

# The Murrumbidgee Naturalist



August 2021 - Issue #295

Journal of the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc.

PO Box 541, LEETON 2705 ISSN-1327-1172

Website: [www.mfn.org.au](http://www.mfn.org.au)

Email: [murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com)

## 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



## It's wattle time



Golden Wattle *Acacia pycnantha*

Hedge Wattle *Acacia paradoxa*

Spreading Wattle *Acacia genistifolia*

Taken at San Isidore by Rowena Whiting

## IN THIS ISSUE

Office Bearers and Subscriptions .....	2
Welcome to August / From the inbox.....	2
Kurrajong recycling .....	3
Springvale Dam, Wagga Wagga, Outing .....	4
'Yarrambimi' Outing.....	5
A visit to Gillenbah State Forest.....	6
The Pretty Patterns along the Track .....	7
San Isidore Outing.....	8
An unusual mushroom at San Isidore.....	9
Paterson's Curse Biological Control .....	9
Know your Daisies Part 7 – Burr-daisies .....	10
Members' Sightings .....	12
Coming Events.....	13
Members' Images .....	14

## CONTRIBUTIONS

For the September issue by  
Wednesday 1 September 2021

To Rowena Whiting

Email: [ericwhiting4@bigpond.com](mailto:ericwhiting4@bigpond.com).

Phone: 6953 2612

"embrace all living creatures  
and the whole of nature  
and its beauty"

~ Albert Einstein

## Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc. Office Bearers and Annual Subscriptions

<b>President:</b>	Alan Whitehead	6959 3779	<b>Editor:</b>	Rowena Whiting	6953 2612
<b>Vice President:</b>	Nella Smith	0428 890 537	<b>Committee:</b>	Phil Tenison	6953 4869
<b>Vice President:</b>	Max O'Sullivan	0434 923 766		Glenn Currie	0488 563 321
<b>Vice President:</b>	Meredith Billington	0498 711 165		Virginia Tarr	6962 5614
<b>Secretary:</b>	Graham and Dione Russell 0419 350 673 (Graham) 0428 536290 (Dione)				
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Ellené Schnell	0488 080 866	<b>Website Co-ordinator:</b>	Kathy Tenison	6953 4869

**MEETINGS** are held on the second Thursday each month, except January, at the Henry Lawson Room, Leeton Library, Sycamore Street, Leeton at 7pm.

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

INTENDING NEW MEMBERS, GUESTS AND VISITORS WELCOME.

### Membership enquiries:

<b>Leeton</b>	Eric Whiting	6953 2612	<b>Griffith</b>	Virginia Tarr	6962 5614
<b>Narrandera</b>	Nella Smith	0428 890 537	<b>Coleambally</b>	John Wilkinson	6954 4129
<b>Wagga Wagga</b>	Melanie Baulch	0428914702	melaniebaulch@bigpond.com		

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

**Bank details for direct deposit:** 082 672 account no. 722043387, 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 August

Signs of Spring are emerging though the sun is still elusive; what a cold, gloomy Winter this has been. As you can see from the photos in this issue, some plants are flowering and many are in bud. At San Isidore last Sunday the wattles certainly stood out - hence the cover.

With various COVID-19 restrictions in place our travelling out of the local area has reverted to a wait and see approach making it hard to organise future events. As far as this coming month is concerned do make sure you register all participants so the leader isn't faced with dealing with extra people at the meeting place eg. 2 separate walks/meeting place if numbers are over 10. Masks should be worn. That does not mean we cannot enjoy our time out in the bush together. See you there.

Rowena.

## From my inbox / Items of interest

### From Meredith Billington

I just came across this very interesting article – sulphur crested cockatoos in Sydney have learned to open bins – a unique practice passed on through social learning apparently.

<https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/wildlife/2021/07/cockatoos-are-teaching-each-other-how-to-open-bins/>

You may find the following items of interest; they are links to the Murrumbidgee Landcare web site.

Cultural Burning Guide (Nari Nari Tribal Council) – This document was developed to clearly outline the fire management responsibilities of the Nari Nari Tribal Council, and to give instructions to the various annual tasks needed to re-introduce this important cultural practice. When done well, cultural burning helps prevent fire risks, rejuvenate local flora, protect native animal habitat and help manage pest plants.

Bird watching for beginners (Connecting Country) - This online resource is designed to help beginners improve their birdwatching skills. The topics covered include: spotting birds, noticing the feature of birds, identifying birds, recording bird sightings, and using binoculars. The page includes links to other useful resources as well.

## Kurrajong Recycling with Elizabeth Madden

A big thank you to Elizabeth for coming over to Leeton to give us a run down on recycling in this region at our July meeting. Knowing what is rubbish and what is not is very important in the world we live in not only globally but on a local level.



Recycling is a business in our region and like any other business it has to run efficiently and be safe for its employees particularly when many of the employees are disabled.

Kurrajong has provided services for disabled people for over 60 years. It started out recycling only paper in Wagga. In its early days the company used to collect paper and cardboard from the roadside curb where people would leave a box filled with recycling for the collectors.

Who would have thought it would turn into a business employing a supported workplace of 90 staff.

They received 22,000 t of recyclable materials in 2019 from Councils, businesses and the community in six local council areas – Wagga Wagga, Lockhart, Leeton, Griffith, Narrandera and Murrumbidgee.

What astounds me is some of the simple things we can do to make the working life and the recycling process so much better at Kurrajong. For example if we take the lids off our bottles, rinse and drain them, the quality of the recycled product is much better. There is less likelihood that moisture pools in the containers as it encourages insect damage and poor quality recycling. A bale of recycling is a bit like a bale of hay or wool, if it is contaminated it is not worth as much and in the extreme can be rejected.

We learnt about Red Recycling which is all that light plastic and wrapping that comes off bread, chip packets and chocolate. This type of light wrapping can clog up the sorting rollers and stop the machine working for extended periods which is costly. Red recycling can be taken to Woolworths and Coles if they are in your town. If not don't put them in the recycling bin.

Sadly it's astounding what materials are found in recycling bins. Dirty nappies, microwave ovens, clothes, shoes and metal machine parts are all things that shouldn't be put in recycling yellow bins. But still some people seem to think anything can be recycled. If in doubt don't put it in the yellow bin. Wire coat hangers and strapping from boxes will also cause problems for the machinery.

Large quantities of webbing can be recycled by taking it to the Kurrajong facility in Chasten Street, Wagga.

Glass was another surprise. Bottles are fine to recycle but don't put glass from windows or mirrors into the recycling bin. They have a different melting point and can therefore contaminate a bottle glass recycling batch. Don't worry about removing labels from bottles. They don't cause a problem.

Some of the hardest objects to recycle are the multiple material products. Those products which have different types of material in them. For example spray bottles that have a squeeze spray top. The squeeze component has a metal spring in it that is not easy to remove and therefore should go into the normal household rubbish. So should containers where there is a mix of aluminium, cardboard and plastic. Oh and that really heavy cardboard with the plastic coating is not easy to recycle as there are two different materials in this product.

Remember the best material to recycle is the product with only one material. This makes sense as it is a known quality and how it will react in the recycling process is predictable. Mixed materials react differently and therefore more of a problem.

That is why when we in Australia, and for that matter all over the world are making packaging for any item it is best if the packaging is made from natural biodegradable materials that are easy to recycle.





Some States are further ahead than others e.g. banning single use plastic cutlery and straws. It is hoped in the future we will have a nation on board with recycling and packaging which has the environment foremost in its mind.

Kurrajong recycling is open for tours with a group of up to 15 people. Elizabeth is busy visiting schools and preschools in the region as well. She visited Narrandera Public and Narrandera Landcare a month ago which was great. Thanks so much for coming again to our region Elizabeth. We all thoroughly enjoyed your visit and gained so much from your presentation. We had to mask up in these covid times and change our venue. Thank you Dione and Graham. We hope you will come again next year Elizabeth and we can invite a few more people. If you would like more information on recycling. What's rubbish and what's not? Visit Kurrajong Recycling. Good recycling really is big business. Let's get it right. For more information visit <https://www.kurrajongrecycling.com.au/>



**Kathy Tenison**

## Springvale Dam

4 July 2021

At Springvale Dam on an overcast Winter's morning, seven people braved the elements and were rewarded immediately, spotting a pair of nesting Galahs up high in a tree hollow. The water was busy with grey teal ducks and water hens. The purple swamp hens' plumage shone bright among the reeds in the unexpected sunshine.



Many Red Wattle birds were enjoying the flowering gums and, unexpectedly, performed an aerial acrobatic display, perhaps as a show for the kurrawongs, magpies, lorikeets or maybe for us !

A highlight of our morning was a large group of both Double-barred and Red-browed Finches entertaining us with their playful antics in the long grass and adjacent pine tree.

Such a hidden gem in a semi urban landscape.

**Marilyn Esler**

**Photos by Susan Campbell**

[Springvale Dam is off Plumpton Road, Tatton, Wagga Wagga, Ed.]





## Outing to “Yarrabimbi” in the Brobenah Hills

10 July 2021

What a difference a glorious day makes to an outing. This one compared with the Livingstone National Park one was exceptional for the weather and the members from Wagga, Griffith, Narrandera and Leeton thoroughly enjoyed the day, thanks to Andrew and Ana for their wonderful hospitality – Ana for her lovely cake to begin the day with, and Andrew for his mountain goat-like agility in getting us all up and over the rocky hill into the Crown Reserve and back down for lunch.



The group could be heard a mile off chatting all the way but some of us, including me, were more intent on the climb and saving our breath to make it to the top!

Bird-wise, it wasn't all that exciting apart from the early morning around the house as we waited for everyone to arrive. We didn't mind the latecomers holding us up as the birding was very good – **Mulga Parrot, Mallee Ringneck, Red-rumps, White-browed Babblers** and **Double-barred Finch** kept us all busy looking and photographing them as they wandered about the ground in search of seed.

The “waterfall” Tia Maria was barely running but Andrew assured us that it was very spectacular a few weeks back after the rain we had. Lots of evidence of wombats were visible on the track with scats dotted along as we walked. There were also signs of goats but Andrew has been busy chasing them down and dealing with the billys in the mob.



The walkers finally got back to Andrew's hilltop oasis where Ana and a few others who didn't do the climb had already set-up for lunch. It is such a special spot looking out over the countryside in the warm sunshine.

After a very long lunch, Andrew led us down the rocky outcrops to where the wombats have burrows in under the rocks. We then moved on to where Andrew had seen **Glossy Black Cockatoos** feeding a few days before. Some of us heard one call briefly in the distance but we couldn't locate them and returned to the house for more chats and birding.

Most of us left around 3 after a very challenging walk.

Thanks again to Ana and Andrew for inviting us there for the outing.

### Bird List:

Wood Duck	Peaceful Dove	Galah
Glossy Black Cockatoo (H)	Mallee Ringneck	Red-rumped Parrot
Mulga Parrot	Welcome Swallow	Red-capped Robin
Jacky Winter	Rufous Whistler	Grey Shrike-thrush
Grey Fantail	Willie Wagtail	White-browed Babbler
Speckled Warbler	Western Gerygone	Yellow-rumped Thornbill
Inland Thornbill	Brown Treecreeper	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
White-plumed Honeyeater	Silvereye	Double-barred Finch
Diamond Firetail (H)	Magpie	Australian Raven

Max O'Sullivan



## Our Visit to Gillenbah State Forest

24 July 2021

Did this forest exist in 1750 before Cook arrived ? Of course it did.

The site of Gillenbah State Forest was probably a woodland with a shrubby understorey and with cypress pine regeneration.

In 1802 it was described as pine scrub which is likely to have been pine as a dominant species in association with box and a range of shrubby species.

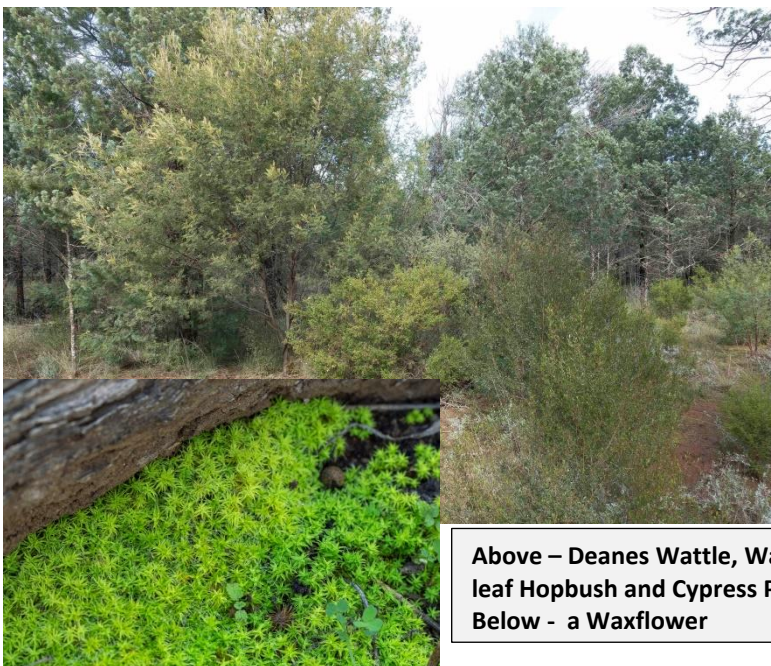
The forest has been grazed with sheep and cattle since then. The leasees were meant to control rabbits and maintain fences but maybe they didn't. Lack of regeneration because of grazing and rabbit infestation meant that Cypress Pine was a diminishing resource. Grazing changed the composition of native grasses.



The stock compacted the ground and weeds infestation occurred around water points. The myxomatosis spread in the 1950's had limited impact in these forests. It was only when 1080 began to be used together with mechanical ripping of rabbit warrens in the 1960's that regeneration occurred.

Intensive logging, destruction of shrubs (which were thought to harbour rabbits) ringbarking, mechanical and chemical destruction of box (grey, bumble and yellow box) and casuarina all considered useless timber also changed the nature of the forest.

Wildfires in the 1950's would have reduced pine regeneration. Cypress Pine will regenerate if it is not subject to a fire regime and the seedlings are allowed to grow for at least two seasons without having their heads nipped. Then it will grow like a weed.



Above – Deanes Wattle, Waxflower, Wedge-leaf Hopbush and Cypress Pine; moss (insert); Below - a Waxflower

Now Gillenbah and Buckingbong State Forests are both considered to be medium to dense pine forests with a component of box and pine regeneration with a reduced species understorey.

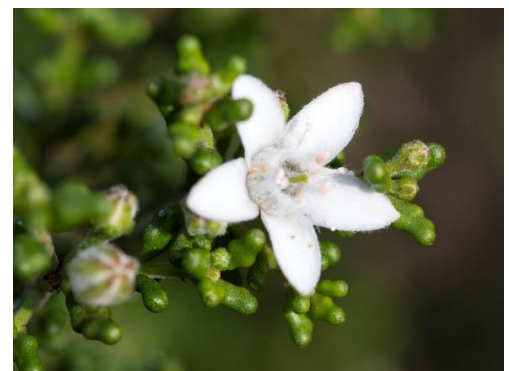
So what did we see in the western part?

We saw a cleared, weedy area around the waterpoint. There were some very tall Grey and Bumble Box. I usually see these to be Y shaped but as they would have grown up with tall Cypress they must have grown tall to compete for light. An area of Bullock (*Casuarina luemanni*) with its wheel shaped

seed pods has regenerated. The shrub understorey has also re-

generated in some parts. *Senna artemisoides* (*Zygophylla* ssp) *Acacia brachybotrya*, *hakeoides* and *deanii* are dotted around the landscape. *Philothea difformis* is regenerating well and there is more here to be seen than I have seen anywhere. A clump of *Hakea tephrosperma* has also regenerated. The Cypress Pine regeneration is very thick in parts interspersed with larger trees.

The ground layer has native grasses Wallaby Grass and Spear Grasses with a bit of Rat's tail Couch together with a lot of Common Everlasting, Creeping Saltbush and Small leafed Saltbush

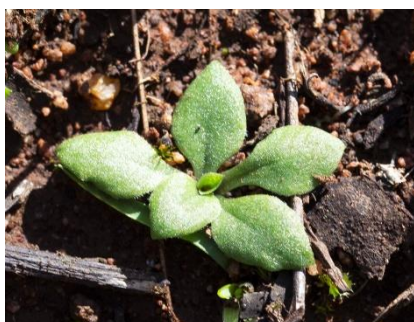




*Chenopodium microphyllum*.

This wet winter has brought out a carpet of mosses and lichens that were iridescently green.

It was a cold and windy day with sun appearing only occasionally but I have always thought that the weather is moderated by the forest. There are many forest tracks around the forest and we enjoyed the brisk walk on a cool day.



A bunch of fungi, Orchid leaves are appearing – Dwarf Greenhood (middle), Spider Orchid (right).

Many small birds appeared as the sun emerged and a Red-capped Robin and a Grey Fantail even bathed in a puddle brrrrrrrrrrrr.

**Nella Smith**

**Photos by Rowena Whiting**

Source of historic information “Forest History Project for State Forests of NSW Narrandera Study on Buckingbong, Gillenbah and Matong State Forests” 1997

[Gillenbah State Forest is located on the Newell Hwy, approx 15km south of Narrandera. Ed]

**Bird List compiled by Alan Whitehead**

- |                      |                         |                  |                          |
|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Eastern Rosella      | Pied Butcherbird        | Red-capped Robin | Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater |
| Grey-crowned Babbler | Mallee Ringneck         | Wood Duck        | White-winged Chough;     |
| Striped Honeyeater   | Weebill                 | Inland Thornbill | Grey Shrike-thrush       |
| Little Eagle         | Yellow-rumped Thornbill | Peregrine Falcon | Eastern Yellow Robin     |
| Willy Wagtail        | Brown Honeyeater        | Tree Martin      | Apostle Bird             |
| Grey Fantail.        |                         |                  |                          |

### The Pretty Patterns along the Track

During dry times bush tracks look dull and lifeless. A bit of rain shows what is really there – a host of soil crust organisms. At Gillenbah there were frequent large patches of whitish crustose lichens each individual marked with several rings of black spots. Each black spot is a sporing body of the fungus component of the lichen and a ring is often one year’s production – like growth rings. This shows how slowly they grow and that they were there all through the dry times, doing the essential job of holding the soil together. Tread lightly so as not to destroy them.

**Eric Whiting**





## MFN's outing on 1st of August to San Isidore Crown Reserve, Wagga Wagga.

We had 18 starters for a walk around the reserve yet another damp, dull and grey winters day. 15 from Wagga and 3 adventurers who braved the elements from Leeton. There were lots of flowering plants and fungi to be seen. The reserve has been used as a quarry and is quite raw and scared in places with some very stunted trees where the top layer of soil has been removed. Canny and Jim have memories of some tree planting and revegetation being done 20yrs ago. The site also was reportedly mined for gold at some stage as well.

The rain was kind and stayed away although there was



not a lot of activity in the trees in the dull light we enjoyed our walk and saw 19 bird species. There were lots of flowering plants and different fungi to keep the plantos happy. Eric excited with some of his finds.

The highlight for the birdos was a sighting of a Fan-tailed Cuckoo and a pair of Wedge-tailed Eagles in skies above. The ironbarks along the eastern boundary where busy with Red Wattlebirds and Noisy Miners.



We returned to the carpark and 6 of us stayed for lunch, enjoying the sunshine while sheltering from the wind behind the Whiting's car.

We then took the Leetonites to see Flowerdale lagoon (at the end of Scott St off Edward St West). The highlight of this walk was the sighting of a platypus and a pair of pelicans enjoying the thermals. It was nice to show our visitors one of our favourite spots and to see some improvements that have been made to the Wiradjuri walking track that runs along the lagoon.

### Bird list

- |                    |                         |                   |                  |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Fan tailed Cuckoo  | White winged Chough     | Pied Currawong    | Red Wattlebird   |
| Wedge-tailed Eagle | Flame Robin             | Noisy Miner       | Rainbow Lorikeet |
| Grey Fantail       | Pacific Black Duck      | Australian Magpie | Yellow Thornbill |
| Australian Raven   | White plumed Honeyeater | Spotted Pardalote | Willie Wagtail   |
| Magpie- lark       | Grey Shrike-thrush      | Galah             |                  |

### Janet Hume

Female Flame Robin, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, a nobbly, burly tree (Janet Hume)  
Rosemary Grevillea (right) a pea flower (Dillwynia) (far right) (Rowena Whiting)





## An unusual mushroom at San Isidore

Jonathon Swift wrote

*'So, naturalists observe, a flea  
Has smaller fleas that on him prey  
And these have smaller still to bite 'em  
And so proceed ad infinitum*

On Poetry: a Rhapsody -1733

The chain of independence does not only occur with fleas. At San Isidore we saw an old mushroom (which was probably dependent on a tree) being decomposed by a

smaller fungus.

The latter was a Pin Mould that is in the Phylum Hyphomycota – a group of much simpler fungi which are assumed to be more basic. Mushrooms are members of the Phylum Basidiomycota within the Kingdom of Fungi.

**Eric Whiting**

Mushroom with a Pin Mould – Janet Hume  
Close up of Pin Mould – Eric Whiting



---

## Paterson's Curse Biological Control

Eric led a group of us on a mid-week expedition and we visited some of the sites he did vegetation surveys at in the Cocoparras some years ago.

We started from the Spring Hill picnic area and made our way to Goat Creek which we followed uphill for a time. This was new terrain for some of us and allowed us to see the Park from a different perspective – it's not all dramatic gorges and rocky outcrops.

The very pleasant woodlands were full of birdlife and some of the more obscure flora in Eric's book like *Cymbonotus preissianus* Austral Bear's-ears and the fern *Ophioglossum lusitanicum* Austral Adder's Tongue.

Paterson's Curse was also very evident. This weed seemed to dominate the landscape last year after several seasons of drought, but it's looking like some of the biological control agents released to help control it have bred up in the good conditions and are doing their job this year.

The rosette leaves of most of this plant were perforated with holes and on closer inspection we observed tiny insects which may have been the culprits. A photograph I submitted on [iNaturalist](#) prompted the suggestion of a member of the Flea Beetle family *Longitarsus*.



Some research revealed that that indeed a flea beetle (*Longitarsus echii*) is one of the control agents used and this is probably what we were seeing. The larvae hatch in winter and begin feeding on the taproot, then as adults feed on the leaves.

Apart from this beetle, other control agents for Paterson's Curse include a moth and some weevils – one which attacks the crown, and another which works on the roots.

**Glenn Currie**

## Know your daisies – Part 7 Burr-daisies and other burrs

### Calotis

A pappus of fine hairs as seen with 'typical' daisies is an adaption for efficient seed dispersal by wind. In *Calotis* species the pappus develops wholly or partly into short sharp, often barbed, awns capable of attaching to the skin or fur of animals for dispersal.

Most *Calotis* species have white to purple ray florets in one or more series. *C. lappulacea* and *C. erinacea* however have bright yellow rays and the dwarf *C. hispidula* also has yellow rays but at c1mm long are hardly noticeable.

Identification to species is mostly from the shape of the achenes including the pattern of the awns. Leaf shape is also an important recognition feature.

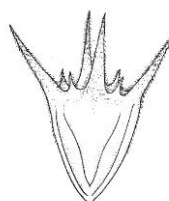
### *Calotis cuneifolia*, Purple Burr-daisy (and numerous other common names)

A widespread prostrate to erect herb with a ±woody base, septate hairy. Leaves cuneate to spatulate with margins toothed towards the apex. The white, blue or purple rays are 3-9mm long. Achenes are flattened and the pappus is 2-4 rigid awns barbed towards the apex, plus 2-4 basal scales incurved at the margins



### *Calotis scabiosifolia*, Rough Burr-daisy

Erect annual herb of riverine and heavy clay plains. Basal leaves persistent to 180mm long. Cauline leaves slightly stem-clasping to 25mm long, margins entire or toothed, and surfaces scabrid or hirsute. Ray florets white to mauve, 7-12mm long. Achenes flattened, smooth with prominent marginal ridges. Pappus of 5-6 awns 1-4mm long, often with smaller 1mm awns, all with hairy bases.



### *Calotis scapigera*, Tufted Burr-daisy

A stoloniferous small herb common in River Red Gum communities along our rivers and creeks, usually in flood-prone areas. All leaves are clustered at base, linear to lanceolate 40-400mm long, with entire to slightly toothed margins. Ray florets white to lavender, 2.5-5mm long. Achenes pyramidal but flattened, wingless. Pappus of 4-6 rigid spreading awns hairy at base.

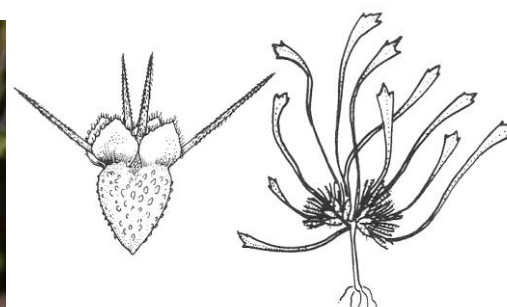


### *Calotis hispidula*, Bogan Flea

Dwarf hirsute annual herbs to 100mm high, common and widespread on heavy clays to shallow stony soils.

Leaves sessile cuneate to oblanceolate 5-20mm long, margins entire or toothed towards the apex, hirsute. Ray florets c1mm long, yellow.

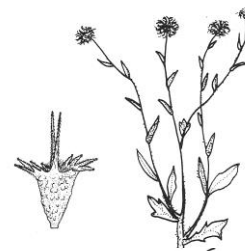
Achenes flattened, hairy, with narrow marginal ridges. Pappus of 5-6 apically barbed awns and 5-6 deeply divided finger-like scales.





### **Calotis lappulacea, Yellow Burr-daisy**

Erect perennial herbs, widespread but not commonly found throughout our region in sclerophyll woodland and in pastures. Leaves linear to oblanceolate, 5-25mm long, scabrous to pubescent, with entire to pinnatifid margins. Ray florets yellow, 2-3.5mm long. Achenes flattened, glabrous, tuberculate and wingless. Pappus of 2 erect awns 1.3-2mm long plus 4-9 shorter spreading awns



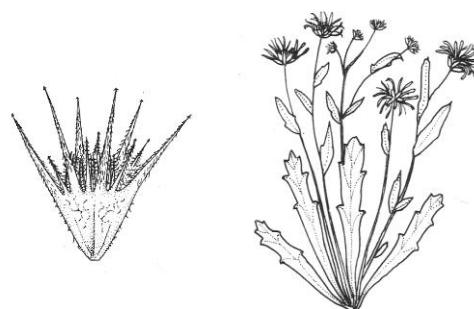
### **Calotis anthemoides, Cut-leaf Burr-daisy**

Stoloniferous perennial herbs of grasslands or generally damp depressions along rivers and creeks. In our area records are from along the Murrumbidgee River upstream from Euroley and in the Ardlethan area. Leaves in a basal rosette to 120mm long, pinnate with pinnatifid or linear segments. Ray florets white. Achenes flattened with marginal rigid wings. Pappus of 7-14 unequal rigid awns to 2mm long and conspicuous dense white-woolly hairs.



### **Calotis cuneata, Mountain Burr-daisy**

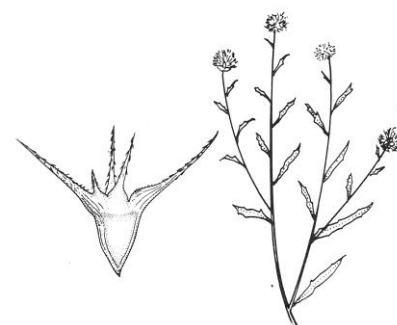
Only three records in our area that possibly be mis-labelled *C. cuneifolia*. Other records are generally north from Hillston. Stoloniferous perennial herbs with clustered, oblanceolate, coarsely toothed basal leaves 100mm long, and cuneate, toothed, c15mm long cauline leaves. Ray florets white to pale lavender. Achenes flattened with thickened margins. Pappus of 4-6 major awns plus a number of smaller ones and an inner ring of fine



plumose awns.

### **Calotis erinacea, Tangled Burr-daisy**

Only one record from near Griffith, possibly introduced from the usual locations on sandy soils in mallee from west of Tocumwal. A perennial shrubby herb with linear to oblanceolate toothed leaves, 10-60mm long. Ray florets yellow. Achenes flattened with broad marginal ridges. Pappus of 2-9 divergent awns fused at base into a collar



*Calotis* species are not the only burr forming daisy family members.

### **Bidens pilosa\*, Cobbler's Pegs**

Woody herbs to 1m high with linear to oblanceolate divided leaves, 60-120mm long with leaflets ovate to lanceolate. Achenes linear with tubercle-based barbs along ridges. Pappus of two longer barbed awns. Recorded occasionally near Griffith and at two other locations

### **Bidens subalternans\*, Greater Beggar's Pegs**

Differs from *B. pilosa* by having the leaflets linear to lanceolate, and the achenes with only a few barbs on the ridges. Only three local records from the Griffith area.

### **Xanthium**

In *Xanthium* species the burrs are formed from fused involucre bracts and achenes. The bracts have spreading hooked tips. Flowers are minute.

### **Xanthium spinosum\*, Bathurst Burr**

Annual herbs with stems armed with rigid 3-pronged spines at the base of the narrow-rhombic to lanceolate, entire to lobed leaves. Frequently found on most soil types usually in agricultural or waste ground, prolific after flooding.

### **Xanthium occidentale\*, Noogoora Burr**

Annual herbs to 2m tall with unarmed stems. Leaves broad ovate discolorous upper surface dark green with prominent purplish 3 veins. Recorded growing in low-lying flood-prone areas along rivers and creeks.

Eric Whiting

\* denotes introduced species

# MEMBERS' SIGHTINGS

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

<b>Eastern Yellow Robin</b> [2]	Livingstone National Park	26/06/21	Susan Whitehead
<b>Mistletoebird</b>	Livingstone National Park	26/06/21	Alan Whitehead
<b>White-bellied Sea-eagle</b> [2]	Wyangan South Lake to Campbell's	01/07/21	Neil Palframan
<b>Freckled Duck</b> [4]	Fivebough Wetlands-settling ponds	04/07/21	Max O'Sullivan
As at 11/07/21, the group has risen to 10, including a male with a bright red bill.			
<b>Blue-billed Duck</b> [58]	Campbell's Wetlands - very large group	06/07/21	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Pink-eared Duck</b> [44]	Campbell's Wetlands – very big flock	06/07/21	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Black Kite</b> [24]	Campbell's Wetlands – in dead trees	06/07/21	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Regent Parrot</b> [fem]	Koonadan – Peter's place -escapee?	07/07/21	Peter Draper
<b>Speckled Warbler</b> [5 families]	Binya State Forest	07/07/21	Nella Smith
<b>Brolga</b> [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	08/07/21	Keith Hutton
<b>Red-necked Avocet</b> [96]	Fivebough Wetlands	08/07/21	Keith Hutton
<b>Black Swan</b> [250+]	Fivebough Wetlands – 2 nests	08/07/21	Keith Hutton
<b>Pied Stilt</b> [150+]	Fivebough Wetlands	08/07/21	Keith Hutton
<b>Black-shouldered Kite</b> [3]	Fivebough Wetlands	08/07/21	Keith Hutton
<b>Swamp Harrier</b> [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	08/07/21	Keith Hutton
<b>Mulga Parrot</b> [pr]	'Yarrabimbi', Colinroobie Rd	10/07/21	MFN Group
<b>Magpie Goose</b> [15]	Fivebough Wetlands	10/07/21	Keith Hutton
<b>Black Swan</b> [16 nests]	Fivebough Wetlands	10/07/21	Keith Hutton
<b>Black-fronted Dotterel</b> [8]	Fivebough Wetlands	10/07/21	Keith Hutton
<b>Red-kneed Dotterel</b> [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	10/07/21	Keith Hutton
<b>Buff-banded Rail</b> [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	11/07/21	Keith Hutton
<b>Peregrine Falcon</b> [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	11/07/21	Keith Hutton
<b>Musk Duck</b>	Campbell's Wetlands	12/07/21	Sue Chittick-Dalton
<b>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater</b>	Whitton – Margaret's first record	17/07/21	Margaret Strong
<b>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</b> [9]	Whitton – some adults and some juv.	17/07/21	Margaret Strong
Margaret reports that the above species were feeding on mallow leaves infested with psyllid insects for the past 2 weeks..			
<b>Magpie Goose</b> [25]	Fivebough Wetlands	31/07/21	Keith Hutton
<b>Swamp Harrier</b> [3]	Fivebough Wetlands - displaying	31/07/21	Keith Hutton
<b>Black Swan</b> [56 nests]	Fivebough Wetlands	31/07/21	Keith Hutton
<b>Hobby</b> [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	31/07/21	Keith Hutton
<b>Kestrel</b> [4]	Fivebough Wetlands	31/07/21	Keith Hutton
<b>Brown Honeyeater</b>	Leeton Town – various sites	July	Keith Hutton
<b>Superb Parrot</b>	Leeton Town – numbers increasing	July	Keith Hutton
<b>Superb Parrot</b> [20+]	Ganmain along roadside	31/07/21	Nella Smith
<b>Glossy Black Cockatoo</b> [M,F,J]	'Yarrabimbi', Colinroobie Rd	04/08/21	Andrew Thompson
<b>Superb Parrot</b>	Sandigo	08/08/21	Nella Smith
<b>Spotted Nightjar</b>	Midgeon State Forest	08/08/21	Nella Smith
<b>Members' list from the July meeting:</b>			
<b>Blue-billed Duck</b> [3]	Campbell's Wetlands	04/07/21	Virginia Tarr
<b>Great Egret</b>	Campbell's Wetlands	04/07/21	Virginia Tarr
<b>Yellow Thornbill</b> [2]	Campbell's Wetlands	04/07/21	Virginia Tarr
<b>Superb Parrot</b> [5]	Sally St, Leeton	07/07/21	K. Lewis
<b>Gecko</b> [2]	Reservoir Lane, Leeton – in paint tin	daily	Joy E Young
<b>Kookaburra</b>	Reservoir Lane, Leeton	daily	Joy E Young

Max O'Sullivan



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

Please note all outings are subject to weather conditions.

Covid-19 restrictions need to be adhered to, for outings you must register with the nominated person by email (preferred) or phone to participate.

- 12 August Thursday**      **Monthly Meeting will be held in the Presbyterian Church Hall, 29 Sycamore St, Leeton at 7.00pm. Please note masks are required.**  
**Topic: Bats and rats: unlikely heroes in the land down under.**  
Online Webinar presentation by **Andrew Peters** - Associate Professor in Wildlife Health and Pathology, Charles Sturt University **Bats and rats: unlikely heroes in the land down under.** Everyone knows that Australia is a land of marsupials, and that these are the most ecologically important and threatened group of mammals in our southern land. But are they? Australia's skies and vast lands are dominated by two groups of unlikely locals: bats and rodents. Misunderstood by many Australians, these fascinating mammals are amongst our most important fauna, but they face unique and troubling threats.  
**Contact:** Graham or Dione Russell 0428 536 290 (Dione) or 0419 350 673 (Graham) **Email:** [murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com).
- 15 August Sunday**      **Jimberoo National Park, north of Rankin Springs.**  
**Meet at 10am at the park in Rankins Springs**  
**Bring lunch**  
**Contact:** Nella Smith to register [nellasmith0@gmail.com](mailto:nellasmith0@gmail.com) Phone 0428 890 537
- 28 August Saturday**      **Midgeon State Forest, north of Narrandera.**  
**Meet at 10am at turnoff to Kamarah on Borellan Road**  
**Bring: morning tea & lunch.**  
**Contact:** Nella Smith to register [nellasmith0@gmail.com](mailto:nellasmith0@gmail.com) Phone 0428 890 537
- 1 September Wednesday**      **Copy for the September newsletter is due. Please send to Rowena.**  
**Email:** [ericwhiting4@bigpond.com](mailto:ericwhiting4@bigpond.com). Phone: 6953 2612.
- 4 September Saturday**      **Wildflower Walk at Narrandera - Tentative**
- 5 September Sunday**      **Nature Walk at 2 locations. One-way travel approx. 100km from Wagga.**  
**1. Ulandra Nature Reserve – Black Cypress Pine and Eucalypt Forest.** Recorded sightings – Robins, Superb and Turquoise Parrots. Speckled Warbler, Double-bar Finch, Spotted Pardalote. Eulolo Woolshed and buildings.  
**2. Lake Bethungra – water birds**  
**Leader:** Melanie Baulch. Co-leader Dick Green  
**Time: 10am - 3pm, Bring:** Morning tea. Drinks/Thermos. Picnic lunch. Binoculars, water, hat, sunscreen, covered shoes, warm clothes, insect repellent, bird/plant books etc  
**Plan:** Quick coffee at **Ulandra Nature Reserve** entrance, 4kms walk, Picnic lunch.  
**Bethungra Dam.** Short chat re Bird List and planning the next field trip.  
**Directions:** Follow Olympic Highway from Wagga Wagga through Junee to just before Bethungra. Cross the Gundagai/Bethungra Road onto Mahomet's Road (gravel), it is approximately 4kms to Ulandra Reserve entrance. Car parking along narrow roadside. You are welcome to bring family and interested friends.  
**It's Father's Day so bring your Dad along!**  
MFN Membership forms will be available.  
**RSVP 28 August 2021 (due to Covid-19 rules you must register.)**  
**Contact:** Melanie E: [melaniebaulch@bigpond.com](mailto:melaniebaulch@bigpond.com) (email preferred) P: 0428914702

**9 September Thursday**      **Monthly Meeting will be held in the Presbyterian Church Hall, 29 Sycamore St, Leeton at 7.00pm. Please note masks are required.**  
**Topic:**  
**Contact:** Graham or Dione Russell 0428 536 290 (Dione) or 0419 350 673 (Graham) **Email:** [murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com).

**12 September Sunday**      **Wildflower Walk at Scenic Hill - Tentative**

### Other events

**Swift Parrot Surveys - contact birdlife website for methodology and sites.**

Round 2- **Saturday 17 July to Sunday 29 August 2021** (a 6-week period approximately centred around the traditional 1st weekend in August)

**19 August Thursday**      **Catchment Keepers - Meeting at Narrandera Ex-Serviceman's Club.**  
Murrumbidgee women sharing stories and actions that empower and sustain us as custodians and farmers.  
Time: 9am - 5pm. Morning tea and lunch provided. Covid safe rules apply.  
RSVP essential for this free event. [www.mli.org.au/catchment-keepers](http://www.mli.org.au/catchment-keepers)  
FOR MORE INFO: Kathy Tenison 0428 396 826 or [bidgeeirrigation@mli.org.au](mailto:bidgeeirrigation@mli.org.au)

**22-24 October**      **Ballarat, Victoria** South East Australian Naturalists' Association Camp (SEANA) Camp, to be hosted by the Field Naturalists' Club of Ballarat  
An opportunity to meet fellow field naturalists and explore

**NOTE: Narrandera Annual Koala Count is cancelled due to wet conditions in the Flora and fauna Reserve.**

---

### Members' Images



Clockwise from top left:  
Superb Fairy-Wren at Fivebough Wetlands – Phil Tenison  
*Acianthus collinus* orchid at Murraguldrie State Forest – Melanie Baulch  
Barn Owl at Tatton, Wagga Wagga – Janet Hume  
A Jelly Fungus at Gillenbah State Forest – Rowena Whiting