

The Murrumbidgee Naturalist



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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



**Enjoying the view from Ironbark ridge, Cocoparra National Park
photograph by Ralph Turton**

IN THIS ISSUE

Office Bearers and Subscriptions	2
Images of articles in this issue	2
Ironbark Creek and Woolshed Falls Outing	3
Seek and ye shall find – ferns	5
Murrumbidgee Valley National Park Walk.....	6
St Joseph’s School explore the Narrandera Regional Park	6
Mallee Strangle-vine at Pulletop	7
Bird notes on the local area	8
Dandry Gorge, Timmallallie National Park.....	9
Winery Site – new ownership	10
Members’ Sightings.....	11
Coming Events Calendar	12

CONTRIBUTIONS

**For the next issue by
Wednesday 1 July**

To Rowena Whiting

Email: ericwhiting4@bigpond.com.

Phone: 6953 2612

***Galore Hill and the
Cocoparras are the locations
for outings this month.***

Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc. Office Bearers and Annual Subscriptions

President:	Max O'Sullivan	6953 4726	Editor:	Rowena Whiting	6953 2612
Vice President:	Nella Smith	6959 1210	Committee:	Johanna Botman	6963 4855
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Secretary:	Penny Williams	6953 3524	Web Co-ordinator:	Johanna Botman	6963 4855
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 AND SECOND WEEKEND AFTER 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.

A few images not included with articles

My grateful thanks to all of you who responded promptly to my email for copy, Rowena.



Ironbark Flats
Mulga Fern
Rowena Whiting
Murrumbidgee
River
Melanie Baulch



The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the MFN.

Call for Applications for MFN Environment Fund Grants

The Fund was set up to provide financial assistance for projects delivering enhancement of biodiversity conservation or enhanced understanding of the natural environment within the region covered by the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Club (MFN).

Applications are now open to interested individuals or groups to apply for funding available and forms can be obtained by contacting the club secretary via our email address:

murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com

Applications close on 30 June and the Environmental Grants Committee of the club will consider all applications and notify people of the result of their respective application after the closing date.

Ironbark Excursion – 16 May 2015

*The grand old Duke of York,
He had ten thousand men.
He marched them up to the top of the hill,
And he marched them down again.*

Grand – I do respond to Grandpa at times!

Old – I'll own up to that one.

Duke of York – may be Esquire of Middlesex.

Ten thousand men – the ten was right, men needs to be qualified as the fair sex were in the majority.

Marched them up – more of a laboured dawdle. It was steep, rocky and took a bit of meandering to get through the Cypress Pine. (It was too rough for Dot who decided to return to the cars).

Top of the hill – we only went as far as the ridgetop. The hill top (Duncans Hill) was some 1½ Km on and further up.

Marched them down again – No! A very leisurely amble with plenty of stops to look at anything that fluttered, which usually turned out to be a few Yellow Robins checking us out.



The Group climbing the ridge and views from the top. above Virginia O'Brien, below - Ralph Turton



Other stops were to watch a Lace Monitor disappear down its hole in an old pine tree. And how many group photos can you take on cliff tops. Then Johanna trumped us by producing her very expensive Malaysian purchase (\$1) of an extensible arm for her camera to take a selfie.

Well we went up and we came down again. If we stayed down and just wandered around the Flats we would have had better birding (no Lace Monitor or views though). This resulted in walking back along the level ground even slower than



on the hilly bits, but then it is not safe to walk with binoculars in front of one's face. We passed one Ironbark in full flower but strangely there was not one bird in it. Maybe it was passed its prime. Instead the number of small birds right out in the open areas amazed us.

Jacky Winter
Phil Tenison

We decided to move to the Pines Picnic Ground for lunch, ready for the short walk up to Woolshed Falls. 20 minutes return said the sign. Not for us. The majority continued up round the lower falls (where the formed track ends), and also up around the upper falls. In the end we spent more than an hour there.



I had other ideas though and spent my time looking in all the crevices and under overhangs looking for ferns in spite of the obvious dryness of the area. See the separate piece on my success.

This time of the year is not particularly good for wild flowers. This trip was conspicuously poorer. Not only from being noticeably drier, but also from the damage done by the overwhelming number of goats. It seemed that every shrub had been cropped back and herbs barely got above the surface. On the way out we met Michelle Ballestrin, on duty as the Park Ranger, and was gladdened to hear that a goat cull was planned for two weeks time. It has been long overdue. Coupled with the amount of track and facility maintenance that has just been carried out, the Park should start to come back to the fantastic attribute it has been in the past. All we need now is rain!

Eric Whiting

Bird List

Ironbark Walk (18 sp)

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Wedge-tailed Eagle | Peaceful Dove |
| Splendid Wren | Yellow-rumped Thornbill |
| Inland Thornbill | White-plumed Honeyeater |
| Brown-headed Honeyeater | Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater |
| Striped Honeyeater | White-browed Babbler |
| Grey Butcherbird | Magpie |
| Willy Wagtail | Grey Fantail |
| Jacky Winter | Red-capped Robin |
| Eastern Yellow Robin | Silvereye |

Pine Tree and Woolshed Falls (9 sp)

- Splendid Wren
- Yellow Thornbill
- White-eared Honeyeater
- White-plumed Honeyeater
- Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
- White-browed Babbler
- Grey Shrike-Thrush
- Grey Fantail
- Eastern Yellow Robin

Amongst the rocks at Woolshed Falls (left) – Ralph Turton
Along the ridge at Ironbark Virginia O'Brien



Seek and ye shall find

My time at Woolshed Falls looking for ferns was not wasted. At first I thought that only Mulga Fern *Cheilanthes sieberi* was evident and even that was looking crisped and drying out. It should have been flourishing at this time of year.

Then by searching every nook and cranny around the upper falls, I first found a small amount of Necklace Fern *Asplenium flabellifolium* which gave me the encouragement to carry on. Then, under a large overhanging boulder I spotted a tiny patch of lighter green that looked different. Closer examination showed that it was completely hairless and had irregular fan-shaped leaflets. Was this the Annual Fern *Annogramma leptophylla* that I had been seeking, or just a baby of another species?

Close by I found some other plants higher up in a crevice of a rock face. These looked much more like the Blanket Fern *Pleurosorus rutifolius* but did not show the rusty brown hue typical of this species.

I took a small piece of both home for examination under the microscope and comparison with the references. Lo and behold, the small plant was the Annual Fern. The only record for the Park (and even for the wider area) was Pat Weare's in



1984. The Blanket Fern had gland tipped hairs and not the dense rusty-coloured hairs of the usual *Pleurosorus rutifolius*. It was the closely related species (some would say variety) *P. subglandulosus* Clubbed Blanket Fern.

Annual Fern (top), Clubbed Blanket Fern (above left) and Blanket Fern (above right)

The first impression of the area was of a dry, goat-stricken, lack-lustre landscape, but with patience there are jewels to be found. The beauty is in the detail.

Eric Whiting

Group at the start of the Woolshed Falls walk – Ralph Turton



Murrumbidgee Valley National Park Walk

Those who didn't attend this outing on May 31st missed a wonderful treat. The paddocks along River Road were being watered and the birdlife abounded. It was a Black and White Spectacular! There were countless (more than a 100) Pied Currawongs flying to and fro between the paddocks and a fruit orchard across the road. The banks of the paddocks were lined with both Australian and Little Ravens sharing with Aus. Magpies, Peewees, Pied Butcherbirds and Cormorants. The unhurried stroll of the White and Straw-neck Ibis through the water added a charm while huge flocks of Sulphur-crested Cockatoos flew between the paddocks and the tall River Red Gums and the contact calls of the Cockies and Currawongs filled the air with magic.

We drove into Wilbriggie Forest and the birdlife changed completely. Yellow Rosellas, White-plumed Honeyeaters, Kookaburras, Welcome Swallows, Tree Martins, Grey Teal, Black Duck, Chestnut-rumped Thornbills and Galahs. The river was very low and in places it looked as though you could walk across. Large clumps of discoloured froth banked up against fallen trees and formed weird sculptured shapes.

On the way home we called into the Wilbriggie Swamp which is no longer! We walked through the middle hoping to find remnants of the wonderful waders nests we once saw but no luck, however Red-rump parrots and Fairy wrens were everywhere accessing a small man-made dam close to the Grain Reveal Shed.

It was a beautiful sunny day and thoroughly enjoyable. Thank you Melanie.

Sue Chittick-Dalton



A low Murrumbidgee River – Melanie Baulch

St Joseph's Primary School Explore the Narrandera Regional Park

Contributed by Nella Smith from the school newsletter

As part of their studies on National Parks Year 3 children went on an excursion to visit the Narrandera Regional Park



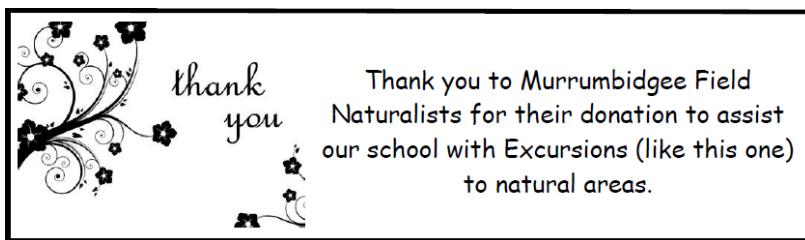
which is a part of the Murrumbidgee Valley National Park.

They learnt about Management of National Parks, biodiversity in the park and how to have fun on a sandy beach, information about the river as well as some song and dance.

Children were privileged to have visiting expert Max O'Sullivan from Leeton to show them how to use binoculars and how to go bird watching.

Also our guest was Dick Green of Greening Australia fame from Wagga assisted by Miss Melanie from Griffith who showed them how to make spectacular sand sculptures on the beach and taught them about the river. He also taught them that they can learn lots of things by song and dance and he taught the children a simple bush dance and a song. This all happened in 3 hours.

Thanks to Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists who assisted with the cost of the transport.



Mallee Strangle-vine at Pulletop

We have all noticed the vines smothering the mallee in our excursions, but this time I stopped for a closer look and noted the multiple root invasion of the vine into the host.

Cassytha melantha (Mallee Strangle-vine, Dodder Laurel, Devil's Twine). Nobody seems to have a good thing to say about it except that it seems to be very effective, although I would have thought that careless killing of the host might not be the best policy. I guess its preference is spreading of new plants by seed rather than survival of the mature vine.

Cunningham in "Plants of Western NSW" says it is "mostly confined to the major areas of mallee in the central east and south west" and "most frequent in mallee communities". The vine can smother the host which may break under the weight and are often killed.

As usual, Patricia Weare comes good with a drawing in her "Collection of Australian Wildflower Illustrations" and she said "Seeds germinate on the ground but when the stems have parasitically established themselves on the host by means of adhesive cushions, the plant becomes detached from the ground."

The seeds are globular and fleshy – I wonder if they are a food supply for birds?

And is this plant a mistletoe? Not according to David Watson in his book "Mistletoes of Southern Australia". A mistletoe is a "shrubby aerial hemiparasite" - the Strangle-vine is not considered shrubby. (Why are the shrubs we grow in the backyard for grapes called vines then?)

This was noted on a quick trip to Pulletop Nature Reserve with Max to see what autumn might provide. Bird life was light on but it was good to see the reliable Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters, and we came across White-eared as well. The mallee in the South-East corner was a cheery colour and shape, on the way back a pair of young Pallid Cuckoos in the Cocoparra Vineyard caught Max's eye, and the day ended with a pair of rain storms – the best time for garden planting.

Neil Palframan



Mallee Strangle-vine



Mallee Strangle-vine attachment to host (above)
Mallee gum barks showing their colours (below)



Bird notes on the local area

With the closure of Fivebough Wetlands for upgrading of the tracks and bird hides, I have been doing a little scouting about elsewhere in search of several alternative sites to check out the bird life of the area.

Some of the trips have been with locals, Neil Palframan, Phil and Kathy Tenison and others with visitors.



Pallid Cuckoo – Neil Palframan

Neil and I did a trip to Pulletp to see if it was worth a club outing there. We decided it would be better to leave that off the list as there were very few birds to be seen - the best being **Yellow-plumed Honeyeater**. However on the way home, we stopped at a vineyard along Quarry Road and saw 2 **Pallid Cuckoos** at close range.

I was initially keen to check out the very dry Tuckerbil Swamp in case the **Blue-winged Parrots** had returned for the winter – not as yet but I did locate a family of **White-winged Fairy-wrens** with a fully coloured male showing well on top of a dead boxthorn bush. I told Phil and Kathy about seeing them and we organised to go out to Tuckerbil on the next weekend to search for them so Phil could get some photos. On the way through the entrance to Koonadan Historic Site we inadvertently flushed a large bird that flew out and landed in a nearby gum only to be attacked by



Southern Boobook – Phil Tenison

magpies and Willie Wagtails. I knew it had to be an owl and we soon located it perched in the open which gave Phil plenty of photo opportunities – it was, as I suspected, a **Southern Boobook**.

Out in Tuckerbil itself, we got onto the wrens and they were very cooperative in allowing Phil to get close enough for a reasonable photo. Also, there were several **Golden-headed Cisticolas** feeding in the plants alongside the wrens.



White-winged Fairy-wren – Phil Tenison

Another visitor who stayed a week required a few more other sites to visit. The first was Evans Smyles Road where we had good views of **Hooded Robin**, **Red-capped Robin**, a **female Flame Robin**, **Southern Whiteface** and more of the species you'd expect to see in that habitat.

Next was a long trip to Taleeban in the hope of something different. It was almost birdless and we only managed a few **Yellow-plumed** and **White-eared Honeyeaters** in the reserve itself. There was no sign of the **Shy Heathwren** and when we played its call, there was no response at the spots it had been seen and photographed in the past.

We then drove along the road beside the reserve to the end boundary and in the open paddock opposite, there were three **Crested Bellbirds** feeding on the ground and also more **Hooded Robins**. The following day we went to Koonadan and Tuckerbil in search of the wrens and found them with a pair of **Variiegated Wrens** feeding together. On the return walk around the Basin Dam, we saw a **Buff-banded Rail**, a **Spotless Crake** and a **Spotted Crake** feeding together on the edge of the cumbungi.



Buff-banded Rail – Martin Odino

The only other sighting of note was a fly-over of 30 or so **Major Mitchell's Cockatoos** that flew from the airport into the Griffith Golf Course but didn't stop. Wattle Dam and 'the winery' site proved to be pretty quiet although there were **Mulga Parrots** and **White-browed Babblers** seen.

Further afield:

When writing this, I was staying in Sydney and did several birding trips with Allan Richards. A trip to the Royal National Park was productive despite the very strong southerly winds on the coast. With the buffeting on the clifftop at Wattamolla, we saw some albatross close to the cliffs – both **Wandering** and **Black-browed Albatross** along with **Australian Gannets** were identified.

In the park itself we saw **Azure Kingfisher**, **Scarlet Honeyeater**, a female **Rose Robin** plus other more common species. On the trip back to Sydney, we called into Centennial Park and got distant views of the resident **Powerful Owl**. It was perched very high in the tree and so you had to be content with a rear end shot of the bird with a rat held tightly in its claws.

Max O'Sullivan

New ownership of the Winery site on the Whitton Stock Route Road at Yenda.

On hearing that the Terrell's Winery had been sold Max O'Sullivan wrote on behalf on the Club to the new owners regarding the possibility of preserving the site as bushland. We are pleased to be able to report that the response has been positive and that they intend to clean up the area. So good news for the many birds and plants that call it home.

Here is the main part of Max's letter written to Casella Family Brands on 11 May.

Our particular interest is in what your company's plans are for the small triangular section of the property at the southern end beyond the present fenced off area surrounding the actual winery itself.

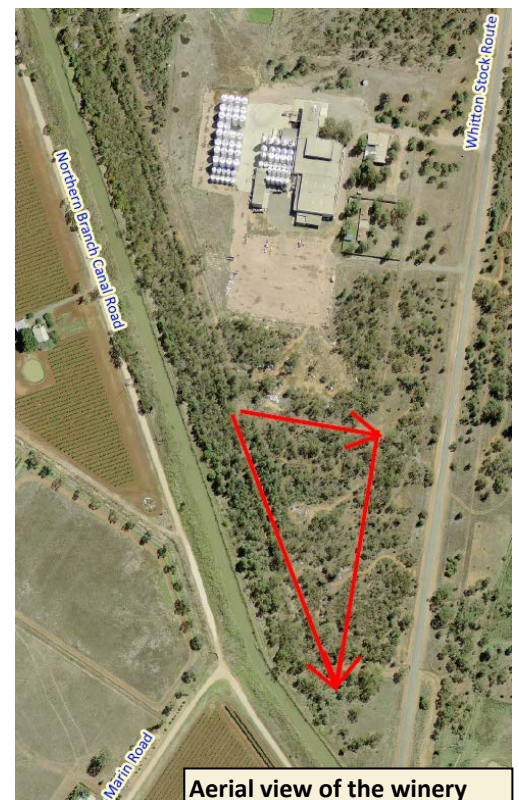
Our Club would like to discuss with you how we could negotiate the preserving of that relatively intact bushland section. The reasons for this is that it is a wonderfully productive block for several bird species. Even with Binya South State Forest across the road, the birds, for some reason seem to prefer that site. That's despite the fact that the block has been used over the years as a dumping ground for rubbish, both domestic and industrial.

If there is any possible chance for your company to consider leaving that section of the Terrel's Estate untouched once you assume ownership, the Club would be willing to hold a working bee of our members to clean up the site and have appropriate "No Dumping" signs erected to try to prevent further defacement of the block

This is a regular site for birdwatchers both local and visitors alike and sightings for that piece of bush are reported regularly in various club newsletters and on dedicated birding websites – particularly in the Spring and Summer.

Should you be approachable about our proposal, we would like to meet personally with relevant members of your organisation to explain in greater detail why we feel so concerned about preserving the site.

In anticipation of a positive response from you, I look forward to further face-to-face discussion about this matter.



Aerial view of the winery site with area outlined

Dandry Gorge, Timmallallie National Park, April 2015

For all the travellers in the group, heading north up the Newell Highway can be a chore sitting behind trucks and caravans. So if you are planning to break the drive and are staying in one of the north-western towns of Coonabarabran or Narrabri a day trip to the Pilliga Forest is in order.



We spent time at the Gorge by going on the medium grade bushwalk and viewing the five magnificent sculptures which overlook the gorge. The sculptures were made by Aboriginal artists and add an extra element to the important cultural history of the area.

One of the beautiful interpretative signs shows all the wildflowers of the Pilliga so I dare say a visit in spring would be very rewarding.

The day use area is great for a picnic (excellent facilities including gas BBQs, toilets & tables).

Other attractions in the area worth visiting include the Salt Caves Fire Tower (for brave people who climb this structure) and Pilliga Pottery. The Pilliga Forest Discovery Centre at Baradine is a good place to visit and for information, or you could try the “new” NSW National Parks website www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au.

Michelle Ballestrin

On a recent visit to this area we spent the day going to see the sites including Dandry Gorge and the Sculptures in the Scrub. Dandry Gorge Aboriginal Area is situated in Timmallallie National Park which is part of the wider Pilliga Forest (a large expanse of bush partly conserved in a mix of nature reserves, national parks, state conservation areas and state forests, and often makes the headlines in regards to coal seam gas exploration).



Photos of the park, sculptures and Archie – by David Egan

Robbie - for those of you who are not able to follow this amazing bittern online.

He has now been at Long Swamp for almost a month. When the transmitter comes online for eight hours (every 48 hours), his movements typically span between 500 metres and 1 kilometre. He has his favourite spots, but is regularly using an area covering about 200 hectares. Will he eventually fly back to the Riverina in time for the next rice season? Perhaps one or more young females on the coast will be impressed by his future booms and he'll embrace the permanent sea change.

It's amazing to think that this young bittern grew hearing the sounds of his booming father, the hum of trucks on the Kidman Way, the calls of Painted Honeyeaters and Superb Parrots in adjacent Boree stands, and now he's hearing waves off the coast of south-western Victoria.

Ardlethan Landfill Proposal

If you are concerned about the proposed landfill bringing 400,000 tonnes/year of Sydney's rubbish to the Riverina and want to find out more about what is being proposed and the planning approval process...

There is a meeting at the **Ardlethan Memorial Hall on Wednesday 27 June at 7.00 pm**. Michael Dunn – Local Land Services and Iain Hume – a scientist with expertise in Agriculture and Water Use will be there to discuss the planning process and the proposal.

For more information contact Renee Doyle on 6978 2441.

MEMBERS' SIGHTINGS

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

This list has been compiled by Max O'Sullivan

Varied Sitella [12]	'Yarrabimbi', Colinroobie Rd, Leeton	10/05/15	Andrew Thompson
White-bellied Sea-Eagle [pr]	Lake Wyangan in courting display	10/05/15	Sue Chittick-Dalton
Budgerigar [8]	Kidman Way Tabbita via Griffith	10/05/15	Neil Palframan
Black-tailed Native-hen [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	11/05/15	Max O'Sullivan
White-fronted Chat [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	11/05/15	Max O'Sullivan
Flame Robin [male]	Fivebough Wetlands	11/05/15	Max O'Sullivan
Brolga [22]	Fivebough Wetlands	11/05/15	Max O'Sullivan
Red-necked Avocet [30+]	Fivebough Wetlands	11/05/15	Max O'Sullivan
Australian Spotted Crake [3]	Fivebough Wetlands	11/05/15	Max O'Sullivan

Last check of the wetlands before the closure for track repairs.

Pallid Cuckoo [1]	Koonadan Historic Site	13/05/15	Max O'Sullivan
Black Swan [3]	Lake Talbot, Narrandera	13/05/15	Warrick Bradney
Superb Parrot [6]	6km north of Gilgunnia	15/05/15	John Brickhill
Hooded Robin [3m 1f]	Evans Smyles Rd via Leeton	16/05/15	Max O'Sullivan
Superb Parrot [12]	Shearers quarters, Yathong National Park	17/05/15	John Brickhill
Superb Parrot [10]	Nombinnie Homestead site	17/05/15	John Brickhill
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater [6+]	Pulletop Nature Reserve	19/05/15	Neil Palframan
Pallid Cuckoo [2]	Quarry Rd via Nericon	19/05/15	Neil Palframan
Bar-shouldered Dove [2]	Brobenah Hall Rd via Leeton	22/05/15	Max O'Sullivan
Southern Boobook [1]	Koonadan Historic Site	23/05/15	Kathy Tenison
White-winged Fairy-Wren [6]	Tuckerbil Wetlands	23/05/15	Phil Tenison
Superb Parrot [4]	Narrandera Regional Park	24/05/15	Nella Smith
Black Falcon [1]	Whitton Rd on power lines	24/05/15	Max O'Sullivan
Double-barred Finch [1]	Whitton Rd Wattle Hill on power line	27/05/15	Max O'Sullivan
Superb Parrot [10]	McKeller Rd Riverina Beef	28/05/15	Ben Kschenka
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	'The Winery' site Binya State Forest	29/05/15	Max O'Sullivan
Pied Currawong [3+]	Toorak Rd, Leeton	30/05/15	Max O'Sullivan

This is the closest to Wattle Hill I have seen this bird for a number of years. They are at Yanco and along the river but don't often come into Leeton although they are everywhere in Narrandera. Any reports from in Leeton itself from anyone?

Buff-banded Rail [1]	The Basin Dam Koonadan Historic Site	30/05/15	Max O'Sullivan
Spotless Crake [1]	The Basin Dam Koonadan Historic Site	30/05/15	Max O'Sullivan
Australian Spotted Crake [1]	The Basin Dam Koonadan Historic Site	30/05/15	Max O'Sullivan

The above 3 species were seen together in the dam and showed themselves quite clearly for a few minutes before darting back into the cumbungi.

Two Ferns

Annogramma leptophylla	Woolshed Falls, Cocoparra National Park	16/05/15	Eric Whiting
Pleursorus subglandulosus	Woolshed Falls, Cocoparra National Park	16/05/15	Eric Whiting

Some worrying statistics:

In the Birding NSW June newsletter Alan Morris has reported information gathered this past breeding season of **Hooded Plovers** and **Little Terns** on the south coast from Wolongong to Batemans Bay. Concerning the plovers, 14 pairs nested 26 times, laid 64 eggs, hatched 12 chicks and fledged 6 young. For the terns, from Shoalhaven Heads to Batemans Bay, the Little Terns only nested at Shoalhaven Heads, Lake Wollumboola and Lake Conjola. There were 183 pairs, 251 nests, 548 eggs laid, 122 chicks hatched but only 29 chicks fledged – a bad year for the terns in that area this past season.

**** COMING EVENTS ****

Fivebough Wetlands

Remember the tracks are closed for a period of 6 weeks or so to enable work for the 'Track Upgrade' and 'Bird hide Replacement and new Hide' to proceed. Work will also be done on the culverts to improve water control.

- 11 June Thursday** **Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7.30pm.
Topic: DVD on a topic to be decided
Contact: Penny Williams 6953 3524
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com
- 13 June Saturday** **Galore Hill Reserve near Lockhart**
Meet at the Narrandera Information Centre at **9am** to pool cars.
Bring morning tea and lunch.
Contact: Max O'Sullivan if attending on 6953 4726.
- 27 June Saturday** **Mount Brogden walk/climb in Binya State Forest / Cocoparra National Park**
Meet at Yenda Post Office to pool vehicles as the road in is rough.
Bring morning tea and lunch.
Contact: Max O'Sullivan if attending on 6953 4726.
- 1 July Wednesday** **Copy for the July newsletter is due. Please send to Rowena.**
Email: ericwhiting4@bigpond.com. Phone: 6953 2612.
- 9 July Thursday** **Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7.30pm.
Topic: Solomon Islands – Meredith & Peter
Contact: Penny Williams 6953 3524
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com
- 18-19 July Sat/Sun** **Grevillea Planting at the Round Hill Nature Reserve**
It is anticipated that there'll be about 70-90 *Grevillea illicifolia*'s to plant back into Round Hill Nature Reserve.
Activities would include: digging holes, planting, watering, cutting wire mesh to create "cages" to help protect the young plants.
Please reconfirm with Penny Williams if you are still able to come to help on this weekend.
Contact: Penny Williams 6953 3524 or via the club email by the 12 July for planning purposes for Allan McLean
- 26 July Sunday** **National Tree Day**
Griffith City Council are hosting National Tree Day at Citrus Road, Collina (north of Calabria Road)
Time: 10am – 12 noon
A light lunch and drinks will be provided.
They will be planting locally native woodland trees, shrubs and groundcovers to create a biodiverse wildlife corridor and valuable habitat for our woodland birds and fauna.
Contact: Joanne Tarbit on 02 69 628 140
Visit <http://treeday.planetark.org/> for more information

