

The Murrumbidgee Naturalist



November 2018 - Issue #265

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

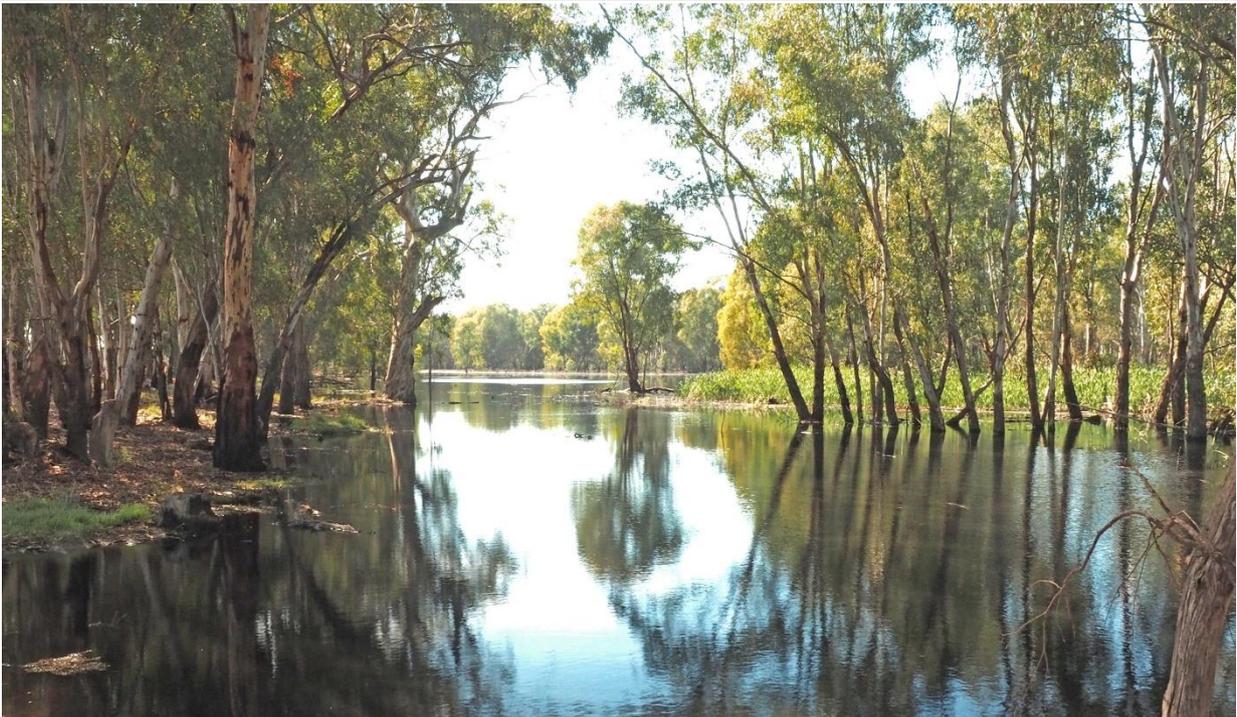


Image is at McCaughey Lagoon in the Murrumbidgee Valley National Park after receiving environment water - taken by Nella Smith

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**For the December issue by
Wednesday 5 December**

To Rowena Whiting

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***AGM is on Thursday,
10 November, 7:30pm
at the Leeton Library***

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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.

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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.

John Wilkinson, our speaker at the October meeting



We were very pleased to welcome Wilko, John Wilkinson at the last meeting as our speaker. He is our oldest member, from Coleambally. We learnt of his early days in Adelaide, being introduced to horses at the age of six, with his interest in pioneers and explorers he spent time in the Alice Springs area doing mail runs and droving cattle. He enlisted in the army and spent the war years in Malaysia, Timor and Papua New Guinea fighting the Japanese and getting on well with the natives; a stint of being in charge of a prison camp and learning how to deal with Japs. After the war he returned to Australia and managed properties north of Alice Springs, Barossa Ranges, Menindie, Lake Albert, Benerembah Station until he was able to buy his own at Coleambally; recognised it

was 'good dirt' and began a venture into irrigation farming. Camels have been a large part of his life and he related some of the treks through the Australian deserts and a trip to Mongolia as well as their handling – they are happy to obey when handled with respect.

His 'ninety seven years in ten minutes' opening was so much more and the many questions that followed showed there was plenty of interest in his many 'adventures' particularly the trips through the Australian desert. Many thanks for sharing your story, Wilko; maybe we will see you more often now you have retired from cameleering.



Three of our nonagenarians, Betty Bradney, Bill Draper and John Wilkinson at the October meeting
Photo taken by Kathy Tenison

Don't forget this month is our **Annual General Meeting** so if are enjoying the club and the activities it has to offer, why not join the committee to help run it? Not only will it ease a burden for some but new ideas on how and why we do things are welcome.

Also let Nella know whether you will be coming to the end of year get together at **Gogelderie Weir on 1 December** and/or the summer camp on the **January long weekend at Laurel Hill (near Tumbarumba)**. See last page, coming events, for details.

A small group of MFNs and Max Harris, a local Koori man, gathered at the Mallinson Road site. After a brief discussion on the unlikelihood of adding new season annuals to our autumn plant survey list, due to the dry conditions, we decided to survey a different site off the Rankin Springs Road. The Wiradjuri name for the site is Wirrimbirra (keep, preserve, take care of) Yalul (always).



Wirrimbirra Yalul has rocky outcrops on a hill with gentle slopes that lead down from it. It's several hectares in area but due to frequent rain showers which eventually became

heavier, we didn't explore the entire patch. On our arrival, Max pointed out stone artefacts (and their traditional uses) near the remains of a gravel deposit. He was very informative about Wiradjuri history and culture as well as the flora and fauna of the place. We had interesting exchanges about cultural bias with scientific names and common names, in English and Aboriginal languages. Max is well versed in all three naming systems and is very generous in sharing his knowledge.

In listing the plants and birds we noted at Wirrimbirra Yalul, the Wiradjuri names are added as they are recorded in "A New Wiradjuri Dictionary" compiled by Dr. Stan Grant (Senr) and Dr. John Rudder, 2010. Words with * indicate they can be heard on the Free Wiradjuri Language App where they are pronounced by Wiradjuri speakers, listed under the English common name. There are hundreds of words and phrases listed there to explore. A brief pronunciation guide for readers not using the App is provided at the end of the list.

Many of the common names for flora and fauna in our region are Wiradjuri names with anglicised spellings and pronunciation influences. Where the English common name and the Wiradjuri name have the same or very similar pronunciation, the spelling difference is partly due to the reformed spelling system developed in the dictionary. More than one Wiradjuri name often exists for the same plant or animal for similar reasons that more than one English common name exists. Wiradjuri people live across an enormous part of central southern NSW, so regional variations naturally exist in the language.

Plants

Isotoma axillaris – Showy Isotome, Pittosporum phylliraeoides – Butterbush or Native Apricot, Sclerolaena diacantha – Grey Copperbur or Two Spined Saltbush, Sida corrugata – Corrugated Sida, Sida cunninghamii – Ridge Sida, Einadia nutans – Creeping Saltbush, Vittadinia cuneata – Fuzzweed, Chrysocephalum semipapposum – Clustered Everlasting, Alectryon oleifolium – Rosewood,

Brachychiton populneus – Kurrajong = GARRADYANG*

Santalum acuminatum – Quandang = GUWANDANG*

Callitris glaucophylla – White Cypress Pine = BURRADHAA, GARRAA*

Dodonaea sp – Hop Bush = BURURR*

Eucalyptus microcarpa – Grey Box = MURRUNG*

Casuarina cristata – Bull Oak or Belah = BIILAA, NGANY*

Exocarpos cupressiformis – Native Cherry = MAMBARRA*

Eucalyptus dwyeri – Dwyers Mallee = BANDHUNG, BANDHUWANG*

Eucalyptus socialis – Pointed Mallee = BANDHUNG, BANDHUWANG*

Hakea leucoptera – Needlewood or Needlebush = YURI*

Native Banana = BUGURR* (vine)

Acacia sp – Wattle = MUDHAMADHANG* (many names exist for specific species)



View of the block with Casuarina, Rosewood, (above)
Bush banana showing the seed pod and a released single
seed with a 'fan' to assist blowing it away – Rowena Whiting



Birds

Babbler sp, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Striated Thornbill, Western Gerygone, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, Weebill, Grey Fantail, Striated Pardalote, Rufous Whistler.

Birds, Bats (Flying creatures) = BUDYAAN, DYIBINY, DIBILANY*

Eastern Rosella (Parrot) = MULBIRRANG*

Crested Pigeon = GUWABADHU, WIILUNGGA*

Little Raven = WAAGAN*

Brown Treecreeper = BIMBIN*

Mallee Ringneck (Bulan Bulan Parrot) = WIRAGALA*



Showy Isotome in flower
in the rocky area
Rowena Whiting

A brief Wiradjuri pronunciation guide:

- Stress is always on the 1st syllable, then evenly after that regardless of the number of syllables (unlike English and Latin).
- Double letters are sound units and do not change stress on syllables (unlike English..)
- Single 'r' is hard (as in English and Irish)
- Double 'rr' is trilled (as in Italian etc)
- 'Ng' is a soft nasal sound (usually ending a word in English eg. Sing).

Margaret Strong

Annual environmental water priorities in the Murrumbidgee catchment Priorities for 2018-19

This year, managed watering events will focus on improving habitat and providing essential refuge for native fish, waterbirds and other aquatic species in the Murrumbidgee catchment.

In the Murrumbidgee catchment, warmer and drier-than-average conditions are forecast for the coming year with the possibility of wetter conditions as the season progresses. Water managers plan to build on the outcomes achieved in 2017-18 through the careful management of available water to improve ecological health and the resilience of wetlands and floodplains in the catchment. It provides flexibility to respond to natural events that may occur during the year.

Areas near us will include Fivebough and Tuckerbil and Campbell Swamps as well as McCaughey Lagoon, Turkey Flat, Yarrada Lagoon and Sandy Creek.



McCaughey's Lagoon, Euroley Road, following the environmental flow late last month – Nella Smith

Contributed by Nella Smith with information from the OEH website

A Twitchathon Birdathon

The Western Warblers, consisting of Margaret Strong, Virginia Tarr and Marlee Crawford entered the 3hr Birdathon, as 3 x 1hr segments. We identified 44 species across three sites, which was far fewer than we expected.

Our first and best site was Jack's Creek, Cocoparra National Park, from 7.30am where we heard and saw a range of bush birds including seasonal migrants, but oddly no parrots. At the Whitton Stock Route hotspot, our 2nd site, we saw and heard Painted Honeyeaters, but not the range of other honeyeaters we expected.

We enjoyed the drive behind Wambalgal and along Apostleyard Rd to our 3rd site at Fivebough Wetland, stopping to admire the flowering eremophyllas along the way. However, we were disappointed at not seeing the range of wader birds and water birds usually seen there. This was due to high water from a very recent environmental flow that we were unaware of in our planning.

We raised \$450.00 and had a very pleasant day's birding, which were the aims of the activity. Despite obvious disappointments in the total count, we all learnt new identifying skills with enthusiasm and determination being the essential factors.

Margaret Strong

As per usual, a week of suss-ing out various locations prior to Saturday's Twitch was pretty futile as birds can't be relied upon to be in the same place next time you look. It certainly was the case this time as there were many wasted hours visiting usually good sites except, of course, for when we went there on the day. Wattle Dam had some water in it from a storm a few weeks back but it seems the birds didn't realise this as the only birds seen there on the day by us was **Bar-shouldered Dove**. A quick walk around the area still produced nothing we hadn't seen elsewhere.

We started our twitch at Euroly Bridge, well actually just before the bridge around 6.36am when we saw a **Kookaburra** on the power line along with a number of **Black Kite** perched on the fence. At the boat ramp we quickly ticked off the **Dollarbird** which was the point of starting there first. Next was a stop at Yanco Common where we quickly located lots of **Painted Honeyeater** and **Mistletoebird** but no **Superb Parrots**.

The **Night Heron** couldn't be located at Yanco's McCaughey Park Lake hidden in the fresh new growth on the willows there so we proceeded to Fivebough Wetlands. Fortunately, we saw several small flocks of the Superbs flying over the road on the way – phew! I'm always pleased to tick off this bird.

Not a great deal of new additions to the list at Fivebough save for the usual ducks and common waterbirds. I spied a **Freckled Duck** in the settling pond but by the time Kathy and Phil looked, it had disappeared into the reeds so no tick for that one.

Next was The Basin Dam and Tuckerbil where again the birds were of the more common variety save for 4 or 5 **Brolgas** in the distance plus a **White-necked Heron**.



Black-fronted Dotterel – Kathy Tenison

We then headed for Griffith ticking **White-fronted Chat** near Apostle Yard Road on the way. First stop was at the Griffith Saleyard ponds and then over the fence to the Griffith Poo Ponds where we saw **Blue-billed** and **Musk Ducks** along with **Hoary-headed Grebe**. Onto the Lake Wyangan causeway for **Pied Cormorant** and Campbells Swamp. Here we were thrilled to see an **Australasian Bittern** as we walked along the boardwalk to the hide. Again, Campbells has only just had some environmental water put into it and the birds didn't seem to realise this as there were just

the usual duck species and a number of **Magpie Geese** that turned up there on the Friday. Neil Palframan was there late Thursday

afternoon and didn't see them but they were there when I went scouting on Friday.

We had lunch at Wyangan Picnic area before calling in to McCann Road near the almond orchard which gave us a few more birds – **Singing** and **Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters** plus **Double-barred Finch**. There were numbers of **Painted Honeyeaters** there as well which was nice to see.

I had the key to Barren Box Swamp but we decided over lunch that it would use up over 3 hours to get out there for only a few birds. I had been there on the Friday and only saw 5 birds that would have been new for our list so we chose to head for Store Creek and Binya instead. At Store Creek in Cocoparra National Park we got **Rainbow Bee-eater**, **Striped Honeyeater** and **White-browed Babblers**.

Against my better judgement we drove to Wattle Dam – a waste of precious time (see comment above). The Winery site was extremely dry but we managed to see **Eastern Yellow Robin** and **Blue-faced Honeyeater** there before crossing the road into Binya State Forest itself. This proved very worthwhile as time was close to 6 o'clock but the bush birds were very co-operative and we saw **Splendid Wren**, **Speckled Warbler**, **Brown Honeyeater** plus others. From there we headed back to Colinroobie Road to get the **Pink Cockies** at the Russell's place before finishing at 7.36pm.

Thanks to Kathy for doing all the ticking and keeping us stick to the rules. And to Phil for pointing out all the birds whilst driving the 250kms. It was a fun day despite getting only 117 birds this year.

Max O'Sullivan

'Bidgee Boobooks Twitchathon report

Narrandera seemed like a good place to start because we knew where to find some birds. Glenn reckoned we had all day and anyway we didn't plan to blitz the competition so a nice relaxed start at the wetlands gave us the Friar birds, some Wrens, some Spoonbills but alas no Red-browed Finches or Dollarbirds. The Rainbow Parrots buzzed us just in time.

A quick stop in town was made for the Common Koel which could be heard from Pine Hill and then up the Barellan Road. Parrots are always good on this stretch of road and that included 200+ Superb Parrots. We called in on Andrew who had the coffee pot on and managed Mulga Parrots, Double-barred Finches, Dusky Woodswallows, Babblers but alas no Diamond Finches. There were also Thornbills around.

Most of the ducks on our list we found at Fivebough. There were 6 Freckled Ducks, one Pink-eared Duck, Hardheads, Grey Teal and Black Duck. No Blue-bills or Musk. The Brolgas were present. And where were the waders?

That Painted Honeyeater turns up in town every year just in time for the twitchathon.

Binya was disastrous, all the shrub and grass layer is missing as are many of the typical mallee birds. Splendid Fairywren, Red-capped Robins and Southern Whiteface were hard to find. Where were the Woodswallows?

The Major Mitchell's are never at the Griffith Golf Course on Twitchathon day, they are there every other day though. Have the Tawny Frogmouth abandoned the Golf Course?

Campbell's Swamp is always good to visit although we didn't add much there. The Silly Galah's had already flushed the Australasian Bittern...

We mopped up with some small raptors on the way home content that we'd exceeded our score from last year despite it being a difficult year. And we exceeded Silly Galah's score by 2. All right I reckon for beginners.

Nella Smith

[Glenn Currie and Margrit Martin were the other members of the 'Bidgee Boobooks team – Ed]

2018 Twitchathon Hits and Misses

'Bidgee Boobooks [119]

Nella Smith, Margrit Martin, Glenn Currie
Freckled Duck
Pink-eared Duck
Black Falcon
Red-necked Avocet
Mulga Parrot
Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo
Common Koel
Brown Treecreeper
Weebill
Western Gerygone
Southern Whiteface
Red Wattlebird
Noisy Miner
Brown-headed Honeyeater
Jacky Winter
Red-capped Robin
Grey-crowned Babbler
Dusky Woodswallow
Tree Martin
Silvereye

Silly Galahs [117]

Max O'Sullivan, Phil and Kathy Tenison
Brown Quail
Blue-billed Duck
Musk Duck
Hoary-headed Grebe
Pied Cormorant
White-necked Heron
Australasian Bittern
Black-fronted Dotterel
Long-billed Corella
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo
Dollarbird
Striated Pardalote
Speckled Warbler
White-eared Honeyeater
Brown Honeyeater
White-fronted Chat
Eastern Yellow Robin
White-winged Triller
Zebra Finch

The above list shows the birds seen by only one team. You can see how much of a hit and miss this can be and despite going to the same areas like Binya SF, the time of day was critical in seeing bush birds.

Max O'Sullivan

Boree Creek for Birds 'n' Breakfast

National Bird Week took place between Monday 22 October and Sunday 28 October. It's organized by Birdlife Australia and promotes projects such as the Aussie Backyard Bird Count and the National Twitchathon.

As part of the week, Sustainable Farms www.anu.edu.au/about/strategic-planning/sustainable-farms, an initiative of ANU, partnered with Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc. and held several field days in the region to demonstrate the importance of bird diversity on farms.

A few Field Nats attended the field day held on Graham Strong's property "Larell", at Boree Creek. The aim of the field day was to learn about what farms can do to conserve woodland birds and the resultant benefits and value to their productive land. Sustainable Farms ecologists Dr. Mason Crane and Claire Crane, guided an early morning bird walk around the Old Man Saltbush and the tree lots to look for birds, listen for different calls and identify them. It was great to see flocks of White-fronted Chats and Yellow rumped Thornbills

The group which consisted of local farmers, graziers and field naturalists learnt about

- what birds might be found on farms
- how to increase bird diversity on farms
- the benefits of revegetation on farms.

Over 20 years Graham and his parents have planted large tree lots around their fence lines and tracks. They have also retained any large trees remaining on their property. Old Man Saltbush has been planted both for biodiversity and fodder. They grew their own trees and shrubs from seed collected locally on the roadsides. The plantings have increased their shelterbelts for stock. That was evident when we entered an Old Man Saltbush paddock and instantly felt a lowering of the effects of the wind. They have also been able to reduce their use of pesticides and herbicides due to the birds and other insects present on the property. Graham reduced the use of fertilisers to encourage native grasses. These grasses are resilient and form a good cover even when conditions are extremely dry.

Graham has been learning as he has been developing his farm. In one paddock we were shown, he said he had planted the saltbush too densely and in one of the tree lots he felt there were too many gums close together. This has resulted in too much competition for water and nutrients and poor shrub and native grass establishment. In the tree lot large honeyeaters move in and the small woodland birds leave.

We were told how important the isolated paddock tree (dead or alive) is for biodiversity because it is usually very aged and has multiple hollows and crevices for



Saltbush plantings (above), open paddock with treed surrounds (below) and a reptile - Kathy Tenison



bats, birds and gliders as well as the vertebrates and invertebrates that they live on. It takes 50 years or more to gain such value from native plantations rather than old growth.

We finished in the woolshed with breakfast which was well received as some of us had begun the day quite early.

Thanks to Kath Tenison our Local Landcare Co-ordinator who organised this event and to Mason and Claire Crane for coming to our area. Also many thanks to Graham, Jan and Garth Strong for allowing us to visit their property and for being the Environment Champions that they are.

Glenn Currie

Bird List for the Day

Australian Raven	Little Raven	Galah	White-winged Chough
Singing Honeyeater	Magpie Lark	Willy Wagtail	White-winged Triller
Striated Pardalote	Crested Pigeon	Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	Yellow-rumped Thornbill
Yellow Thornbill	Southern Whiteface	White fronted Chat	Zebra Finch
White-plumed Honeyeater	Fantail Cuckoo	Brown Falcon	Striped Honeyeater
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	Spotted Harrier	Red-rumped Parrot	Superb Parrot
Grey-crowned Babbler	Noisy Miner	Horsfields Bronze Cuckoo	Fan-tailed Cuckoo
Apostlebird	Superb Fairywren	Red-capped Robin	Eastern Rosella

Birds and Binos at Lake Cowal

Lake Cowal is New South Wales' largest natural inland lake at approximately 21 km long and 9.5 km wide with an average depth of around 2.5metres and covering an area of over 13,000 hectares when full.

Surface water inflow to Lake Cowal comes primarily from the Bland Creek in the south and the Lachlan – Lake Cowal floodway in the northeast.

Without inflows, Lake Cowal dries from evaporative losses, which usually takes three years from full storage. That's what happened in 2016.

Muehlenbeckia florulenta (Lignum) occurs in dense thickets to the north of Lake Cowal and form the basis of the breeding habitat for many water birds. Open areas without Lignum tend to be covered by *Marsilea drummondii* (Nardoo) and *Myriophyllum verrucosum* (Water Milfoil) when the Lake is inundated. These conditions provide ideal breeding conditions for thousands of Pelican, White Ibis and feeding conditions for many waders. Fourteen birds seen here are listed as threatened species. So we went to have a look.



Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – Mal Carnegie

Bland Shire Council recently hosted a Birds and Binos event at Lake Cowal. The Lake Cowal Environment Centre staff were our guides to both sides of the lake. We were picked up at West Wyalong and bussed to the site. It was good to see the landscape on the way to mine.

The sheer numbers of Avocet, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, White-fronted Chat and Pelican were a sight to behold with awe. This truly is a productive wetland.

However on the other side of the lake there were few waterbirds to be seen I don't know why. In this area Cane Grass is the commonest water plant. Here we partook of a scrumptious lunch. We were also able to walk around the Carnegie Homestead which will in the future be adaptively re-used pending funding.

The tailings piles of the gold mine could be seen from the wetlands.

I think the planned field trip will not disappoint.

Nella Smith

Roadside Vegetation

The recent destruction of significant habitat along Apostle Yard Road serves as a blunt reminder of just how susceptible our natural environment is to being lost.

The roadside there was a decent remnant of the boree community originally common in the Riverina and supported a population of Painted Honeyeaters – a threatened species. There are no substantial reserves containing the boree community in our part of the Riverina. Narrow strips along some roads is all we have got. The same applies for Yellow Box, Grey Box, Black Box and Mallee communities. Only land not suitable for farming, the rocky ranges or the regularly flood prone River Red Gum forests retain worthwhile extents of natural cover. Even the latter community has been logged and grazed into a mere shadow of itself. It will



take decades of conservation to bring it back to fully functional forests.

When I first started cataloguing the local vegetation in the early 1990's, I soon learnt that apart from the ranges and river forests the only surviving natural vegetation was along the roadsides. The State Forests at that time were only managed for how much timber could be extracted. Anything below the trees was grazed out as being a 'fire hazard'. No wonder many have been passed over to National Parks in face of embarrassing financial losses.



Roadside vegetation destruction on Apostle Yard Road above. Kathy Tenison

In the late 1990's Greening Australia, Griffith financed a survey of the roadsides of Griffith, Carrathool, Murrumbidgee and Leeton local government areas and produced maps showing the stretches of roads with significant vegetation. MFN took part and surveyed a considerable proportion of Leeton Shire roads. It seems these maps were just filed away, forgotten, never more to see the light of day.

It is now proposed that MFN again catalogue the roadsides of our area starting with Leeton Shire. This time significance is to include fauna habitat including flight paths and other connectivity aspects.

Accordingly we are asking all members to submit their suggestions to either Max O'Sullivan or myself as co-ordinators. We aim to produce a report to the Shire Council(s), Councillors and senior staff so that they know which areas need special attention when any roadworks or developments are envisaged – now and forever.

Eric Whiting

Painted Honeyeater (left), Swamp Wallaby and a Mistletoebird at Apostle Yard Road - Kathy Tenison



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.

Rainbow Bee-eater [2]	Jack's Creek Cocoparra National Park	29/09/18	Neil Palframan
Superb Parrot [2]	Narrandera	01/10/18	Alan Whitehead
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [22]	Fivebough Wetlands	04/10/18	Keith Hutton
Red-necked Avocet [86]	Fivebough Wetlands	04/10/18	Keith Hutton
Glossy Ibis [147]	Fivebough Wetlands	04/10/18	Keith Hutton
Australian Shelduck [98]	Fivebough Wetlands	04/10/18	Keith Hutton
Marsh Sandpiper [3]	Fivebough Wetlands	04/10/18	Keith Hutton
Whiskered Tern [16]	Fivebough Wetlands	04/10/18	Keith Hutton
Spotted Harrier [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	06/10/18	Max O'Sullivan
Peregrine Falcon [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	06/10/18	Max O'Sullivan
Wood Sandpiper [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	06/10/18	Max O'Sullivan
Painted Honeyeater [2]	Apostle Yard Rd via Leeton	06/10/18	Phil Tenison
Little Friarbird [2]	Colinroobie Rd via Leeton	06/10/18	Phil Tenison
Painted Honeyeater [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	07/10/18	Keith Hutton
Brolga [2]	Fivebough Wetlands	07/10/18	Keith Hutton
Australian Shelduck [135]	Fivebough Wetlands	07/10/18	Keith Hutton
Noisy Friarbird	Narrandera Wetlands	09/10/18	Susan Whitehead
Marsh Sandpiper [4]	Fivebough Wetlands	10/10/18	Max O'Sullivan
Pectoral Sandpiper [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	11/10/18	Keith Hutton
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [63]	Fivebough including 57 juvenile birds	11/10/18	Keith Hutton
Peregrine Falcon [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	11/10/18	Keith Hutton
Superb Parrot [1]	Railway Ave, Leeton	11/10/18	Jenni Parow
Rainbow Lorikeet [2]	Railway Ave, Leeton	11/10/18	Jenni Parow
Noisy Friarbird [1]	Railway Ave, Leeton	11/10/18	Jenni Parow
Blue-faced Honeyeater [1]	Railway Ave, Leeton	11/10/18	Jenni Parow
Silver Gull [470]	Fivebough Wetlands	14/10/18	Keith Hutton
Whiskered Tern [60]	Fivebough Wetlands	14/10/18	Keith Hutton
Little Friarbird [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	16/10/18	Max O'Sullivan
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo [21]	'Mountain Dam', Colinroobie Rd	16/10/18	Dionee Russell
Painted Honeyeater [2]	Fivebough Wetlands	17/08/18	Keith Hutton
Great Crested Grebe [Imm]	The Basin Dam, Koonadan	18/10/18	Max O'Sullivan
Dollarbird [1]	Yanco Bridge – season return	18/10/18	Max O'Sullivan
Common Greenshank [3]	Gum Creek Rd via Griffith	19/10/18	Max O'Sullivan
Marsh Sandpiper [2]	Gum Creek Rd via Griffith	19/10/18	Max O'Sullivan

The above waders were seen on a flooded rice field just out of Griffith among many stilts.

Common Koel	Narrandera	Oct. '18	Betty Bradney
Brown Quail [6]	Fivebough Wetlands	20/10/18	Keith Hutton
Freckled Duck [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	20/10/18	Keith Hutton
Painted Honeyeater [8]	Yanco Common	21/10/18	K&P Tenison
Magpie Goose [10]	Campbell Swamp – season return	26/10/18	Max O'Sullivan
Crimson Chat [6]	Barren Box western exit	26/10/18	Max O'Sullivan
White-fronted Honeyeater [8]	Barren Box western exit	26/10/18	Max O'Sullivan
Black Honeyeater [pr]	Barren Box western exit	26/10/18	Max O'Sullivan
Australasian Bittern [1]	Campbell Swamp	27/10/18	Silly Galahs team
Painted Honeyeater	Whitton Stock Route Rd, Yenda	27/10/18	Margaret Strong
Splendid Wren	Whitton Stock Route Rd, Yenda	27/10/18	Margaret Strong
Red-capped Robin	Whitton Stock Route Rd, Yenda	27/10/18	Margaret Strong
Eastern Yellow Robin	Whitton Stock Route Rd, Yenda	27/10/18	Margaret Strong

Golden-headed Cisticola	Fivebough Wetlands	27/10/18	Margaret Strong
Red-rumped Parrot [2]	Palla/Cutler Ave, Griffith	29/10/18	Virginia Tarr
Sacred Kingfisher [2]	Palla/Cutler Ave, Griffith	29/10/18	Virginia Tarr
Yellow Thornbill [3]	Palla/Cutler Ave, Griffith	29/10/18	Virginia Tarr
Red Wattlebird [2]	Palla/Cutler Ave, Griffith	29/10/18	Virginia Tarr
Blue-faced Honeyeater [1]	Palla/Cutler Ave, Griffith	29/10/18	Virginia Tarr
Dollarbird	Narrandera Wetlands	30/10/18	Max O'Sullivan
Olive-backed Oriole	Narrandera Wetlands	30/10/18	Max O'Sullivan
Australian Reed Warbler [45]	Fivebough Wetlands	30/10/18	Keith Hutton
Glossy Ibis [164]	Fivebough Wetlands	30/10/18	Keith Hutton
Purple Swamphen [116]	Fivebough Wetlands	30/10/18	Keith Hutton
Cattle Egret [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	30/10/18	Keith Hutton
White-necked Heron [5]	Fivebough Wetlands	30/10/18	Keith Hutton
Black-tailed Native-hen [5]	Fivebough Wetlands	30/10/18	Keith Hutton
Baillon's Crake [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	30/10/18	Keith Hutton
Australian Spotted Crake [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	30/10/18	Keith Hutton
Western Gerygone	Fivebough Wetlands	31/10/18	Max O'Sullivan
Latham's Snipe [1]	Tuckerbil Swamp	31/10/18	Keith Hutton
Brolga [8]	Tuckerbil Swamp	31/10/18	Keith Hutton
Cattle Egret [27]	Tuckerbil Swamp	31/10/18	Keith Hutton
Black-winged Stilt [520]	Tuckerbil Swamp	31/10/18	Keith Hutton
Pelican [19]	Tuckerbil Swamp	31/10/18	Keith Hutton
Glossy Ibis [11]	Tuckerbil Swamp	31/10/18	Keith Hutton
Australian Reed Warbler [10]	Tuckerbil Swamp	31/10/18	Keith Hutton
White-winged Triller [3]	Neil's place Nericon – first record	02/11/18	Neil Palframan

Food Chair with a Difference !

The Dam - winter water supply for the last 99 years.

Source of nurture, nature, education, adventure and contemplation.

Little Pied Cormorant surveys all from vantage of the diving board and breakfasts on carp and yabbies.

An opportunistic Little Black Cormorant noticed LPC having difficulty with a too large carp.

An underwater tussle with LBC the victor who made a bad decision to scramble up the bank to better eat the carp. Unbeknown to the LBC mother Australian Raven with her 2 offspring were there to claim the carp!

LBC flew off in a huff while LPC retreated to the diving board and assume a philosophical posture - win some lose some.

Jan Condon



Other Events

7 November Wednesday **Know-how of native seed collection**

At the Leeton Community Centre, Wade Ave, 10am to 2pm

Lunch and Morning tea provided \$15. Bring a water bottle, hat, long pants and enclosed shoes for a short field walk.

RSVP Kathy Tenison, Mb: 0428396826 irrigationarea@mli.org.au

29 November Thursday

Koala Regeneration Workshop to look at how we can secure the future of koalas, under the Saving Our Species program.

Half day at Narrandera

Please contact Nella if you are interested ph 6959 1210 or

Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com .

**** COMING EVENTS ****

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

- 8 November Thursday** **Annual General Meeting and Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7.30pm.
Bring along your 'Show and Tell'
Contact: Nella Smith 6959 1210.
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com.
- 10 November Saturday** **Take part in the Wild Pollinator Count**
A national citizen science project that encourages people to record local pollinators by watching a flower for 10 minutes during the count week and recording what insects land on the flower during that time.
Find out how to go about it at <https://wildpollinatorcount.com/>
Contact: Eric or Rowena Whiting 6953 2612 or
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com
- 24 November Saturday** **Lake Cowal Field Trip – visit the wetlands and the Evolution Gold Mine**
Transport will be by bus meeting at Ardlethan at 7am.
Bring your own morning tea and lunch, hat, plenty of water and binoculars. Spaces are limited. Cost of bus is \$20, please pay at the meeting or before by direct debit to the MFN account (details page 2).
Contact is Nella Smith 6959 1210 or
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com .
- 1 December Saturday** **End of Year break up - Gogelderie Weir** has been proposed as the venue, there will be a charge for the use of the hall.
Catering will be a communal effort with everyone to bring a dish – nibbles, meat and salads or dessert. BYO drinks. Please let Nella know what you will bring so she can co-ordinate.
Contact is Nella Smith 6959 1210 or
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com .
- 5 December Wednesday** **Copy for the December newsletter is due. Please send to Rowena.**
Email: ericwhiting4@bigpond.com. Phone: 6953 2612.
- 13 December Thursday** **Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7.30pm.
Topic: Ideas welcome
Bring along your 'Show and Tell'
Contact: Nella Smith 6959 1210.
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com.
- 15 December Saturday** **A late afternoon/evening outing to a local water spot followed by nibbles or picnic tea.**
Contact is Nella Smith 6959 1210 or
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com .
- 25-28 January**
Friday – Monday **Summer camp at Laurel Hill near Tumbarumba**
A tentative booking has been made for 3 nights at \$95 per person night, fully catered. This will allow us to explore the nearby sub-alpine area of Paddys River and also drive up to the higher plains.
Confirmation is required asap with a deposit. There is a minimum number of 20 people; so if we don't get that number this will not go ahead.
Please contact Nella if you intend to go Nella Smith 6959 1210.
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com.