

The Murrumbidgee Naturalist



May 2018 - Issue #259

Journal of the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc.

PO Box 541, LEETON 2705 ISSN-1327-1172

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Objectives

To facilitate and promote the knowledge of natural history, and to encourage the preservation and protection of the Australian natural environment, especially that of the Murrumbidgee River Valley



A view of Tuckerbil Swamp by Nella Smith

Environmental water has recently been delivered to support threatened species and riparian vegetation

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CONTRIBUTIONS

For the June issue by

Wednesday 6 June

To Rowena Whiting

Email: ericwhiting4@bigpond.com.

Phone: 6953 2612

Altina Wildlife Park

*Enjoy a talk and visit this
Australian Zoo-fari in bushland
by the Murrumbidgee
(see last page for details)*

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Treasurer:	Ellené Schnell	6959 8435	Assistant Treasurer:	Phil Tenison	6953 4869

MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE SECOND THURSDAY EACH MONTH, EXCEPT JANUARY, AT THE Yellow Room, Leeton Library, Sycamore Street at 7.30 PM

FIELD TRIPS NORMALLY TAKE PLACE ON THE FOLLOWING WEEKEND.

INTENDING NEW MEMBERS, GUESTS AND VISITORS WELCOME.

Membership enquiries:

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Annual Subscriptions:	Family	\$45.00	Adult/Single	\$35.00	Journal only/Concession	\$25.00

Bank details for direct deposit: 062 564 account no. 10039396, a/c name: Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc. Include your own name and description of payment in the reference box.

Opinions expressed by authors are their own and do not necessarily represent the policies or views of the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc.

Welcome to the May issue

This last month has seen us visit an Aboriginal bush block in Griffith for a field survey and taking part in the annual koala count at Narrandera with a number of our members volunteering as leaders. We also enjoyed images of the Simpson Desert as we learnt about the food web of life and how the various insects, reptiles and mammals depend on others.

A couple of things from the Inbox - and no I have no corrections or comments regarding the last issue.

I would like to draw your attention to a new spider app which will help you identify Australian creepy crawlies - <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/news/2018/03/23/app-identify-australias-spiders/>

Also it will be 6 June, World Environment Day before the next issue. This year's theme is "Beat Plastic Pollution"; a call to action for all of us to come together to combat one of the great environmental challenges of our time. Chosen by this year's host, India, invites us all to consider how we can make changes in our everyday lives to reduce the heavy burden of plastic pollution on our natural places, our wildlife - and our own health. **"If you can't reuse it, refuse it"** For more information see <http://worldenvironmentday.global/en/about/beat-plastic-pollution>.

Show and Tell – at the April Meeting

Joy Young drew our attention to a "what is this?" section in the ABC Gardening magazine. She showed us a couple of different flower spiders, one on a sunflower the other on a broccoli like leaf. These spiders can change colour to match the flower, becoming camouflaged while they wait for prey. Another article was about the Pacific Black Duck, now at the beginning of their breeding season. See image on page 9 with a cameo by Sue Chittick-Dalton. This magazine is available for loan from local libraries

Alan Whitehead talked to us about the Inland River Crayfish. A fossil specimen attracted his attention during a recent visit to the Narrandera Historic Museum. He was surprised by their size, weighing around the 2 kilo mark comparable to a lobster. He conveyed another snippet of information that marine creatures have exoskeletons that grow for ever.

Nella Smith showed us images taken by the sensor camera looking into nestboxes. There was quite a variety – feathers, fly larvae, egg shells and bee hives, spider egg cocoons. See last month's newsletter for her article and picture.

Rowena

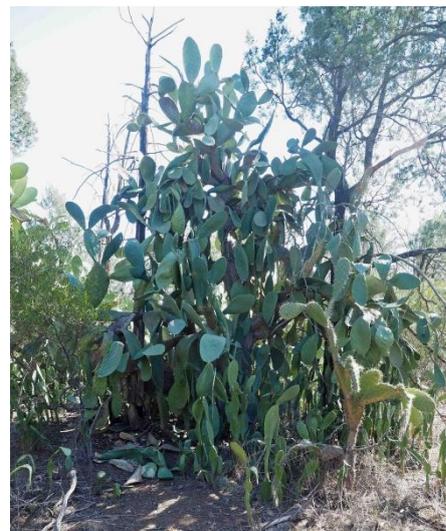
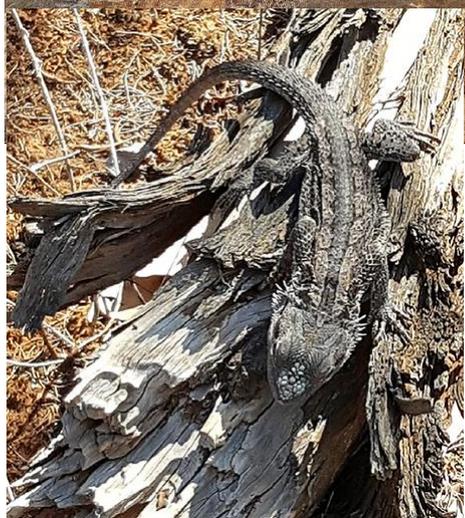
Visiting a Bush Block with the Indigenous Owners



On the 28th April 6 MFN members joined Gary Currey from the NPWS and local members of the Griffith Aboriginal Lands Council to assist with an informal flora and fauna survey of an approx. 30 acre site they own on Mallinson Road Griffith.

GALC hopes to develop a baseline species list for the site and this autumn survey will be followed by another in the spring. Eventually they plan to conduct a cultural burn and follow up with another survey six months hence. They have been advised by the Rural Fire Service the site hasn't burnt for 50 years so there's potentially a big seed bank waiting to regenerate. They also hope to manage the Prickly Pear and revegetate and rehabilitate the fire trail to reduce erosion.

There was a valuable exchange of knowledge between all the people involved. The field nats learnt about the many medicinal properties of *Eremophila longifolia* and the string that can be obtained from Kurrajong trees *Brachychiton populneus*. Emu and kangaroo nets up to three metres tall could be made from the string as well as other domestic necessities. Also Kurrajongs have a seed pod that was roasted and eaten and a great tap root as fat as a carrot. We also learnt that Wilga *Geijera parviflora* was used for shelter. The leaf litter under these trees was burnt to remove scorpions and ants and the canopy then provided excellent shelter. The Wilga also harbours Harlequin Mistletoe *Lysiana exocarpis* which has good snotty gobbles, a juicy little fruit.



On the way home from the Griffith bio-diversity survey some of the Field Nats stopped on Thorne Road where Griffith City Council were assisting the four local Rotary Clubs in their 2018 tree-planting goal. 800 of the planned 1300 plants had been planted that morning and were being watered in by the Hanwood Rural Fire Brigade when we arrived. We helped direct sow some seeds MFN had collected and offered our assistance when they are ready to plant the remaining 500 plants.

Glen Currie and Nella Smith

Birdlist for Mallinson Road Aboriginal Land Council Block - 28 April 2018

Singing Honeyeater
Striped Honeyeater
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Yellow-rumped Thornbill
Grey Fantail
Crested Pigeon
Magpie

White-plumed Honeyeater
Mallee Ringneck
Grey Shrike-thrush
Inland Thornbill
Willy Wagtail
Double-barred Finch
White-faced Heron

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
Splendid Fairy-wren
Rufous Whistler
Weebill
Eastern Yellow Robin
Pee-wee

Participants being given an introduction before setting off to explore the block
A large Prickly Pear bush
Eastern Bearded Dragon
Lichens on rocky ground
Virginia Tarr

KOALA COUNT, NARRANDERA FLORA AND FAUNA RESERVE, April 29th 2018

The weather was perfect, a sunny calm 24°C day, just the opposite to the original date earlier in the month when our yearly event was postponed 'for safety reasons'. The extra publicity probably brought a bigger crowd – just under 200 people and from near and far. Many were from Wagga, Leeton and Griffith but some were from much further afield. In my group there was a family from Columbia, now residents of Griffith and in the group which she was leading Nella had a couple of German backpackers who are working on the local hazelnut farm.

Our local MP Stephanie Cook came along and now has some good photos on her Facebook page. Google "Steph Cook member for Cootamundra facebook" even if you don't have Facebook and see if you can pick yourself out of the crowd. Stephanie said that the koala count should be on everyone's bucket list.

As in previous years the Flora and Fauna Reserve was divided into ten areas bounded by the network of tracks criss-crossing the 'common' and an area was assigned to each of the team leaders; the spotters then divided themselves up behind the team leaders and we were off. I was in Bob Manning's team and we set off by car for the very large Horseshoe Lagoon area. We left the cars in a little clearing and set off through the driest, most unpromising forest I have ever seen, but just as it was beginning to look hopeless a Wagga lady with a Scottish accent spotted our first koala. Another came about 10 minutes later. The Koalas were very high in the outer foliage and very hard to see. This proved to be the pattern for the day.

We arrived at the steep banks of Horseshoe Lagoon and were amazed to find a string of miserable waterholes. The trees looked better and there was plenty of evidence that the resident horses spent a lot of time among the weeds in the dry bed. It was better koala country too as another two were spotted quite quickly and some stragglers in our team spotted two after the drivers had set off across country to retrieve the cars. The rest of us waited in the shade.

Bob had introduced me as the local guru (?!?) who could answer questions and they were easy. Almost all the trees in our area were River Red Gums. Of other species we saw six Cypress Pines, one pepper tree (an exotic) and one healthy big privet (a noxious weed). The visitors were surprised that the common was once a cleared area where townspeople could keep a cow etc and during the Depression there were huts where poor people lived, rent free and survived on rabbits and the vegetables they could grow. There used to be a number of fruit trees from that era which were removed with the arrival of fruit fly. The Gum trees are roughly divided into three age groups: the few big old pre white settlement survivors, the middle sized trees that grew after myxomatosis got rid of the rabbits and the seed germinated after the 1950 flood. Younger trees have come up from the 1974 flood and successive floods.



Photos by Angela Lewis and Rowena Whiting



The Field Naturalists are to be congratulated for their contribution to the day: As well as supplying a number of the team leaders, their display boards and Nella's collections added considerable interest – Ken Murphy, president of The Koala Regeneration Committee.

A great event ended with Rotary's usual delicious barbeque, proceeds donated to the Koalas, and a score of 31 koalas sighted. Who knows how many are out there, they were incredibly hard to see.

Betty Bradney

Murray-Darling River system - restoring the balance

Water flows in the Murray Darling River system used to be unpredictable and river health relied on the sporadic flooding and drying out of the surrounding floodplain.

Unique plant and animal communities evolved in the wetlands formed by the meanderings of the river in the nutrient rich floodplain.

The environmental health of a floodplain river like the Murrumbidgee is linked to the timing, frequency and length of flooding. Flooding naturally occurs in winter if there is heavy rain or in spring with the onset of spring rain and the thawing of the snow in the Great Dividing Range Highlands.

In the now regulated Murray-Darling River system, major flooding still occurs occasionally in the winter and spring seasons. However the weirs, dams and other constructions that have been built on the river mean that small to medium floods do not now cover as much of the floodplain or do not occur at all. Floods may not last as long or occur as frequently. Such changes to flooding are likely to affect the health of the river. But how?

Experimental Billabongs were set up to find out more. Researchers built 16 experimental billabongs. The billabongs were supplied with aquatic plants and animals and were subjected to 4 different flooding patterns then the different patterns were monitored.

Plants disappear without a dry.

The duration of flooding has a significant effect on the diversity and complexity of both wetland plant and animal communities. The longer the billabongs remain flooded the less diverse they become as those plants adapted to drying out periods disappear from the billabongs.

Such plants are important for returning large amounts of nutrients through decomposition to the food-web. They also provide refuges for small animals like dunnarts or frogs or lizards.

Invertebrates boom with floods.

Floods cause small invertebrate populations within wetlands to increase rapidly. Spring floods which join the river to billabongs when native fish like the Murray Cod are breeding, are likely to give newly hatched river fish access to the teeming invertebrate life which the floods or environmental flows stimulate in the billabongs. Returning environmental flows to the rivers are important for this reason.

Flooding and Drying periods are needed.

Periods of both flooding and drying that produce fluctuating water-levels are essential for a wetland environment. Summer flooding due to irrigation and other river regulation results in a less diverse plant population. Changes to wetland plant populations result in changes to the animal populations dependent on these plants.

Environmental managers in the Murrumbidgee manipulate the release of water at various times to manage the wetting and drying of wetlands for healthier wetlands. At the moment environmental water has been delivered to Tuckerbil Swamp and to Sandy Creek near Narrandera after a drying period.

Taken from Wetland Research – contributed by Nella Smith



**Sandy Creek near Narrandera
by Nella Smith**

The Many Faces of the Mirrool Creek

If we lived in a wetter climate, Mirrool Creek would have been called Mirrool River. The length and catchment area certainly warrant the river epithet. As we are on a dry continent the early settlers found and described the waterway as just a chain of ponds. So Mirrool Creek it was.

Climate may be responsible for the amount of flow of a river but the underlying geology sets the direction of the river. It is not just the current geology, the evolution of the continent plays a large part.

The headwaters of Mirrool Creek rise on the western side of Ingalba which is part of a roughly north-south line of hills west of Temora. This line of hills is part of the fold belt running from Wagga Wagga to Girilambone created at the time the archaic parts of Australia were adding the eastern third at the expense of some unknown continent. Sediments laid down on the continental shelf in Ordovician to Devonian times (500 to 350 million years ago) were buckled up into great mountain ranges only to be subsequently eroded back down to a low flat plain. Further earth movements in Tertiary times, c60 million years ago, again raised and buckled eastern Australia, principally as the Great Dividing Range but also to a diminishing amount the old fold belts to the west. Also at this time the formation of the Murray Basin gave a westerly inclination to the area.



Mirrool Creek in flood near Leeton –
Penny Williams

The generalised pattern of a river is that it starts as a high energy flow off the high points, down the steep narrow valleys eroding principally downwards as it goes. As the slope lessens the energy drops and erosion changes from mainly downward to sideways widening its valley. Finally erosion is virtually only sideways with sediment being moved from the outside of one bend and being deposited on the inside of the next bend. The balance of erosion to deposition favours the latter and floodplains are steadily built up with the valley becoming broad and nearly flat.

The shallow soils of Ingalba and the higher parts of surrounding hills is the home of forests of Ironbark (*Eucalyptus sideroxylon*) and Dwyers Mallee Gum (*E. dwyeri*). Ingalba also gets sufficient rainfall to sustain other trees such as Red Stringybark (*E. macrorhyncha*), Inland Scribbly Gum (*E. rossii*) and Tumbledown Gum (*E. dealbata*) more commonly found further east on the Lower Slopes of the Dividing Range.

Mirrool Creek follows the generalised pattern as far as Mirrool. From the heights of Ingalba and the lower hills to the west, the gathering water flows northwards along the line now taken by the Old Wagga Road. This line slowly curves westward avoiding the more resistant domes of granite batholiths which form watersheds with the streams flowing south from the Yarranjerry area towards the Murrumbidgee and also those flowing northwards into Barmedman Creek thence to Bland Creek. The slopes surrounding this section of the creek have sufficient depth of soil to maintain Box woodlands (Grey Box *E. microcarpa* and/or Bimble Box *E. populnea*). In the valley floor soil is deposited quicker than being eroded, building up deep enough for Yellow Box (*E. melliodora*) to be the common tree. That is it was – deep soils are better farming land especially for cropping. Clearing has reduced tree cover to mostly roadside remnants or isolated paddock trees, all ageing and endangered.

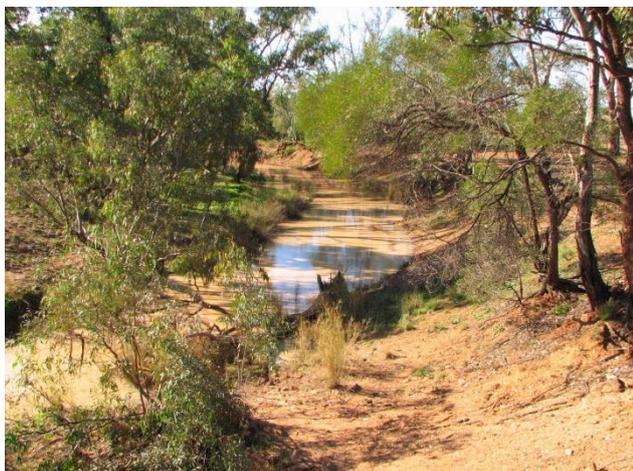
Further westward flow is then compromised by the next remnant fold belt, the Ardlethan syncline. The Creek is diverted southwards past Ardlethan through a gap between the Bygoo and Walleroobie Ranges, and the large granite intrusion of the Ardlethan Tin Mine area. In passing through the gap there is a fall of around 20 metres and thereby the stream is rejuvenated, now flowing in a straighter, narrower more well defined valley. The point of change to a rejuvenated stage is called a 'nick-point'. The streamside trees along this section are mainly Bimble Box although several River Red Gums (*E. camaldulensis*) occur on the banks.

The Creek has to again alter course to pass round another granite batholith rise north of Bunganbil. This rise is hardly noticeable on the surface – there is a small outcrop of granite west of the minor road running due north to Moombooldool. This section of the Creek from the Willows Bridge north-westwards is still incised with a steady fall. I have heard the claim that Mirrool Creek once flowed southwards into the Frying Pan Creek and thereby into Lake Midgeon. Although the saddle between the two creeks is now a rise of 5 metres or so, I think

that possibility is unlikely. Near Moomboodool the Creek runs up against another obstacle, the Cobar Peneplain, a much eroded remnant of uplifted highlands.

Just west of the Narrandera – Barellan Road there is a dramatic change. Due to another nick-point south of Yenda created by crossing yet another fold belt, this time the Cocoparra and MacPhersons Ranges complex, the valley is in-filled with sediments resulting in virtually no fall. In reality the stream loses its way. Floodwaters spread out over the surface in a network of ill-defined flood runners. The soils here are heavy clays which support open Boree woodlands (*Acacia pendula*). At the time the Ardlethan – Griffith railway was built much of this land was cleared often by Chinese gangs. Some of the more pronounced floodways can be traced by their lines of Black Box (*E. largiflorens*).

The Mirrool Creek at the Willows Bridge, Narrandera – Ardlethan Rd – almost dry and in flood



It will surprise many to know that most of the 1973 flood actually passed close to Murrami to continue via Little Mirrool Creek (should the 'Little' be dropped?). The other exit (nick-point) is around Apostle Yard Regulator. I rather think this part is really the tributary Sandy Creek.

Past the Cocoparra fold belt line Mirrool Creek once again forms a defined waterway, if somewhat less incised than before (that is before being changed into an irrigation channel). It continues like this all the way to Barren Box Swamp. The latter is really a terminal lake much like the Willandra Lakes at Lake Mungo National Park, except there is still an outlet channel (now a cut canal).

West of Barren Box it is again floodplain country (even being called 'The Floodway' as any flood water getting that far meanders un-restrained across flat country, eventually reaching in extreme floods the Lachlan. At first Boree is the common tree but soon the flat country becomes saltbush plains with Lignum in wetter parts of floodlines. Isolated depressions here tend to have Canegrass as the main vegetation. If it was not for these two it would be hard to tell there was even an ephemeral stream across these wide open expanses.

Eric Whiting

Notes from Far North Queensland - April 2018

First, a comment on my week's stay on the Gold Coast Hinterland:

Albert's Lyrebird: This lyrebird is most easily seen at Mount Tambourine – a very touristy town just up the hill from where I was staying with my sister. The Witch's Falls Walk is the best spot for them and it didn't take long before we found a male wandering near the path – excellent views were had of the bird before it disappeared. When walking further along the path, I could hear a dog barking and was annoyed that someone had brought a dog into the National Park. When we stopped to listen, the bark changed and soon the familiar call of a lyrebird was heard coming from the same direction. We scrambled down the slope to the top of the steep drop and saw the lyrebird below "barking" its head off until it saw us and fled into



the rainforest. So I had to eat humble pie as it wasn't some disrespectful doggie person with their dog after all! Like its cousin the **Superb Lyrebird**, the **Albert's Lyrebird** is a perfect mimic not only of other bird calls but of anything else it takes a fancy to.

Second, some observations from Cairns where I stayed with friends at Machans Beach for the first few days:

Great-billed Heron: I had read in the Cairns Birders newsletter a few weeks before that this heron had been seen at the mouth of the Barron River and was quite thrilled to see it myself walking along in front of the mangroves on the opposite bank – not an easy bird to find at the best of times.

Other good birds seen in those few days were: **Lovely Fairy Wren, Pied Imperial Pigeon, Rajah Shelduck** and **Little Kingfisher**. With the **Lovely Wren**, the female is the one to see as the male is very similar to our **Variegated Wren** except it has white spots in the tail like the female in the photo. I saw a family group with 2 fully coloured males and a number of females. Unlike our wrens at home where the male is often difficult to spot, up here it seems the opposite and the females are more difficult to see – well it seems that way to me.

Finally, my house-minding spot on the Atherton Tablelands near Yungaburra:

As I have reported in previous years, the place where I am until 12 June is close to some excellent birding spots – The Curtain Fig Tree, Lakes Eacham and Barrine, Hasties Swamp, Mt Hypipamee (the Crater) National Park and Peterson's Creek running through Yungaburra where platypus are usually easily seen.

The area is very lush everywhere “The corn (and grass) is as high as an elephant's eye”! Actually, the cattle in the next door paddock can be difficult to see as the grass is so high.

Lake Tinaroo fed by the Barron River has gone from less than 10% in late 2017 to 96% now and still filling slowly. So last year when I was here, you could see the once submerged fences and roads from pre-dam times but now it is all water again. It's a pity we couldn't say the same about down our way! Just a little rain would help.

Like at home, the birds this time of year are difficult to find. I'm not sure if they move lower down once the cooler weather approaches or what but birds that have been fairly common in July and August when I normally visit don't seem to be about on the tablelands at the moment. Birds like **Brolga** and **Sarus Crane** are nowhere to be found but in a few months they will be very common.

Golden Bowerbird: I went to Mt Hypipamee National Park where there is a known bower of this rainforest endemic of the wet tropics. I didn't expect to see the bird at its bower this time of year but was always hopeful it would be hanging around the vicinity and maybe show itself. Not so. But what I did get was a juvenile male close to the old bower and he was giving various calls of the adult bird and was carrying a small dry stick it had broken off a small tree nearby. It flew up into a branch of a large tree and deposited the stick in what looked like the start of a bower. However, it was about 4m up and that is not where they usually build their bowers. They are always at ground level!

Whilst watching it, a **Tooth-billed Bowerbird** came in and a male **Victoria's Riflebird** kept calling in the distance but didn't show itself.

Max O'Sullivan



Images from top:

Albert's Lyrebird (previous page), Great-billed Heron, Lovely Fairy Wren

M E M B E R S ' S I G H T I N G S

These sightings are from members' observations. Please check with the relevant person before quoting any record

Yellow-throated Miner [6]	'Mountain Dam' via Leeton	25/03/18	Alan Whitehead
Glossy Black Cockatoo [pr]	Brobenah Hills via Leeton	06/04/18	Keith Hutton
The birds were displaying at the nest site with mutual preening and constant begging calls suggesting egg laying time.			
Yellow Rosella [6]	Lake Talbot, Narrandera	12/04/18	Alan Whitehead
Spotless Crake [5]	Fivebough Wetlands	08/04/18	Keith Hutton
Brolga [2]	Fivebough Wetlands	08/04/18	Keith Hutton
Black-winged Stilt [40]	Fivebough Wetlands	08/04/18	Keith Hutton
Masked Lapwing [15]	Fivebough Wetlands	08/04/18	Keith Hutton
This is the lowest wader count at Fivebough that Keith has made.			
Pelican [12]	Narrandera Wetlands	08/04/18	Susan Whitehead
Lapwing [8+]	Narrandera Wetlands	09/04/18	Warrick Bradney
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo [5+]	'Mountain Dam' via Leeton	daily 03-04/18	Dionee Russell
Red-browed Finch [20+]	Narrandera; Wetlands & 5 mile reserve	25/03/18	Nella Smith
Pomaderris cocoparana [~50]	Mt Caley, Cocoparra National Park	01/04/18	Eric Whiting
Little Corella [800+]	Leeton Oval – numbers increasing	25/04/18	Keith Hutton
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo [16]	Koonadan via Leeton	26/04/18	Peter Draper
Tried to chew on the trunk of a palm tree but a hawk chased them away.			
Rainbow Lorikeet [many]	City Park, Griffith	18/04/18	Virginia Tarr
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater [2]	City Park, Griffith	18/04/18	Virginia Tarr
Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike [2]	Cutler Ave, Griffith	19/04/18	Virginia Tarr
Red Wattlebird [3]	Cutler Ave, Griffith	19/04/18	Virginia Tarr
Blue-faced Honeyeater [3]	Cutler Ave, Griffith	19/04/18	Virginia Tarr
Mallee Ringneck [2]	Cutler Ave, Griffith	19/04/18	Virginia Tarr
Brown Goshawk [1]	Cutler Ave, Griffith	23/04/18	Virginia Tarr
White-plumed Honeyeater [2]	Cutler Ave, Griffith	23/04/18	Virginia Tarr
Variegated Wren [3]	Cutler Ave, Griffith	27/04/18	Virginia Tarr
Brown Honeyeater [1]	Citrus Rd, Griffith – reported on Eremaea	25/04/18	David Parker

CAMEO

On Saturday 2nd April, Enid Atkinson and I went for a drive to Lake Wyangan and saw a most unusual sight. In the rushes along the shoreline of the Picnic Area, a pure white duck with yellow beak and legs was nestling up to a Pacific Black Duck. I tried to photograph them but they disappeared behind the foliage before I could focus.

Next day I returned in the hope of another sighting and found the white duck in the middle of a raft of around 30 Pacific black ducks in the centre of the lake. As I watched, the white duck and a Black left the group and foraged together.

The only white duck I know of is a Muscovy, *Cairina moschata*, and is, in the wild, a black duck with a white patch on each wing.

I would love to know if this behaviour has been witnessed by any other Birdos.

Sue Chittick-Dalton



Pacific Black Duck and the white 'intruder' by Barry Brown (Sue's friend)

**** COMING EVENTS ****

Please note all outings are subject to weather conditions please email or phone if you intend to come.

- 10 May Thursday** **Monthly Meeting will be held in Griffith at the National Parks and Wildlife Office, 200 Yambil Street**
Note: this is being held in Griffith
Guest Speaker: from Altina Wildlife Park
Contact: Nella Smith 6959 1210 or Virginia Tarr 6962 5614
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com.
- 12 May Saturday** **Outing to Altina Wildlife Park**
Meet at the park, it is on the Sturt Hwy, east of Darlington Point by 9:15am.
The tour will take 2-2½ hours. It is planned to have a BYO picnic lunch by the Murrumbidgee River.
Bookings have been made for those who have paid. If you have not booked and wish to join the group please contact the park directly on 0412 060 342. Cost is \$38 per adult, \$18 per child.
Contact: Dione Russell 0428 536 290
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com.
- 16 May Wednesday** **Bush Stone Curlew Summit in Albury**
The program includes speakers on a range of Curlew conservation projects.
Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea are provided. There is no charge.
For any questions and to register please contact Jan Lubke on 02 6026 2282 or njlubke@skymesh.com.au
- 26 May Saturday** **Sandhills Artefacts at Narrandera and a revegetation site in the Murrumbidgee Valley National Park**
Meet: 9am at Sandhills Artifacts, Bomblett St, Narrandera
This will be followed by travelling to a Forestry Re-vegetation Site in MIA 1 (Graham's Grave entrance). Island Bend will be the location for lunch.
Bring: morning tea and lunch.
Contact: Rowena or Eric Whiting 6953 2612
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com.
- 6 June Wednesday** **World Environment Day**
This year's theme is "Beat Plastic Pollution" For more information see <http://worldenvironmentday.global/en/about/beat-plastic-pollution>
- 6 June Wednesday** **Copy for the June newsletter is due. Please send to Rowena.**
Email: ericwhiting4@bigpond.com. Phone: 6953 2612.
- 14 June Thursday** **Monthly Meeting in the Yellow Room at the Leeton Library, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7.30pm.**
Guest Speaker: Elizabeth Stott on the Basin Plan 101
Contact: Nella Smith 6959 1210.
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com.
- 16 June Saturday** **A walk in the Cocoparra National Park**
Bring morning tea and lunch.
Contact: Rowena or Eric Whiting 6953 2612
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com.
- Other events**
- 29 September to 8 October** **Australian Naturalists Network get together will be held in Western Victoria**
Travelling from Halls Gap in the Grampians to Geelong along the Great Ocean Road
Further information Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com