

# The Murrumbidgee Naturalist



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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



**Chestnut-rumped Thornbill**  
Phillip Williams

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## CONTRIBUTIONS

For the June 2023 issue by  
Wednesday 31 May

To Rowena Whiting

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Phone: 6953 2612

**"Anyone who has never made  
a mistake has never tried  
anything new."**

— Albert Einstein

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

<b>President:</b>	Eric Whiting	6953 2612	<b>Editor:</b>	Rowena Whiting	0429 726 120
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<b>Treasurer:</b>	Glenn Currie	0488 563 321		Kathy Tenison	0439 596 093

**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:

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

**Bank details for direct deposit:** BSB 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 the May issue

I'm afraid this is a hastily put together issue over a day at home between 2 short spells away.

Some interesting items were shown at last month's meeting, a video of processionary caterpillars, images of birds at Fivebough and books Penny is reading about the workings of some of the organisations involved with Murray-Darling Basin. A number of people have contributed about our outing to the Yenda Flora and Fauna Park. It was the first time the club had visited and despite the inclement weather found plenty 'to capture our interest.

This month's activities are still to be confirmed. If you have any suggestions for topics at meetings or places to visit please come forward and contact Eric, Dionee or any of the office bearers.

**Rowena.**

Below: Fivebough Wetlands from Hooey lookout towards Brobenah Road  
- Rowena Whiting

Right: Hot air balloon over Fivebough Wetlands  
- Paul Maytom



## Visit to Yenda Flora & Fauna Park - - 15 April 2023

The first stop on our April outing was a visit to the Yenda Flora & Fauna Park to be followed by a visit to Anderson Lane north of Beelbangera. I doubt there was any expectation that we would spend any length of time on a Crown Reserve of just 16.37ha in the Village of Yenda, however our group of 8, managed to fill the time in comfortably.

The Yenda Flora & Fauna Park is managed by Griffith City Council on behalf of Department of Planning & Environment (DPE) – Crown Lands, for the purpose of ‘Environmental Protection’ fitting with Council’s zoning of the land as Environmental Conservation. Over decades, there have been proposals to utilise this land for the growing of grape cuttings, further residential development and most recently, the extension of the Yenda Golf Course to provide for 18 holes. Thankfully, none of these proposals were permitted by either the Department or Council.



Management might be an operative word as this unique little parcel sits next to Wade Park, Yenda (think of Yenda Blueheelers home ground and the Yenda Golf Course); and Council’s Yenda Depot site used as a stockpile area, and appears to simply exist. To the north is Schwab Road and to its south is M1’s drainage

reserve and Beelbangera Road, perhaps a good thing as it restricts access.



The area is unique in providing a small parcel of remnant vegetation in between Scenic Hill and the Cocoparra Ranges/Binya State Forest, reflective of pre-settlement and irrigation. Eric’s consideration of unique relates to the co-existence of Black Box (*Eucalyptus largiflorens*) and Yarran (*Acacia homalophylla*) growing together on what is considered a re-charge area downslope of the nearby Ranges. Also impressive, is the location of two Warrior Bushes (*Apophyllum anomalum*).



Despite several bike tracks (pedal power and motorised), the area contains good native grass cover. However, there are impacts of advanced Prickly Pear (*Opuntia stricta*) and to a lesser extent, African Boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*) growth and evidence of localised rubbish dumping (garden and building waste). Some members discussed the merit of tasty Prickly Pear fruit and although not

**Above left: Mistletoebird – Phillip Williams  
Far left: Buckbush – Rowena Whiting  
Left:– Mistletoe on lower part of trunk – Rowena Whiting**

ideal, the Boxthorn provides safe harbor for smaller woodland birds. A solitary fox was also sighted.

Another interesting find leading to much discussion was evidence of multiple silk trails believed to be from the Bag Moth Caterpillars. Each caterpillar leaves a trail of silk on its way, with other caterpillars following the silk trail, nose to tail forming a procession. The silk trails leave a silk bag as their nest near the tree trunk.

An initial inspection with Eric Whiting and Kathy Tenison to provide a baseline survey of flora and fauna for my Draft Plan of Management held in January/February 2022 (not ideal inspection timing, identified 28 fauna families comprising of 62 plant species).

Our field trip added four more species to the list, however a walk-over in Spring may provide further findings. The initial inspection also noted 14 bird species, however with Neil Palframan’s sharp eyes, this list was also increased, to 19.

We were able to enjoy lunch and the amenities of Memorial Park, Yenda (even take-away coffee) before venturing to Alexander Lane.

A copy of the ‘adopted’ Plan of Management will be available following public exhibition of the document which will occur shortly. A copy of the Fauna list is available for anyone interested.



**Bag Moth nest with silk threads running up the trunk – Rowena Whiting**

**Melva Robb**

**Bird List (Neil Palframan)**

Crested Pidgeon (40)	Brown Goshawk	Collared
Sparrowhawk (1)		
Laughing Kookaburra (2)	Purple-backed Fairywren (3)	Yellow-throated Miner (25)
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (1)	Singing Honeyeater (1)	Yellow-rumped Thornbill (6)
Chestnut-rumped Thornbill (3)	Yellow Thornbill (3)	Australian Magpie (2)
Grey Fantail (2)	Magpie-lark (2)	White-winged Chough (2)
Australian Raven (2)	Welcome Swallow (2)	Silvereye (6)
Mistletoebird (2)	Double-barred Finch (2)	

**Visiting Anderson Lane off the Rankin Springs Road - 15 April 2023**



**Water over the road – Phillip Williams**

After visiting the Yenda Flora and Fauna Reserve the group headed out to the flooded road and paddock area on Anderson Lane. I remember visiting in 2012 when it flooded last time. A local farmer stopped to find out what a line of cars and a group of people would be doing near the water over the road and inspecting the wet paddock. He told us he expected the water to remain there for a few more months.

Here we spent time checking out the birds that were there. Like Neil reported in the March Newsletter seeing Plumed Whistling Ducks and we also saw a lot of them. We didn't report the birds of prey though compiled a good list which is attached here. There was interest in cicada shells found on the trunk of one of the trees.

**Bird List from Anderson Lane off Rankin Springs Road 15 April 2023**

- |                                   |                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Blue-billed Duck                  | Australasian Grebe        |
| Australian Wood Duck (Maned Duck) | Plumed Whistling Duck     |
| Pacific Black Duck                | Pink-eared Duck           |
| Hardhead                          | Grey Teal                 |
| Australasian Darter               | Eurasian Coot             |
| Hoary-headed Grebe                | Australasian Grebe        |
| White Ibis                        | Black-tailed Native-hen   |
| Red-rumped Parrot                 | Singing Honeyeater        |
| Yellow-throated Miner             | Chestnut-rumped Thornbill |
| Yellow-rumped Thornbill           | Crested pigeon            |
| Superb Fairywren                  | Welcome Swallows          |
| Willie Wagtail                    | Australian Magpie         |
| Magpie Lark                       | Raven (Australian?)       |

**Penny Williams**



Cicada shells found on a tree trunk



Panorama view of water over the paddocks – Rowena Whiting

**Warrior Bushes and Caper White Butterflies**

The large Warrior Bush on the northern fence line of the Yenda Flora and Fauna Reserve attracted intense interest by various small groups of us on our recent visit there. A few of us remarked on the chewed patches of the green outer layer of the branchlets which exposed the white inner layer. We said 'chewed' as on some leaves such small marks were obviously the work of caterpillars.

Despite the hard appearance of the foliage, Warrior Bushes are one of the larval food plants for Caper White Butterflies, *Belenois java*. These butterflies feed exclusively on plants in the Caper Family (Capparidaceae) and in our region, as natives, this means Warrior Bushes. Other shrubs in the Caper Family appear very differently to our local genus and its single species, *Apophyllum anomalum*, which is stated by its species name. Male and female flowers open on separate plants. Evidence of fruit from some persistent short stalks informed me that this particular Yenda bush is female.

Closer inspection of photos revealed open pupal cases and some chrysalis still on branchlets, which are identifiable as Caper Whites. Adults can be seen in our area between September and April and multiple life cycles from egg to adult will occur during these months. The

species is migratory both within our region and to other regions within SE Australia but as the timing and direction of the migrations are both complex and understudied, exact details are not possible

except that they last for several weeks. The biological

species name, 'java' denotes the northern range of Caper Whites which extends south across most of Australia (except for the south west) to Tasmania. It's not likely that migrants to our region each spring come directly from Timor or even northern Australia, but from unknown locations within NSW.

Another possible observation on Warrior

Bushes during the migration months are eggs of Caper White

butterflies. Although they are tiny at 1.4mm long and .08mm wide they are reportedly laid in clusters that can be of hundreds or hundreds of thousands of eggs along the branchlets. Egg shells are eaten by the newly hatched larvae, which will be visible on branchlets anywhere on the bush. Something else to look for in spring/summer will be flowers and hopefully adult Caper White butterflies feeding from them.

**Margaret Strong**



**Caper White adult (photo, Braby 2000)**



**Caper White Butterfly eggs. Photo, Edwards (in Braby, 2000)**



**Warrior Bush with many nibbled branchlets M Strong**



**Warrior Bush with Caper White pupae M Strong**

Resources: [The Butterfly Fauna of Griffith district](#), a fragmented semi-arid landscape in inland southern NSW (Research Paper) by Michael Braby and Ted Edwards, 2006. Available as PDF from <publish.csiro.au> and currently on request for a copy to Griffith City Library.

[Butterflies of Australia: their identification, biology and distribution \(Vol 1\)](#) by Michael. F. Braby, CSIRO, 2000.

<[Australian.Museum](#)> website.

[Plants of Western NSW](#), by G. Cunningham, W. Mulham, P. Milthorpe and J. Leigh. CSIRO, 1992.

# The Bag Moths

## Outing to Yenda Flora & Fauna Reserve

We saw and didn't doubt that the acacias were harbouring *Ochrogaster lunifer* (bag-shelter moth or processionary caterpillar). They are currently active and I have seen processions of them crossing local roads where acacias are common. What we questioned was the maze of silk threads running up the trunk and diverging into ever narrower threads as they split off.

The answer credited to "*Herbison-Evans, Don & Crossley, Stella (2 June 2018). "Ochrogaster lunifer (Herrich-Schaffer, [1855]) Processionary Caterpillar". Australian Caterpillars and their Butterflies and Moths" on websites "Wikipedia" and the "Coffs Harbour Butterfly House", confirm that they are the silk threads of these caterpillars. It seems an expensive price to pay for simple navigation.*

"Each Caterpillar when it walks, leaves a thread of silk from its spinneret near its mouth. Feeding nocturnally, if they nest at the foot of their food tree, they leave such silk trails each evening as they climb the tree, and each dawn as they descend again to their nest."

Further, we noticed that the caterpillars had nests in the leaves, on the trunk, and on the ground.

"During the daytime, the caterpillars hide communally in a nest, a shelter of silk, grass, old skins, and other debris. Sometimes this is located on a shoot at the end of a branch, or sometimes high on the trunk" and sometimes "at the base of the foodplant. The different nesting habits are evidence that there may be two or more species currently being included under this name."

Questions answered!

### Neil Palframan

Nest on the ground



Nest suspended (Rowena Whiting)



The silk threads



Processionary Caterpillars



## Know your daisies Part 22 - Cotulas and Sneezeweeds

Two genera (*Cotula* and *Centipeda*) with insignificant greenish flowerheads form their own groups. All are small ground cover herbs in habitats ranging from decidedly wet areas to semi-arid grasslands.

### *Cotula coronopifolia*, Water Buttons

Annual herbs of damp often saline disturbed communities. Stems ±fleshy erect to spreading, usually c20cm high. Leaves linear to oblong, entire or with few remote teeth or lobes, c20mm long, upper leaves smaller, entire. Flowerheads terminal and axillary, 5-12mm diam on peduncles exceeding the leaves. Involucral bracts in 2 rows, ovate to lanceolate, obtuse. Outer florets in 1 row, without corollas, inner yellow.



Water Buttons

### *Cotula bipinnata*, Ferny Cotula

Annual herb of saline areas and temporary wetlands. Stems erect, usually c 10cm high, glabrous. Leaves oblanceolate to lanceolate, pinnatisect with acute finely pinnatifid segments, 20-60mm long, 10-20mm wide, glabrous, basal sheath with pinnae. Flowerheads terminal and axillary, 6-8mm diam, on peduncles exceeding leaves. Involucral bracts in 2 rows, oblong, glabrous, margins ±hyaline. Outer florets tubular, outer florets 1 row with short corollas, inner yellow becoming paler.

### *Cotula australis*, Common Cotula

Annual or perennial herb recorded in open grassy situations, a roadside and lawn weed. Stems prostrate or ascending, usually <10cm high, weakly rooting at the nodes, ±hairy. Leaves obovate to oblanceolate, 1-2 pinnatisect, segments 3-7 lobed, usually 10-20mm long, 7-10mm wide. Flowerheads terminal and axillary, 4-5mm diam, on slender peduncles exceeding leaves. Involucral bracts in 2 rows, oblong to lanceolate, subglabrous, margins ±hyaline. Outer florets in 3-4 rows, without corollas, inner pale yellow or cream.

### *Centipeda cunninghamii*, Common Sneezeweed

Erect or ascending glabrous or rarely woolly perennial herb, c20cm high, usually growing in damp areas subject to flooding. Leaves oblong to ±spathulate, c15mm long, 3-4mm wide, narrowed to base, margins shallowly toothed or sub-entire. Flowerheads usually solitary, sessile, ±globose or biconvex, 4-8mm diam. Involucral bracts ±ovate, 2-3mm long. Florets of differing lengths but longer than bracts, green.



Common Sneezeweed

### *Centipeda thespidioides*, Desert Sneezeweed

Erect or ascending herb, 10-20cm high, Usually on sites subject to flooding. Leaves oblanceolate, 8-25mm long, 7mm wide, margins shallowly to coarsely toothed, bases ±narrowed, ±glabrous to woolly. Flowerheads usually solitary, sessile, cup-shaped, flat-topped, 4-5mm diam. Involucral bracts oblong to ovate c4mm long, outer free and shorter. Outer florets in 2-3 rows.



## ***Centipeda crateriformis***

Decumbent to erect annual herb, of inland areas. Stems branching from base, glabrescent to cottony-pubescent. Leaves narrow-obovate to spatulate, toothed or rarely entire, resin-dotted on both surfaces. Flowerheads solitary, sessile, not leaf-opposed, sometimes terminal, 5-20mm diam. Involucral bracts ovate to obovate, spreading. Florets with minute corollas.

## ***Centipeda minima*, Spreading Sneezeweed**

Prostrate to ±ascending herb, 10-20cm high, ±glabrous to woolly. Recorded on flood plains and damp areas. Leaves narrow-ovate or elliptic to cuneate or spatulate, c10mm long, 1-4mm wide, glabrous to woolly, margins entire or toothed, often coarsely so towards apex, bases narrowed. Flowerheads usually solitary, ±sessile, hemispherical, 2-4mm diam. Involucral bracts, c1mm long, apex obtuse. Outer florets in 3-5 rows.

**Eric Whiting**

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## **From the Mailbox**

**Jason Richardson has provided information about a photographic competition members may be interested in participating.**

### **Photography Competition for images of the local landscape and natural environment for the Griffith Base Hospital Redevelopment.**

The Griffith Base Hospital Redevelopment photography competition is now open. Please share the information among your networks.

Professional and amateur local photographers are invited to enter images of the local landscape and natural environment to engage and inspire the visitors, staff and patients of Griffith Base Hospital.

The competition forms part of the redevelopment's Arts in Health program, which will integrate arts in the new health facility to create a welcoming hospital with a strong local identity. It is an opportunity to incorporate the talents of the local community within the hospital redevelopment.

Entries close on 28 May 2023. The competition is open to people working and living in the Western Riverina from LGAs in the catchment of Griffith Base Hospital – Griffith, Lachlan, Bland, Hay, Leeton, Carrathool, Murrumbidgee and Narrandera.

Information, entry form and conditions: <https://gbhredevelopment.health.nsw.gov.au/arts-and-culture/photo-competition> Any questions please contact Kate McGreal (Murrumbidgee Local Health District) - [Kathryn.McGreal@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Kathryn.McGreal@health.nsw.gov.au) or 0498 551 352

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## **BirdLife Australia's Code of Ethics**

Birds are in a daily fight for survival. Any injury or stress-induced illness will almost certainly result in death. Predators are everywhere; breeding is competitive and finding food imperative.

Further, our climate is changing and habitat is being cleared at a relentless rate. In concert, the number of bird photographers has increased phenomenally in the last two decades. The actions of photographers cannot be viewed in isolation. The more photographers there are, the greater the potential for impacting the daily existence of our birds. The effects of an ever increasing human population as well as an increasing photographic community must be regarded as *cumulative*.

In compiling these ethical guidelines, the BirdLife Photography Committee believes it is important to apply the internationally recognised "Precautionary Principle", which has been incorporated into Australian environmental law under s391 of the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, and is defined as follows:

"The precautionary principle is that lack of full scientific certainty [eg in relation to the impact of call playback on bird species] should *not* be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent degradation of the natural and cultural heritage of a reserve or zone where there is a threat of serious or irreversible damage."

**Our Code of Ethics is available [here](#).** All BLP members should review this important document; as a member you are bound by this policy.

# MEMBERS' SIGHTINGS

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

<b>Blue-faced Honeyeater</b> [3]	Narrandera Wetlands	29/03/23	Susan Whitehead
<b>Great Crested Grebe</b>	Narrandera Wetlands	08/04/23	Alan Whitehead
<b>Singing Honeyeater</b> [4]	Koonadan Road, Leeton	11/04/23	Phillip & Penny Williams
<b>Spotless Crane</b>	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	13/04/23	Phillip & Penny Williams
<b>Australian Crane</b> [4]	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	13/04/23	Phillip & Penny Williams
<b>Barn Owl</b> [pair, at least 1 chick]	"Yarrabimbi", Colinroobie Road, Leeton	04/05/23	Andrew Thompson

**Keith Hutton's sightings for April are from Fivebough Wetlands and Middle Road, north of Leeton.** He also reported 3 foxes on 22 April at Fivebough. Maintenance work is currently being done along with baiting. Highlights for the month were increases in numbers of birds of prey, in particular Black-shouldered Kites and kestrels, and the presence of up to 5 Spotted Harriers, including 2 first year immature birds. Black Falcons, Black-shouldered Kites, Spotted Harriers, Kestrels, Hobby and a female Brown Goshawk were all seen in the same large fleabane-infested fallow paddocks along Middle Road.

At Fivebough Wetlands at least 1 Sea-Eagle was present throughout the month and an immature Wedge-tailed Eagle was photographed there by Anne Lepper. Brown Falcons, Black Kites, Whistling Kites and the odd Sparrowhawk have also been in and around the town in April, while Peregrines and particularly Little Eagles remain scarce.

Also at Fivebough small numbers of migratory waders and returning nomads were noted with a return of Brolgas and Australian Shelducks, while Magpie Geese, White-necked Herons, Swampheens, Moorhens, Coots and Australasian Grebes increased in numbers from the beginning of the month.

<b>Buff Banded Rail</b> [1]	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	09/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>Black-tailed native-hen</b> [44]	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	09/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>Australian Spotted Crane</b> [7]	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	09/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>Wood sandpiper</b> [2]	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	09/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>Red-kneed Dotterel</b> [3]	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	09/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>Red-necked stilt</b> [6]	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	09/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>Bronzewing</b> [7]	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	09/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>Australian Spotted Crane</b> [6]	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	15/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>Magpie Goose</b> [200]	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	15/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>Pelican</b> [24]	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	22/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>Red-kneed dotterel</b> [17]	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	22/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>Australian Shelduck</b> [17]	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	22/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>Black-shouldered Kite</b> [3]	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	22/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>Swamp Harrier</b> [2]	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	22/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>White-bellied Sea-eagle</b> [1 imm]	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	22/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>Ground cuckoo-shrike</b> [1]	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	22/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>Red-capped plover</b> [1]	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	22/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>Black-fronted Dotterel</b> [3]	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	22/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>Brolga</b> [4]	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	23/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>Eastern grey kangaroo</b> [54]	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	29/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>Whiskered Tern</b> [4]	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	29/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>Magpie Goose</b> [>200]	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	29/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>Straw-necked Ibis</b> [60]	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	29/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>Swamphean</b> [>400]	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	29/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>White-necked heron</b> [22]	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	29/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>White-bellied Sea-eagle</b> [1 Imm]	Fivebough Wetlands, Leeton	29/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>Spotted Harrier</b> [2]	Middle Road, Leeton	16/04/23	Keith Hutton

Also seen on 17 and over the next week 22 - 29 April from 1 to 3 adults with an immature bird.

<b>Black Falcon</b> [2]	Middle Road, Leeton	16/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>Black-shouldered Kite</b> [6]	Middle Road, Leeton	16/04/23	Keith Hutton
4 were also seen on the 17, 22 and 27 April.			
<b>Kestrel</b> [4 pairs]	Middle Road, Leeton	27/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>Australian Hobby</b> [1]	Middle Road, Leeton	27/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>Superb Parrot</b> [25]	Middle Road, Leeton	27/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>Apostlebird</b> [25-30]	Middle Road, Leeton	27/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>Spotted Harrier</b> [2A]	Middle Road, Leeton	29/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>Black-shouldered Kite</b> [10]	Middle Road, Leeton	29/04/23	Keith Hutton
<b>Kestrel</b> [7]	Middle Road, Leeton	29/04/23	Keith Hutton

### Sightings from the Wagga Wagga area

<b>Sacred Kingfisher</b>	Flowerdale Lagoon	07/04/23	Sarah Danckert
<b>Restless Flycatcher</b>	Flowerdale Lagoon	07/04/23	Sarah Danckert
<b>Diamond Firetail</b>	Livingstone National Park	10/04/23	Sarah Danckert
<b>Speckled Warbler</b>	Livingstone National Park	10/04/23	Sarah Danckert
<b>Spotted Pardalote</b>	Livingstone National Park	10/04/23	Sarah Danckert
<b>Restless Flycatcher</b>	Livingstone National Park	10/04/23	Sarah Danckert
<b>Red Capped Robin</b>	Kindra State Forest, Coolamon	14/04/23	Sarah Danckert
<b>Australasian Darter</b> [10]	Kindra State Forest, Coolamon	14/04/23	Sarah Danckert
<b>Hardhead</b>	Kindra State Forest, Coolamon	14/04/23	Sarah Danckert
<b>Red Capped Robin</b>	Kengal Aboriginal Place (The Rock)	15/04/23	Sarah Danckert
<b>Speckled Warbler</b>	Kengal Aboriginal Place (The Rock)	15/04/23	Sarah Danckert
<b>Collared Sparrowhawk</b>	Kengal Aboriginal Place (The Rock)	15/04/23	Sarah Danckert
<b>Spotted Pardalote</b>	Kengal Aboriginal Place (The Rock)	15/04/23	Sarah Danckert
<b>Scarlet Robin</b>	Livingstone National Park	16/04/23	Sarah Danckert
<b>Golden Whistler</b>	Livingstone National Park	16/04/23	Sarah Danckert
<b>Crested Shrike Tit</b>	Livingstone National Park	16/04/23	Sarah Danckert
<b>Brown Quail</b>	San Isidore, Wagga Wagga	18/04/23	Sarah Danckert
<b>Stubble Quail</b>	Pomigalarna	21/04/23	Sarah Danckert
<b>Spotted Pardalote</b>	Silvalite Reserve, Wagga Wagga	23/04/23	Sarah Danckert
<b>Golden Whistler</b>	Silvalite Reserve, Wagga Wagga	23/04/23	Sarah Danckert
<b>Double Barred Finch</b>	Silvalite Reserve, Wagga Wagga	25/04/23	Sarah Danckert
<b>Brown Antechinus</b>	Livingstone National Park	10/04/23	Penny King & Sarah Danckert



### ***Antechinus stuartii* - Brown Antechinus, it has hairless ears**

Sarah and I came across this little cutie while exploring Livingstone National Park on Monday 10th April. He generously entertained us for easily 5 mins. We managed to get 39 seconds of footage of him doing his thing which has been put up on What's App.

We have been in touch with Matt Rostron - Ranger of National Parks - he has helped us confirm its identification. There have been limited sightings in the area so he is keen to lodge it with BIONet.

**Penny King**

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

Please note all outings are subject to weather conditions.

Please register with the nominated person.

- 11 May Thursday**      **Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7pm.  
**Topic –**  
**Bring along your ‘show & tell’**  
**Contact:** Dione Russell 0428 536 290  
**Email:** [murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com)
- 20 May Saturday**      **Outing in the Brobenah Hills**  
**Meet at 9am**  
**Bring morning tea and lunch.**  
**Register with Eric Whiting** [ericwhiting4@bigpond.com](mailto:ericwhiting4@bigpond.com). Phone: 6953 2612.
- 31 May Wednesday**      **Copy for the May newsletter is due. Please send to Rowena.**  
**Email:** [ericwhiting4@bigpond.com](mailto:ericwhiting4@bigpond.com). Phone: 6953 2612.
- 8 June Thursday**      **Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7pm.  
**Topic –**  
**Bring along your ‘show & tell’**  
**Contact:** Dione Russell 0428 536 290  
**Email:** [murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com)

## Other Events

### **12 & 13 May, Riverina Field Days in Griffith - Murrumbidgee Landcare have a stall**

Come along and visit us at the Riverina Field Days! We'll be in the Woodside Hall, and will have lots of information, a couple of competitions and some fun activities for the kids!

[MLi stall at Riverina Field Days](#)

### **15 May, Hay [Seed Collection workshop](#)**

Learn how to identify, collect and store native seed. This workshop will target Butterbush, Moonah, White Cypress Pine and Hopbush. You may then join us at our future propagation workshop, so you will have the skills to become independent at revegetating your land!

### **2023 Cowra Woodland Bird Surveys,**

Dates for 2023 are April 15/16, July 15/16, October 14/15, and February 17/18 2024.

Contact Julian Reid on 0405 922 505 or at [julianr@homemail.com](mailto:julianr@homemail.com)

### **Swift Parrot/Regent Honeyeater surveys**

Mainland biannual Swift Parrot/Regent Honeyeater surveys are almost upon us, beginning on Saturday 22 April and running till Sunday 4 June. Click [here](#) for more info.