



## Kids to use art to explore the Gang-gang cockatoo

ACT park rangers and the students of North Ainslie Primary School have something very special in common – the Gang-gang cockatoo is their official emblem and proudly worn on their respective uniforms.

Students teamed up with local park rangers today to launch an exciting new project – the *Imagining Gang-gangs* student art competition and exhibition. Students across the ACT are invited to make artworks about the Gang-gang cockatoo, as part of the Canberra Ornithologists Group's (COG) Gang-gang survey project. Student artworks will be exhibited later in the year.

“We are delighted to host the launch of this wonderful project,” said Louise Owens, Principal of North Ainslie Primary School. “The Gang-gang is our school emblem and part of our school’s identity. This project encourages students to be both curious and creative which fits perfectly with the inquiry approach to learning at our school,” Ms Owens said.

Park ranger, Michael Maconachie, helped launch the project. “The Gang-gang cockatoo is a great subject for kids art with contrasting feather colouring, delicate markings and a quirky ‘squeaky gate’ call. We know the birds use the forest habitat on nearby Mt Ainslie and these lucky students will be sure to see and hear Gang-gangs,” Mr Maconachie said.

“Ainslie is one of the top suburbs for Gang-gang sightings so far in the survey,” said Kathy Eyles from COG’s Gang-gang project. “School families can join the Gang-gang survey by participating in the ‘Muster’ count week from 21 to 27 August. Choose a spot you spend time most days of the week, like your home garden, and record whether you see or hear any Gang-gangs, or not. Even if you don’t see any birds, these reports are really important for the survey,” Ms Eyles said.

Information about the *Imagining Gang-gangs* student art competition and the August Muster Survey count can be found on the Canberra Birds website: <http://canberrabirds.org.au/observing-birds/gang-gang-survey/>

Date: 15 August 2014

Contact: Kathy Eyles - COG 0407 899 698