

The Murrumbidgee Naturalist



August 2019 - Issue #273

Journal of the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc.

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Objectives

To facilitate and promote the knowledge of natural history, and to encourage the preservation and protection of the Australian natural environment, especially that of the Murrumbidgee River Valley



Kathy and Phil Tenison photographed this Olive-backed Oriole at the Winery site on the Whitton Stock Route; Phil captured the front view and Kathy the back.

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CONTRIBUTIONS

**For the September issue by
Wednesday 4 September**

To Rowena Whiting

Email: ericwhiting4@bigpond.com.

Phone: 6953 2612

***Our 25th Anniversary in
October is getting closer***

Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc. Office Bearers and Annual Subscriptions

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Secretary:	Nella Smith	0428 890 537			
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MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE SECOND THURSDAY EACH MONTH, EXCEPT JANUARY, AT THE Yellow Room, Leeton Library, Sycamore Street at 7.30 PM

FIELD TRIPS NORMALLY TAKE PLACE ON THE FOLLOWING WEEKEND.

INTENDING NEW MEMBERS, GUESTS AND VISITORS WELCOME.

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

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

Welcome to another issue

There are a number of activities coming up and Spring is showing signs of its presence with wattles in flower, birds in breeding plumage (including a new arrival at Fivebough - a Northern Shoveler - see page 10). We will be heading up Mt Caley, in the Cocoparras; visiting the mallee at Taleeban and then early in September we will be having a display stand at the Narrandera Show followed by the annual Koala count at the Flora & Fauna Reserve.

Regarding the display stand we will be having a working bee at our monthly meeting to organise our display items - you are asked to bring along any nature items you may have to contribute to this. Full details are on the last page; get out and enjoy the environment along with other members and friends.

And then there is the special weekend of our **25th Anniversary on 18-20th October** for which planning is underway - invitations will go out soon for the formal dinner and details of the various outings over the 3 day weekend. Keep posted so you don't miss out being part of this celebration and find out more of the earlier times of the club.

From the mail box -

Australasian Bittern project - Matt Herring has recently published a paper New Paper: Rice fields support the global stronghold for an endangered waterbird. There is also an update on the 2018/19 season on the website. Here is the link to the paper.

<https://www.bitternsinrice.com.au/new-paper-rice-fields-support-the-global-stronghold-for-an-endangered-waterbird/>

I would also like to draw you attention to **Threatened Species Day** on 7 September is when the spotlight is on native plants, animals, and ecosystems that are under threat and reflect on how we can protect them into the future.

Enjoy your month, Rowena

FAULTS, FOLDS AND EXFOLIATION

Outing - 13 July 2019

Some folk embark on intense physical challenges as a form of character building. They might drag a sled solo to the South Pole; or risk their life bigwave surfing.

For Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists, the equivalent was venturing out with Eric Whiting, on Saturday July 13, on a mid-Winter Geology excursion – in a frigid-zone gale!

I had hoped for a spot of ornithologising (?) along the way, but evidently the birds chose to forgo self-development on this wild, windy day, and were nowhere to be seen.

Leaving Narrandera, our first two stops were at Grong Grong's granite outcrops, both on the Newell Highway. Here we were eruditely informed of the timeless process of inner-earth magma being slowly but relentlessly forced to the surface to reveal itself as the – often domed – batholiths we see today in so many regions of Australia.

At the batholith on the Newell Hwy towards Ardlethan.



Left: The brownish exposed rock (left) has been exposed for longer than the grey one in front of the group.

Photo: Kathy Tenison

Above: shows the crystals in the grey granite rock.

Photo: Rowena Whiting

Right: Eric checking a fragment of country rock broken off and entrapped in the granite magma.

Photo: Kathy Tenison

Below: a close view of the country rock.

Photo: Rowena Whiting



This Plutonic (from Roman Pluto, God of the Underworld) rock is identified by its relatively large crystal structure; the result of slow cooling.

As I stood on one of the granite 'heads', I reflected on a Geology unit I taught to Year 6 children some decades ago. To make the content more edifying to these imaginative young minds, I told them the story of

Gritty Granite (the word granite means granular, grainy – or gritty!). Gritty lived happily with his Mother Magma deep within the earth, till one day powerful changes forced him to sadly leave his dark, warm and safe Hadean world. Up, up he was pushed, until finally his bald pate (various imposing granite outcrops are called ‘Bald Rock’) breached the meadowed surface and he saw for the first time – light. And he felt for the first time wind, and rain.

Gritty’s adventures continued – with as much geologic accuracy as I could muster – till he finished up as a memorial fountain in a city park!

The first granite at Grong Grong was pale-toned white and pink, with considerable plate-like exfoliation.

The second outcrop, conveniently revealed by roadworks blasting, was gunmetal grey, peppered remarkably evenly with white crystalline ‘snowflakes’, each slab a lithic masterpiece – a solidified snowstorm.

We enjoyed morning tea in a sheltered glade beneath that glowering sedimentary edifice, Bunganbil. Although beautiful, it had an eerie ‘Hanging Rock’ mood to it. Following this we drove round to the northern side for another vista of anticlines and synclines, faulting and folding.

Our next sojourn was along the Barellan Road, adjacent to Square Knob, an imposing mountain of sedimentation providing wonderful roadside samples of conglomeration. This topographic feature is our own default Uluru, not only in the way it dominates its landscape, but in its conglomerate content. This common but always interesting stone is formed when gravel and stones – of an infinite variety – are deposited in silt and sediment beds, being concreted in place by aeons of all-powerful terrestrial forces for eternity. Or till we poked around with them, at least!



A conglomerate boulder – Rowena Whiting

Eric explained how the First Australians would prise larger pre-stream- weathered stones from the matrix to expose knife-sharp edges, providing a range of excellent cutting tools.

There was wonderment in the Group when we were informed that these rocks were of Devonian origin, some 400 million years old. This was the Age of Fishes; as such the very same rock samples we idly fondled were formed long before humans triumphantly strode over the earth. Talk about an ego-reality check!

Again I was transported back to school, to a Geology excursion with my 12-year-olds. No, not to some remote region, but to Sydney’s Martin Place. This is because the best buildings in the city have the best marble. This metamorphic marble marvel, transformed from the original sedimentary limestone, is fabulously fossil rich.

We must have seemed an eccentric lot to the hurrying crowds as we peered fixedly at the various white, black, pink and green marble walls and pillars; sometimes exclaiming with the excitement of discovery.

The high polish on these architectural adornments displayed the many and varied marine fossils embedded within to perfection.

Again, to rescue this Geology unit from the cold hand of scholastic objectivity: “The compelling reality” as I explained “is that the spiral periwinkle shell you are touching right now was a living creature, one dwelling in an ancient sea teeming with life hundreds of millions of years ago.

Yes, that ... very ... shell!

The greatest gift one can provide children when exposing them to the wonders of natural science is to engender a sense of awe. And direct contact with the natural world does this best of all.

And that is what Eric provided for his happy adventurers on our windblown Geology excursion.

And you can’t get much better character building than that!

Alan Whitehead

MFN Trip to McCann Road & Griffith Area: Saturday 27 July 2019

Ten brave souls met at the Tourist Information Centre in Griffith trusting in my ability to get us to McCann Road.

Fortunately their trust was rewarded, as we waited the obligatory 10 minutes after the scheduled time and then made our way to McCann Road.



Rufous Whistler (male) - Phil Tenison

This is a small patch of vegetation near Lake Wyangan which I had only visited briefly a couple of times before during Twitchathons.

It is a great spot with a good range of birds including the regular Honeyeaters, Thornbills and Wrens while a few specials were the Golden Whistler, Rufous Whistler and White-fronted Honeyeater.

After a good look around we headed for Lake Wyangan picnic area for a combined Morning Tea and Lunch.

Then off to Campbell Swamp, which didn't produce a lot of birds but the views of the Swamp Harrier, Hobby and Kestrel were very nice.

A quick stop over at the Griffith airport where we were able to find the Pink Cockies we were seeking plus some others including Rainbow Lorikeets and Mallee Ringnecks.

We then proceeded to have a look on both sides of the road at the Winery block near Yenda which again didn't produce a huge amount of birds, but did include the lovely Olive-backed Oriole, White-browed Babbler and close views of the Whistling Kite and Brown Falcon.

With the drought, it seemed to me that the Yenda side of Griffith was a lot drier than the Lake Wyangan side.

All in all it was a lovely warm winter's day to go for a walk in patches of bush, thanks to those who



White-fronted Honeyeater Kathy Tenison

came along, hopefully everyone had a good time.

Thanks to Max for doing the Bird list.

Phil Tenison

Bird List for the MFN outing Griffith area 27 July 2019

McCann Rd Lake Wyangan

Crested Pigeon
Common Bronzewing
Mallee Ringneck
Red-rumped Parrot
Golden Whistler [male]
Rufous Whistler [male]
Grey Fantail
Purple-backed Wren
Yellow Thornbill

Lake Wyangan lunch stop

Little Pied Cormorant
Intermediate Egret
White-faced Heron
Grey Teal
Purple Swamphen
Masked Lapwing
Silver Gull
Tree Martin
Welcome Swallow

Griffith Airport/Golf Course

Major Mitchell's Cockatoo
Rainbow Lorikeet
Mallee Ringneck
Apostlebird
Blue-faced Honeyeater
Pied Butcherbird
Noisy Miner

McCann Rd Lake Wyangan (cont)

Yellow-rumped Thornbill
 Southern Whiteface
 Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
 Blue-faced Honeyeater
 Noisy Miner
 Yellow-throated Miner
 Singing Honeyeater
 White-plumed Honeyeater
 White-fronted Honeyeater
 Striped Honeyeater
 European Goldfinch
 Pee-wee
 White-winged Chough
 Pied Butcherbird
 Australian Raven
 Little Raven

Campbell's Swamp

Little Pied Cormorant
 Darter
 Straw-necked Ibis
 Australian White Ibis
 Black Swan
 Black Duck
 Australasian Shoveler
 Swamp Harrier
 Hobby
 Red-rumped Parrot
 Willie Wagtail
 Yellow-rumped Thornbill

The Winery/Binya State Forest south end

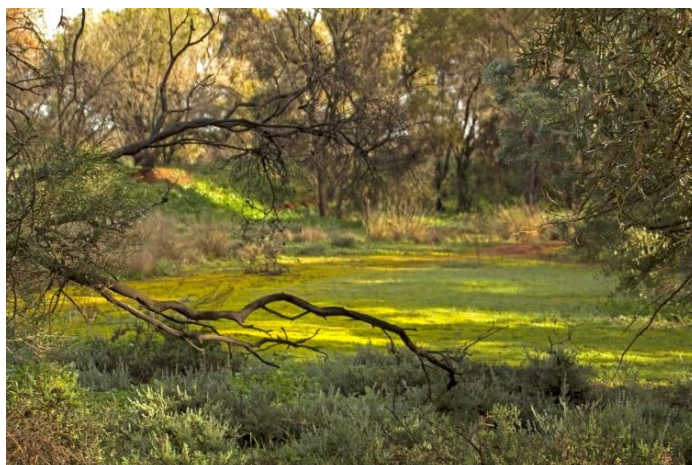
Swamp Harrier
 Brown Falcon
 Whistling Kite
 White Cockatoo
 Galah
 Mallee Ringneck
 Laughing Kookaburra
 Grey Fantail
 White-browed Babbler
 Olive-backed Oriole
 Australian Raven
 White-necked Heron

McCann Road – Under our Feet

The little bit of rain on the day before the McCann Road outing was enough to freshen up the ground flora but not enough to impede our access. It only takes a light shower for mosses to respond within minutes. We were greeted with plentiful clumps of bright green where otherwise they would have been inconspicuous or dull brown inseparable from leaf litter.

Mosses do not die on drying out as flowering plants do. In semi-arid areas it is typical of several common species to fold their simple leaves either directly upwards or to tightly spiral against their

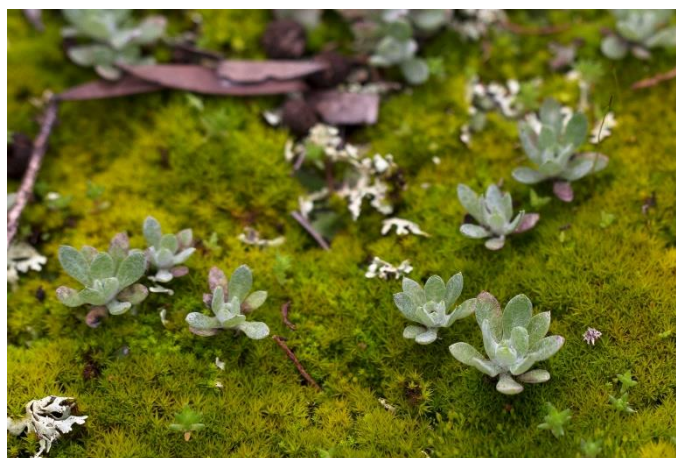
stems, presenting minimum surface to the outside world. They can remain in a dormant state for very long periods of time. A few years back a moss was reported as still being alive after becoming covered by a glacier for 400 years.



The brilliant green of the mosses surrounded by Eucalypts, wattles and shrubs. Photo: Rowena Whiting

Liverworts

Moss bed with Flannel Weed



The leaves of mosses are one cell thick (occasionally two cells) apart from the midrib. The midrib is purely a strengthening structure and in many mosses is very short or absent – a feature used in identification. There are no conducting tissues in mosses unlike higher plants. Leaf cell shapes and patterns are also largely used in identifying mosses. Often these can be observed using a X10 lens although higher magnification is easier.

Although many liverworts have leaves (very simple ones), the ones we generally see around here do not. They grow as tongues of tissue termed a thallus, often branching out from one point to form rosettes. Usually they have colourless or black pigmented scales on the underside. With no leaves to close up for protection, the thallus folds or curls its sides up to completely hide the upper surface. When closed up they are almost impossible for us to see until the next shower.



Asterella drummondii

Mosses and liverworts are in the same plant family Bryophyta. The main difference is in their sporing bodies. Mosses form spores in often cylindrical capsules that open by a cap. There is generally a set of intricate teeth below the cap which allow the spores to escape when conditions are right like shaking a pepper pot. Liverworts form spores either in globose capsules within the body of the thallus or held aloft on thin transparent stalks. Spores are released by rupturing of the capsule. One group of more advanced liverworts form umbrella shaped structures to bear the sporing bodies aloft, (see photo of *Asterella drummondii* – a very common species around here).

Mosses and liverworts are often confused with lichens, particularly when they are green coloured. They are in fact fungi living symbiotically with algae or cyanobacteria (formally called blue-green algae). Lichens rarely ‘hide’ during dry periods. They rely on producing UV-blocking chemicals in many cases or by having opaque upper surfaces when their habitat exposes them to full sunshine. They too can survive complete drying. This stop-start life style means lichen growth is very slow, often only 1 or 2 mm per year. Presence/absence of lichens is a good indication of disturbance in an environment. In Britain gravestones and ancient structures can be dated by the size and type of lichens growing on them.

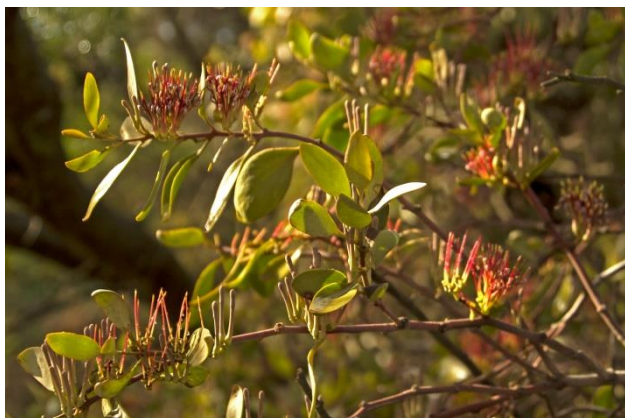
Two pale green lichen common growing on soil around here are *Cladia muelleri* and *Cladia beaugleholei*. (Up to last year they were named Heterodea and in their own family before genetic analysis showed that they were in the same genus as the Coral Lichen.) Both of these lichens have extended lobes that curl upwards on drying. Soft and floppy when wet, they become brittle and dead-leaf-like when dry; the exposed undersides being either dull blackish (*C. muelleri*) or dirty greyish (*C. beaugleholei*).



***Cladia muelleri* (lichen)**

Places like McCann Road can show a whole new world under our feet. Unfortunately when we got to the Winery site, the amount of disturbance there from the rubbish dumpers meant there were few mosses, liverworts or lichens to be seen. It is a pity that a site we promote as a prime birding site for all Australians and overseas visitors is allowed to be so degraded by the thoughtless few. It doesn't present a favourable picture of Griffith.

Eric Whiting



Grey Mistletoe was a feature at the McCann Road patch, found flowering on many of the Yarran Wattle trees along with this Spotted Jezebel butterfly.



NARRANDERA LANDCARE'S 2019 NATIONAL TREE DAY PLANTING

Narrandera Landcare Group (NLG) held a community planting morning for National Tree Day on 28th July at the Narrandera Wetlands. The group was joined by Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists as well as members of the community. 56 participants helped plant 1200 trees, shrubs and groundlayer plants. The group was thrilled with the turnout of people. It was very heartening to see several families with very young children who came along to help.

NLG propagated the seedlings themselves with seed provided by MFN. This was very much a learning experience, but they achieved good results. They grew over 40 species which will add to the bio-diversity of the Wetlands site.

One of NLG's objectives in this project was to involve the local schools with the planting. Narrandera Public School and St Joseph's Primary School were keen participants last year and were happy to help us out again this year. We wanted to include Narrandera East Infants but thought the children would be too young to help plant, so we came up with the idea of making "seed bombs" with the kids prior to National Tree Day (NTD).

These are little balls of moistened clay, compost and native wildflower seed. The idea was to let them dry, then throw them around the site on NTD. Whenever enough rain falls the ball should dissolve and the seeds germinate. It can work very well – it's used for broad acre revegetation from aeroplanes in Kenya. They are terrific fun to make with kids! The Yr2's were so enthusiastic with this activity we invited them to come help plant seedlings as well.

Before planting anything each school group was taken on a nature walk where the purpose of the Wetlands was explained and bird nests, nesting boxes and tree hollows were pointed out and talked about. One of the classes came across a cluster of Sawflies on a gumleaf which led to lots of questions. Between the three school groups, over 200 additional seedlings were planted in the week leading up to National Tree Day.



This project was made possible with a grant from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal. Leeton Toyota and Narrandera Pizzeria also provided great assistance with the day. MFN provided us a grant in case our propagating efforts weren't successful and needed to purchase seedlings. We didn't need to access this funding so it will carry forward to next year where we have secured funding to propagate and plant a similar number of seedlings for National Tree Day 2020.

Glenn Currie



Photos by Sarah Taylor
Some of the plantings, one of the school groups and Betty Bradney



A visit to Burke and Wills Camp 119 near Normanton Qld

We dropped the caravan at Normanton on Sunday afternoon 7th July and then headed out to the Burke and Wills Camp 119, 33km away along the Savannah Way. It turned out to be a productive drive.

I stopped on the way to allow a goanna to amble across the road. At Camp 119 we were greeted by **Rainbow Bee-eaters** flitting about and **Peaceful Doves** sitting around.



Site 119, shows one of the tree markers

The **site of Camp 119** is well shaded and has a lot of boards telling us about the Burke and Wills story. The site was chosen and set up in February 1861. This was the site from which Burke and Wills set off to the sea of the Gulf of Carpentaria. The information on one of the boards states *"The dash to the ocean from Camp 119 was anticlimactic, the vast saltpans, boggy ground and mangrove forests all throwing up barriers."* It quoted Burke's diary *"it would be well to say that we reached the sea, but we could not obtain a view of the open ocean*



Rufous-throated Honeyeater



although we made every endeavour to do so." At the sight there are markers showing where the trees once stood that were marked by King and Grey who were left behind at Camp 119 while Burke and Wills headed to the Gulf.

Having inspected Camp 119 we moved on until we could see water from the billabong twinkling between the trees. Here we spotted a lot of bird activity in a tree nearby. Before we left that site we had listed a **Weebill**, group of **Striated Pardalotes** and some **Rufous-throated Honeyeaters** from that tree, an egret flying over the billabong (too far away to photograph or identify) and a **Willie Wagtail**.

Back onto Savannah Way we had other finds. **Brolgas** and **Sarus Cranes** were in the paddocks along side the road. There was a tree full of **Red-tailed Black Cockatoos** which put on quite a show flying down to the ground and circling in groups! We added **Cockatiels**, **Galahs**, a **Whistling Kite**, **Black Kites**, **Crows/Ravens**, **Magpie Larks**, **Crested Pigeons**, **Apostlebirds** and **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike**.

Penny and Phillip Williams



Northern Shoveler at Fivebough 30 July 2019

Great excitement here this week when a very rare duck appeared on the settling ponds at Fivebough Wetlands. The Northern Shoveler male in full breeding plumage was first seen by Paul Gatenby on Monday (29/7) but wasn't reported. I went there on Tuesday afternoon after the heavy fog of that morning as Keith Hutton was doing his quarterly bird survey at Fivebough and had reported Blue-billed and a Freckled Duck



Northern Shoveler from [allaboutbirds website](#)
Paul Hueber | Macaulay Library

there when he inspected the pond around mid-day. I went specifically to see them but was very surprised, to say the least, when right in front of me in the long settling pond close to the Water Treatment Plant, was the beautifully marked white-breasted duck. I recognised it immediately as being a Northern Shoveler as I had seen them a couple of times on trips to SE Asia over the years. I immediately phoned Keith who was still doing his survey and he came immediately. The pond was full of hundreds of ducks – mostly Grey Teal, and they all took to the air as soon as Keith came into view. However, he was able to get good identifying views of the bird as it took off – so markedly

different it is from all of our local species.

Next day Keith went down at 8am and got good views of the bird and I went there around lunchtime to see it again. Kathy and Phil Tenison went down after work about 5pm but alas it wasn't to be found.

On Thursday, David Parker phoned me and I went to meet him at the Quodling Rd entrance and we located the bird way down the other end of the pond. Any attempt to get close put all the ducks up and they flew into the next door pond where the viewing platform is. Eventually they all flew back and Kathy and Phil Tenison arrived to try to get some photos. Again the duck proved very elusive and they could only get distance but very recognisable shots of it among the floating flock.

Kathy and Phil's photos are not all that clear but you can see the colour of the duck and can tell what it is. Check your Field Guide to see what it looks like.



Whilst not a super rarity, it has been reported a few times in various parts of Eastern Australia over the years and last year there was one on a lake near Werribee in Victoria. It is, according to Keith's records of over 30 years, the first appearance at Fivebough.

Max O'Sullivan

A little information from 'allaboutbirds' web site

The aptly named Northern Shoveler has a shovel-shaped bill that quickly sets it apart from other dabbling ducks. It is a medium-sized duck that tends to sit with its rear a bit higher out of the water almost like its bill is pulling its front half down.

Breeding male shovelers are bold white, blue, green, and rust, but their most notable feature is their white chest and white lower sides. In flight, males flash blue on the upper wing and green on the secondaries (the speculum). Female and immature shovelers are mottled in brown and have powdery-blue on the wings that is sometimes visible on resting birds. Their very large orange bill is their most notable field mark.

MEMBERS' SIGHTINGS

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

Nankeen Night Heron [juv]	Narrandera Wetlands	17/06/19	Glenn Currie
Possum	Reservoir Lane, Leeton in Silky Oak tree	28/06/19	Joy Young
<i>Pomaderris cocoparrana</i> [13]	Mt Brogden Track Cocoparra Nat Park	29/06/19	MFN outing
Eastern Rosella	Melbourne St, Narrandera	01/07/19	Warrick Bradney
Red-browed Finch	Narrandera Wetlands	06/07/19	Glenn Currie
Great Egret	Narrandera Main Channel	10/07/19	Alan Whitehead
Black Kite [2]	Narrandera Wetlands	11/07/19	Susan Whitehead
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Narrandera Wetlands	11/07/19	Susan Whitehead
Spotless Crake [2]	Fivebough Wetlands	14/07/19	Keith Hutton
Fox [2 courting]	Fivebough Wetlands	14/07/19	Keith Hutton

There has been a shoot of foxes around Fivebough and adjoining properties recently with 8 being shot near Fivebough and 5 on Terry McGrath's property but it must be ongoing as they seem to be ever present at Fivebough.

Common (Indian) Myna [2]	Lockhart turnoff on the Sturt Highway	18/07/19	Keith Hutton
Superb Parrot [6+]	Leeton Golf Course	25/07/19	Max O'Sullivan
White-fronted Honeyeater	McCann Rd, Lake Wyangan	27/07/19	MFN outing
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo [8+]	Griffith Golf Course – airport end	27/07/19	MFN outing
Olive-backed Oriole [3]	The Winery site – Whitton Stock Route	27/07/19	MFN outing
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Fivebough Wetlands	28/07/19	Keith Hutton
Brolga [4]	Fivebough Wetlands	28/07/19	Keith Hutton

This was the last sighting of Brolgas as they seem to have left the area since.

Straw-necked Ibis [200+]	Fivebough Wetlands	28/07/19	Keith Hutton
Freckled Duck [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	28/07/19	Keith Hutton
Black Falcon [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	28/07/19	Keith Hutton
Mulga Parrot [pr]	Spring Hill Cocoparra NP	28/07/19	Max O'Sullivan
Turquoise Parrot [pr]	Spring Hill Cocoparra NP	28/07/19	Max O'Sullivan
Northern Shoveler [male]	Fivebough Wetlands – settling ponds`	30/07/19	Max O'Sullivan

Seen by me and later confirmed by Keith Hutton. The bird was in full breeding plumage (check Field Guide). It is the first sighting at Fivebough according to Keith's records.

White-winged Triller [male]	Fivebough Wetlands	30/07/19	Keith Hutton
Blue-billed Duck [pr]	Fivebough Wetlands	30/07/19	Keith Hutton

Some interesting numbers from Keith's quarterly count at Fivebough on 30/07/19:

Black Swan [478]	Australasian Shoveler [74]	Grey Teal [1570]
Chestnut Teal [40]	Purple Swamphen [91]	Black-winged Stilt [415]
Red-necked Avocet [27]	Red-capped Plover [10]	Black-fronted Dotterel [21]
Australian White Ibis [82]	Straw-necked Ibis [70]	Silver Gull [257]

Max O'Sullivan

"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you.

What you do makes a difference,

And you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

Jane Goodall

**** COMING EVENTS ****

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

SAVE THE DATE for the

Celebration of our 25th anniversary on the weekend of 18/19/20 October 2019 -

**We are planning for an Anniversary Dinner, Outings and a
Photographic Exhibition over this weekend.**

- 8 August Thursday** **Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7.30pm.
Topic: A working bee to prepare items for displaying on our stand at the Narrandera Show. Please bring along specimens you think will be of interest to the general public and promote the club.
Contact: Nella Smith 0428 890 537 or murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com.
- 10 August Saturday** **Outing to Cocoparra National Park – Mt Caley**
Meet at crossroads Burley Griffen Hwy / Whitton Stock Route at 9am
Walk will be reasonably hard - no track free walking through the bush.
Alternative easy walk available around Spring Hill Picnic Area and Falcon Falls.
Bring morning tea to carry. We should be back at the cars for lunch.
Contact: Eric Whiting 6953 2612 or ericwhiting4@bigond.com
- 24 August Saturday** **Outing to Taleeban Mining Reserve**
Meet: at the Cnr Erigola Rd and Burley Griffin Rd {near Binya} at 8.00am.
Bring: morning tea and lunch.
Contact: Graham Russell 0419 350 673
murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com.
- 4 September Wednesday** **Copy for the September newsletter is due. Please send to Rowena.**
Email: ericwhiting4@bigond.com **Phone:** 6953 2612.

September is Biodiversity Month

- 7 September Saturday** **Narrandera Show**
MFN will be having a display stand in combination with the Narrandera Landcare Group. Glenn Currie, Nella Smith and Alan Whitehead will be coordinating this. Please let Nella know if you are available to help; phone no. 0428 890 537 or Glenn on 0488 563 321
- 7 September Saturday is Threatened Species Day**
This is the day when the last-known Tasmanian Tiger died in captivity in 1936.
- 8 September Sunday** **Annual Koala Count at Narrandera Flora and Fauna Reserve.**
Meet there at 10:00 am where you will be assigned to a team
Follow the signs from Lake Talbot canal bridge (just before the swimming complex).
Bring binoculars. Barbeque lunch available at a small cost.
Contact: Nella Smith 0428 890 537 or murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com.
- 12 September Thursday** **Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7.30pm.
Topic: **Our trip to Sri Lanka by the members who went.**
Contact: Nella Smith 6959 1210 or murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com.
- 14 September Saturday** **Outing to Ardlethan area**
Looking at various roadsides and the common for Spring flowers
Contact: Nella Smith 60428 890 537 or murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com.