



Gathering at The Clearing

STEP has a strong educational focus, providing a venue for school and community group programs.

STEP is also a venue for guided walks by visitors to the Arboretum, with special interest events held during the year such as Eucalyptus Day, Wattle Walks and STEP into Spring.

The Clearing and the She-oak Nook provide places for groups to meet and celebrate.

To book, email: [arboretum@act.gov.au](mailto:arboretum@act.gov.au)

### Bush Tucker Garden

In March 2018, STEP welcomed the first plantings in the Bush Tucker Garden. The garden was established by the Arboretum as part of the ACT Government's commitment to its Reconciliation Action Plan with the Indigenous caretakers of the region, the Ngunnawal people.

Visitors can enjoy strolling through the garden to see local native plants used by Ngunnawal people for food and fibre.

As the garden grows, it will be a place of learning for all.

Lemon beautyheads, *Calocephalus citreus*



## STEP Annual Membership Form

Please tick appropriate box

- Individual or Family Membership     \$30
- Not for Profit Organisations     \$50
- Large Incorporated Organisations     \$100
- Corporate Membership     \$200

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

..... State: ..... P/code: .....

Phone: ..... Mobile: .....

Email: .....

Date: .....

Payment of \$ ..... is enclosed.

Make cheque payable to STEP Inc. or pay directly to the STEP Account BSB 313-140 Account 12067564.

Please send form to PO Box 440 Jamison Centre ACT 2614.



## Southern Tablelands Ecosystems Park

[www.step.asn.au](http://www.step.asn.au)

A Regional Botanic Garden at Forest 20





Meadow argus, *Junonia villida*, on Golden everlasting *Xerochrysum bracteatum*

The STEP forest has 16 species of Eucalypt trees typical of the forests and woodlands of the Southern Tablelands region of New South Wales and the ACT.

The trees are arranged in bands representing their natural position in the landscape. The trees are complemented by a demonstration garden in the centre of the forest, displaying a selection of understory species typical of the forests, woodlands, grasslands and ephemeral wetlands of the local region.



◀ Tall bluebell, *Wahlenbergia stricta*  
▼ STEP volunteers measuring trees



▲ Wee Jasper grevillea, *Grevillea iaspicula*  
▶ Hoary sunrays, *Leucochrysum albicans*

One understory section demonstrates the food and fibre plants traditionally used by local indigenous people.

We display local native plants suitable to grow in this region's gardens. At most times of the year there are plants in flower.

Our working bees each Thursday are the backbone of STEP activities. New volunteers are always welcome to join our group.



Fiddler beetle, *Eupoecila australasiae*, on *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha* blossoms

STEP produces a quarterly newsletter and a monthly fact sheet distributed to members by email.

STEP is funded through membership fees, donations and grants.

Citizen science is promoted through participation in Frog Watch ACT, the Arboretum's tree measuring project and other research programs.

A well-earned morning tea break for STEP volunteers

