

# The Murrumbidgee Naturalist



August 2022 - Issue #306

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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



## A Taste of Jimberoo

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### Photo credits:

Background: groundcover, grasses, woodland  
Cypress Pines Rowena Whiting

Clockwise from top left - *Grevillea floribunda*,  
Mistletoebird, A fruiting moss, Ragged Snake-  
eyed Skink, Fungi - Graham Russell

### CONTRIBUTIONS

For the September 2022 issue by  
Wednesday 31 August

To Rowena Whiting

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## 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 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.

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## Welcome to the August issue

Signs of Spring are emerging though the sun is still elusive; what a cold, gloomy Winter this has been. Serves to make us appreciate the nice days!

Last month's meeting was a double dose of fungi. First Rowena giving a short presentation of their important role in the ecosystem along with the various types; This was followed by Graham showing images from a couple walks he & Dionee did in the Western Tiers area of Tasmania. The Meander Falls and Higg Track; both were full days in wet conditions and they found lots of interesting fungi. For 'show and tell' Alan had a good specimen of a lovely butterfly which he has researched and written about for the newsletter.

This is just one of a variety of articles in this issue. Eric has featured more daisies. Joanne Connelly has submitted a report on her research on koalas in Narrandera with a detailed description of them as well as her research. They have ear-tagged 10 koalas, each with a different colour so they are able to record their movements: so if you see one make a note of the colour of its tag and precise location. Neal Palframan has written an intriguing account of his endeavours to identify a millipede. And then there are the usual activity reports, sightings and coming events.

Enjoy the read.

**Rowena.**

### A few items of interest....

If you would like to vote for your **favourite native tree** the ABC have a competition to celebrate **National Science Week (August 13-21)**. However there are only 33 on their list to choose from.

The link is <https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2022-07-29/vote-for-your-favourite-australian-native-tree/101210764>

**Also in the ABC Science section is a Mallefowl story** – a twice-widowed Mallefowl finds a new mate. I found this in the Far South Coast Birds newsletter (July/Aug 2022)

The link is <https://search-beta.abc.net.au/index.html?siteTitle=news#/?query=malleefowl&page=1>

If you missed the Meeting the Penguins' with Dr Ann Jones you can find it on ABC Iview.

<https://iview.abc.net.au/video/DC2102H001S00>

## Jimberoo National Park (Nthn Arm Track), Rankin's Spring - 17 July 2022

We started our 7km walk from the northern end of the track in this section of the park and headed south. The dominant trees there are *Eucalyptus populnea* (**Bimble Box**), *Eucalyptus microcarpa* (**Grey Box**), *Callitris glaucophylla* (**White Cypress Pine**), *Eucalyptus sideroxylon* (**Mugga Ironbark**), *Eucalyptus dwyeri* (**Dwyer's Mallee Gum**) and *Acacia doratoxylon* (**Currawang**).

The first shrub to draw our attention was *Acacia paradoxa* (**Hedge Wattle**) with a few blossoms, which we saw in patches all along the track. Another shrub we saw frequently was *Acacia deanei* (**Deane's Wattle**), also *Melichrus urceolatus* (**Urn Heath**) in full flower.

A little further along, and a few metres off the track, was a **Mugga Ironbark** covered in blossom but oddly no honeyeater or any other bird near it. We were serenaded by several **Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater** and **Little Ravens** for quite a distance further along the track as we passed through a grove of **White Cypress**. Here we watched **Brown Tree Creepers** working their way up the trees. Some of us heard, then others saw, two **Glossy-black Cockatoos** being chased by a **Wedge-tailed Eagle** above the trees. We also saw *Casuarina verticillata* (**Drooping She-oak**), being the food plant of the Glossies, occasionally along the track.

Off-track from a dam we stopped at, Eric was delighted to see *Ophioglossum lusitanicum* (**Adder's Tongue Fern**) leaves which were in relatively large numbers in this damp sheltered place. *Cymbonotus preissianus*



(**Australian Bear's Ear**) also grew here and in other sheltered places further along the main track, being quite a feature. With this year's damp winter conditions a variety of **mosses** were also growing in many places, providing a colourful and fascinating display.

Birds were heard more than seen on the day which means that we clearly identified some and not others, depending on the stands of trees crowding the edges of the track. **Striated Pardalotes**, **Apostlebirds**, **Jacky Winter**, **White-plumed Honeyeater** and **Grey Shrike-thrush** were easily recognized. **Eastern Yellow Robin** were spotted, spotting us, in their typical posture on a tree trunk several times.

Plants, especially shrubs, were the outstanding feature of this walk. *Grevillea floribunda* (**Rusty Spider-flower**) were in large numbers, considering their rarity in our region. We walked through an avenue of them, large and flowering as if in a wonderland, interspersed with *Hibbertia sericea* (**Silky Guinea Flower**), *Astroloma humifusum* (**Cranberry Heath**), *Cryptandra amara* (**Bitter/Pretty Cryptandra**) and *Leptospermum divaricatum* (**Hill Tea-tree**) as the track gradually headed down the stony ridge. We noticed *Pterostylis nana* (**Dwarf Greenhood**) here, then *Platysace lanceolata* (**Shrubby Platysace**) also in flower.

Photos, clockwise from top: Urn Heath – Eric Whiting; Vegetation around the dam – Rowena Whiting, Jacky Winter Graham Russell, Adder's Tongue leaf – Eric Whiting





*Grevillea floribunda* – Eric Whiting



*Cryptandra amara* – Eric Whiting

A stand of *Eutaxia microphylla* (**Mallee Bush Pea**), starting to flower, was a lovely surprise under unnamed eucalypts towards the end of our walk. As we rested at the southern end of this section of Jimberoo, we noticed a huge and beautifully shaped *Eucalyptus conica* (**Fuzzy/Apple Box**) which is at the southern edge of its NSW range there.

**Bluebonnets, Red-rumped Parrots, Galahs and Australian Magpies** were heard and seen while we prepared to leave the park. This was done in two stages to complete a clever car-shuffle that Glenn had devised so that we needn't walk back 7kms to our cars.



**Fuzzy Box** - Rowena Whiting

While the drivers were transported by Glen to get their cars, the passengers walked back to the nearby Lake Cargelligo Rd, seeing **Emus** on the way. Just as the drivers arrived with their cars, the waiting group spotted three **Mistletoebirds** in a low bush. The mature male put on a rare show with his glossy blue and red colours on clear display for several minutes.

Thanks to Glenn for organising this outing, for Eric sharing his plant knowledge and many others for bird ID.

**Margaret Strong**

## Rankin's Springs Hotel Relic

North of present day Rankin's Springs, by about 8kms, is the relic of the original Rankin's Springs Hotel complex. The southern access to Jimberoo National Park is sign-posted at the spot where drivers can see the hotel relic as the Lake Cargelligo road takes a sharp, long bend east.



The original hotel, Post Office (Receiving only) and store was a stopping place along what became known as the Whitton Stock Route from 1883. Mail for Rankin's Springs was brought by coach from Whitton Railway Station on route to Lake Cargelligo and back twice weekly between 1887 and 1917. Supplies for the store also came from Whitton during that era, either by coach or carrier.

A branch railway line from Barmedman was constructed at present the day Rankin's Springs town site, due to preferable geology, so the original settlement moved and retained its name despite that water source being in the vicinity of the hotel relic.

**Margaret Strong**

Historical information from NSW Govt Gazettes, Whitton Museum records, NSWrail.net, Wikipedia.

## Hail the Emperor

To paraphrase Forrest Gump, a walk in the Narrandera Wetlands “is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're gonna get.”

And “get” I did. On a recent ramble 'round the Wetlands I found a beautiful Tailed Emperor butterfly. It must have just drifted down to the ground to expire shortly before I arrived, as there was no predation by ants or others. In fact the lovely creature was almost intact.

This is perhaps not an especially remarkable find in the technicolour world of lepidoptery, but it would have been in, say, the 1960s.

The Tailed Emperor is a compelling example of the relentless southward march of global warming. Prior to the mid-1970s, these butterflies were essentially tropical, being distributed in a wide arc from the south-west Pacific right down the subtropical east coast of Australia.

In the last five decades, however, on the ever-warming wings of climate change they have extended their range all the way down to the south of the continent, even as far as Adelaide.

Even with this extensive latitudinal range, they are still relatively uncommon; so finding one in Narrandera is a rare event indeed. Even more so as they prefer the more food-abundant and elevated habitat of the Great Dividing Range, and eastward.

The remarkable climatic migration of this large butterfly may have been aided by being almost Olympian in its flight speed; assisted, no doubt by its impressive wing aerodynamics. Even the twin tails are thought to assist in its flight mastery. They are truly denizens of the wind and the heights, loving hilltops and treetops above all else.

And large it is, by Australian butterfly standards at least, with males of 83mm wing span and females at 93mm. My award-winning Emperor of the Winds was a full 115mm!

Like many of its illustrious peers, the Tailed Emperor hides its light under a bushel; in this case the “light” being the undersides of its wings. The wing tops of course are very pretty, black patches with white spots on a white ground (with pale green tints). The distinctive twin tails are mainly black. The undersides, however, are a palette of soft, moth-like fawns and greys, in intricate symmetrical patterns, a veritable arthropodian Rorschach test. This is accessorised by subtle gold and russet adornments on the trailing edges. Two-sided wings of completely different patterns – what a triumph of design.

The caterpillars are large and green, with distinctive yellow blazes. They also have four imposing horns, reminiscent of a Chinese dragon. Quite spectacular, really.

The Tailed Emperor butterfly has a fairly wide diet, but seems to favour acacias and other natives, such as the brachychitons – Bottle Tree; Illawarra Flame; Kurrajong and others. They are also fond of a wide range of delicacies from the home garden and orchard, like figs and Poinciana.

Curiously, a favourite food tree is the Chinese Elm – Chinese? Like attracting like, apparently! Coincidentally, there are two mature Chinese Elms in the Wetlands!

In Butterfly World, the Tailed Emperor is regarded as omnivorous. As well as flowers, they like to feed on the sugars of rotting fruit, sap and the like.

So how did this aerial wonder arrive in outback Narrandera? It certainly wouldn't have happened in the 1960s.

### Alan Whitehead

[You may remember this butterfly featured in our April issue & then with its correct name in May, a dead specimen found in Leeton. Ed]



## Koalas in General and News of the Narrandera Koala Population



The word koala is thought to be derived from the Dharung language of the greater Sydney region, meaning 'no drink'. Most of their water requirements was obtained from *Eucalyptus* leaves, but increasingly koalas have been seen drinking water to survive heatwaves and bushfires. The scientific name for the koala is *Phascolarctos cinereus* which means 'ash-coloured pouched bear', although they are marsupials, not bears. The most notable feature of marsupials is that they are born in an underdeveloped state (kidney-bean sized, naked, with undersized hindlimbs and tail) and further develop in a pouch.

Koalas are tree-dwelling (arboreal), medium-sized marsupials (4-15kg adults; southern populations larger with longer fur), with virtually no tail. Males are 50% larger than females, have a squarer head and a scent gland on their chest. The koala has long, powerful limbs and curved claws adapted for climbing. They only come down to the ground to move between trees or to seek shade. They are capable of running with a bounding gait and can swim. Their hands have two opposable thumbs and fingerprints, and their big toe is opposable and has no claw. The koala is solitary (except for a mother with joey) and koalas communicate by males scent marking trees and vocalisations (males bellow, females not wanting a male's attention can squark, and joeys separated from their mother squeak). The koala maintains its body temperature of 35.4 – 36.8°C, by stretching out and panting on hot days, curl up in cool days with their backs to the wind and the rain. Eucalypt leaves are difficult to digest, low in nutrients and contain deterrents. As a result, koalas have quite a reputation as fussy eaters, sniffing the foliage before deciding to eat. The koala is a hindgut fermenter, with an enormous caecum (appendix-equivalent) and the slowest rate of food passage of any marsupial allowing it to maximise nutrition. They are most active at night (nocturnal) and sleep up to 20 hours a day to save their energy reserves.



Koala breeding occurs in summer, pregnancy is about 35 days, and single young (joey) weighing less than a gram at birth remains in the pouch

suckling for seven months. The koala has a backward opening pouch (odd for animal climbing trees or sitting in an upright position), as does the wombat, the koalas closest relative. Weaning starts around six months, with the joey pap feeding (ingesting soft faeces from its mum to seed the gut with good microorganisms for gumleaf digestion. After leaving the pouch the joey rides on its mother's back, till fully weaned at twelve months. The young usually disperse away from the area where it was born by 18 months of age. Koalas become sexually mature at about two years, but males usually do not get an opportunity until they have established their own range. Koalas live an average of 10-12 years, but may live as long as 18 years.

**Mathieson's garden koala - Joanne Connolly**  
**Koala scats – Joanne Connolly**  
**Joanne releasing koala into its original tree.**  
**Note sky blue left eartag on left ear for male**  
**(Credit: Tim Scanlon)**



Koalas are distributed across the eastern states of Australia, they are more numerous in coastal regions but occur in the drier woodlands, adjacent major rivers. Recently, koala populations in New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory and Queensland have been listed as endangered. Prior to koalas being protected by law, their populations declined due to hunting for the fur trade. Nowadays the most common reasons for koala declines are habitat loss, dog attack, road death, and disease such as chlamydiosis, with the effects of inbreeding compounding problems in small populations.

After no koalas had been seen around Narrandera for decades, koalas were reintroduced to the Narrandera Nature Reserve (locally known as the koala reserve), now part of the Murrumbidgee Valley National Park, in the 1970s. Four koalas were translocated from northern NSW in 1972, ten koalas from French Island VIC in 1974 and unsubstantiated reports of another five koalas being released into the reserve (Parsons 1990). The introduced koalas appeared to have thrived on the predominantly river redgum diet, their numbers increased from 19 to an estimated 200, with koalas spreading into the Narrandera Commons and beyond. Since 1988, volunteers and NPWS Officers have monitored the koala population through annual Koala Spotting Days, with koalas being sighted from Darlington Point to Grong Grong. Anecdotally, the Narrandera koalas are thought to be free of Chlamydial infection. Up until now, there is no baseline data on the population dynamics, home range, habits or health or genetic diversity of the Narrandera koalas or the quality of the habitat and threats to this population.

The inaugural research of the Narrandera koala population began 26-29 June 2022, assessing the health and genetics of the population. A newly formed koala team from the Biodiversity & Ecological Health Branch of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service headed by Rachel Labrador and Olivia Kemp, with Joanne Connolly from Charles Sturt University located koalas in Narrandera Common, Narrandera Nature Reserve and the Narrandera Regional Park (part of the Murrumbidgee Valley National Park, the largest river red gum sanctuary in the world). Animal ethics was approved, a professional koala catcher enlisted, koala samples were obtained, and koalas were microchipped and ear tagged before being released where it was caught. Samples are currently being analysed at the



**Narrandera koala research in action. (Credit: Tim Johnson) Left-to-right: Joanne Connolly, Aditi Sriram, Rachel Labrador}. Koala with tag in right ear (female) – Joanne Connolly**



Koala Health Hub, the Wildlife Genomics Group at the University of Sydney, and Charles Sturt University.

While we await the outcome of the genetics and health survey of the Narrandera koala population and any resulting koala management decisions, a simple and scientifically valuable contribution involves the reporting of sightings of koalas in Narrandera. Communication to raise awareness and encouraging public involvement in reporting sightings of tagged koalas and sightings of koalas further afield than the

initial investigation could value-add to this research and encourage a feeling of community responsibility for the Narrandera koalas.

### **Joanne Connolly**

Joanne Connolly from Charles Sturt University (CSU) completed a PhD on infectious diseases of the koala and the platypus in 2000 in Sydney and was involved in the Narrandera Koala Counts until COVID prevented them. The NSW Koala Research Plan (2019-2028) states “there is a need to know more about koalas, effective mitigation of threats, and the social and economic opportunities for successful implementation of

koala recovery strategies". The koala knowledge base is incomplete and needs to be continually updated, especially as koalas react to a changing environment.

Discussions between CSU academics (Joanne, Hayley Stannard and Geoff Dutton), Nella Smith from Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists, Lindsay Hayes from Numeralla Wildlife Care, NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service, and Narrandera Shire Council took place in 2021-2022 regarding the local koalas. Plans to study the Narrandera koalas to address the gap in our knowledge of this prioritised population were made and funding sought following the release of the NSW Koala Strategy 2022.

#### References:

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([http://prijipati.library.usyd.edu.au/bitstream/2123/8428/1/CONNOLLY\\_2000\\_PhD\\_Thesis.pdf](http://prijipati.library.usyd.edu.au/bitstream/2123/8428/1/CONNOLLY_2000_PhD_Thesis.pdf))

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## NATIONAL TREE DAY 2022

Several Field Nats helped Narrandera Landcare with their National Tree Day community planting morning at Narrandera Wetlands on 31<sup>st</sup> July. We were pleasantly surprised by the turnout of people given the weather on the day.

Around 600 Eucalyptus, Acacias, Hopbushes, grasses and forbs were planted. We propagated the seedlings ourselves again this year with help from a Landcare Australia Michael King Nursery grant. The grant also allowed us to grow 1000 Drooping She-oaks (*Allocasuarina verticillata*) which we gave away to many interested landholders, to raise awareness of Glossy Black Cockatoos and threatened species in general.

Local schools also helped with planting in the lead up to National Tree Day. We took the opportunity to talk about biodiversity, habitat and threatened species with them. The school kids always plant with tremendous enthusiasm which is great to see!

Our Landcare group would like to thank Landcare Australia, everyone who came along on the day or helped in the propagation and preparation, Leeton Toyota for their tremendous support and Peter Cirillo of Narrandera Pizzeria who donated so many pizzas to feed our volunteers afterwards! It was great being able to reward our volunteers with lunch for their efforts.

**Glenn Currie**



Photos curtesy Sarah Taylor (Leeton Toyota) above and below right, Below left Rowena Whiting



**Know your daisies, Part 15 Dwarf plants** 2. Plants with flowerheads sessile on prostrate stems and achenes with pungent awns, terminal on erect stems.

Heads sessile, axillary on prostrate branches; achenes with pungent awns (persistent styles).

***Soliva anthemoides*\*, Dwarf Jo-jo**

Annual weed of lawns and playing fields, initially stemless, eventually with ±prostrate stems <55mm long. Leaves basal and in clusters, 1-2x pinnatisect, 15-50mm long, sparsely hairy, sheathing basally. Flowerheads solitary in central leaf clusters. Achenes armed with thickened, pungent pointed persistent style, wingless but laterally thickened.

***Soliva sessilis*\*, Jo-jo**

Annual weed of lawns and playing fields. Similar to above except stems rooting at nodes Flowerheads at the base of each leaf cluster, and achenes with scarious wings, auriculate at base and with 2 acuminate lobes at apex.

***Soliva stolonifera*\*, Carpet Jo-jo**

Annual herb recorded in depressions and damp areas, often on red brown earths. Similar to *S. anthemoides* except stems rooting at nodes, flowerheads at the base of each leaf cluster and achenes strongly transversely corrugated and with wings expanded into 2 small points at apex. Heads terminal on erect stems.

***Triptilodiscus pygmaeus*, Common Sunray**

Plants often branched at base, erect. Recorded in scrub and woodland, often on hard red soils. Leaves linear to oblong, flat, to 20mm long, 4mm wide. Flowerheads subtended by leaves, subglobose. Outer florets curve outwards. Involucral bracts scarious, ciliate, inner cartilaginous, boat-shaped and glandular pubescent.



***Hyalosperma demissum*, Moss Sunray**

Plants much branched, 5-20mm high, sparsely hairy to glabrous. Recorded in woodland on shallow soils in exposed situations. Leaves linear-triquetrous, c5mm long, c0.2mm wide, acuminate; involucral bracts pale green to straw-coloured, glossy.



***Rhodanthe pygmaea*, Pigmy Sunray**

Plants branching at base. Recorded in wide range of communities, most abundant on heavy soils in open seasonally wet areas. Leaves linear-triquetrous, 5-10mm long, c0.3mm wide. Flowerheads sessile, solitary or clustered, narrow ellipsoidal, c7mm long. Involucral bracts hyaline to pale brown, glabrous, innermost often with a short white lamina c1mm long.



***Stuartina muelleri*, Spoon Cudweed**

Stems prostrate to ascending, softly white-woolly. Recorded in grassland, woodland and sclerophyll forest and on rocky hillsides. Leaves spatulate, circular or broad-ovate, margins entire and undulate, upper surface green, lower surface densely white-woolly, on dilated and stem-clasping petioles 3-18mm long. Flowerheads terminal and axillary, globose, in clusters of 6-20.

Top: Common Sunray  
Above: Pigmy Sunray  
Left: Spoon Cudweed

### **Stuartina hamata, Hooked Cudweed**

Similar to above except involucre bracts yellowish, woolly, the inner successively longer and glabrous and the apex tapering to a rigid awn. Recorded in mallee, dry sclerophyll forest and on rocky hillsides.

### **Gnaphalium indutum, Tiny Cudweed (syn Toxanthes)**

Stems pubescent. Leaves oblong to linear, 5-15mm long, 1-2mm wide, acute, entire, both surfaces grey-woolly. Flowerheads in dense or loose clusters subtended by 3-5 leafy bracts. Involucre bracts linear, acute to obtuse, scarious, pale brown, outer loosely woolly at base. Recorded from periodically wet ground, apparently not common.

**Eric Whiting**

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## **Discovering Millipedes**

I came across this critter, enticed from cover after the rain storm and thought to get an id. It is a millipede, a group of arthropods that are characterised by having two pairs of jointed legs on most body segments, hence class Diplopoda, while centipedes have one pair of legs on each segment.

I next discovered that there is more info online from pest companies about killing them than describing them, for example, "How to Get Rid of Millipedes and Everything Else You Need to Know". I was unable to get an id, the only example I found online



was from near Brisbane, labelled Polydesmid with a ?, and a comment "I've looked at a billion images and I'm still no closer to ID-ing this critter." The Polydesmid order is described as having wing-like projections, giving them a hairy, flattened appearance which this critter does not have.

Australia is home to over 2000 millipede species, with many preferring the cover of night to feed on moss and moist leaf litter. Worldwide there are approximately 12,000 named species, while estimates of the true number of species range from 15,000 to as high as 80,000.

Most millipedes are slow-moving detritivores, eating decaying leaves and other dead plant matter, living in the leaf litter and scavenging on almost anything, including waste or rotting material. In contrast centipedes tend to be faster moving venomous hunters.

Some millipedes are considered household pests, including the small black *Ommatoiulus moreleti* (Portuguese millipede) which is not found in our region but is common further south, invading houses and gardens. In 2002, the Melbourne to Ballarat railway was closed due to millions of dead millipedes oiling up the tracks.

**Neil Palframan**

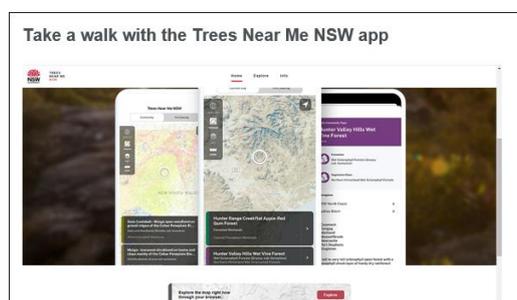
Info thanks to Wikipedia, Australian Museum, Project Noah, Backyard Buddies

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## **Trees Near Me NSW offers an innovative way to explore the native vegetation around you.**

The Trees Near Me NSW app is a project of the Department of Planning and Environment which allows the user to discover what plants are growing now, and what used to grow, throughout the state.

Built for landholders, conservationists, land managers and anyone with an interest in NSW flora, the Trees Near Me NSW app provides a simple to use way to learn about which plants are growing anywhere in NSW.



It is a newly released app and website which draws on the extensive vegetation classification and mapping available from the [Bionet](#) database. It lets you explore all of Plant Community Types (PCTs) across New South Wales, Australia. You can even go back in time to find out the plants that were in your neighbourhood before they were cleared.

Trees Near Me NSW app is free to download from Google Play and Apple app store. It is also available as a website at [treesnearme.app](http://treesnearme.app).

## MEMBERS' SIGHTINGS

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

<b>Pink Cockatoo</b> [30+]	'Mountain Dam' Leeton	26/06/22	Dionee & Graham Russell
<b>White-breasted Woodswallow</b>	Flowerdale Lagoon, Wagga	02/07/22	Sarah Danckert
<b>Red-necked Avocet</b> [34]	Fivebough Wetlands	03/07/22	Keith Hutton
<b>Double-barred Finch</b> [12]	Brucedale, Wagga	07/07/22	Jo Roberts
<b>Grey Fantail</b> [4]	Brucedale, Wagga	07/07/22	Jo and Jason
<b>Rufous Songlark</b> [1]	Brucedale, Wagga	07/07/22	Jo Roberts
<b>Black Swan</b> [100+]	Narrandera Wetlands	07/07/22	Alan Whitehead
<b>Tailed Emperor Butterfly</b>	Narrandera Wetlands	07/07/22	Alan Whitehead
<b>Brolga</b> [3]	Fivebough Wetlands	08/07/22	Anne Lepper
<b>Black Kite</b> [50+]	Leeton Waste Disposal Depot	09/07/22	Keith Hutton
<b>Tawny Frogmouth</b>	Flowerdale Lagoon Wagga	09/07/22	Sarah Danckert
<b>Yellow Rosella</b> [2]	Narrandera Wetlands	11/07/22	Susan Whitehead
<b>Rakali</b>	Narrandera Wetlands	12/07/22	Alan Whitehead
<b>Grey Shrike-Thrush</b> [2]	Pendula St - 1 <sup>st</sup> record for my backyard	14/07/22	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Black-faced Woodswallow</b> [10]	Oolambeyan National Park	14/07/22	Margaret Strong
<b>White-winged Fairy Wren</b> [2]	Oolambeyan National Park	14/07/22	Margaret Strong
<b>White-fronted Chat</b> [numerous]	Oolambeyan National Park	14/07/22	Margaret Strong
<b>Grey-crowned Babblers</b>	Oolambeyan National Park	14/07/22	Margaret Strong
Individuals and family groups			
<b>Exocarpus aphyllus (Currant Bush)</b>	Oolambeyan National Park	14/07/22	Margaret Strong
- numerous young shrubs			
<b>Senna circinnata (Spring-pod Senna)</b>	Oolambeyan National Park	14/07/22	Margaret Strong
- two big old shrubs			
<b>Sacred Kingfisher</b>	Flowerdale Lagoon, Wagga	16/07/22	Sarah Danckert
<b>Swans with cygnets</b>	Fivebough - 3 families with 19 cygnets	16/07/22	Anne Lepper
On 17/07/22 the swan with the nest right in front of the first viewing platform showed signs of hatching her clutch and on 18 <sup>th</sup> Anne photographed the nest with 5 cygnets ready to face the world!			
<b>Hobby</b> [2]	Nericon	17/07/22	Neil Palframan
<b>Mistletoebird</b> [3]	Jimberoo National Park	17/07/22	MFN outing
<b>Glossy Black Cockatoo</b> [2]	Jimberoo National Park – in flight	17/07/22	MFN outing
<b>Pied Currawong</b>	'Mountain Dam', Leeton	20/07/22	Dionee & Graham Russell
<b>Spotted Harrier</b>	Whitton	20/07/22	Keith Hutton
<b>European Goldfinch</b> [9]	Leeton Library car park	21/07/22	Margaret Strong
<b>Olive-backed Oriole</b>	Pendula St, Leeton – in my backyard	22/07/22	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Black-shouldered Kite</b> [pr]	Marrambiddy Lagoon, Wagga	27/07/22	Sarah Danckert
<b>Superb Parrot</b> [12]	Pendula St -low flyover	28/07/22	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Collared Sparrowhawk</b>	Springvale Swamp via Wagga	29/07/22	Sarah Danckert
<b>Brolga</b> [7]	Fivebough Wetlands	29/07/22	Paul Maytom
<b>Masked Lapwing</b> [+2chicks]	Catalpa Rd, Leeton	30/07/22	Keith Hutton
<b>Peregrine Falcon</b> [pr]	Galore Hill Reserve	30/07/22	Sarah Danckert
<b>Speckled Warbler</b>	Galore Hill Reserve	30/07/22	Sarah Danckert
<b>Superb Parrot</b> [23]	Fivebough, Petersham Rd Carpark	31/07/22	Keith Hutton

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

Please note all outings are subject to weather conditions.

Any Covid-19 restrictions need to be adhered to, for outings you must register with the nominated person by email (preferred) or phone to participate. Please consider others and do not attend if feeling sick or if you have been a close contact in the week beforehand.

- 11 August Thursday**      **Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7pm.  
**Topic: John Oxley and Alan Cunningham in the Cocoparras**  
**Presenter: Eric Whiting**  
**Bring along your Show & Tell**  
**Contact:** Dione Russell 0428 536 290  
**Email:** [murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com)
- 14 August Sunday**      **Outing to Cocoparra Ranges – a walk up Mt Caley**  
**We will also be monitoring the Pomaderris**  
**Meet at the Spring Hill Picnic Ground at 9am**  
Bring morning tea (to carry) and lunch  
**Contact/leader: Margrit Martin / Eric Whiting**  
**Please register with Margrit**  
Phone: 0468 342 802 Email: [tirgram.nitram@gmail.com](mailto:tirgram.nitram@gmail.com)
- 27 August Saturday**      **Narrandera Landcare's 2022 Spring Wildflower Walk**  
**At 2pm. To register email** [narranderalandcare@gmail.com](mailto:narranderalandcare@gmail.com)
- 31 August 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 Sunday**      **Field trip to Galore Hill - Woodland flora & birds, Flowering Botanicals & Honeyeaters + Peregrine Falcons.**  
**Meet at the western entrance at 9:30am. Bring lunch for the summit.**  
**Leader: Sarah Danckert 0427276306**  
**RSVP: 1 September** [spdanckert@gmail.com](mailto:spdanckert@gmail.com)
- 8 September Thursday**      **Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7pm.  
**Topic: To be decided**  
**Contact:** Dione Russell 0428 536 290  
**Email:** [murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com)
- 10 September Saturday**      **Outing to Taleeban Mining Reserve**  
This is mallee country so another opportunity to see some of the wildflowers featured in this newsletter. A glimpse of the Shy Heath-wren is a possibility.  
**Bring:** morning tea and lunch.  
**Register with Dione Russell** [murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com), phone 0428 536290, she will give you details for the day.
- 18 September**      **Annual Koala count at the Flora and Fauna Reserve, Narrandera**  
**Contact: Nella Smith** Email: [nellasmith0@gmail.com](mailto:nellasmith0@gmail.com) Phone 0428 890 537

## OTHER EVENTS

- 17 September Saturday**      **Koala Festival at Narrandera**  
For more information, contact the Narrandera Visitor Information Centre.