

Gang-gang Cockatoo Project update

January 2015

Survey progress

The November update (Gang-gang newsletter December 2014) indicated that at the time of writing we were in the middle of the November Muster week. How time flies for it is now time to think about the final Muster for the survey.

The project will finish at the end of February having been going for the past 12 months. The final Muster will as usual go for a seven day period starting 19 February to coincide with GBS week number 8. Results for this Muster compared with the February 2014 Muster will be of particular interest. A copy of the Muster sheet can be found in this newsletter or on the web at <http://canberrabirds.org.au/observing-birds/gang-gang-survey/gang-gang-muster-instructions/>

Remember that it is possible to enter your sightings on-line at the above link but cannot be done so until the 7 days of observations have been collected. For those new to the Muster survey information can be found at the above link. Any queries about the survey please send to ggquery@canberrabirds.org.au

For general observations not associated with the Muster the on-line data entry portal will remain open until the middle of April for those wishing to submit forgotten observations. The portal can be found at <http://root.ala.org.au/bdrs-core/cog/home.htm>

As we write (mid- January) general observations continue to be submitted with 45 on-line entries for January. An analysis of the number of general observations submitted over the last four months indicates a reduction in the number of records submitted due partly to a reduction in the number of records per observer and in December to a reduction in the number of observers.

	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of records	409	355	298	238
Number of observers	54	49	52	33
Number of suburbs	36	32	33	27

The Muster results show a slightly different pattern.

	Aug	Nov
Number of sites	83	67
Number of Gang-gangs per site	1.35	0.52
Number of Gang-gangs per site with birds	5.32	2.41

Number of suburbs	44	40
Number of suburbs reporting Gang-gangs (%)	56.6	56.7

A large reduction in the number of sites, in the number of birds per site and in the number of birds per site which recorded Gang-gangs but only a slight drop in the number of suburbs which submitted observations (including zero sightings) and no drop in the number of sites reporting birds indicating a drop in the number of birds in the area. Whether this is due to birds moving out of the area or to a change in behaviour is unknown.

During November and December there were 23 records from nine suburbs of birds observed inspecting hollows To-date none appear to have produced any young. Information from three sites with multiple observations indicates that the heavy rain in mid-December may have put an end to any successful breeding. **Any reports of adults with begging young are especially important at this time of the year.**

Linda Beveridge filed this interesting observation on Australia Day about a pair of adults with a young bird possibly getting its flying wings at Rosenthal Street, Campbell.

The adult male and female perched in a Euc. polyanthemus near 31 Rosenthal St, and watched the junior (possibly female) fly from this tree in a large slightly wobbly loop to an exotic tree in a neighbouring yard. Then adults flew to a Eucalyptus at the above address and called junior who flew in big loop still a little wobbly towards them then veered away and flew on to a Eucalyptus polyanthemus in Ferdinand Street (the next street up the hill). Direct distance between junior's perches would have been about 100m, but with the loop probably more like 150m.

Community engagement

The *Imagining Gang-gangs* student art exhibition, held at the M16 Artspace Gallery Griffith, in the last week of November was a great success. Ian Warden was given a sneak preview before the opening and gave the exhibition great press, including a photograph of the drawing by Lara Hedley of Campbell High that was awarded the most popular senior artwork (and was the most popular artwork overall) as voted by visitors to the exhibition. Louise Maher opened the exhibition and did a live radio cross to ABC 666's Drive Show including an interview with Campbell High student Lara Hedley and her art teacher Louise Pinder. Many of the students that entered their artworks attended the opening and visited the exhibition with their families. There was great excitement and pride, especially among the junior artists, to see their artworks hung in a real gallery.

The prizes (\$250 for each winner) donated by bankmecu were presented to Lara Hedley and Dan Leivesley from North Ainslie Primary (Dan won the most popular junior artwork) at a ceremony for the winning artists and their families at the bankmecu's Civic branch on Thursday 11th December 2014. COG Vice President, Neil Hermes, and Jo O'Sullivan,

Community Development Manager bankmecu, presented certificates to the winners. A big thanks to all the enthusiastic students and their teachers for making the exhibition such a memorable event in COG's 50th birthday year, and to bankmecu for their generous support.



Neil and Jo with Dan



Lara with her certificate

The artworks from *Imagining Gang-gangs* travelled to Civic Library for exhibition over the January 2015 school holidays. Civic library staff report that library users are enjoying the display on the mezzanine level with over 100 colourful but 'silent' Gang-gangs. Canberra families attending school holiday events and people attending public meetings at the library have viewed the exhibition. Ian Warden promoted the Civic library exhibition in Gang-gang in the Canberra Times and the Canberra Weekly also gave it a plug. Copies of the Gang-gang survey brochure and COG's *Where to find Birds in the ACT* have been provided for visitors to the exhibition.

As part of reporting on the Gang-gang survey, we will be analysing community interest and engagement over the duration of the survey. Presentations about the survey findings will be made to the Friends of the Botanic Gardens on Thursday 6 August 2015 and at other community forums. A report will also be published in Canberra Bird Notes.

The Gang-gang project team