

The Murrumbidgee Naturalist



October 2015 - Issue #231

Journal of the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc.

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Objects of the Club

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



Group on Mt Nangar (we did walk a little of the track!)
Superb Fairy-wren (Graham Russell), Dampiera (Rowena Whiting)

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CONTRIBUTIONS

For the November issue by
Wednesday 4 November

To Rowena Whiting

Email: ericwhiting4@bigpond.com.

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October Outing
Livingstone National Park

Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc. Office Bearers and Annual Subscriptions

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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.

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

Some images from the Nangar camp and the orchid trips

Clockwise from top left
 Some of the group on the native orchid walk
 Blanket Fern (Nangar) – Rowena Whiting
 Mt Nangar; view and cliffs – Rowena Whiting
 Dripping Rock, Nangar National Park
 Mintbush, Nangar National Park – Eric Whiting
Caladenia concinna on Scenic Hill – Virginia Tarr



The Orchid Walk

12 September 2015

We were fortunate to have a glorious day and a few visiting interested people: a local family and a family from Warrigal in Victoria AND some glorious orchids.

In past years I have observed a progression of species in any one area. Because of our wet winter and continuing cool conditions many species hung on until the next species flowered.

At Narrandera we inspected *Caladenia verrucosa* conspicuous because of its bright yellow clubs and recorded from only 3 locations in the state.

Caladenia rileyii with its much longer brownish clubs was also seen at this location. *C rileyii* is only recorded at Narrandera and nearby. Both of these orchids are considered endangered. We had to watch where we were putting our feet in order not to step on the orchids. The *Caladenia fuscata*, *Caladenia concinna*, *Cyanicula caerulea*, *Pterostylis mutcia* and *Diuris goonooensis* as well as not yet flowering *Microtis uniflora* were widespread. I'll be watching for a *Thelymitra* species flowering soon as well.



Our next stop was for a field of *Glossodia major* which is known to be common as it was at Mandagery Nature Reserve.

We did a quick stop at Wammera where we saw *C. stellata* which is generally found in ones. Wammera is also covered with *Diuris goonooensis* and probably a few other *Diuris* species as well as *Thelymitra* and potential *Microtis*.

Ardlethan Common revealed its usual beauties, *Caladenia Greencomb Spider Orchid Inland form*. Not a *C. tentaculata*, not a *C. rileyii* - a slight variation. These orchids change themselves a bit in order to fool those pollinating thynnid wasps and gnats. The *Grevillea floribunda* was at its best.

Our favourite roadside near Kamarah was still great: Shrub violet *Hybanthus floribunda*, Scarlet

Mintbush *Prostanthera aspalathoides*, Rankins Springs *Gevillea Grevillea glabella* Rankins Springs *Gevillea*, Grey Clematis *Clematis microphylla*, Desert Heath Myrtle *Baeckia crassifolia* were all flowering. Slender Western Rosemary *Westringia eremicola* was spied by a sharp visitor. The assemblage includes *Eucalyptus socialis*, *Acacia triptera*, *Ac. rigens*, *Ac. deaneii* as well as *Dodonea spp* and *Senna artemisioides*. Wallaby Grasses *Danthonia spp*, Spear Grasses *Austrostipa spp* and Wire Grasses *Aristida spp* on the ground.

All the localities we visited were on roadsides or travelling stock reserves which is a fine indicator of biodiversity in these areas. We will need to be watchful that they are preserved.

Nella Smith



Photos clockwise from top left:
Caladenia verrucosa
Caladenia rileyii
Caladenia stellata
Diuris goonooensis
Glossodia major

The Frasers were the local family who joined us and Maddie is sharing what she saw with us.



On Saturday the 12th of September I went on a 5 hour orchid hunt with the MFN'S. In total we went to 5 stops. Every stop we saw the endangered species donkey/leopard orchid. We saw orchids such as midget greenhoods, dwarf green hoods, spider orchid, pink fingers, blue fingers, green-comb spider orchids, Early Nancy and many more flowers.



On the stop on the Kamarah road Mum found a daddy long leg orchid and at the same spot we saw a spider orchids with two flower heads. It was great opportunity to see the orchids and flowers I never knew were there. Big Thank you to the MFN'S for sharing their expertise on orchids and flowers.

By Madeline Fraser,
Age 8 St. Josephs, Narrandera

Photos: Rowena Whiting - Orchid hunters and a Blue Finger

Member Observations

Virginia and Col have been observing the orchids at Scenic Hill. They have found patches of Green Spider Orchids, Pink Fingers scattered everywhere, Waxlips occasionally, Donkey Orchids and Midget Greenhoods everywhere. Many buds; so they are still coming.

An update today (3 October). Have just returned from visiting the patch Col and I have been keeping an eye on. We have been rewarded with a magnificent show of the Mauve Slender Sun Orchids. Col has looked up his orchid book and found that it is the *Thelymitra nuda*. Photos attached. He also said that there are the Onion Orchids x 2 there as well. I was so ecstatic about these that I didn't look any further.

Virginia Tarr.

Joanne Tarbit has sent some images from a site inspection of **Tharbogang Swamp** last week. She says wetland bird numbers are on the increase again at the site. I only observed the more common species but there were about 80 Red Necked Avocets in the mix. I'm most impressed with the recovery of terrestrial vegetation on the banks now that we have eliminated cattle from the site. Natural regeneration of the eucalyptus is going well throughout the site. I'm starting to see signs of the direct seeding germinating, though less than I'd hoped. Now that the ground is warming up and we have good subsoil moisture, I hope this is the season it all comes up as its now been in the ground for a year! The Club has an outing planned for November 29.



Above: *Thelymitra nuda*
Right: *Thelymitra paucifolia*



Dry and wet views of Tharbogang - the image on the left shows Black Box and Bimble Box seedlings on flood line.

Our Spring Camp at Nangar National Park

25-27 September 2015

A few people have written about their weekend. It does mean some items are related more than once but everyone experiences an outing in their own way. The Park is on the south side of the Forbes to Orange road, the Escort Way, about 40kms from Forbes. Ed.

Virginia and Trevor come first:

Our adventure to Nangar National Park turned out to be a wonderful weekend experience, driving in along a well-used single, winding track dipping frequently across the Terarra Creek along a narrow valley, to eventually we came to a partly open area of grassland and pine grove with a sprinkling of eucalyptus trees. This is our camping ground where we set up our tents, checked out the windyloo and eventually set off for our walk back along the road. The valley's steep slopes were a carpet of green with



lichen covered grey boulders and rocks protruding. Also dotting the landscape are acacias, pines, an occasional Hill She-oak *Casuarina stricta* and eucalyptus trees. Then there were the orchids scattered in all areas. In the moist regions we found the Midget Greenhoods and Blunt Greenhoods *Pterostylis curta*. In the drier areas there were the White, Pink and Blue Fingers, Donkeys, Green Spider Orchids, Waxlips, and the elusive rare patches of Gnats Orchids *Cyrtostylis reniformis* that Trevor found.



Back at camp with the campfire burning, billies boiling we had our cuppa and prepared the dinner ingredients for the camp oven roast lamb and vegies. Sitting back with our drinks and nibbles we admired the amphitheatre scenery

of sharply rising tree-covered cliff-face surrounding half of the camp area, birds calling and frogs croaking by the creek running around the base of the cliff-face.

The weather was perfect for the whole of our stay. The companionship was wonderful (until T! put detergent in the frying pan instead of oil to fry the eggs & bacon). The day was a bit bubbly after that! We survived and had a beautiful relaxing day.

We would like to thank Dione and Graham for their great organization of a delicious camp roast and apple pie, the walks and drive to Mt. Nangar. Well done. ★★★★★

Trevor and Virginia O'Brien.

Photos from top right:
At camp
Dripping Rock
The view from Mt Nangar
Gnat Orchid



From Sue

On Friday, 25th September, thanks to the great organisation of Graham and Dione Russell, the Field Nats. assembled at Terarra Picnic and Camping area that nestled into a vale with a gently running stream called Terarra Creek. After a picnic lunch and camps organised, we went for a very pleasant walk along Dripping Rock Road that bordered the creek. The ambience was idyllic on this sunny day with both birds and frogs calling for attention and baby tadpoles swimming in the crystal-clear water.

That evening we sat around the campfire and enjoyed immensely the lamb roast that Graham and Dionne cooked in their Camp Oven. Unfortunately, Nan and I had to retire to the Eugowra Hotel for accommodation, but joined the group at 8.30 next morning for an exciting drive to Dripping Rock and up to Mount Nangar with lots of plant exploring and bird-watching on the way, and a beautiful view of the lowlands when we reached the top where we had lunch with lots more “foraying” on the way back.



Day two's evening meal was held at the Eugowra Hotel where we said our Goodbyes to the group as Nan and I had been sightseeing in the beautiful Capertee Valley and Wollemi National Park since the previous Wednesday. However the rest of the campers enjoyed further exploring next morning.

Photos Rowena Whiting
The 'crystal-clear Terarra
Creek - above
Around the camp fire - left

A huge **Thank You** to Graham and Dione for organising such a lovely outing.

Sue Chittick-Dalton

Nangar National Park Bird List - 25 to 27 September Compiled by Sue Chittick-Dalton

Pacific Black Duck,
Wedge-tailed Eagle,
Crested Pigeon,
Eastern Rosella,
Welcome Swallow,
Red-capped Robin,
Grey Fantail
White-browed Babbler,
Weebill,
Southern Whiteface,
White-throated Treecreeper,
Noisy Miner,
Brown-headed Honeyeater,
Spotted Pardalote,
Australian Magpie,
Pied Butcherbird,

Grey Teal,
Little Eagle,
Galah,
Crimson Rosella,
Eastern Yellow Robin,
Rufous Whistler,
Willy Wagtail,
Superb Fairy-wren,
Yellow Thornbill,
Buff-rumped Thornbill,
Brown Treecreeper,
Yellow-faced Honeyeater,
White-eared Honeyeater,
Striated Pardalote,
White-winged Chough,
Little Raven,

Wood Duck,
Masked Lapwing,
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo,
Kookaburra,
Jacky Winter,
Golden Whistler,
Grey Shrike-thrush,
Speckled Warbler,
Yellow-rumped Thornbill,
White-throated Gerygone,
Noisy Friarbird,
White-plumed Honeyeater,
Mistletoe bird,
Magpie Lark,
Pied Currawong,
Australian Raven

Eric's Nangar Campout

25-27 September

It was becoming a tradition that the Clubs spring campouts were based on one of the National Parks to our west that had accommodation, yet with only a small number available repeat visits became too often.. So when Graham and Dione suggested going to Nangar National Park the idea was accepted, all be it with reservations. As Nangar only has a camping ground with basic facilities, would splitting the group between campers and those who preferred a bed in the nearby Eugowra Hotel be acceptable?

Numbers were down from previous camps, but having set a date in the school holidays and the seemingly extraordinary number of clashing of dates with other events this year, this was to be expected. In the end six opted to camp and four chose the hotel. Rosemary Stapleton from Orange Field Nats joined us on the Saturday and we were also pleased to see Jane Paul out and active after her illness.

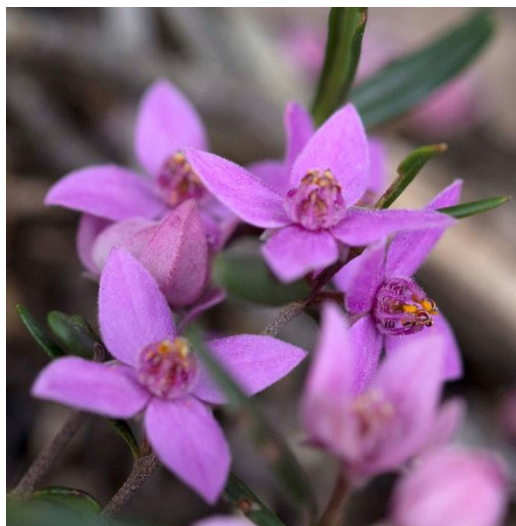
Catering is always a highlight of our campouts and Graham and Dione organised a glorious campfire - cooked delicious lamb and vegies roast for the Friday night. Then for Saturday night it was off to the Eugowra Hotel to sample the new chef's offerings. Virginia obviously approved – having ordered her meal with vegies, she liked the look of the salad and asked for a change. The chef gave her both. You don't get that too often.

It was the third visit to Nangar for Graham and Dione this year, so they knew what to do for the full day trip on the Saturday. A clever bit of car pooling saw us all in two 4WD's for a very punctuated trip up to the peak of Nangar. I lost count of the number of stops up and down we made, each one to look at new vegetation. Park information gives six vegetation types; all significantly different to what we get here. A Pink Boronia just down from the peak seemed to be the favourite or was it the Gnat Orchids at one of the earlier stops. Other notable flowers not seen nearer home were a Mintbush, a Bush-pea, a Parrot-pea, and a Dampiera. Though not in flower, Grass-trees and the Cycad Macrozamia were also noted differences. Of the trees the white trunks of both the Tumbledown Gum and the larger Scribbly Gums gave many parts an unusual look to the forested slopes.



The top of Nangar not only gives a tremendous view of the surrounding countryside but also harbours an endemic plant, a Philotheca with large delicately tinted flowers. Thanks to Rosemary's guidance we found it. Actually over the edge of the cliff. Photographing it was a trial as we were warned that the edge had a distinct overhang!

The Sunday morning walk was a leisurely affair up the valley to Dripping Rock and back. Time enough to seek out those endemic small birds hiding in the dense Bottlebrush that lined the creek and to actually see a frog in the creek as opposed to just hearing the chorus.



Oh! Too soon it was time to pack up and take the 3½ to 4 hour journey home. A big thank you Graham and Dione for a brilliantly organised weekend to a place so fascinatingly new to us.

Eric Whiting

Photos clockwise from top:
Dillwynia, a Parrot Pea
Philotheca (Graham Russell)
Common Froglet (Graham Russell)
Boronia



Last but not least the leaders Graham & Dione

There was lots of bird song but there was a breeze on both days that made birds hard to find but 48 is a good number. The bird highlights for me from the weekend are The Speckled Warbler (listed as Vulnerable) that joined us at camp on the Saturday morning, The Spotted Pardalote



nesting in the side of the track and the Superb Fairy Wren that was very photogenic on the last day.

My non-birding highlights were being introduced to the world of Native Orchids, without the guidance of those that knew what they were looking for I would have walked over them all



Clockwise from above:
Spotted Pardalote
Gnat Orchid
Swamp Wallaby with joey
Superb Fairy-wren
Speckled Warbler



without even knowing that they were there.

The other non-Birding Highlights were the Common Froglet and the Swamp Wallaby that was on the top of Mount Nangar and didn't

want to go anywhere.

We had a great weekend that was, as always when we go anywhere with the MFN, very educational enjoyed with great company. It was a pleasure to enjoy nature with such a learned and friendly group.

Graham Russell



A few items of interest to investigate

An article on geology and volcanism at Griffith - <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-09-15/worlds-longest-continental-volcanic-chain-in-australia/6769360> (from Nella)

An article on the ABC Web site about Forty-spotted Pardalotes. Cotton wool could save endangered Australian bird 31/08/2015 <http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2015/s4302953.htm> (from Max)

From John Brickhill – an app to look up National Parks – The OEH announcement is at <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/naturenearme/> and the iTunes blurb is at <https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/nature-near-me/id933675181?mt=8>

Geology of Nangar

The only reference to the geology of Nangar National Park in its brochure is that it is part of the Lachlan Fold Belt without any further explanation. So what are the rocks, what is their history and how old are they?

The rocks have been dated to the Upper Devonian period some 360-380 million years ago. At that time Australia was part of Gondwanaland, the super continent comprising South America, Africa, India, Antarctica and Australia. However most of the land that is now Victoria, New South Wales and eastern Queensland was only just forming. When we talk of Australia being an ancient continent we only refer to Western and South Australia. Before the Cambrian (450 million years ago) the continent (or to be correct, the tectonic plate) stopped around Broken Hill. Also this edge was the northern boundary and at about 15° north of the equator.

Another plate was being pushed under the boundary causing volcanic arcs offshore with a basin in between the arc and the continent, rather like Papua - New Guinea today. Sediments from the volcanic arcs and from mountains pushed up on the continent by the pressure of the colliding plate steadily filled the basin, building up the continental shelf. As layers built up lower ones were compressed. Sand turned into sandstone as in the Cocoparra and Narrandera Ranges and finer material turned into siltstone as at Nangar, In addition to this compression the plate collision also squeezed the new rocks causing folding. Eventually the sideways pressure changes the basin into a piled up mountain range. Hence the Fold Belt.

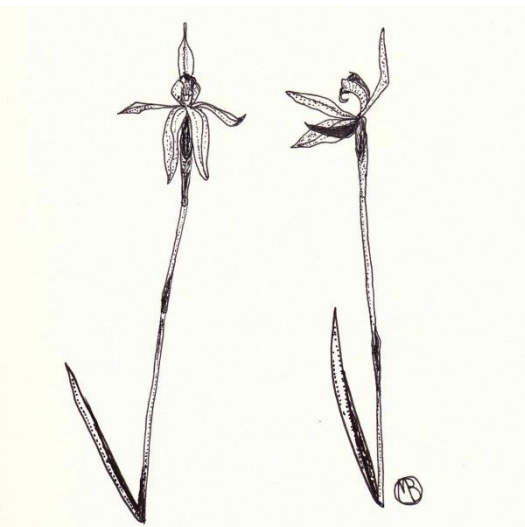
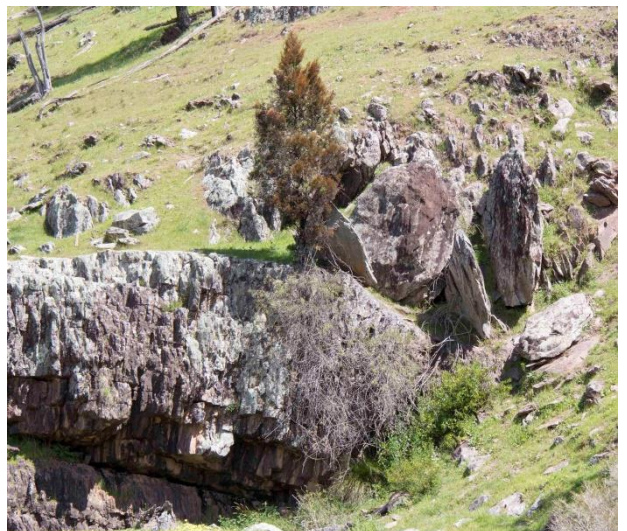
This is far from the end of the story. As soon as mountains build up they are subject to erosion. Over the following periods of geological time mountains have been worn down to a plain, and as the tectonic plates broke up, pushed up again. The siltstones of Nangar have been so pushed around that they have been changed into harder shales, becoming more resistant to erosion.

Eric Whiting

Interesting rock formations:

Top - near Dripping Rock showing vertically bedded shales enclosed in an arc of a thicker band of siltstone.

Below: Vertical slabs at the side of Dripping Rock.



Melanie Baulch has been out drawing the Spring flowers:

Pink Fairies (left)
and
Nardoo (right)



Robbie returns to the Riverina!

Taken taken from the bitternsinrice web site - by Matt Herring

20 September. The burning question burns no longer. He's back! It was a 20-week sea change and a round trip of about 1270 kilometres. Early on Friday morning we saw that the legendary Robbie had just flown 615 km from Long Swamp near Nelson (SW Vic.) all the way to Lake Wyangan near Griffith (NSW Riverina). Remember, he was just an egg in a rice crop when the year began and a feisty youngster when we attached the satellite transmitter to him near Coleambally during rice harvest in April.

Interestingly, Lake Wyangan was one of the sites we'd searched for bitterns during the last non-breeding season because we suspected it might be part of the network of wetlands that these endangered birds rely on. We didn't have any luck with our small sample of the extensive stands of Cumbungi around the perimeter, but in February there were Little Bitterns there and we felt like we'd barely scratched the surface. Equally interesting is that Mark Bachmann from Nature Glenelg Trust saw another Australasian Bittern at Long Swamp on Friday (clearly not Robbie), further highlighting the value of that magnificent restored wetland.

And just this morning, Robbie has appeared back in Coleambally, over 70 kilometres south of Lake Wyangan and only 12 kilometres from where we attached the transmitter!

Robbie's journey is likely to represent a very long history of bittern movement patterns between inland wetlands (that rice crops now form an important part) and coastal wetlands. It seems his journey is best described as innate; in his bones so to speak.



Lake Wyangan near Griffith supports Cumbungi stands around its large perimeter; the latest addition to our growing knowledge of the network of wetlands that the bittern population relies on outside of the rice growing season.

23 September. He's a bit early for the rice season, and especially for rice crops that are suitable for bitterns, but it's going to be intriguing to watch his movements over the coming weeks and months as the breeding season kicks in and as the rice season progresses. Go Robbie! You're an absolute legend.

The world's most famous bittern is on the move again. he has now moved another 85 km to between Finley and Deniliquin. He's not far from Blighty. Robbie has many fine virtues; let's hope patience is among them because he won't find any rice fields just yet.

But where will he go? Perhaps he'll find one of the few presently suitable wetlands in the broader region, like those near Mathoura or Cohuna. Some of us are thinking about switching from coffee to incorporate frogs in our own diets, just so we can achieve Robbie's energy levels. Others are wondering whether or not he'll start booming and attempt to breed in his first year. We'll be watching his next move closely.

Excitingly, before his last move he was photographed by the very man he's named after: Mark Robb from Coleambally Irrigation. You can even see the transmitter antenna on his back. At one point, he was only 10 km from where we caught him and attached it back in April.

Last week, another bittern was seen in the Finley/Deniliquin region using a ditch on the side of road. You may recall that we've previously had bitterns moving about in the Riverina between rice seasons, recorded using irrigated wheat crops, channels, Cumbungi-filled creek lines and large remnant swamps. They all form part of the network. Robbie keeps on stitching together the landscape for us, highlighting how connected it is and how connected we all are. His movements also emphasise the awesome ability of waterbirds to find suitable habitat. Create it and they will come.

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.

Variegated Wren	McNabb Cres, Griffith	10/09/15	Sue Chittick-Dalton
Blue-faced Honeyeater	McNabb Cres, Griffith	10/09/15	Sue Chittick-Dalton
Red Wattlebird	McNabb Cres, Griffith	10/09/15	Sue Chittick-Dalton
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	McNabb Cres, Griffith	10/09/15	Sue Chittick-Dalton
King Parrot	Gordon Ave, Griffith	06/09/15	Col Sell
Emu [20]	Barren Box Swamp	10/09/15	Eric Whiting
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	"Mountain Dam", Colinroobie	09/09/15	Graham Russell
Blue Bonnet	"Mountain Dam", Colinroobie	09/09/15	Graham Russell
Grey Butcherbird	"Mountain Dam", Colinroobie	09/09/15	Graham Russell
Grey-crowned Babbler	"Mountain Dam", Colinroobie	09/09/15	Graham Russell
Mulga Parrot	Cocoparra National Park	09/09/15	Graham Russell
Varied Sitella	Cocoparra National Park	09/09/15	Graham Russell
<i>Caladenia stellata</i>	Erigolia Road	30/08/15	Nella Smith
<i>Caladenia verrucosa</i>	Narrandera	30/08/15	Nella Smith
<i>Caladenia rileyii</i>	Narrandera	30/08/15	Nella Smith
Eastern Rosella	Nelson Dr, Griffith	25/09/15	Neil Palframan

First time Neil has seen this rosella in Griffith itself – mostly only seen at the Golf Course.

King Parrot	Banna Ave Griffith	23/09/15	Johanna Botman
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Neil also reports many **Rufous Songlarks** calling and **Magpies** swooping on unsuspecting walkers in Nericon.

Whiskered Tern [26]	Fivebough Wetlands	02/09/15	Keith Hutton
Australian White Ibis [50]	Fivebough Wetlands	06/09/15	Keith Hutton
Noisy Friarbird [2]	Fivebough Wetlands	06/09/15	Keith Hutton
Little Friarbird [2]	Fivebough Wetlands	06/09/15	Keith Hutton
Australian Reed Warbler [8]	Fivebough Wetlands	06/09/15	Keith Hutton
Glossy Ibis [30+]	Fivebough Wetlands	06/09/15	Keith Hutton
Black-tailed Native-hen [3]	Fivebough Wetlands	06/09/15	Keith Hutton
Spotless Crake [2]	Fivebough Wetlands	06/09/15	Keith Hutton
Red-necked Avocet [104]	Fivebough Wetlands	06/09/15	Keith Hutton
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [6]	Fivebough Wetlands	06/09/15	Keith Hutton
Black-fronted Dotterel [4]	Fivebough Wetlands	06/09/15	Keith Hutton
Superb Parrot [4]	Fivebough Wetlands flying over	06/09/15	Keith Hutton
Latham's Snipe [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	06/09/15	Keith Hutton
Banded Lapwing [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	06/09/15	Keith Hutton
Marsh Sandpiper [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	06/09/15	Keith Hutton
Red-necked Stint [2]	Fivebough Wetlands	06/09/15	Keith Hutton
Wood Sandpiper [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	06/09/15	Keith Hutton
Australasian Bittern [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	06/09/15	Keith Hutton
White-bellied Sea-Eagle [Imm]	Fivebough Wetlands	06/09/15	Keith Hutton
White-breasted Woodswallow	Golden Apple, Yanco Rd, Leeton	12/09/15	Keith Hutton
Superb Parrot [2]	Fivebough Wetlands	13/09/15	Keith Hutton
Black Swan [16 nesting]	Fivebough Wetlands	13/09/15	Keith Hutton
Swamp Harrier [2 displaying]	Fivebough Wetlands	20/09/15	Keith Hutton
Baillon's Crake [2]	Fivebough Wetlands	20/09/15	Keith Hutton
Curlew Sandpiper [2]	Fivebough Wetlands	23/09/15	Keith Hutton
White-bellied Sea-Eagle [adult]	Fivebough Wetlands	26/09/15	Keith Hutton
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [110]	Fivebough Wetlands	26/09/15	Keith Hutton
Whiskered Tern [60+]	Fivebough Wetlands	26/09/15	Keith Hutton
Rainbow Bee-eater	Karri Rd, Leeton	01/10/15	Keith Hutton
Crimson Chat [3 prs]	Willandra National Park	26/09/15	Alan McLean
Double-barred Finch [1]	Palla St, Griffith. Flying in and out	10/09/15	Virginia Tarr
Superb Fairy-wren [4]	Palla St, Griffith.	22/09/15	Virginia Tarr
Blue-faced Honeyeater [2]	Palla St, Griffith.	22/09/15	Virginia Tarr
White-plumed Honeyeater [2]	Palla St, Griffith.	23/09/15	Virginia Tarr

**** COMING EVENTS ****

- 8 October Thursday** **Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7.30pm.
Topic: Phil and Kathy Tenison on their recent trip to see the gorillas in Rwanda and safari in Tanzania and Kenya
Contact: Penny Williams 6953 3524
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com
- 9 – 11 October** **Birds of the Bush Festival at Rankins Springs**
Art and Photography Exhibition, Bird Tours, market stalls, entertainment.
Bird Watching and historic pub tours – bookings required.
Information can be found at www.birdsofthebush.com
- 17 October Saturday** **Livingstone National Park outing, south of Wagga Wagga**
Dick Green and Helen Wood will conduct a tour of the park with emphasis on plants.
Meet at the North entrance of the park at 10.30 am.
If you are intending to come and for car pooling and detailed directions
Contact: Penny Williams 6953 352 Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com
- 30 October – 1 November** **Annual NSW and ACT Twitchathon competition**
Saturday 4pm to Sunday 4pm
The idea is to see how many species of birds you can find in the 24 hours. The Champagne Race in which the club competes allows for meal breaks and a sleep overnight. Teams must be at least 2 people.
If you have a team or would like to be part of another team and for further details contact Penny Williams 6953 3524.
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com
- 4 November Wednesday** **Copy for the November newsletter is due. Please send to Rowena.**
Email: ericwhiting4@bigpond.com. Phone: 6953 2612.
- 12 November Thursday** **Annual General Meeting and Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7.30pm.
Topic:
Contact: Penny Williams 6953 3524
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com
- 29 November Sunday** **Tharbogang Swamp**
Further details next month
Contact: Penny Williams 6953 352 Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com
- 12 December Saturday** **Christmas Break up**
This will take the usual form of an afternoon walk followed by a meal
Catering will be a bring your own to share.
Venue: “Yarrabimbi” – Ana and Andrew’s place
Contact Penny Williams, if intending to come on 6959 3524 or preferably
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com

Other events:

- 17-19 October** **‘On Common Ground’ The Cad Factory are holding a 3-day event at Narrandera**
Common with the theme of looking at the different ways land and water are used and have historically been used in the area, and how differing values and uses have come into conflict or have found ways to work together.
For more information <http://www.cadfactory.com.au/>
- 19 - 25 October** **National Bird Week / Aussie Backyard Bird Count**
Participants are asked to spend 20 minutes in their favourite green patch and record all birds seen on the Aussie Bird Count App or the form on our website www.aussiebirdcount.org.au to record the types of birds you see and roughly how many.