

# The Murrumbidgee Naturalist



March 2021 - Issue #290

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



## Dragonflies at Turkey Flat by Phil Tenison

Wandering Percher, *Diplacodes bipunctata* - female laying eggs in water (Main)

Male Wandering Percher (top) and Blue Skimmer *Orthetrum caledonicum* (below)

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### CONTRIBUTIONS

For the April 2021 issue by

Wednesday 31 March

To Rowena Whiting

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"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better."

— Albert Einstein

## 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 Presbyterian Church, 23 Sycamore Street at 7 PM

**FIELD TRIPS** NORMALLY TAKE PLACE ON THE FOLLOWING WEEKEND.

INTENDING NEW MEMBERS, GUESTS AND VISITORS WELCOME.

### Membership enquiries:

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

**Bank details for direct deposit:** 082 672 account no. 772043387, a/c name: Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc. Include your own name and description of payment in the reference box.

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

## Welcome to March

Both outings last month were well attended and have been to local wetland areas. An array of birds were observed along with bats, dragonflies, mistletoes. This month will see us at local dams counting the Glossy Black Cockatoos as they come in to drink and visiting Oolambeyan out on the Hay plains. So far no one has come forward to oversee an outing for April so please think about putting your hand up.

**Rowena.**

### This month's meeting on 11 March

On our most recent field trip we visited a **Little Red Flying Fox colony** (near the entry into YAHS) as a prelude to the video we'll be watching at our next meeting. **Wagga Wagga Urban Landcare** recorded a presentation to their group from Charles Sturt University's **Dr Andrew Peters (Associate Professor in Wildlife Health and Pathology)** last November.

This is a fascinating 48 minute video. The talk was given at a Wagga Wagga bat colony but covers bats in general, their physiology, their role in the environment, virus transmission and how susceptible they are to thermal thresholds, amongst other things.

**WWUL** are happy for our group to view it and our members should find it very interesting.

**Glenn Currie**

### A letter from Sue about her new home

**Dear friends.....** Adjusting to a radical change of lifestyle is a matter of attitude and it must be a positive one to accept the difference, however with welcoming neighbours and a garden plot, I now call it "home".

At the beginning, I was fearful of losing the birds that visited me from the adjacent Scenic Hill, however, my unit has a very old Box Tree, a feathery Melaleuca and a Crab Apple that caters to Mallee Ringnecks, to tiny Yellow thornbills and a plethora of honeyeaters with Crested Pigeons and Magpie larks parading around the lawn. The rear garden has a Christmas Bush, Bottlebrush, and a Catoniasta.

Even though I am attempting to create my own garden plan, it is such a delight to see the emerging bulbs sewn by the previous occupant with the onset of Autumn.

It would be great to see you should you care to visit Hyandra Village.

**Sue Chittick-Dalton**

## Field Trip to Tuckerbil Wetlands 13 February 2021

Beginning at the new Leeton Museum we were able to view a film clip about the Koonadan Historic Site - an aboriginal site of significance managed by National Parks & Wildlife Service. As the Wiradjuri people moved across the landscape in search of food they moved from Tuckerbil to Fivebough to Lake Mejum and to the river.

Tuckerbil Swamp is located in a shallow depression and is bordered on its south eastern margin by an extensive sandhill. The other characteristic feature is the saline flats which occupy much of the southern and central portions of the swamp. There are two small dams at the site. Historically it formed part of a natural drainage line. Good winter rains would fill Tuckerbil and it generally remained wet until the following spring or summer when most water had been lost by evaporation or percolation so that it dried out. It was ephemeral but when it filled it attracted the aboriginal foragers as well as migratory shorebirds, brolgas and ducks. Until recently the main sources of water have been rainfall, stormwater runoff, some irrigation runoff and deliberate releases of excess drainage water. These days it relies on rainfall, minimal stormwater runoff and environmental water. It is considered to be an important drought refuge for waterbirds in the Murray Darling Basin for its extraordinary values.

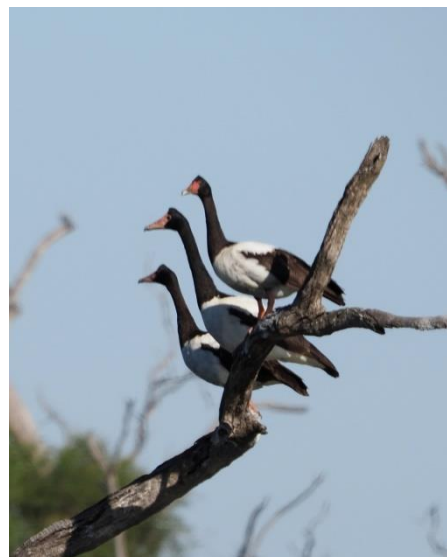
It was endowed RAMSAR listing for:

- The threatened birds it attracts: Australasian Bittern, Painted Snipe, Freckled Duck and Brolga.
- The breeding and drought refuge it provides: eleven species of waterbirds have been recorded breeding here.
- The support it provides to 69 species of waterbird. Of these twenty four are covered by the Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA) and/or the China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (CAMBA).
- Tuckerbil has supported an estimated 1% of the international population of Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and 1% of Marsh Sandpipers as well as more than 1% of Australasian Bittern.

We were able to explore all around "The Basin" and noted its magnificent wetland values. Magpie Geese and Night Herons were still present in numbers as were the Black Duck, Grey Teal and Hard Head. A few Black-fronted Dotterel were skulking around the edges, but we didn't see any Crake. Quena *Solanum esuriale* and Samphire *Arthrocnemum halocnemoides* a plant of saltpans were found all around. Creeping saltbush *Atriplex leptocarpa*, Climbing saltbush *Rhagodia nutans* and Ruby Saltbush *Enchylaena tormentosa* are also thriving here. In the 1980's a major planting was undertaken on the sandhill around the Koonadan Historic Site many species of which are not locally native but have survived well and provide good habitat.

### Nella Smith

Please note that permission from landholders is required to visit both Koonadan Historic Site and Tuckerbil Swamp.



From Top:  
View of Tuckerbil  
Three Magpie Geese  
Night Heron



## JUST HANGIN' AROUND

### Outing to Turkey Flat and McCaughey's Lagoon, Murrumbidgee Valley National Park

It wasn't the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, but it *was* a hanging garden. This marvel is what greeted us as we assembled at Yanco on Saturday, February 27, for our afternoon field trip.

The "garden" was a massive mistletoe plant, growing on a large eucalypt, which drooped almost to the ground. Correction: it was even *more* marvellous, due to consisting of two separate mistletoe species.

As some of our more opportunist members partook of the sticky, sweet yellow berries, others admired the red clustered blossoms; while yet others botanised that the thickly-foliaged plant was not only flowering and fruiting at the same time, but was also in full bud!



We then convoyed west to Turkey Flat, with its steel boardwalk and excellent bird hide.

And birds there were! Clouds of ducks rose from their watery tranquility to soar and sweep, their whistling wings filling the still afternoon air with sound and movement.

It was a scene worthy of a David Attenborough nature documentary.

"This is the largest aerial display of Grey Teal and Pacific Black Ducks anywhere on the planet." he might whisper to camera.

This wondrous spectacle occurred repeatedly throughout our time at the swamp.

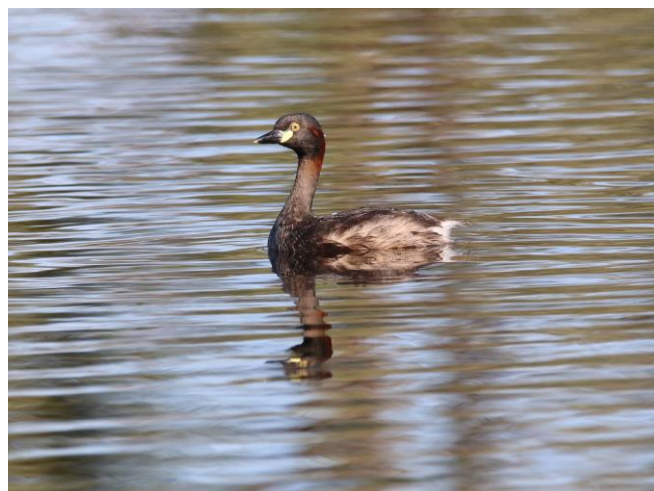
Of course many other interesting avians were present, mostly of the water bird fraternity. Among these were Yellow-billed Spoonbill; lots of Australasian Grebes, many of the males in full breeding plumage; Black Swans; Little Pied and Little Black Cormorants; Red-kneed Dotterels; White-faced Herons; and Sacred and Straw-necked Ibis.

With all this water-and air-borne prey, it seemed strange that there was only one raptor, coolly observing us from a tall, dead tree.

"A Sparrowhawk." Max assured us. Then it flew over our heads.

"Whoops – a Brown Goshawk."

**Left: Turkey Flat – view from Bird Hide – birds on the water and in the air - Rowena Whiting**  
**Above: Two Mistletoe species - Kathy Tenison**  
**Below: Australasian Grebe - Phil Tenison**





“How can you tell the difference?” I enquired.

“Mainly with the tail shape: round is Brown, square is Sparrow.” he rhythmically intoned.

I duly slipped this bon mot into my bird identification kit for future use.

We then proceeded to the other side of the swamp, our presence yet again arousing ducks in their hundreds to fill the sky.

From macro to micro; a small, pale grey Peron’s Tree Frog was spotted mistaking the overhang of a steel sluice gate for the protective bark of a River Red Gum.

“What a charming little creature,” Sir David might inform us “the only amphibian with a distinct cross form on its iris – on the planet.”

Arresting too were the various dragonflies, red, blue and green, hovering over the clear shallows of this abundantly watered wonderland.



Onward towards the river, to a sight that stunned even the most world-weary of us: a large “camp” of Little Red Flying Foxes. This permanent community (How did we not know about this – so close to home?!) were scratching, squabbling and squawking in a stand of massive Aleppo Pines. These ageless behemoths, endemic to the Middle East, with their great height and dense foliage, were preferred as roost sites for the bats to the nearby more open-habit eucalypts.

The setting sun provided ideal sightings of these remarkable and beautiful mammals. Evidently they were just hangin’ around, waiting for the cool of

evening, to depart, sometimes great distances, on their feeding forays. Their contribution to the pollination and seed distribution of our native forests is invaluable – nay, *indispensable!*

Highly stimulated by all we had seen, we repaired to a nearby shelter for an early evening supper. After the usual conviviality and sharing of delicious slices, we finally left for home, in Enid Blyton terminology, “tired but happy”. (Thanks Glenn Currie for organising it.) With this, our entertaining and enlightening afternoon was complete ...



But was it? As we drove out, the last twilight glow of sunset came alive with wave on wave of flying foxes (one estimate being about 2000!), all heading east towards the great tangerine orb of a rising moon: a silent cavalcade into the night.

**Little Red Flying-Fox *Pteropus scapulatus*  
Group enjoying McCaughey Lagoon  
Images: Kathy Tenison**

Only with *this*, one of our living continent’s most breathtaking natural events, was our outing complete.

### Alan Whitehead

#### **Bird list: Turkey Flat & McCaughey Lagoon Outing 27/02/21 compiled by Max O’Sullivan**

Australasian Grebe	Hoary-headed Grebe	Little Pied Cormorant
Darter	Little Black Cormorant	Great Egret
White-faced Heron	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Straw-necked Ibis
Black Swan	Wood Duck	Black Duck
Grey Teal	Chestnut Teal	Brown Goshawk
Coot	Swamphen	Red-kneed Dotterel
Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike	Purple-backed Wren	Yellow Rosella
Superb Parrot	White Cockatoo	Little Red Flying-fox

## Winners are Grinners

On Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup> of March the winners of the 50 years of Ramsar Wetland Walk had the morning out at Fivebough and Tuckerbil Wetlands. The Master Class was led by Max O'Sullivan. Our two winners were a mother and daughter from Leeton, Rachelle and Ellena Ward.

We met in the car park at Fivebough and set the winners up with binoculars to assist their bird watching experience making sure they were able to focus on the guidepost on the road. Off we went with Max.

Both of our winners were very interested in the meaning of Ramsar and why the Ramsar sites are so important. Finding out that Ramsar was a town in Iran was a bit of a surprise. Another surprise came when they realised that Sharp-tailed Sandpipers come all the way from Siberia to Leeton.



*Ellena Max and Rachelle at the entrance to Fivebough*



*Black Swans coming in to Fivebough*

Noticing that Black Swans have white on their wings and watching them come into land with the Magpie Geese showed how transient the population can be. Some going out to feed of a night and coming back to Fivebough to rest in the day. We discovered that the Australian Shelduck female has a white ring around her neck and sports white eye liner while the male has no white eye liner.

Seeing the breeding plumage on the Intermediate Egret and discussing how the Freckled Duck bill goes red during the breeding season added to the interest. Pink-eared Ducks swam around with their Zebra stripes and pink ears. We laughed at

how obvious some of the bird names are while others can be tricky.

Red-kneed Dotterels, Pied Stilts, Masked Lapwings and Australian Reed-Warblers were some of the birds who came to visit. The Brolgas unfortunately didn't bless us with their presence.

Walking along the track Ellena was the first to see a Red-bellied Black Snake which was too sleepy and cold to pay us much attention.

On our way out we went past the Interpretive Centre to see if we could identify some of the birds we had just seen. Success! Then off to Koonadan where we learnt all about the sandhills and the importance of the Aboriginal burial site.

Walking to the basin dam we came across a Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike and some female wrens. On arriving at the dam we set up the telescope and found Little Black, Great and Little Pied Cormorants and Eurasian Coot. We wondered if the behaviour of the Coot led to the saying 'he's a silly Coot' or 'a cranky old Coot'. We looked long and hard for the Nankeen Night Heron but like the Brolgas they didn't show up on the day. Bird watching and sightings are never assured. The Whistling Kites flew over us as we prepared to leave.

It was then off to the Bird Breakfast/Brunch at the Hungry Fox sponsored by the Leeton Shire Council.

What a lovely meal to feed some peckish bird watchers. It was here we went through the pack provided by



*Ellena Max and Rachelle*



Murrumbidgee Landcare and ticked off the birds we had seen to reinforce our new found knowledge.

What a wonderful way to celebrate 50 years of Ramsar. Thank you Max for sharing your knowledge and leading the Master Class, Brent Lawrence from Leeton Shire Council for sponsoring the breakfast and the update of the Interpretive Centre and Murrumbidgee Landcare for providing two winner packs filled with information about birds and wetlands.

And to our winners for being such great and interested company on our tour. A competition was a great way to celebrate 50 years of Ramsar amid a Global Pandemic.

**Kathy Tenison**

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## Seed Collecting Workshop

Dr Martin Driver has been involved with plants for many years. He has previously worked for CSIRO and Greening Australia. He completed Roadside Surveys for Griffith, Leeton and Murrumbidgee Shires travelling 18000km in that process. He also helped to produce the Florabank guidelines which outline rules and regulations for Seed Collecting and some methodology. This document is at present being revised and updated. He has published many documents about plants. His life has been plants. He is at present the Healthy Seeds Project Manager for Australian Network for Plant Conservation.

Four workshops will be presented by Martin all told. Summer: Seed Collecting, Autumn: Seed Propagation, Winter: Direct Seeding and Planting, Spring: Plant ID, Inspection and Weed Control.

Martin made it clear that it is technically illegal to collect any native seed. All seed from Ecologically Endangered Communities is considered endangered and it definitely should not be collected nor should threatened plants.

Here, there lies an anomaly as in order to increase these threatened species we might need to collect material for propagation.

Anyone collecting seed should have a licence. In addition permission must be gained from the landholder and that could include National Parks managers, Forestry Corporation, Local Land Services, Local Shire Councils and Private Landholders.

Martin pointed out that with most things native Seed Collecting can be opportunistic. As you wander around the bush (as we all do??) you could make mental or written notes about locations of plants that might be needed for seed. Only seeds that are needed should be collected.

How do you know when the seed is ripe?? With Acacias you look for when many of the seed pods are drying. You collect and then sieve out the pods which should be returned to place of collecting. With Eucalypts you wait for the fruit to be somewhat dry, most seed pods will not be open. You clip the branches with long-handled secateurs, separate branchlets with seeds on them, place them on a tarp to dry and wait for the pods to split. Then you sieve out the seed together with the trash which is important as water retaining mulch. Storage could be in large containers in a cool, dry, dark place with low humidity. Some insect control may be needed to reduce loss.



***Acacia decora* seedpods**

Different seed requires different treatment after that. For example Wilga seed need to be young and fresh and Cypress Pine seed could need refrigeration as a pre-treatment.

One way of reducing the amount of travel to collect seed would be to establish seed collection areas or orchards.

If you need further information Local Land Services Murray have produced excellent information sheets: Seed Collecting Calendar, Native Vegetation Germination Guide, Site Preparation for Direct Seeding and seed Collection. You could also come to the next three workshops by Martin Driver.

**Written by Nella Smith**

## Know your daisies – Part 2:

### Division into manageable groups

The variations of the basic structure outlined in part 1 are used to divide the innumerable species into more manageable groups to facilitate further identification. Some features are more helpful than others.

Overall flower colour is often used in some simple field guides but can lead to complications and uncertainties. One species of a Sunray usually has opaque white bracts but locally they are bright yellow. Flower colour in the Asteraceae can arise from the ray florets, the disc florets or the bracts with other parts a different colour.

Size and habit are of some use but hard to define suitable divisions - what really separates a semi-shrub from a robust herb. On the other hand some species are dwarf growing to only a few centimetres high, but combined with the type of habitat warranting their separation into a sort of group.

Leaf shape is useful in separating species within a group and should always be noted. The presence of spines on leaves and/or bracts is constant in a distinct group of species (thistles). Authoritative flora such as the various State ones generally separate species which possess opposite leaves at least in the lower parts of the plants. The latter condition does make field identification difficult and sometimes unreliable without careful examination of the whole plant or even several plants.

Preference of soil type (heavy clay, sandy or shallow and stony) and the general habitat conditions (e.g. being subject to inundation) are good pointers for the species with limited distribution if used when bearing in mind that a particular specimen could be a chance occurrence out of normal range, or of concern lately, a shift in range due to climate change or human intervention.

This may seem all complicated but is in fact an easy and necessary way of making sense of the multitude of species. In fact much of it is assumed in naming popular groups like 'Everlastings', 'Thistles', etc. The challenge begins with

separating into groups and then on to the individual species. With careful observation and a bit of practice it is not all that daunting and successful identification is always rewarding.

By utilising combinations of several features the various Northern Riverina species have been arranged into 20 groups. In some cases where one or two species of a large genus although not entirely matching the group descriptions have for convenience been included with the rest of the genus.

### Eric Whiting

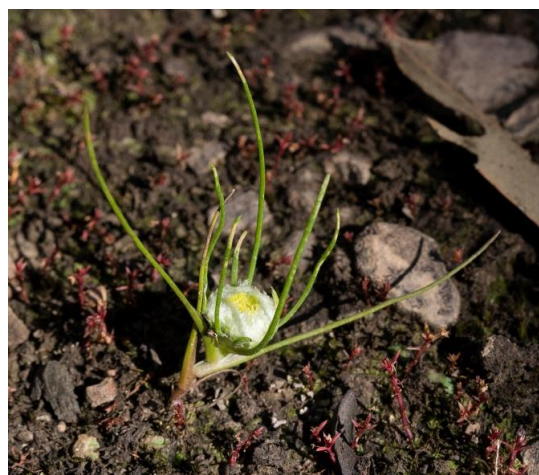
#### Photos from top:

Minnie Daisy – ray and disc florets

Yam Daisy – all florets ligulate

Sticky Everlasting – all florets tubular, bracts opaque and coloured

Grass Cushions – all florets tubular, bracts herbaceous





## FROGS AROUND NARRANDERA SUMMER 2021

Nella and myself have been taking advantage of the wetter than usual summer to see what frogs are around Narrandera this year. A few locals have joined us on our forays and have enjoyed learning about frogs and the Frog ID app.

We've been using the Australian Museum's [Frog ID](#) app on an ad-hoc basis for a couple of years now to record frog calls. We then submit them and get them verified. This is a great and simple Citizen Science project anyone can get involved with.

We're fairly familiar with the calls of about six of the common frogs of the area and where we can find them, but the more we looked this year, the more we learned.

Our visits to Narrandera Wetlands were positively quiet on the frog front this summer. This is excellent habitat and is usually rewarding but for some reason the frogs weren't particularly vocal this year. The frogs we heard were less than the usual ones we expected and not in any great numbers. And our visits to Rocky Waterholes didn't seem to have any frogs calling at all!

On our drives through the old quarry site on Bundidgerry Hill we were surprised by the number of frogs calling from the puddles which had filled from the summer rain. Among the various species we recorded many *Uperoleia rugosa* **Wrinkled Toadlets**. We hadn't recorded this one before so it was unique to us. It's not endangered, or particularly special, just having a good year I guess.

Our most surprising site was a small bog on another part of Bundidgerry Hill. Nella was furious at the local hoons who have been driving through this bog and we've had a few discussions about whether they're destroying habitat or creating it 😊 It really is debateable!



What is un-debateable is the amount of frogs we heard there. It was the richest site we visited this summer. After stopping the first time we heard, to me, some very un-froglike calls. Nella was sure it wasn't a bird, so we recorded it and the Frog ID app suggested *Notaden bennettii* Crucifix Frog was a possible match. The Frog ID experts verified this afterwards. This is another frog which isn't rare, just one we hadn't heard before. Where have they been for the last two years? If you observe one, the cross on its back makes it very recognisable.

We recorded 5 other species from this patch and can just wonder why this "4wd torn up bog" yielded so many more species than our "tended" Wetlands. We usually just record the frogs to record their presence but at this site we "hunted" down and photographed Peron's Tree Frogs and Spotted Marsh Frogs. We found the Peron's two nights running in the same tree which was interesting.

Nella returned there the next day and collected some tadpoles which she gave to a local schoolteacher who involved her class with growing these taddies into Crucifix Frogs. As of this week these tadpoles are virtually frogs (with tails!) and have been returned to where they were collected from.

Frog calls are more prevalent around rain events as part of their breeding cycle. This summer our best night recording them was actually as it rained. Their calls dropped off dramatically on the subsequent nights.

Apart from becoming familiar with a couple of new species this year, I really enjoyed introducing a few new people to the Frog ID app.

Glenn Currie



(above left) Crucifix Frog – Nella Smith  
(above) Peron's Tree Frog – Keith Thompson

## News of our Wagga Wagga Chapter

The Wagga Wagga Chapter of Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists began officially on 7 December 2020 when Alan Whitehead President of MFN's was guest speaker at a meeting with local nature and bird enthusiasts held in Wagga Wagga.

Alan spoke passionately. Sharing his experiences of being a MFN member and participating in field trips and bird/plant sightings and recordings. He informed the meeting that the MFN group is now 25 years old and it facilitates and promotes the knowledge of natural history, encouraging the preservation and protection of the Australian natural environment, especially that of the Murrumbidgee River Valley.

MFN also forms a network of other field naturalists across the country who observe, collect and document field data on birds, habitat and wildlife on a continuing basis. Data collected accords with scientific protocols and is recognised and cited as source research by governments of Australia and universities around the globe.

With the city of Wagga Wagga straddling the Murrumbidgee River it seemed appropriate to extend the membership base further east to increase the knowledge and familiarity of local wildlife. A motion was



Melanie Baulch

passed at the February 2020 MFN Meeting Leeton endorsing the formation of a Wagga Wagga Chapter.

Those present at Romano's Hotel on 7 December 2020 voted in favour of joining the MFN. Hoorah!! Much excitement by everyone!

Our first outing was 'Breakfast with Birds' on February 2 2021 at the Murrumbidya Wetlands to celebrate World Wetlands Day. A wonderful beginning and our next field trip is to be held on Sunday March 7 at Lake Albert Wagga Wagga.

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## Bird observing

A few years ago the top of a liquidambar tree in our garden blew off in a storm. Last spring –2020- we noticed a kookaburra was nesting in a large hollow about 3.5 metres up from the ground in this tree. Garth took photographs of the single egg, the hatchling, then the young bird just before it fledged. I was lucky enough to be in the garden when it took its first flight. For years we have had noisy miners in the garden, as well as eastern rosella and superb parrots, babblers, white winged choughs, butcherbirds, magpies etc. Since the kookaburra moved in – it has extended its territory to the house paddock now - we have noticed that the miners are not so prolific, it certainly is quieter without them. They are confined to the 'outer garden' now. I wonder if our kookaburra will return for next year's breeding season.

I have also noticed Singing Honeyeaters (?) coming into the garden, which I have not seen for years.

Jan Strong

27 October

16 November

1 December

8 December





# MEMBERS' SIGHTINGS

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

<b>Glossy Black Cockatoo</b> [pr]	Brobenah Hall Rd, Leeton	01/02/21	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Ground Cuckoo-shrike</b> [2]	Evans Smyles Rd via Leeton	01/02/21	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Major Mitchell's Cockatoo</b>	'Mountain Dam', Colinroobie Rd	Daily	Dionee Russell
<b>Little Bittern</b> [1]	Campbell's Wetlands	02/02/21	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Magpie Goose</b> [11]	Fivebough Wetlands	06/02/21	Keith Hutton
<b>Red-browed Finch</b> [4]	Lake Talbot, Narrandera	07/02/21	Alan Whitehead
<b>Blue-faced Honeyeater</b> [2]	Narrandera Wetlands	09/02/21	Susan Whitehead
<b>Grey Shrike-thrush</b> [Imm]	Naradhun St, Whitton	10/02/21	Margaret Strong
<b>Sacred Kingfisher</b>	Whitton	10-18/02/21	Margaret Strong
<b>Blue-faced Honeyeater</b> [4]	St Francis College, Leeton	11/02/21	Penny Williams
<b>Rainbow Bee-eater</b> [25]	Brobenah Hills via Leeton	15/02/21	Keith Hutton
<b>Dollarbird</b> [1]	Brobenah Hills via Leeton	15/02/21	Keith Hutton
<b>Mulga Snake</b>	'Yarrabimbi', Colinroobie Rd	15/02/21	Keith Hutton

This is only the second confirmed record of this snake well south and east of its normal range – confirmed by photo of its head and underside.

<b>Red-necked Avocet</b> [2]	Fivebough Wetlands	18/02/21	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Magpie Goose</b> [32]	Fivebough Wetlands	18/02/21	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Brolga</b> [5]	Fivebough Wetlands	23/02/21	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Plumed Whistling-duck</b> [20+]	Campbell's Wetlands	25/02/21	David Kellett & Max O'S
<b>Sharp-tailed Sandpiper</b> [6]	Lake Wyangan Picnic Area	25/02/21	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Red-capped Plover</b> [male]	Lake Wyangan Picnic Area	25/02/21	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Dollarbird</b> [1]	Griffith Gun Club Road	27/02/21	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Double-barred Finch</b> [2]	Malinson Rd, Griffith	27/02/21	Trevor O'Brien
<b>Purple-backed Wren</b>	Palla Ave, Griffith	Daily	Virginia Tarr
<b>Magpie Goose</b> [32]	Fivebough Wetlands	28/02/21	Keith Hutton
<b>Brolga</b> [6 + 1 juv]	Fivebough Wetlands	28/02/21	Keith Hutton
<b>Black Honeyeater</b>	Jimberoo Nat Park, Rankins Springs	01/03/21	Nella Smith
<b>Diamond Firetail</b>	Jimberoo Nat Park, Rankins Springs	01/03/21	Nella Smith
<b>Diamond Firetail</b>	'Yarrabimbi', Colinroobie Rd	01/03/21	Nella Smith

**Correction to last month's list:** In my note in last month's newsletter I made an error in reporting of breeding records at Fivebough over the spring and summer period. I added **Coot** instead of **Black-tailed Native-hen**.

Whilst the Coots have bred there in the past neither Keith nor I had recorded evidence of them having bred there in the last season.

**Max O'Sullivan**

**Murray Local Land Services are holding a Free webinar about sustainability platforms and particularly the Rice Sustainability Platform.**

Date/time: 12 March Friday 12.00pm - 1.30pm.

For more information call Kim 0439 531 306. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/incorporating-sustainability-credentials-into-your-farm-business-tickets-140733432485>

Well worth a listen; an opportunity to hear from people involved in developing and aligning to sustainability credentials.

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

Please note all outings are subject to weather conditions.

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, outings are currently limited, you must register with the nominated person by email (preferred) or phone to participate.

- 11 March Thursday**      **Monthly Meeting** will be held in the **Henry Lawson Room** at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at **7pm**.  
**Topic: Bats:** a Video Clip by Charles Sturt University's Dr Andrew Peters (Associate Professor in Wildlife Health and Pathology)  
**Contact: Nella Smith** Email: [murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com).
- 13 March Saturday**      **Outing: Glossy Black Cockatoo Census:**  
**For placement at a dam.**  
**Contact for Griffith:**      **Virginia Tarr, mob. 0434 831 031**  
**Leeton:**      **Max O'Sullivan mob. 0434 923 766**  
**Narrandera:**      **Nella Smith mob. 0428 890 537**  
**Email: [nella.smith0@gmail.com](mailto:nella.smith0@gmail.com) .**  
Please email results to Nella with the locality of the dam that you observed.  
**Place yourself quietly at your allocated dam by 6pm, next to a tree or shrub.**  
**Keep a list of all other fauna that visits.**
- 27 March Saturday**      **Outing: Oolambeyan National Park** in conjunction with Narrandera Camera Club  
**Meet at the Servo at Waddi on the Sturt Hwy.**  
**Bring:** some meat for a barbeque and a salad or slice to share. Also bring your dinner set and cutlery, a chair, a hat and plenty of water. We are not staying overnight.  
**You must register preferably by email or text, mob 0428 890 537**  
**[nella.smith0@gmail.com](mailto:nella.smith0@gmail.com)**  
**Registration is necessary for Covid-19 purposes**
- 31 March Wednesday**      **Copy for the April newsletter is due. Please send to Rowena.**  
**Email: [ericwhiting4@bigpond.com](mailto:ericwhiting4@bigpond.com).** Phone: 6953 2612.
- 8 April Thursday**      **Monthly Meeting** will be held in the **Henry Lawson Room** at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St, Leeton commencing at **7pm**.  
**Topic:**  
**Contact:** Graham or Dione Russell 0428 536 290 (Dionee)  
or 0419 350 673 (Graham) **Email: [murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com).**
- 11 April Sunday**      **Wagga Wagga Chapter - Nature Walk at Flowerdale Lagoon**  
We will walk around the Lagoon or double back if inaccessible, observing and recording our sightings.  
**Meet at Car Park - Corner Sturt Highway and Edward Street West, Wagga Wagga.**  
**Time: 7:00- 9:00am**  
**Contact: Sarah Dankert 0427276306 [spdanckert@gmail.com](mailto:spdanckert@gmail.com) – email preferred**  
**RSVP 7 April 2021** (because of Covid-19 rules you must register.)
- 10 or 11 April**      **Field Trip**  
**Saturday or Sunday**      **Somewhere to go and someone to lead is needed for this to go ahead.**  
**Will be discussed at the meeting; please come along with any suggestions or**  
**contact Nella 0428 890 537 [nella.smith0@gmail.com](mailto:nella.smith0@gmail.com)**