botany and ecology, but also chemistry. Some of the notable work that Des carried out at CSIRO was collaborating with the herbarium on a toxic plants and their effect on the livestock industry. Des explains that there are four main toxic plants that he was working on:

- Birdsville Indigo (*Indigofera dominii*) that causes Birdsville disease in horses, and as such, the loss of horses to the droving industry was drastic. Des, and fellow chemist Ray Murray, looked for the toxic principle of *I. dominii*. The main issue is that it smells like Lucerne and is therefore very palatable to horses.
- Georgina Gidgee (*Acacia georginae*) poisoning was a huge issue as the leaves of the species had been found to contain 1080 and this causes loss of cattle. Gidgee is safe near Alice Springs but some individuals closer to the eastern border (past Ooratippra Station in the NT and into Queensland) are occasionally (but not always) toxic. The regional differences aren't specifically known but may be tied to Nindaroo dolomite, which occurs more frequently to the east, and occurs most often when the land is dry. Des suggests it may even be a chemical defence by the plant to fend off unwanted grazers.
- Walkabout (Kimberley Horse) disease caused by liver-damaging pyrrolizidine alkaloids found in several species of Rattlepod (*Crotalaria crispata*, *C. dissitiflora*, *C. novae-hollandiae*, *C. ramosissima*, *C. retusa* and *C. trifoliastrum*).
- Browsing of Northern Ironwood (*Erythrophleum chlorostachium*) during cattle droves in the Top End.



Des Nelson on his lush property in Alice Springs.

Des took early retirement from the CSIRO in 1990 but was not allowed to leave and took on a few consulting tasks for groups including CSIRO, the Northern Territory Government (assessing pastoral capability of some of the local stations) and private enterprise, including Low Ecological Services *P/L*. Des took up writing following retirement, working on putting his personal history onto paper with pen. He belongs to the local writers group and has been using this to develop his skills. Des has kept a diary since he was 15 and so has a lot of detail that can be used to develop an accurate story. So for someone that is retired, he certainly keeps himself busy!

Land for Wildlife thank Des for his ongoing support of the program and his excellent work identifying the copious number of plant samples we take his way, as well as mentoring developing plant identifiers!

The Structure and Insulation of Avian Nests

Birds' nests have evolved into many shapes and sizes, but they all function to provide a secure substrate for eggs and hatchlings, camouflage and defence from predators, as well as protect the eggs, hatchlings and incubating parent from harsh climatic conditions. My doctoral studies at University of Adelaide focused on understanding the factors influencing the structure and insulation of avian nests and hence the manner in which a nest may influence the energetic cost of incubation.

FACTORS INFLUENCING NEST SIZE AND SHAPE

Parent Mass

Comparing the size and shape of nests of 36 Australian passerine species against parent mass reveals that nest surface area increases in direct proportion to the size of the parent. Nest diameter and height increase with parent mass but as nests become larger in line with increases in parent mass, the nest cup also becomes shallower and the opening becomes wider than expected, which allows for the space that the chicks will occupy.

Nest mass increases with parent mass at a rate that matches that of a supporting structure, suggesting that structural considerations of nest construction are of primary importance to nest design. The requirement for structural support is also evident for nest thickness, which increases more than proportionally expected as parent size increases. Structurally adequate nests become thicker than expected for their size in larger birds.

The Clutch

Of interest is how the size or number of eggs in a clutch relates to the size of a nest. The clutch surface area and the internal surface area of the nest increase simultaneously; and the clutch volume and volume of the nest cup are also associated. Since nest design for the majority of birds in the study is in part influenced by the male and egg shape is controlled by muscles in the pelvis of the female, it is likely that one does not control the other. However, nest and egg size/shape are influenced by body size and ancestry. Therefore, it is likely that the nest and clutch are in fact independent, yet matched secondarily due to the shared influence of body mass and genetic ancestry.

FACTORS INFLUENCING NEST INSULATION

Nest Structure

As we know, the nest surface area increases in proportion to bird size, however nests become much thicker than expected as bird size increases. The thick walls provide structural support for the parent and clutch, with the consequence that structurally adequate nests achieve greater insulation than expected, as they increase in size. Nests are often viewed as objects that are designed to prevent heat loss from the clutch and incubating parent; however the requirement for adequate structural support is the primary selective influence on nest construction, not the requirement for insulation.

"Small variations in nest design can have significant impacts on the insulation value of a nest, which will in turn influence the energetic cost of incubation"

Nest Microclimate

» Wind

By assessing the insulation of Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*) and Yellow-throated Miner (*Manorina flavigula*) nests under varying wind conditions, I found that wind enters the nest material and dissipates heat, resulting in a decrease in thermal insulation with greater wind speeds. The consequence of increased wind currents around and through the nests would be a near-doubling in heat production required by the parent when incubating.

» Temperature and Rainfall

While ambient temperature does not influence the structure of nests in my study, it does influence the insulation of nests and the thermal efficiency of the material. However, temperature and precipitation (henceforth referred to as climate) act in combination, indicating that the response of Australian passerines to one variable depends upon the level of the other. In sites with low temperatures, nest insulation may be important to maintain an appropriate microclimate for offspring and therefore birds construct nests with good insulation, irrespective of the rainfall at the site. For nests constructed in warm climates but at the two extremes of rainfall, there is a pronounced decrease in insulation for nests built in areas with high rainfall, compared to areas with low rainfall.

The effect of climate extends to the thermal efficiency of the nest materials, indicating that not only the ambient temperature, but also the precipitation of the breeding site, influences material selection during the nest construction phase. Birds breeding in warm and wet climates construct their nests with materials that have a poor thermal efficiency compared to those in dry climates. The warm temperatures may cause a relaxation in the need for insulation, and poorly insulating materials (such as sticks and grasses, rather than fur and wool) are possibly less absorptive and able to dry out faster following a rain event, to restore the insulating function of the nest.

» Rain

To determine the effect of water (from rain, dew or absorption from the nest substrate) on the heat loss from the nest, I measured Tawny-crowned Honeyeater (*Gliciphila melanops*) nests under varying water content levels (from dry to saturated). Water penetrating the nesting material increases conductance of *G. melanops* nests by up to two and a half times the rate seen in a dry nest – a consequence of the decreased thermal efficiency of materials in a wet nest. As a result, additional energy is required by the incubating parent to keep clutches warm when nests become wet. Individuals should be capable of obtaining additional floral resources to deal with an energy deficit in cold and wet conditions. However, if floral resources are poor and an individual is unable to meet such energy demands, it may abandon the nest altogether.

SUMMARY

My studies highlight the importance of nest design and construction for the thermal properties of nests – small variations in nest design can have significant impacts on the insulation value of a nest, which will in turn influence the energetic cost of incubation.

The effect of rain and wind on nest insulation, and the consequence of this for the energetics of the incubating parent, reinforces the view that appropriate nest site selection that provides additional shelter is crucial for avian reproductive success.

~ Caragh Heenan

If you would like to read more about avian nest construction and how it is affected by physiological requirements of the adult, head to "An overview of the factors influencing the morphology and thermal properties of avian nests". Caragh B. Heenan. Avian Biology Research; 6(2), 2013.

Park/Reserve	Activity	When?	Time & length	Starts from
Arltunga Historical Reserve	**Meet a Local Gold Miner** Guided Activity	School Holidays Wednesdays 28 June – 19 July	11.00am - 45 mins	Arltunga Visitor Centre
Alice Springs Telegraph Station	**A Taste of Trig Hill** Guided Walk	Thursdays 15 June – 3 August	10.30am - 45 mins	Information Shelter near the Trail Station café
Yeperenye / Emily and Jessie Gaps Nature Park	**Secrets of the Gap** Guided Walk	Tuesdays & Saturdays 13 June – 5 August	10.00am - 45 mins	Jessie Gap Carpark
Finke Gorge National Park	**Desert Diversity** Campfire Talk	Fridays 5 May – 25 August	7.00pm - 1 hour	Palm Valley Campground
Finke Gorge National Park	**Mystery of the Palms** Guided Walk	Sundays 7 May – 27 August	10.00am - 45 mins	Palm Valley Info Shelter (start of the Mpulungkinya walk)
Ormiston Gorge Tjorita / West MacDonnell NP	**Habitats and Inhabitants** Slide Show	Wednesdays 10 May – 30 August	7.00pm - 45 mins	Ormiston Gorge Amphitheatre
Ormiston Gorge Tjorita / West MacDonnell NP	**Signs of Life** Nature Talk	Mondays & Fridays 8 May – 28 August	3.30pm - 45 mins	Ormiston Gorge Amphitheatre
Simpsons Gap Tjorita / West MacDonnell NP	**Secrets of the Gap Revealed** Guided Walk	Saturdays and Mondays 6 May – 28 August	10.00am - 30 mins	Information Shelter at Simpsons Gap
Karlu Karlu / Devils Marbles National Park	**A Year in the Life of a Barkly Ranger** Campfire Talk	Mondays 5 June – 24 July	7.00pm - 1 hour	Shade Shelter at the end of the Campground
Trephina Gorge Nature Park	**Discover the East** Ranger Talk	Fridays 2 June – 1 September	10.00am - 1 hour	Trephina Gorge Information Shelter
Watarrka National Park	**Wonders of Watarrka** Ranger Talk	Mondays & Wednesdays 3 May – 30 August	3.00pm - 45 mins	Kings Canyon overflow carpark shelter (located near the toilets)
Owen Springs Reserve	Special Events	Sunday 2 July **Nature Journaling** Monday 7 August **4WD Tag Along – World Ranger Day** *Sunday 24 September* **Bird Watching Tag Along tour RC Bird Festival**	*Check the Community Events page on the website for further details*	

Feral Animal Trapping Services

» Feral Cat Trapping

Feral cats (*Felis catus*) have contributed to the disappearance of many ground dwelling birds and mammals in the arid zone and continue to threaten the success of recovery programs for endangered species. It's therefore a service to the native animals of the region to trap any feral cats you find roaming your rural property. Land for Wildlife loan out cat traps to members and can provide you with the information and advice needed to get you on your way to become a successful trapper.

» Cat Trapping Success

Are you already trapping cats? Land for Wildlife would like to hear from you. We are in the process of gathering information on trapping success by Land for Wildlife members on their property. This information will be used to help the Alice Springs Town Council's Environment Advisory Committee to assess the effectiveness of various trapping programs in the region.

We can determine trapping success by taking the ratio of the number of cats trapped to the number of trapping nights (successful and unsuccessful). If you are trapping feral cats on your property and are able to provide us with this information, we would appreciate it! Email us at lfw@lowecol.com.au with the two figures and the suburb you are trapping in and we can collate the data from our members. *Blog*►

Above: Spotted Turtle-dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*) is a feral species whose population has taken hold in Alice Springs (*Image Land for Wildlife*).
Left: Rock Doves (*Columba livia*) have been seen around Alice Springs and are also worthy of trapping (*Image by Laitche, Wiki Commons*).

» Spotted Turtle-dove Trapping

Feral Spotted Turtle-doves (*Streptopelia chinensis*) first became established in Alice Springs in the early 1990s when approximately 10 birds were liberated from a backyard aviary and the population has steadily grown since then. Spotted Turtle-doves are domesticated birds that are highly suited to life in urban areas. They are able to breed all year round and compete with native species for shelter and nesting sites.

Do you have these birds in your yard? Land for Wildlife have traps for loan and can assist you by providing trapping information and other tips to help deter feral birds from taking up residence on your property.

Parks and Wildlife's John Tyne suggests that there are also a few feral Rock Doves (*Columba livia*) around town at the moment. If you happen to trap a Rock Dove, you can take them to the Alice Springs Desert Park for ethical disposal as food for raptors and predators in the Park.

Contact Land for Wildlife for more information on trapping feral cats and birds in the Alice Springs area, to loan a trap or to seek assistance with disposing of trapped animals.

A Bundle to Carry

This image of a mother Euro (*Macropus robustus*) and her very large joey was sent in to Land for Wildlife by one of our members, Apples Kemp.

The joey is allowed to begin exploring the world after six months of age but will retreat to the pouch. The mother will refuse the young entry to her pouch after eight/nine months—which looks like about now for this hefty young one.

Once the joey has left the pouch, it will continue to feed from the mother up to 16 months of age, weaning just prior to sexual maturity.

She sure has a pouchful with this one!

Alice Springs Junior Ranger Program

Enrolments for the Alice Springs Junior Ranger program are now open! It's that time again, time to lace up your boots, rustle up your pack and head on out to explore the tracks and trails in and around the Parks of Alice Springs. This year we will be investigating the Central Australian bush, learning all about plants and animals (even the teeny tiny ones) and find out what makes them tick as we interact with nature. We will also be bushwalking, map reading, tracking, spotlighting and generally having an awesome time!

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.

This year there will be two groups of Junior Rangers operating independently of one another on either Tuesday evenings 5 to 6.30pm OR Wednesday evenings 5 to 6.30pm and the occasional weekend activity. The program will commence in week 1 of Term 3 and run for 10 weeks.

There are no costs associated with the Junior Ranger program however parents/guardians are required to provide all transport for their child, drop off and pick their child up on time. Parents are also required to ensure that their child arrives at an event well prepared, wearing a hat and enclosed shoes and carrying a drink, snack and torch in a small backpack.

Parents are more than welcome to attend Junior Ranger activities but will need to show a valid Ochre Card. We do ask that if siblings attend they are to be under the direct supervision of a parent or guardian at all times.

The Junior Ranger enrolment documents can be found on the Parks and Wildlife website. Junior Ranger paperwork can be emailed to susie.armes@nt.gov.au, posted to PO Box 1120 Alice Springs or dropped in to the Parks and Wildlife office at the Tom Hare Building in the Arid Zone Research Institute, opposite 8HA on the Stuart HWY during working hours.

Upcoming Events

» *World Environment Day: 5th June*

World Environment Day is about reconnecting you to nature. Go outside and show that you're *#WithNature* by breathing in the beauty. By keeping our planet healthy, we keep ourselves healthy too. Read more at the World Environment Day website.

» *TNRM Southern Forum: 20th June*

Territory Natural Resource Management will be running their half-day Southern Forum again this year at the Desert Knowledge Precinct in Alice Springs.

Land for Wildlife will no doubt be presenting some of the results of the Domestic Cat Monitoring and Awareness in Alice Springs project. Stay posted to hear more through the newsletter and online blog.

Community Engagement Materials Updated

Land for Wildlife are excited to announce that we were successful in securing an NT Government Community Benefit Fund small grant earlier in the month. This grant application was sponsored by the Arid Lands Environment Centre, with moral support from the Alice Springs Town Council and Olive Pink Botanic Garden.

The small grant has gone a long way and Land for Wildlife have been using the funds to spruce up our community engagement material. Where we once stood at events with but a trestle table, now we stand tall with a sun shade, identifying logo banner, pull-up poster with information about the program, a pin-board to post the most relevant information for the event, a tablet to display promotional videos, and other such materials.

Along with the materials for attending events, Land for Wildlife / Garden for Wildlife have produced a set of fridge magnets for members with the logos and contact details. We encourage all members to come past the Land for Wildlife stall at any of the upcoming events and say hello, collect a magnet and peruse the new resources!

Land for Wildlife coordinator, Caragh Heenan, shows off the new engagement equipment thanks to a recent NTG CBF grant (*Image C. Appleby*).

Guess the Poo Competition Winner

Land for Wildlife ran a Guess the Poo Competition at Pets on Parade, which was a huge success! Attendees of all ages went into the draw to win a copy of Reptiles and Frogs of Alice Springs by Nic Gambold and Deborah Metters (ASp 1st LFW coordinator). Some of the players were more enthusiastic than others to inspect poo for traces of its owner. Congratulations to Kayhan for guessing the most samples correctly!

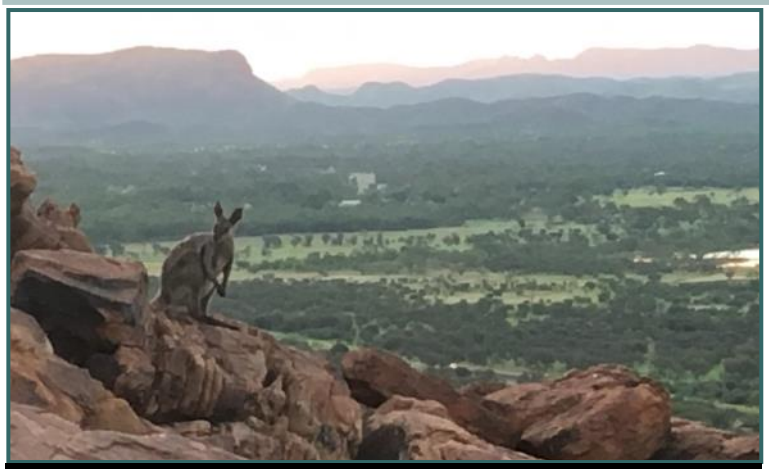
Ilparpa Claypans Lovers

The Ilparpa Claypans Lovers hold action group meetings on the first Saturday of each month at the Bean Tree Café at Olive Pink Botanic Garden.

They will be also taking a walk once a month at the Ilparpa Claypans to enjoy the beauty of the space and discuss ways to protect the claypans. The upcoming walks are:

- Saturday 3rd June - Action Group Meeting - 10-11 am
- Tuesday 27th June - Walk & Talk Gathering - 5pm -sunset
- Saturday 1st July - Action Group Meeting - 10-11 am

Contact ilparpaclaypanslovers@gmail.com for more information.



Black-footed Rock Wallaby (*Petrogale lateralis*) observed on the hillside behind Land for Wildlife member, Glen Marshall's property in Ilparpa (*Image G. Marshall*).

Feral Animal Updates

Click the link symbol to be redirected to the article

- *Article* • The foreign invaders eating their way across Australia: Stunning photographs prove the nation's most dangerous animals are feral species
- *Article* • Feral cats' diet tracked ahead of calicivirus release
- *Article* • 20 years of cat control: keeping threatened species safe
- *Article* • The moral cost of cats

Further Reading

Click the link symbol to be redirected to the article

Article • Steward of the land: A farmer's mission to protect the environment

Article • Endangered dodo relative found in WA

Article • Irreplaceable plant specimens from France destroyed in Australian quarantine blunder

Article • Forests equal to 60pc of Australian landmass discovered using new tool

Article • Recidivist rooster 'Terrible Terry' sent to Central Australian prison farm after wreaking havoc

Article • Five neat tricks to keep your cat from attacking birds

Article • 10 beautiful birds to look out for in the Red Centre

Article • Birdwatchers make 'probable' rediscovery of elusive night parrot in Central Australia

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.

Cheers,
Caragh and Bill

Land for Wildlife & Garden for Wildlife Central Australia newsletter is published by Land for Wildlife, hosted by Low Ecological Services P/L, through funding from the Northern Territory Government.

Opinions expressed by contributors to the Land for Wildlife & Garden for Wildlife Central Australia newsletter are not necessarily those of the Land for Wildlife program nor any of the supporting agencies.

Contact Us

Land for Wildlife, GFW
Low Ecological Services
P.O. Box 3130
Alice Springs NT 0871
(+61) 8 89 555 222
lfw@lowecol.com.au
Visit us on the web at:
http://wildlife.lowecol.com.au/

Stay Connected with Land for Wildlife on Social Media

Visit our LfW & GfW website and connect with us on social media by clicking these links:

Visit our website to read the blogs

Befriend Tawny Frogmouth on Facebook

Follow Land for Wildlife on Facebook

Follow Garden for Wildlife on Facebook

Follow Tawny Frogmouth on Instagram: @LfW_Alice

Subscribe to Land for Wildlife on Twitter: @LfW_Alice

Subscribe to Land for Wildlife on YouTube:

… and tag us in your posts to keep us updated!