

# *The Murrumbidgee Naturalist*



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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



**Campbell Swamp with Pelican, Great Egret, Pacific Black Duck, Grey Teal, Australian Shoveler**  
**by Graham Russell**

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***Outings for May***  
***Gillenbah State Forest***  
***Cocoparra National Park***

# 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.

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**Out  
and  
About**



**Brolgas in flight over Barren Box Swamp – Cathy Semmler**  
*Pterostylis laxa* (Antelope Greenhood) at Narrandera – Nella Smith

**With the current rain the mosses and lichens should be sparkling green and fungi may have appeared for next Saturday's outing.**



## THE NARRANDERA KOALA COUNT

This was held on Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> April and attracted 157 people of all ages, who took the opportunity to enjoy a family fun day out and help a good cause. The koala count has been conducted by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Narrandera Koala Regeneration Centre Supervisory Committee since 1989 missing only the years when the Common was flooded. The purpose of the count is to check the health and breeding success of the colony.

For the count the Common (officially the Flora and Fauna Reserve) was divided into areas and each area was allotted to a team leader, a person who knows the common, can keep an eye on the whereabouts of his/her team and carry the tape to mark trees with a koala.

The weather was kind, a beautiful mild Autumn day without dust, thanks to a tiny shower of rain overnight. The trees (River Red Gums) were looking healthier than in some past years, thanks to a couple of heavy showers during the summer, but the ground is still heavily littered with debris

from past floods and thistles and other weeds are flourishing. Because of the state of the ground, team leaders were asked to keep to the tracks and what koala is going to sleep near a road?

The gum leaves near the tracks must have been tasty as 20 koalas were spotted near the tracks and another ten were found in the area along the river from Second Beach to the Fauna Reserve. There the searchers spread out with the warning to watch where they were putting their feet and then stop and look around.

As the koalas are free to find their own territory this number does not include any koalas which have moved up or down the river. There is at least one male at Rocky Waterholes on the north side of the canal (he almost certainly crossed by the bridge) and there are reports of koalas on the south side of the river and as far west as Darlington Point. The estimated number of koalas in the reserve and surrounding areas is about 400. There were several juveniles sighted and all koalas appeared healthy.

Children with their keen eyesight were the best spotters and at the barbeque put on by Rotary at midday the children were rewarded with chocolate koalas and soft toys, koalas of course.

It was a great family day out.

**Betty Bradney**



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## In other koala news a recent newsletter of the National Parks Association announced four new Flora Reserves – the Murrah Flora Reserves to help save koalas.

These encompass 12,000 ha between Tathra and Bermagui on the Far South Coast. These important areas have been a focus for strong community action by NPA's local branch and other community groups over many decades. Three entire state forests — Murrah, Mumbulla and Tanja — together with the southern half of Bermagui State Forest have been reclassified as the Murrah Flora Reserves.

The new reserves are particularly significant in terms of helping to protect the region's remnant koala population which is said to be only 30 to 60 koalas left on the entire far south coast.

However, with many other native species still under severe threat from logging in the area, NPA is disappointed that the overall logging quota was not reduced as part of the deal which would have prevented pressure from being shifted on to other native forests.

These four reserves will be managed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service on behalf of Forestry Corporation, they were given the same protection as national parks. An Office of Environment and Heritage spokesperson said the creation of the flora reserves almost doubled the area managed specifically for koalas, and created a conservation network totalling 25,417ha in the immediate area.

## May Day at Campbell Swamp

An intimate group of six showed up for the May Day outing to Campbell Swamp, to be met with an equally intimate wind gusting to 50kph, the type that doesn't go around you but goes through you. So birding was not great – even many of the old faithfuls kept their heads down, it was difficult to hold the bins still in the hide,



and although the morning sun was from the NE (right behind us) the wind was from the SW so we got excellent arse end looks at most of what did show. The previous rain allowed some birds to avoid visiting at all. But even still we got a list of around forty birds and a kangaroo, which just shows how productive Campbell's can be.

The highlight was the pair of White-bellied Sea-Eagles which sailed off soon after our arrival at 8am, headed for the lakes. There were more than usual numbers of Aust Shovellers and Royal Spoonbills, and much fewer Ibis and Ducks. We got glimpses of what might have been Max's prior reported Blue-billed Ducklings, but they were rather shy. No waders at all apart from a glimpse in flight of what might have been a single Black-winged Stilt, and a distant glimpse of something like a Dotterel.

What was noticeable was although many birds were sheltering from the wind, many others appeared unperturbed. Crested Pigeon, Red-rumps, Bluebonnets and Starlings all sought the highest exposed perches.

We trekked around the north end to the nearby Bimble Box depression which, although looking healthy and prettier than most of the vegetation in the area, was as devoid of fauna as it usually is. I guess it is too small and isolated a patch to be

attractive to wildlife. We didn't stay too long and opted for the compulsory cuppa indoors.

#### Bird List

White-bellied Sea-Eagle  
Cockatiel  
Swamp Harrier  
Crested Pigeon  
Rock Dove  
Aust Pelican  
Black Swan  
Royal Spoonbill  
Singing Honeyeater  
Variegated Fairywren  
Great Cormorant  
White-faced Heron

Pied Butcherbird  
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike  
Whistling Kite  
European Starling  
Aust Grebe  
Aust Shoveller  
Black Duck  
Yellow-billed Spoonbill  
House Sparrow  
Purple Swamphen  
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater  
Aust Raven

Magpie  
White Ibis  
Red-rumped Parrot  
Magpie-lark  
Coot  
Great Egret  
Chestnut Teal  
Tree Martin  
Bluebonnet  
Zebra Finch  
Yellow-rumped Thornbill

#### Neil Palframan



Photos by Graham Russell.

Top: Male Cockatiel sitting at entrance to his nest hole.

Bottom right: Swamp Harrier

Bottom left: Campbell Swamp with Pelican, Great Egret, Pacific Black Duck, Grey Teal, Australian Shoveler.  
(detail – see cover for full picture)

## Biodiversity Survey - North Nombinnie

Yathong, Nombinnie and Round Hill Nature Reserves comprise a large area, 191,000 ha of plain and ridge country between Cobar and Griffith. They are located in Central NSW on the boundaries between three major biophysical regions: The Cobar Peneplain, the Darling Depression and the Southern Riverine Plain.

The resulting geography of ranges, hills, rolling hills and lowlands, plains and dune fields gives the area great diversity of landscape and habitat. Yathong Nature Reserve contains most of the Merrimurriwa Range which we will visit in September.

The area protects the largest stand of Mallee in NSW and because they are so large they are considered resistant to permanent damage by drought and fire.

In addition to the mallee the reserves also contain areas of White Cypress Pine *Callitris glaucophylla*, Bimble Box *Eucalyptus populnea*, Black Box *Eucalyptus largiflorens* and Belah *Casuarina cristata*.

We thought that such a wonderland deserved a better look.

We established camp in an open area of Bimble Box near the Nombinnie Homestead which had been burnt to the ground at least twice. Mind you a Fig tree, some bamboo and some succulents are courageously hanging on. Andrew did have fun bowerbirding around here and came back with some well melted glass (must have been a hot fire). A camera trap at this structure revealed a cat but very few reptiles. This open area was a cacophony of Noisy Miners every single day.

The dams nearby attracted three species of Macropod (Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Western Grey Kangaroo and Red Kangaroo) as well occasional flocks of goats.

The dams were also visited by Major Mitchell's Cockatoo and Superb Parrots on a daily basis as well as other parrots and pigeons.

Harp nets were set up at one dam (with the help of little Archie) and 3 species of Microbat were caught, identified and released.

Bill found that the dam was full of Yabbies and we found out how to enjoy them for dinner.

We established 3 lines of Elliot traps in different woodland types which must be inspected twice a day (I hope you weren't thinking that we do this for a holiday). The result was 2 house mice and a gorgeous *Underwoodisaurus milii*. Thank goodness for Andrew who is good with a shovel and a crowbar. He helped to dig pitfall traps. Ants of all sizes were the main attractants. In our arid land ants have an influence on infiltration, bioturbation and the movement of soil.

Mallee birds are often cryptic and hard to find but if you walk far enough through the middle of the mallee you may come across an occasional Red-lored Whistler.

We assisted David Egan (NPWS Ranger) with Red-lored Whistler surveys. On one walk we encountered 4 whistlers (Red-lored, Gilberts, Golden and Rufous) and 8 honeyeaters (Grey fronted, White-fronted, Yellow-plumed, Brown-headed, White-eared, Spiny cheeked, Striped and Singing ) What a haul!! The mallee was also sprinkled with Shy Heathwren and Splendid fairy Wren and an occasional Southern Scrub Robin. We heard Chestnut Breasted Quail Thrush but didn't see them until a few days later. Mallee can be tricky and very easy to get disoriented in so we armed ourselves with a GPS each, a mobile phone, an EPIRB, a Satellite phone, a spot tracker, a few snake bandages and water. And we all kept an eye on each other.

On every drive through the reserve whether to check traps or an exploratory drive families of Grey-crowned Babblers scattered up and down trees. Good stands of highly threatened *Acacia currannii* were found on a rocky ridge on the edge of the reserve and another stand on private property. Another



Photos *Underwoodisaurus milii* (above)  
Curly bark of the *Acacia currannii* (below)



noteworthy find was a previously undiscovered Malleefowl mound.

We can easily take Cypress Pine woodland for granted but it can be remarkably biodiverse for woodland birds: Yellow rumped Thornbills, Southern Whiteface, Red-capped Robin, Hooded Robin, Jacky Winter, Tree Martin, Restless Flycatcher and Masked and White-browed Woodswallows, Unfortunately the large areas of *Eremophila longifolia*, *Eremophila sturtii* and *Eremophila desertii* were not flowering but a few honeyeaters were still hanging around, Pied, Yellow plumed, Spiny cheeked, Singing and Striped. Crested Bellbirds were often heard but rarely seen.

We tested our camping equipment by staying a week. Powering fridges was a challenge but dealt with very well. Supplying enough water for showers, dishes and other consumption in a dry environment can be challenging.

Thanks to all who helped make this a wonderful experience

**Nella Smith**

## **An update on Robbie**

I am sure many of you will be following this famous Bitten so for others of you here is a brief update of how the Bitterns in Rice Project is proceeding. April has been a busy month.

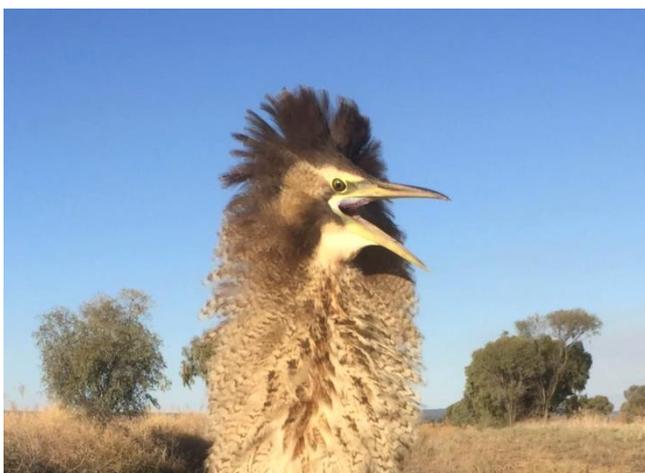
First the sad news that Robbie is no longer in contact. His 323 day story attracted lots of media attention, culminating in a live television interview and website article on BBC World News. He's officially the most famous bittern in history. It's impossible to know whether it was just his transmitter or harness coming to the end of their life or whether this much loved bird may have succumbed to a fox or some other fate. In any case he's left some big shoes to fill.

The team has been progressing with program of fitting satellites to more birds. Towards the end of April Neil was caught and fitted with a satellite transmitter. His weight, appearance and behaviour was uncannily similar to Robbie. This young male from Murrami, between Leeton and Griffith, was presumably born in a local rice crop around January. He was clinging to an already harvested crop that was almost completely dry. He's named after Neil Bull from the Rice Growers' Association.

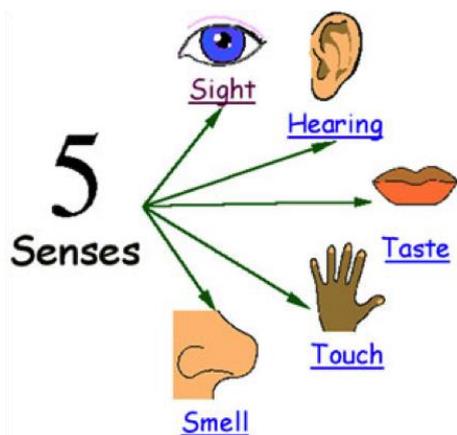
Only a day later they hit the jackpot again when they succeeded in catching COG, another young male from Murrami who is apparently the most adorable and hilarious feather duster. He is named after the Canberra Ornithologists Group.

They have 3 months of data from the two birds, Vin and Coly Lion, they fitted with transmitters at the end of January showing they remained close to 'home'. Post-harvest Vin headed to Stockingbingal. They have since lost contact with them though Coly has been sighted still wearing the transmitter.

**Top: Neil at his harvested rice crop near Murrami - Matt Herring; below left: Coly Lion the most adorable and hilarious feather duster - Matt Herring; below right Robbie at Pick Swamp - Wayne Bigg**



## Senses in the Bush



Of the five senses, sight is by far the one we utilise most during our walks through the bush. Be it searching for the next bird, the next flower, the next unusual occurrence or for just ensuring we tread safely and avoid obstacles, our eyes are active all the time. Actually the eyes only receive the light stimulations and simply pass the information on to the brain. It's the latter that does the complicated work of analysing the information, acting on what it thinks important or of interest and discarding the rest. Most of our energy consumption is spent by the brain regardless of the amount of physical exertion. No wonder a day's stroll in the bush can be so tiring!

What we make of the bush is very dependent on how we have conditioned our brains to work, for like all things it has a limited capacity and one that is shared by all its functions. Any distraction, conscious or unconscious, like worries over work or home, will reduce the capacity to interpret and thereby enjoy being in the bush. It would be nice to just switch off but that's easier said than done. We all have our off days.

Limited capacity also includes memory, a vital part of making sense of what we observe. Hence one can be an expert in one field, or have a broad understanding of many things. There's the old saying 'Jack of all trades, master of none'.

What the brain does to overcome this limited capacity is to memorise ways to select information to process. One thornbill looks very much like another until we remember specific tell-tale features – yellow rump, buff rump, etc. Expertise in recognition is simply a matter of memorising those specific clues and that only comes with experience and repetition. Given our capacity limits this learning is best done a few items (read species or groups) at a time. A point that beginners in any subject need to accommodate to even get started.

Our sight has another limitation. Our eyes can only record the spectrum red to violet. Other animals record other parts of the spectrum. Some insects in particular respond to UV light. What to us is a plain white flower, to them has tell-tale patterns saying 'come this way for a feed'. Without special cameras we are completely ignorant to these features. Incidentally digital camera sensors can record light we don't receive but will show up on the presented image – just keep that in mind when taking photographs.

A distant second to the sense of seeing is the one of hearing. Here our inbuilt ability to filter out received information works in part to our disadvantage. From birth we are conditioned to tune in to peoples' voices. Hence any spoken word will over-ride any other sound. Therefore as we enjoy the social chatter as we walk along we diminish our awareness of the calls of the bush. Now I don't imply we cease socialising whilst out there. What is the point of being out in a group if it is not to a greater or lesser extent enjoy the company. Might as well go alone (or for safety reasons, with only one or two others). The other reason for going in a group is to share information and how else do we do that than by speech!

As with sight, the ability to recognise bush sounds is only by experience and repetition and only learnt bit by bit. Unfortunately our modern noisy world has left many of us with at least some impaired hearing. This is also on top of natural ability or, in my case, lack of it. Oh, to have perfect pitch!

What we don't seem to account for, yet somehow readily respond to, is the sense of smell. Do we take it for granted that a eucalypt forest has a distinctive aroma? Travellers overseas often comment on responding to the smell of eucalyptus when encountering plantations



Above: Munjara Beetle (sight)  
Below: *Prostanthera ovalifolia* Oval-leaf Mint-bush (smell)



of them. It has to be very strong for us to comment on it here. Same applies to the other bush aromas like that of the Cypress Pine, introduced pines, or more commonly the scent of many of the bush flowers.

We do use smell in specific occasions to identify certain plant groups eg mint bushes. We also readily respond negatively to the putrid odour of a dead carcass – enough said.

Of course our sense of smell is nothing like as well developed as in other animals. We do not rely on it to find food or to detect the opposite sex. Did we always use sight for these activities or is this an almost lost sense?



Taste is very much like smell in that it is a response to certain chemicals on specialised sensors. In mammals odour receptors are in the nose, utilising the flow of air as we breathe, whereas taste is a function of receptors on the tongue. Taste also requires direct contact, and we soon learn not to put anything and everything into our mouths. We leave tasting principally to enjoy our food. Where we do use it in the bush is for very specific occasions in identifying some plants – if you are game. The distinctive taste of a leaf of a Bitter-pea (*Daviesia sp*) is quite diagnostic- but has a habit of lasting too long!



The fifth sense is that of touch. It is used all the time but absolutely subconsciously. How tightly do we hold things, how to react when we come into contact with something like some overhanging foliage or a spider's web, all are sensations of touch. We rarely use it to find out if a surface is rough or smooth.

So one way or another we use our five senses to create our awareness of being in the bush. Understanding how each one operates, their limitations, and in fact our brain's limitations, can all help to increase our knowledge of the bush and thereby our enjoyment of it. So next time, relax, focus and enjoy.

Above: Ruby Saltbush (taste)  
Left: A rough bark (touch)

Eric Whiting

## Threatened Species list Updated.

**The announcement that an additional 49 species have been added to the list of plants and animals can be seen as good news and bad. It will mean that these species will have extra protection under environmental laws.** A dramatic increase in the size of the list reflected a better understanding of the threats facing Australia's plants and animals.

In a lot of ways it's encouraging to see the list growing. The [Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation] Act lists probably only a tiny fraction of the species that are truly in conservation peril simply because of a lack of information. From a conservation perspective that we have more species there will restrict open-slasher development, which has been characteristic of a lot of Australian development over the last 50 years.

In part we're seeing more species added to the list as we understand more about the threats to our environment ... but we're also seeing new species added because the Government is failing to do the necessary action. Species like the Swift Parrot and the Leadbeater's possum have been upgraded on that list, moving from endangered to critically endangered which shows that we need to do better in the actions that we're taking."

Source ABC news

Photo: Swift Parrot Chris Tzaris



## **BIGnet Conference in Leeton**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2016**



The Bird Interest Group Network (BigNet) is a collection of bird and field naturalist clubs throughout NSW and they meet twice a year to discuss important aspects of bird conservation and related issues.

It is a great opportunity for the various club representatives attending the meetings to get support for matters of state, national and international concern and to gain collective involvement in resolving issues of major importance. Such a collection of people has the support of Birdlife Australia in coordinating important issues of concern to the group and representing those issues to the various government departments to help highlight and hopefully resolve some of those issues.

The MFN had been requested to host the next conference in September and we have agreed. We have been host twice before so most long term members would be familiar with the organisation of the conference.

Basically, the group will meet for registration on the Saturday morning and will be told of the conference timetable. In the afternoon, there will be a series of talks given by various people involved with local issues on Threatened Species. At the moment we are hoping that Matt Herring will be available to give a talk on the Bitterns in Rice Project, David Parker on his Plains Wanderer research and Dave Egan on his Red-lored Whistler surveys at Nombinnie Nature Reserve.

After those presentations, there will be the formal meeting dealing with relevant issues of immediate concern to the network group.

There will be an informal dinner on Saturday evening and I propose to book them into the Village Restaurant in Wade Avenue.

On the Sunday morning, I anticipate there will be an early morning walk around Fivebough and, hopefully, Keith Hutton will be available to give the group an update on his regular surveys of both Fivebough and Tuckerbil Ramsar sites.

MFN involvement will be to provide morning and afternoon teas plus lunches for the group at the meeting venue (most probably the Blue Room at Madonna Place). I would, if possible, like to organise a BBQ breakfast at Fivebough after the walk before the group returns to continue the more formal meeting.

The meeting should conclude after lunch on Sunday when all delegates will head home.

So between now and the meeting date, I would like to coordinate members to assist both in providing food – sandwiches, slices, fruit and drinks - for the morning and afternoon teas as well as for the two lunches. We will be able to get some funding for this by charging the delegates for catering but it will not cover the full cost so we will need members to not only provide the food but also to assist in the kitchen to allow the participants to concentrate on the important issues of the various meetings.

Nella and I will be undertaking most of the organisation but would appreciate help whenever required so be prepared for us to involve members to assist once the date approaches.

**Max O'Sullivan**

### **A new era in land management and conservation.**

The NSW Government has released a consultation package which proposes a new system that redefines the terms for land clearing and offsets. The reform package will:

- Ensure land clearing is assessed under a single set of rules, simplifying the task of farmers in managing their land
- Conserve biodiversity at a bioregional level
- Give landholders incentives to conserve biodiversity on private land
- Reverse the historical decline of biodiversity in NSW
- Drafts of the new Biodiversity Conservation Act and amended Local Land Services Act are on public exhibition and open for submissions for the next eight weeks. You are invited to review the consultation material at: [www.landmanagement.nsw.gov.au](http://www.landmanagement.nsw.gov.au)

## An unwelcome arrival in the MIA



The **Common or Indian Myna** is a species that was introduced into Australia in the mid-1860s around Melbourne and later into Tasmania and Far North Queensland. The Tasmania ones didn't survive but the ones in Queensland took off and spread throughout the sugar cane growing areas up north.

The Mynas have spread from the Melbourne area to all coastal areas right through NSW and southern Queensland. Large flocks of

them have been sighted along the Murray River towns and in Wagga. They have arrived in Jerilderie in recent years so it was just a matter of time before they made it to the MIA.

On Friday 8 April, I was driving along Toorak Road in Leeton and was shocked to see a pair of Mynas fly out of the vineyards just beyond the Toorak Winery and perch on the powerlines.

I feel that this will not be welcomed by the local fruit and wine growers of the district as these birds will attack a crop and greatly affect the yield and quality of product.

The farmers have enough to contend with the already introduced feral species like Common Starlings, House Sparrows and Common (European) Blackbirds. The last thing they need is another pest species that have the reputation of decimating grape crops to the extent that along the Murray wine growers have had to protect their grapes by covering them in netting.

Not only are these birds a curse to crops they are major problem for our native birds as the birds compete for nesting hollows thus preventing our native parrots, like Eastern and Yellow Rosellas, Mallee Ringnecks and particularly the threatened Superb Parrot from nesting. Mynas have been recorded taking over an already occupied nest hollow and thrown out the eggs and killed the young in order to breed there themselves.

Leeton Shire Council has no eradication plan for this species and the advice I have been given by experts is to exterminate these birds before they breed up to such numbers that it will be impossible to get rid of them.

One further alarming concern was written up in the March 2016 edition of Australian Birdlife magazine in which scientists from Griffith University in Brisbane found that the mynas in south-east Queensland carry avian malaria DNA and that is being passed onto native species that associate with them. Of even more concern was that the mynas around Melbourne carry even higher levels of the blood-borne malaria parasites.

Like any feral pest they must be got rid of before it is too late and impossible to control. Cities like Canberra and Wangaratta have plans in place to trap and exterminate this species so we should do it locally before they take hold here in the MIA and cause massive problems for both local farmers and native bird species alike.



**Max O'Sullivan**

# MEMBERS' SIGHTINGS

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

<b>Little Friarbird</b>	Petersham Rd, Leeton	05/04/16	Penny Williams
<b>Rainbow Lorikeet</b> [3]	Jubilee Park, Griffith	05/04/16	Virginia Tarr
<b>Common (Indian) Myna</b> [2]	Toorak Rd, Leeton	08/04/16	Max O'Sullivan
See article elsewhere in the newsletter concerning this new pest species – previous page			
<b>Nankeen Night Heron</b> [1]	McCauchey Lake, Yanco	08/04/16	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Wedge-tailed Eagle</b> [2]	Tom Bullen Reserve, Sturt H'way	08/04/16	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Brolga</b> [2]	Fivebough Wetlands	09/04/16	Keith Hutton
This is the start of the annual visitation of brolgas to this area.			
<b>Australasian Bittern</b> [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	09/04/16	Keith Hutton
<b>Common Bronzewing</b> [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	09/04/16	Keith Hutton
<b>Major Mitchell's Cockatoo</b> [2]	'Myalstone', Rankins Springs Rd	10/04/16	Melanie Baulch
<b>Australasian Bittern</b> [1]	Rice crop near Murrumbidgee	10/04/16	Peter Draper
<b>Pied Currawong</b> [2]	Toorak Rd, Leeton	12/04/16	Max O'Sullivan
Warrick Bradney also reported the arrival of the currawongs in Narrandera on the same day.			
<b>Little Eagle</b> [1]	Koonadan via Leeton	13/04/16	Keith Hutton
<b>Australasian Bittern</b>	Fivebough Wetlands	17/04/16	Keith Hutton
<b>Brolga</b> [19]	Fivebough Wetlands	17/04/16	Keith Hutton
<b>White-backed Swallow</b> [3]	Koonadan site via Leeton	21/04/16	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Ground Cuckoo-Shrike</b> [6]	Newell H'way, south of Narrandera	22/04/16	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Major Mitchell's Cockatoo</b> [40]	Beelbangeria via Griffith	24/04/16	Melanie Baulch
<b>Brolga</b> [28]	Fivebough Wetlands	25/04/16	Keith Hutton
<b>White-fronted Chat</b> [male]	Fivebough Wetlands	29/04/16	Nella Smith
<b>Spotted Crane</b> [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	29/04/16	Nella Smith
<b>Black Falcon</b> [2]	Fivebough Wetlands	30/04/16	Keith Hutton
<b>Palid Cuckoo</b> [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	30/04/16	Keith Hutton
<b>European Goldfinch</b> [50-60]	Fivebough Wetlands	30/04/16	Keith Hutton
<b>Flame Robin</b> [4]	Galore Hill Reserve	01/05/16	Nella Smith
<b>Scarlet Robin</b> [3]	Galore Hill Reserve	01/05/16	Max O'Sullivan
<b>White-throated Treecreeper</b>	Galore Hill Reserve	01/05/16	Nella Smith
<b>Dusky Woodswallow</b> [20+]	Galore Hill Reserve	01/05/16	Nella Smith
<b>Diamond Firetail</b> [20+]	Galore Hill Reserve	01/05/16	Nella Smith
<b>Brown Treecreeper</b> [10+]	Galore Hill Reserve	01/05/16	Nella Smith
<b>White-bellied Sea-Eagle</b> [2]	Campbell Swamp outing	01/05/16	Sue Chittick-Dalton
<b>Swamp Harrier</b> [3]	Campbell Swamp outing	01/05/16	Sue Chittick-Dalton
<b>Baillons Crane</b>	Fivebough Wetlands	04/05/16	Marie Lister
<b>Spotless Crane</b>	Fivebough Wetlands	04/05/16	Margaret Murray
<b>Singing Honeyeater</b>	2 Lowde St, Nericon	06/05/16	Neil Palframan
<b>White-plumed Honeyeater</b>	2 Lowde St, Nericon	06/05/16	Neil Palframan
<b>Rufous Whistler</b>	2 Lowde St, Nericon	06/05/16	Neil Palframan

This is the first time Neil has recorded the above 3 species at his place.

<b><i>Pterostylis laxa</i></b> (Greenhood)	Narrandera	06/05/16	Nella Smith
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A new location for this species.

## Overhaul of feral animal control needed - National Parks Association e-news

The NSW Natural Resources Commission's Pest Animal Management Review has compiled a draft report in response to a call for an independent, state-wide review of pest animal management in NSW. The NPA strongly supports the review which provides a credible, evidence-based response to a complex issue which balances environmental and agricultural needs with animal welfare requirements. The draft report ([http://www.nrc.nsw.gov.au/rsvp-pest-animal-review?mc\\_cid=df74844057&mc\\_eid=\[UNIQID\]](http://www.nrc.nsw.gov.au/rsvp-pest-animal-review?mc_cid=df74844057&mc_eid=[UNIQID])) is open for public comment for six weeks until 18 May.

# \*\*\*\* COMING EVENTS \*\*\*\*

- 12 May Thursday**      **Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7.30pm.  
**Topic:** Kathy and Phil Tenison will give a presentation on their recent overland trip to Alice Springs.  
**Contact:** Penny Williams 6953 3524  
**Email:** [murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com)
- 15 May Sunday**      **Outing: Gillenbah State Forest**  
**Meet** at the Narrandera Information Centre at 9am  
**Bring** morning tea and lunch  
**Contact** Eric or Rowena on 6953 2612 if intending to come.
- 28 May Saturday**      **Outing: Jacks Creek, Cocoparra National Park**  
**Meet** Jacks Creek at 9 am. Bring morning tea and lunch.  
Join with Narrandera Camera Club in the afternoon and explore Store Creek at sunset after an afternoon BBQ at Jacks Creek.  
**Contact** Eric or Rowena on 6953 2612 if intending to come.
- 1 June Wednesday**      **Copy for the June newsletter is due. Please send to Rowena.**  
Email: [ericwhiting4@bigpond.com](mailto:ericwhiting4@bigpond.com). Phone: 6953 2612.
- 4 June Saturday**      **Threatened Species Day** showing of the movie “Oddball” at the **Griffith Cinemas**. It is the story about the training of a Maremma Sheepdog to protect a colony of Little Penguins from fox attack.  
The MFN has been requested to have a display in the cinema foyer.  
Details will be emailed when they are to hand. This is a free movie.
- 5 June World Environment Day**
- 9 June Thursday**      **Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7.30pm.  
**Topic:** Erin Lenon from OEH at Yanco.  
**Contact:** Penny Williams 6953 3524  
**Email:** [murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com)
- Other events**
- 3 -4 September**      **BIGnet Conference in Leeton**  
See Page 9 for details
- 1 – 10 October**      **Australian Naturalists Network** Get-together for 2016 will be held in at Woodman Point Recreation Camp, Western Australia. Details from Penny Williams [murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com)

Views up and from Store Creek  
Rowena Whiting

