

The Murrumbidgee Naturalist



September 2015 - Issue #230

Journal of the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc.

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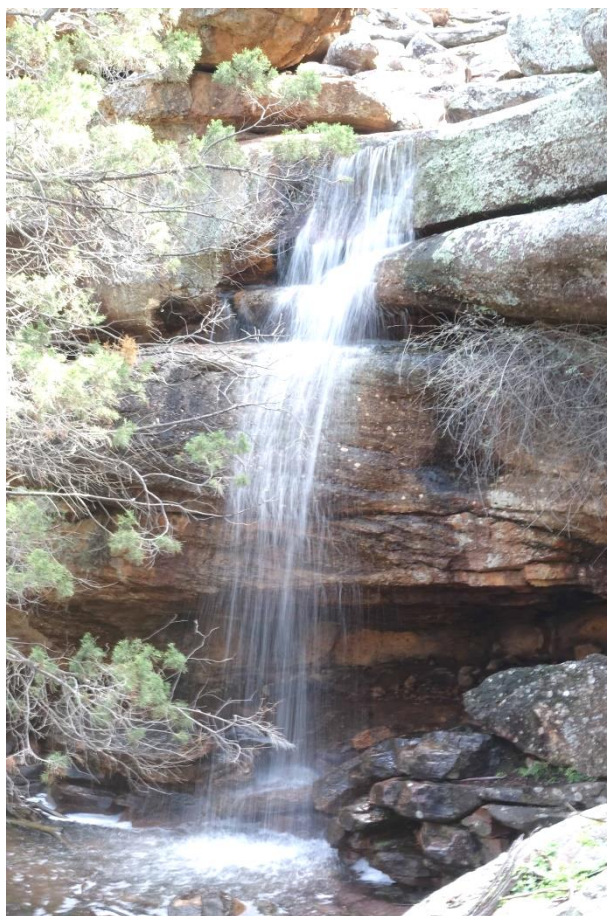
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com

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



**Water in the Cocoparras -
MFN Group walking along creek
and Woolshed Falls
Photograph by Rowena Whiting**



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CONTRIBUTIONS

**For the next issue by
Wednesday 30 September**

To Rowena Whiting

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***September is
Biodiversity Month***

Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc. Office Bearers and Annual Subscriptions

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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.

Membership enquiries:

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

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

Excursion to see Terrestrial Orchids at Narrandera & Ardlethan



Meet at 9am at Narrandera Visitors Centre. Bring all your sustenance.

You will be certain to see some Threatened and Vulnerable species of orchids. AND some that are not threatened but beautiful all the same and very photogenic.

Nella Smith



Threatened Species Day is September 7th

You would be surprised about how many threatened species we have in this region.

Just to name a few birds around here are Major Mitchell Cockatoos, Superb Parrots, Brolgas, Swift Parrots, Painted Snipe, Painted Honeyeaters, Glossy Black Cockatoo.

Many ground orchids are found in restricted locations and are rare vulnerable or threatened.

Some we see around here are *Caladenia flaccida*, *Caladenia rileyi*, *Caladenia stellata*, *Caladenia tentaculata*.

Nella Smith

Threatened species quick quiz

What is Threatened Species Day?

National Threatened Species Day is held on 7 September to commemorate the death of the last remaining Tasmanian Tiger at Hobart Zoo in 1936.

How many species are listed as threatened in NSW?

1158 species are listed as threatened in NSW including ecological communities and those species presumed extinct. Most of these species are listed under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. 37 are listed under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*.

How many species are presumed extinct in NSW?

72 species are listed as 'presumed extinct' in NSW.

A significant rainfall event occurred during the week leading up to this weekend and we were wondering if we would be able to get to the property. However the Friday was dry and Saturday dawned with clear blue skies. 11 members met at the Leeton Post Office and after a bit of carpooling we set off. Doubts were aroused when we were confronted with a stretch of wet, deeply rutted road just across the main canal along MacCracken Road. There was a clearly used route around and the rest of the road was fine. Barry was waiting at the gate and led us up to the old hut area; the location of the start of many of our walks in the past.

A major reason for organising this particular trip was for Barry to show us where he wants to erect fences for which he had applied for a grant from the Club's Environment Fund. So we started with a brief outline of where and why he wanted the fences. Essentially they are to complete enclosing off the lower slopes of a long spur coming down from the Colinroobie Hills so that it can naturally revegetate. At the moment the area is mostly open with a fair sprinkling of native trees and shrubs. Although no longer used for stock grazing revegetation is hampered by herds of feral goats invading from across the valley. There are still considerable numbers around Mt Misery. Instead of the usual single strand fences typically used for stock, Barry has been using ring lock wire fences as a barrier to these goats.

Barry then led us up the side of the creek line that ends at the old hut to show us the country he wants to regenerate. The vegetation although scattered is surprisingly quite diverse. Was the Boree at the end of the creek line a remnant of an outlier population of past times or were they planted? And was that tree behind the hut a Black Box? Could have marked a terminal swampy area of the creek.

The walk up the valley was up a very gradual gradient with a steady almost imperceptible change in flora. I did not make a plant list, it would have been quite impressive with numerous types of wattles, eucalypts etc. Notable on the lower slopes were the old Yellow Box trees dotted around. These would have been common, probably forming the open forests that could be 'ridden through at a gallop for miles' as quoted by early settlers. Yellow Box loves deep soils. So too did the early farmers, they were soon cleared.

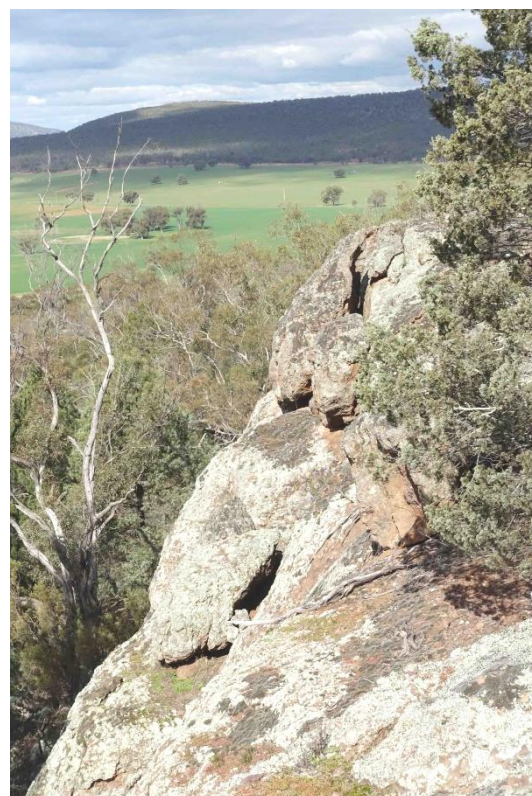


We progressed up the valley crossing into the area that once had been leased by Barry but now by a neighbour. By now the creek was becoming deeply entrenched, the gradient clearly increasing and the soil on either side evidently becoming quite shallow. Dwyers Mallee Gum became the dominant tree. There was also a well defined branching of the valley and the party had become rather spread out, the birdo's at the front becoming out of sight of the veg crew at the back. It was time to head back, a decision somehow made by all. Could it have been the thought of lunch? It was quite late and we hadn't stopped for morning tea.

View across the property and buttercup – Rowena Whiting
Striated Pardalote – Neil Palframan

Back at the old hut, Barry took his leave with many thanks from us for giving up so much of his time. Chairs were brought out and lunch boxes opened. All in glorious sunshine.

Before leaving Barry told Andrew of the existence of a cave in the next valley, so Andrew took over the leadership for the afternoon. (Andrew had driven over 30km to meet us at the Post Office only to end up back barely 4 or 5 kms walking distance from his



house on the other side of the hill!) We drove round into the next valley to park at the edge of the bush line, another location often used as a starting point for walks in the bush. This time however we did not go straight into the bush but skirted round to another gate. From here it was straight uphill to a prominent rock outcrop. At the base was a small hole, barely wide enough for a wombat and only half the height. It was a bit of a stomach crawl, only a few tried it, but inside there was room to stand up. What quirk of nature formed such a cave?



From the cave Andrew led across country to a waterhole – a deep vertical pit piercing an exposed horizontal rock outcrop. There was about a half metre of water in it. As the rock slab was about a



metre above the surrounding ground level it was a wonder that there was any water in it at all.

The waterhole was near the track running from where we parked the cars to the shelter by a dam that Andrew erected for his cadet groups. The shelter is a good vantage point for watching Glossy Black Cockatoos come in for an evening drink. Unfortunately we would have had to wait 2two or three hours to get a chance. So what did some of the group do – play at skipping stones across the dam – we're never too old!

So it came time to make our way back to the cars. Not along the track but to



wind our way down the creek line in case we could see something else, always hopeful.

Barry had mentioned he regularly saw Brolgas in a paddock near the Main Canal bridge. Unfortunately word had not got around, so we were the only ones to stop. We caught sight of two way over the other side of the paddock, too far for photos. The light was by that time also beginning to fade. We got home about 5pm. A fantastic full day's excursion. Thank you Barry for all your help and hospitality.

Eric Whiting

Crawling through the hole into the cave
The waterhole (above)
Skimming rocks at the dam
Photos – Eric Whiting

Bird List compiled by Neil Palframan

Australian Raven
 Willie-wagtail
 Galah
 Striped Honeyeater
 Major Mitchell's Cockatoo
 Yellow Thornbill
 Golden Whistler
 Pacific Black Duck
 Fan-tailed Cuckoo
 Apostlebird
 Australian Ringneck
 Weebill
 Diamond Firetail
 Restless Flycatcher

Little Raven
 Australian Magpie
 White-plumed Honeyeater
 Common Starling
 Striated Pardalote
 Yellow-rumped Thornbill
 Rufous Whistler
 Grey Fantail
 Jacky-winter
 White-winged Chough
 Red-rumped Parrot
 Red-capped Robin
 White-browed Babbler

Welcome Swallow
 Magpie-lark
 Brown-headed Honeyeater
 Noisy Miner
 Chestnut-rumped Thornbill
 Grey-crowned Babbler
 Australian Wood Duck
 Laughing Kookaburra
 Grey Butcherbird
 Eastern Rosella
 Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
 Eastern Yellow Robin
 Grey Shrike-Thrush

Outing to the Cocoparras to see the Waterfalls

29 August 2015

How lucky can you get? After the luck of scoring the one bright sunny day for the Hehir's trip, the 50 or 60mm of rain in the week leading up to the planned Cocoparra trip surely would be too much for us this time. It wasn't! Phone calls on Thursday night suggested we could get into the National Park, at least with care. The meeting place was the Woolshed Camping Ground, there to meet Dubbo Field Naturalists. So far so good.

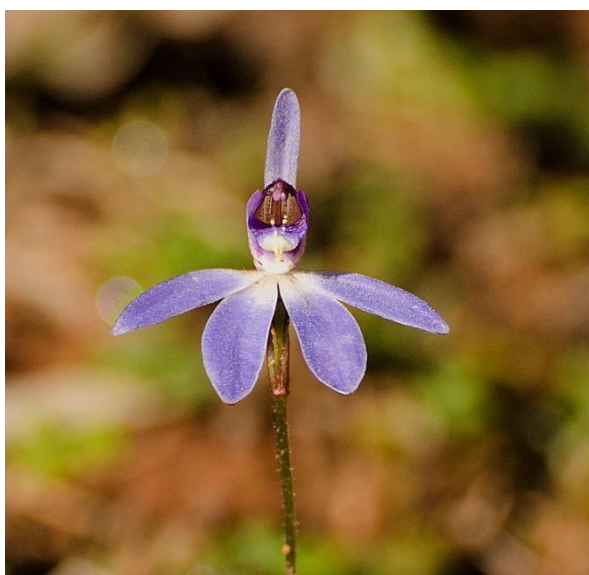
Miraculously recent history repeated itself, Friday was dry, Saturday – the outing day – was gloriously sunny. With all the rain the creeks were bound to be running with water actually falling over the waterfalls. A 9am meeting time gave us time to first check out how much water was running down Store Creek. It was flowing rapidly over the road, and although not deep, was carving out a small gutter for itself. With that amount of water a walk up to the Falls with its multiple creek crossings might have been difficult. But Store Creek wasn't the first option.

Back up the Whitton Stock Route; Jacks Creek gave no problems and at least access to the car park was OK. The only downside to Duncan's Creek was the great herd of about 100 goats just off the road. Not a good sight. Next came Steamboat Creek where water was freely flowing over and in part down the road. Again not deep and easy to navigate. Into Woolshed Flats where we were told the road might be a bit 'soft'. No problems at all.

There were five members from Dubbo at the campsite waiting for us having spent a comfortable if cool night there. By the time we were ready to start walking MFN was able to a majority of one. As there were no strong objections to 'a bit of bush bashing' (Nan had some doubts but would see how far she would go), we set off for Eagle Falls. The first kilometre or so is a toddle up the wide fire trail that leaves the



camping ground. Then it was off to the left across the flat open woodland to the creek. Early Spring flowers soon became evident especially Blue Caladenias and Dwarf Greenhoods. Walking slowed to a very leisurely pace to accommodate the numerous photo stops. Talking never stopped.



Over the creek we met denser sapling Cypress Pine thickets that took some weaving through. Then it was the start of a gradual ascent. We took a line up the west side of the creek but gradually had to move further and further up the side to avoid the thicker Tea-tree areas. As we got higher the valley sides got steeper, so for the final part we were high up almost reaching the crest of the spur. There was a lot of zig-zags to pick our way along and up the rocky slopes, but generally it was a steady relatively easy climb.



Rufous Whistler – Phillip Williams
Blue Caladenia – Phillip Williams
Morning tea stop at view point near
Eagle Falls - Rowena Whiting

A viewpoint looking down the valley and out towards the saddle at the top of the Woolshed valley was unanimously chosen as a rest point. The only thing spoiling the view was the ominous brown gash made by the fire trail as it ascended to the saddle. Otherwise it was bush, bush, bush.

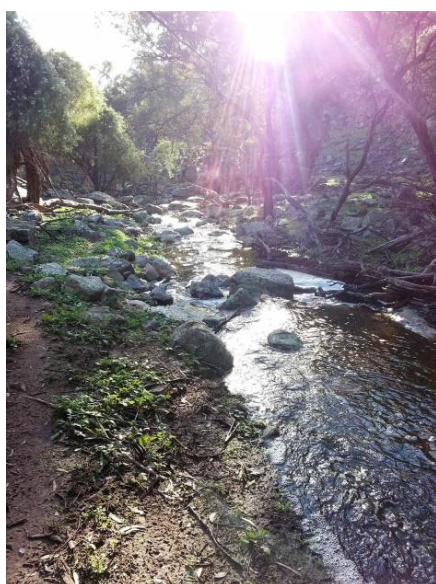
On again, over a slight rise, and there we were at the top of Eagle Falls, complete with the creek running over them. Time for more photos and generally poking around the rocks. I've been to Eagle Falls a few times before, but this was the first time I have seen the creek flowing.

Time came for us to return. Rather than simply back track, we took a route roughly following the crest of the spur. At first this meant winding our way round the denser Tea-tree, it was very patchy, and then later round rocky knolls, all the time on a steady descent. For each of the rocky knolls we found going round the east side gave a clear, easier path.

In a seemingly short time we were on flatter ground in open Cypress Pine woodland. Then we were back at the creek only a short distance away from where we first found it. We chose to follow the creek down, revelling in the sight of it flowing. At a couple of points we even found frog spawn – too early for tadpoles. As the creek cut deeper into the sediments that form the Flats, we diverted away back on to the fire trail for the short distance back to the Camping Ground.



Eagle Falls – Virginia Tarr
Jacks Creek – Virginia Tarr



By this time we noticed the wind had got up and was becoming quite fresh. This led to a debate on where to have lunch. The shelter eventually won out.

After lunch all except Nan, who had done marvellously getting up to and back from Eagle Falls, went on the short walk to Woolshed Falls. Again we were delighted to see the cascade of water tumbling over the sheer drops. Some people climbed up to the higher falls. Then back to the cars to say farewell to the Dubbo members. We have been exchanging newsletters for a long while now it was so great to be able to put faces onto some of the names we have seen in print. Moreover it was so uplifting to spend a day with like-minded people. We should get together more often.

As a short finality, the day was too glorious to rush home, MFN members diverted into Jacks Creek to see how much water was flowing. We did not get far into the gorge as we found the stepping stones at the first creek crossing were under water. Beaten by the very thing we came to see!

Eric Whiting

Bird List of all seen in the Cocoparra National Park compiled by Janis Hosking (Dubbo Field Nats)

Apostlebird, Australian Magpie, Australian Raven, Australian Ringneck, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Black-shouldered Kite, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Brown-headed Honeyeater, Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, Common Bronzewing, Eastern Rosella, Eastern Yellow Robin, Emu, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Grey Butcherbird, Grey Fantail, Grey-crowned Babbler, Horsfeld's Bronze-cuckoo, Kookaburra, Magpie-lark, Mistletoebird, Noisy Miner, Pied Butcherbird, Red-capped Robin, Restless Flycatcher, Rufous Whistler, Silvereye, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, Striated Pardalote, Striped Honeyeater, Superb Fairy-wren, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Weebill, Western Gerygone, White-browed Babbler, White-eared Honeyeater, White-plumed Honeyeater, White-throated Treecreeper, White-winged Chough, Yellow Thornbill.

(from left) Sun Dews – Penny Williams
Group of Dwarf Greenhoods – Phillip Williams
Buttercup – Penny Williams



Tree Planting Day in Griffith August 2015

The Griffith Tree planting day was held along Citrus Road of the new subdivision of Collina going towards Beelbanger. It was a perfect, cool sunny day with approximately 45 to 50 locals of all ages and nationalities.

The medium strip had two rows of ploughed furrows with a dripline in situ. There was Joanne and 3 assistants to put the various seedlings of eucalypts, bushes and ground covering plants along the rows. We followed along with our garden gloves, trowels, fertilizer and mulch placing the plants in the rows. Then the plants were given protection against frost and herbivores with staked plastic covers. My sister Sue and I were the only two from the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists; Griffith region attending and I stayed until the finish at 1pm, covering approximately half a kilometre. Hopefully it will be well worth it!

Virginia Tarr

From Joanne

A total of 1260 plants were planted over the three days representing species from the Bimble Box/White Cypress Pine Woodland community. These plants would have been found throughout our entire urban area prior to European settlement, and can still be found in places like Scenic Hill and on roadsides in our area.

The new plantings will provide a buffer between residential and agricultural areas, and will eventually form part of a wildlife corridor linking the site to Rifle Range Road to the north.

This event would not be possible without the support from Owen Toyota who donated the gloves, tree bags and stakes.

Griffith Council staff are now planning for **Bushcare's Biggest Day Out on Sunday 13 September, 2015 from 9am-11am**, when maintenance will be carried on the Citrus Road site on the tree guards, mulch around the plants and spread some locally collected native ground cover seed which the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalist Club have donated to the project.

To register your interest in the Bushcare event, please contact Joanne Tarbit on 69628140, email Joanne.Tarbit@griffith.nsw.gov.au, or you can just turn up on the day!

To learn more about Bushcare's Biggest Day Out, visit www.bushcaresmajordayout.org



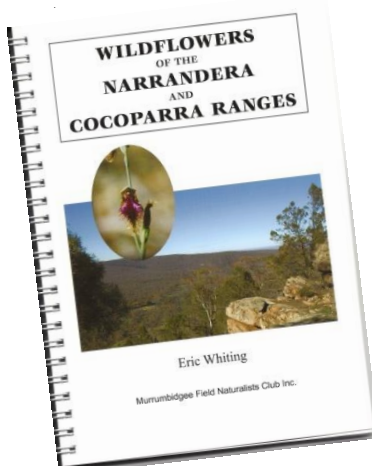
Biodiversity Survey in Mandagery National Park 20th Sept to 26th Sept

Self-sufficient camping: Bring your own everything.

We will be doing baseline surveys for Birds, Plants and Mammals (and anything else that comes our way).

Phone Nella Smith Mob. 0428890537 when you are close to find out where we are.

Please be sure to let us know if and when you are coming. Bring reference materials for your area of expertise. An opportunity to explore a new area and learn about surveying methods.



Be ready for Spring

This Field Guide by Eric Whiting covers most of the native wildflowers commonly seen in the Narrandera and Cocoparra Ranges, and which also occur in the other ranges and hills from Narrandera to the Lachlan River.

225 species are described with 136 colour photographs.

A simplified key aids the identification of the plants,

Price is \$25 (inc. GST) or \$20 to MFN members

Copies available at club meetings or Eric Whiting phone (02) 6953 2612 or

Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com

Narrandera and Leeton Tourist Information Centres also have copies.

House-sitting outside Yungaburra in FNQ Aug/Sept 2015

As most members know, I have done a late winter escape from the cold of Leeton to the warmth of the Atherton Tablelands in Far North Queensland. When Martin Odino visited Australia last year we stayed with friends here on their property for a few days and in discussion I agreed to house-sit for them whilst they spent 3 months in France this year. The farm is situated just 6kms from Yungaburra and about 12 from Atherton so it is close to all the good birding spots on the tableland including Hasties Swamp, the Curtain Fig NP, Wongabel SF, Mt Hypipamee NP and Lake Eacham and Lake Barrine NPs. So it is a good place to be in early Spring to see lots of good northern species.



Weather here since arriving has been warm to hot by day (28+) but cool at night (15+) which suits me fine. One of my responsibilities is to look after the house dog which is a novelty for me as I have never owned one in my life and am over anxious about its daily requirements. In order to endear myself to her, I take her out with me each morning around 7 and leave her in the car whilst I do some rainforest birding before coming back and taking her for a walk somewhere in a dog-friendly area. There is a good one along Peterson's Creek in Yungaburra and as well as exercising the hound, I manage to get a few sightings as well – like **Platypus** daily, **Green Possum** and **Lumholtz Tree Kangaroo** just once so far. Also there are **Wompoop Pigeon**, **Spectacled Monarch**, **Scarlet Honeyeater** and **Bush Stone Curlew** to be seen.

At present the influx of cranes, both **Brolga** and **Sarus Crane**

are everywhere feeding by day on the ploughed paddocks around the place and flying back over the house in the evenings in great noisy numbers to their roosting sites on the shores of Lake Tinaroo. A crane count is to be undertaken in the next week or so and I hope to be a part of that.

Two birds we missed last year with Martin were the **Chowchilla** and **Tooth-billed Bowerbird** along with lots of others but yesterday 2 September, I made a second visit to Lake Barrine NP and came across a pair of Chowchillas feeding beside the track.

When I was returning to my car, I met a local bird guide with an American couple and he invited me to join them to watch a male Tooth-billed Bowerbird at his lek. He was clearing the dead fallen leaves and in the cleared area was placing large green leaves that he would fly off to collect and bring them back and place them on his display area. The leaves are all placed bottom side up and he spends a lot of time rearranging them whenever he brings in a new one to add to his collection.



It was good that the bird was quite tolerant of us being close and just went on with organising his display arena. Apparently it will be a few more weeks before the courtship display gets into full swing and the females start their rounds checking out each male in the forest performing at his lek.

Rainforest birding is very difficult and frustrating as you can hear the birds calling but they are extremely difficult to track down in

order to get a good view and positive identification. However, I have also spent time out of the forests and so far have managed to add 75 new birds to my 2015 bird list since leaving Leeton on 12 August.

Max O'Sullivan



Photos by Con Foley, clockwise from top left:
Lumholtz Tree Kangaroo, Bowerbird lek
Chowchilla male, Tooth-billed Bowerbird

Bird of the Month

WELCOME SWALLOW *Hirundo neoxena*

This lovely little bird never fails to amaze us with its swift and acrobatic flight in ever pursuit of prey on the wing. Their ability to do this is attributed to a second fovea which is set in the rear part of the retina allowing excellent day vision and forward sight. A few other bird species which catch prey on the wing also have this extra fovea.

This little bird is very social and can often be seen in flocks perching on telegraph lines or flying in perfect unison, supposedly, for the sheer pleasure of the exercise. It often makes its home around human dwellings on a surface where it can adhere the mud pellets securely and may return year after year to the same nest where it lays between 4-6 white with brown speckled eggs. The bird appears to be monogamous.



Photo was taken at McCaughey Park, Yanco, last month by Phillip Williams

Water and reasonable space is a requirement for the swallow as it not seen in desert areas or jungles, but loves the open agricultural area with dams and buildings or fresh waterways where it can swoop into the water for a quick drink or bathe without stopping.

Other names: Australian swallow, House swallow or swallow.

Size: 150mm, sexes similar

Identification: Slender body with black head and back, tan chest and forehead, dull white belly and forked black tail. Juveniles duller.

Voice: Contact call in flight a sharp 'tchek' or a mix of chattering and twittering

Nest: Cup shape made of mud pellets lined with grass and animal hair attached to a solid vertical structure.

Sue Chittick-Dalton

Peacock Spider

A contribution from Max O'Sullivan - I heard on the news recently that a new Peacock Spider, *Maratus volans* had been identified in the Tamworth area. A critter I had never heard of before so I Googled them and was surprised at the beauty of them and that they were an unknown species to me. Being an Australian species too makes them quite unique and of interest to people who, like me, have not known about them until now.

The following is taken from Wikipedia:

Maratus volans is a species in the jumping spider family, belonging to the peacock spider genus. In describing it Marek Zabka wrote "it is difficult to describe adequately the great beauty of the colouring of this spider". The red, blue and black colored males have flap-like extensions of the abdomen with white hairs that can be folded down. They are used for display during mating: the male raises his abdomen, then expands and raises the flaps so that the abdomen forms a white-fringed, circular field of color. The species, and indeed the whole genus *Maratus* have been compared to peacocks in this respect. The third pair of legs is also raised for display, showing a brush of black hairs and white tips. These legs are also used in a clapping motion to further attract a female's attention. While approaching the female, the male will vibrate his abdomen while waving raised legs and tail, and dance from side to side. Both sexes reach about 5 mm in body length. Females and immatures of both sexes are brown but have colour patterns by which they can be distinguished from related species.



I have found the picture a video clip of the ritual at

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2015/06/04/4248623.htm> - fascinating stuff. Rowena.

Correspondence ...

I received this email from Kath Matthews an ex-member who is now based in Adelaide and thought you would be interested in her comments, also the book she mentions. Thanks Kath.

Thanks for the read and update. Would love to be around Yanco at the moment to get a photo of the herons. It is just near my sisters place. Very exciting to find *Grevillea illicifolia*. I have seen quite a bit of it in the hills down south and just love it. Would love to be able to get a photo of the painted snipes also.

On seeing your little Kultarr reminds me of the recent sighting of an Antichinus at Para Wirra, which a very good photographer Danny Macreadie took and did not know what it was. I think it is the most beautiful photo I have seen of an antichinus and he was generous enough to share it with us. Have added a copy of it for you to have a look at but please do not reproduce it. He also has a website with some beautiful nature photos.

Also the currawong poem reminded me of a very special book I found down here written and illustrated by 2 locals for Victor Harbour and Goolwa. Some of your members may be interested in knowing about it. It has a poem for each letter of the alphabet of Australian birds and animals. The extra special thing about the poems is that they describe the features and habits of the animal. I have bought one for each of my grandchildren's families and tell everyone about it. The book is called "**A Puggle in my Pocket - Elizabeth Caldecott and Wendy Jennings.**" It can be purchased from Wendy Jennings website - www.jennings.com - and is \$20. Wendy Jennings does wonderful Australian birds and animals paintings. I must admit I think it is the most magical little book of poems I have ever come across.

Just to give you a little taste of it I will copy out the poem on the **A for Antechinus**.

The Antechinus is a marsupial mouse
Not the type you'll find in your house.
Its fur is more bristly than the average dog
More like prickles on a small hedgehog.

Native to Australia and close offshore islands
In snow-capped mountains, and the desert's dry
lands,
In wet Eucalypt forests, some species are found
While in wide open grasslands others abound.

They are all small in size, a sort of a shrew
And like spiders, and grubs and beetles to chew.
Their short hair is coloured a greyish black
With some having cinnamon-brown on their back.

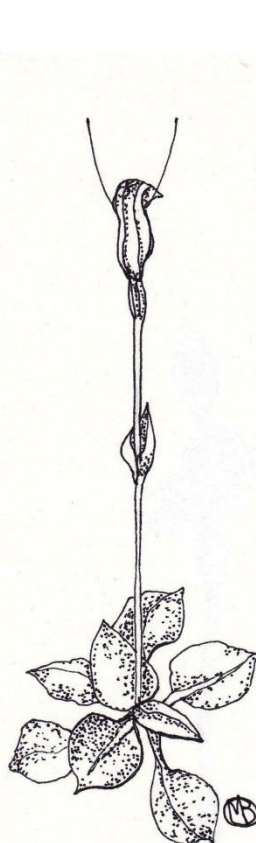
They have long bushy whiskers and pointed snout
With rather large ears which stick up and out.
The poor male's short lived because it's his fate
To die almost as soon as he's managed to mate!

The female may have eight babies, or sometimes
just six
With just enough teats for its young to affix.
Antechinus babies are quite incredibly small
Perhaps they're the smallest Australians of all.

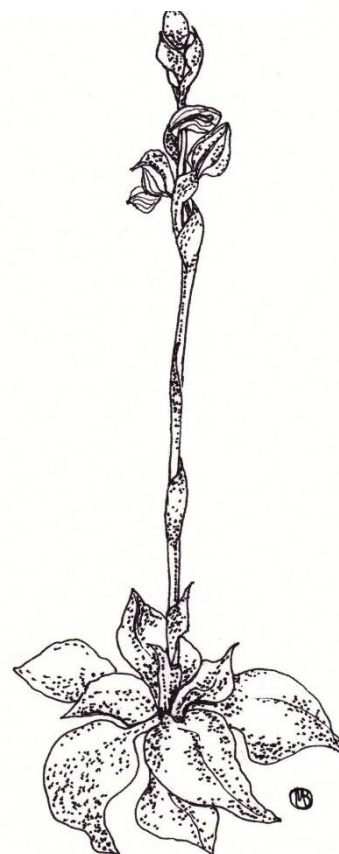
They sleep during the day in tree hollows or holes
Or in grass-lined burrows, like marsupial moles.
At night when foraging through leaves on the
ground
They dine on any insects, and spider and grubs to
be found.

Drawings of Greenhood Orchids
by Melanie Baulch

Dwarf Greenhood



Midget Greenhood



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.

Black-chinned Honeyeater	Livingstone National Park via Wagga	08/08/15	Nella Smith
Fuscous Honeyeater	Livingstone National Park via Wagga	08/08/15	Nella Smith
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	'Myalstone', Beelbanger	30/08/15	Melanie Baulch
Melanie has seen the cockatoos regularly flying past in the past month.			
Grey-crowned Babbler	'Myalstone', Beelbanger	30/08/15	Melanie Baulch
Collared Sparrowhawk	Virginia's garden, Griffith	28/08/15	Virginia O'Brien
Superb Wren [5]	Virginia's garden, Griffith	20/08/15	Virginia O'Brien
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Fivebough Wetlands	09/08/15	Keith Hutton
Glossy Ibis [12]	Fivebough Wetlands	09/08/15	Keith Hutton
Rufous Songlark	Fivebough Wetlands	15/08/15	Keith Hutton
Australian Reed-Warbler [2]	Fivebough Wetlands	16/08/15	Keith Hutton
Little Friarbird [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	16/08/15	Keith Hutton
Whiskered Tern [8]	Fivebough Wetlands	27/08/15	Keith Hutton
Fairy Martin [3]	Fivebough Wetlands	27/08/15	Keith Hutton
Black Falcon [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	16/08/15	Keith Hutton
Brolga [2]	Fivebough Wetlands	30/08/15	Keith Hutton
Barn Owl [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	30/08/15	Keith Hutton
Australasian Bittern [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	30/08/15	Keith Hutton

Keith also reports there are 8 **Black Swans** nests at Fivebough and that the **Whiskered Terns** have increased to over 26 at last count.

Magpie Goose [4]	KidmanWay/Wilga Rd	August '15	Dot Eurell
Yellow Rosella [pr]	Farm 985 Murrumbidgee Rd	July/Aug '15	Bill Draper
Grey Fantail	Melbourne St Narrandera	12/08/15	Betty Bradney
Superb Parrot [6]	Karri Rd Leeton	12/08/15	Barry Allen
Variegated Wren	Cypress St Leeton	01/09/15	Eric Whiting
Brolgas	Grong Grong	01/09/15	Nella Smith
Brolga	Lake Coolah	02/09/15	Nella Smith
Major Mitchell Cockatoo	Narrandera	05/09/15	Nella Smith

Sue Chittick-Dalton reports the following as regular visitors to her garden in McNab Cres Griffith over the past month - **Silvereye, Yellow-throated Miner, Grey-crowned Babbler, Laughing Kookaburra, Australian Hobby, Singing Honeyeater, Mistletoebird**

Below is a list of some of the birds I have seen since coming north, both in Cairns and environs and on the tablelands.

Brahminy Kite	Pied Imperial Pigeon	Little Cuckoo-Shrike
Helmeted Friarbird	Olive-backed Sunbird	Green Oriole
Black-necked Stork	Shining Flycatcher	Lovely Wren
Black Butcherbird	Varied Honeyeater	Rajah Shelduck
Little Kingfisher	Australian Swiftlet	Magpie Goose [thousands]
Fig Parrot	Bush Stone-Curlew	Jacana
Green Pygmy Goose	Cotton Pygmy Goose	Emerald Dove
Spectacled Monarch	Sarus Crane [100s]	Red-tailed Black Cockatoo
Grey-headed Robin	Victoria's Riflebird	Little or Brown Shrike-Thrush
Bowers Shrike-Thrush	Barred Cuckoo-Shrike	Large-tailed Nightjar
Metallic Starling	Pale-yellow Robin	Macleay's Honeyeater
Bridled Honeyeater	Grey Whistler	Spotted Catbird
Pied Monarch	Blue-winged Kookaburra	Yellow-throated Scrubwren
Red-backed Wren	Red-winged Parrot	Varied Triller

Just to name a few of the delights of the area with plenty more to come. I await the arrival of the **Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher** which arrives in late October.

Max O'Sullivan

**** COMING EVENTS ****

SEPTEMBER IS BIODIVERSITY MONTH

- 10 September Thursday Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7.30pm.
Topic: Nella Smith on her recent trip to Canada and Alaska.
Contact: Penny Williams 6953 3524
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com
- 12 September Saturday Around Narrandera and Ardlethan— orchids and other spring flowers**
Meet at Narrandera Information Centre at 9:00.
Bring morning tea and lunch. This will probably be a full day.
Contact: Nella Smith if attending on 6959 1210
- 13 September Sunday Bushcare's Biggest Day Out**
Griffith City Council are hosting this and inviting people to help carry out maintenance on the Citrus Road site. Time: 9am – 11am
Contact: Joanne Tarbit on 02 69 628 140 Joanne.Tarbit@griffith.nsw.gov.au.
- 18 – 25 September Biodiversity Survey at Mandagery Nature Reserve (Forbes area)**
Contact: Nella Smith 6959 1210 if you would like to participate.
- 25 – 27 September Spring Camp at Nangar National Park, Eugowra**
Accommodation is either camping in the park or at the local Eugowra pub
Please advise Penny Williams 6953 3524 of your intentions to attend and if you intend to camp or to stay at the Eugowra pub. **Note: This will be a self-catering camp.**
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com
- 30 September Wednesday Copy for the October newsletter is due. Please send to Rowena.**
Email: ericwhiting4@bigpond.com. Phone: 6953 2612.
- 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.
Details will be made available closer to the time.
Contact: Penny Williams 6953 3524
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com
- 30 October – 1 November The annual NSW and ACT Twitchathon competition**
- Other events:**
- 22 – 24 September Henty Field Days**
It is proposed to have a small display with LandCare. Please contact Penny if you are available to help. Phone 6953 3524 murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com
- 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 website). or the form on our website www.aussiebirdcount.org.au to record the types of birds you see and roughly how many.