

The Murrumbidgee Naturalist



December 2023 - Issue #321

Journal of the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc.

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Objectives

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



**Lessons in Synchronising
Yellow Spoonbills at Tootool Wetlands
Janet Hume**

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CONTRIBUTIONS

For the February 2024 issue by
Wednesday 31 January

To Rowena Whiting

Email: ericwhiting4@bigpond.com.

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*Season's
Greetings*

Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc. Office Bearers and Annual Subscriptions

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Treasurer:	Glenn Currie	0488 563 321		Virginia Tarr	0434 831 031

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; (Leeton, Griffith, Narrandera areas) AND ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH (Wagga Wagga area)

INTENDING NEW MEMBERS, GUESTS AND VISITORS WELCOME.

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

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

Welcome to the December issue

It looks like the koalas at Narrandera are the topic of the month with 3 pieces; covering the annual count, surveys and Betty's encounter with one on the Rocky Waterholes Bridge. We also have a report of the Hay Public School's project which was supported with an MFN environment grant. Nella and Glenn have contributed to the Great Wildlife Search by providing a water sample from Bullenbung Creek and Jason has shared his story of a Guineafowl in Leeton. Quite a variety.

There were a number of role changes at the AGM and we are pleased to welcome Sarah Danckert as our president congratulations With Margaret Strong, Alan Whitehead and Virginia Tarr as vice presidents covering Leeton, Narrandera and Griffith. The committee positions were all filled with Eric Whiting, Nella Smith and Janet Hume. Dionee, Glenn and I continue in our roles.

I would like to thank everyone for their contributions over the year without them there would be no newsletter, let alone a popular one. I will be looking for plenty more in the new year!!

Margrit would like to remind you of the club's book collection which are available to borrow. Just contact her on 0468 342 802 or tirgram.nitram@gmail.com and she will let you know what is available.

Enjoy this newsletter, your festive time and the summer break.

Rowena.

We have been notified of an ID error in the last issue: both goannas are actually Lace Monitors.

The one that was on the right is a typical phenotypic variation known as the Bells phase. Bells Phase Lace Monitor (*Varanus varius*).

In the article in the following link, they say Bells phase occurs in Qld, but I guess there could be any number of reasons why it is in your neck of the woods.

(<https://www.amazingamazon.com.au/products/bells-phase-lace-monitor-html>)

Another source for information is https://www.australianreptileguide.com/lace_monitor



Annual Koala Count at Narrandera

Although this year's count was a couple of months ago now (7 Oct 2023), it hasn't featured in the newsletter. The Annual Narrandera Koala count is one of the longest running citizen science monitoring programs in Australia thanks to the people who established it all those years ago. In the 1970's Narrandera Shire was 50 years ahead of the game and the 19 Koalas that were released have spread far and wide. Unfortunately areas of Flora and Fauna Reserve were still inaccessible due to flood waters. This meant we had to congregate at the entrance. Of the 112 participants which included a number of field nat members, there were people from many place Queensland, Victoria, Bathurst, Ballina together with nearby towns and of course Narrandera.



The morning began with egg and bacon rolls and fresh fruit provided by the Lions Club and National Parks for a small donation. Then it was time for everyone to group into teams and begin our walks through our allotted area; scouring the trees along the way while checking the ground for droppings. There were a number of children in our group and they were thrilled when our first koala was spotted. The tree was duly marked by tying coloured tape around the trunk while many photos were taken. A further 4 were spotted along the way, some by children with their sharp eyesight and enthusiasm. It is no easy task, even when the tree is known, so a real delight when you do find one. The tail end of our group found one in a tree next to the channel bank close to the common entrance. It was lucky we stopped to observe as after a minute or so a small head appeared. However the mother's face was hidden so no photo of them both.



The final count for the day was 30 which included 5 tiny babies. It is so good that this population is healthy and breeding. Other more scientific surveys are being conducted to get the full picture and the success of this colony is being looked at for introducing koalas into other areas. However, this annual count is focused on engaging the community and in this respect it shone. Many people then made their way down the road to The Koala Festival for the afternoon.

Rowena Whiting (with input from **Leigh Mathieson** who says 'they can only be described as breeding like rabbits on the Woolscour last week around our front dam there were 3 mums with bubs and a very satisfied looking male who is still keeping me awake most nights'). Leigh would like to thank all the people who made the event a massive success.)

Here is a link to the recording by the ABC Riverina, if you skip through the first hour of the recording you can hear a very in-depth radio piece on the work.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-11-06/narrandera-koala-colony-model-for-re-establishing-populations/103009652>

“Koalas of Narrandera and Beyond” Surveys



Since the threatened status of Koalas was upgraded from Vulnerable to Endangered in 2022, there’s been a lot of interest in Narrandera’s local koala population.

The long running Annual Narrandera Koala Count usually records a reasonable number in Narrandera’s Flora and Flora Reserve (the Common). The count was weather affected this year but still had a good result. Any koalas found around Narrandera are from a re-introduction of the species in the 1970’s.

National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) have been conducting research on the genetics and general health of the local koalas

and have found them to be very genetically diverse with links to populations in Victoria, southern Queensland and northern NSW. They were also found to be very healthy and chlamydia free.

NPWS have also been using drones with thermal cameras, as well as sound recorders, to map how far koalas have spread along the river country. Close to 300 were found along the Murrumbidgee.

In addition to NPWS’s research efforts, Charles Sturt University are gathering information on koalas in the Riverina with their “Koalas of Narrandera & Beyond” project. This is a citizen science, community-based survey in the Narrandera Shire and adjacent regions asking people about their sightings of koalas over the years to get an idea of the timeline involved in the spread of the population.

To take part in the survey people need to read the [Participant Information Statement](#). At the end of it, the statement has a QR code which can be scanned, or a weblink that can be clicked on to access the survey form. It will ask various questions of your experiences with koalas and allow you to report any sightings.

I’m working out at Grong Grong and travel to work on the Old Wagga Road. Just last week as I turned off to head up to my workplace, I spied a koala in the TSR along the road. It was in a River Redgum just watching me go by. I knew of the interest in mapping how far koalas have progressed from Narrandera, so my problem was I needed to get to work but had to record the sighting! I knew of the Riverina Survey form as well as the I Spy Koala app, but for expedience’s sake, I just opened [iNaturalist](#) on my phone, recorded and submitted the sighting, then got to work on time. This sighting will end up in the Atlas of Living Australia so will still provide useful information.

I would really like to encourage people to submit any sightings of koalas in the area to help this project.

Glenn Currie



Encounter with a Koala

We went for a walk at Rocky Waterholes Bridge, Narrandera; 'Use it or lose it' so I try to keep mobile, thanks to my wheelie walker. This day the track seemed rougher than usual and my elbow was not enjoying the jolting.

As I crossed the nice smooth surface, I decided to walk backwards and forwards across the bridge - concentrate on my posture and stride.

All was going well at my fourth turn to cross back but there was something at the other end!

Was it a dog? I'm scared of dogs without owners; they seem to be attracted to my walker. We stared at each other for a few seconds and then the creature moved forward.

It was a koala!

I hastily moved back onto the canal bank to give him a choice of which way to turn.

He came at a good pace, looked me in the eye as he turned to scurry down the bank and then shin up the big tree at the south eastern end.

At a good height he stopped and did his grunting-calling routine, "Hey, girls, I'm back!" and then climbed higher.

Warrick reappeared from his walk to the edge of the common and we decided to leave him in peace.

There has been a lone koala on the north side calling in vain for quite a while.

I am quite sure that this one copied my bridge crossing and he wasn't afraid of me.

There might be more than gum leaves in that woolly head!

Betty Bradney

To see or not to see

In one of my journals that I received lately, was an article on finding unrecorded species in an otherwise well recorded region. It all came down to the fact that the author, instead of going to the familiar sites, went to different locations. It made me realise how widespread is the idea that the 'best' locations are the ones that we know about and therefore always go there.

It is frequently expressed within MFN that members like to go to new locations, yet our program rarely features one. Is it because we are more comfortable with what we know or have we lost a desire to explore?

The idea extends to more than new places. Have we been too confined to just listing the birds we see and to a lesser extent just looking at the more prominent flowers? There is so much more in nature just waiting to be noticed, it is the fascination of being a naturalist. Moreover, because it is not being noticed and recorded it is not being conserved. We are losing the very thing we crave for!



As an example as I watched a pair of Cabbage White Butterflies through the window I checked the Bionet Atlas for records from Griffith to Coolamon. There were 8. This is the information that is being used when development applications are being assessed.

Eric Whiting

End of year gathering at Fivebough

The very hot day didn't deter members from coming.

Despite the rather hot day members weren't deterred from venturing out in the early evening to enjoy a walk through the Fivebough Wetlands. Some time was spent at the Brolga shelter from where a number of birds could be observed on the water. Altogether 41 species were sighted.

We then gathered at the information/picnic area where we enjoyed a delicious spread of foods, and congenial company.

A fitting end to the year.



Members enjoying a shared picnic tea – Anya Whitehead

Birdlist compiled by Sarah Danckert

Date: 9 December 2023, Time: 5:29 pm,
Location: KBA-Fivebough-500mRadius-2, Coordinates: -34.533815, 146.426485, Survey type: 500m area search, Notes: (None)

Noisy Miner (4, None)	Crested Pigeon (20, None)	Masked Lapwing (7, None)
Superb Fairy-wren (25, None)	Chestnut Teal (8, None)	Australian Magpie (5, None)
Purple Swamphen (25, None)	Great Cormorant (1, None)	Royal Spoonbill (1, None)
Yellow-billed Spoonbill (3, None)	Red-necked Avocet (1, None)	Marsh Sandpiper (4, None)
Little Grassbird (P, None) – Heard	Grey Teal (150, None)	Great Egret (3, None)
Australian Reed-Warbler (P, None) – Heard	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (15, None)	Australian Pelican (4, None)
Australian Little Bittern (2, None) – Heard	White-faced Heron (5, None)	Magpie-lark (20, None)
Magpie Goose (150, Adult(s) on nest)	Willie Wagtail (2, None)	Australian Raven (3, None)
Nankeen Night-Heron (40+, None)	Straw-necked Ibis (5, None)	Galah (2, None)
Australian White Ibis (20, None)	Little Black Cormorant (2, None)	Cockatiel (4, None) Dusky
Moorhen (3, Young out of nest)	Common Starling (100, None)	Hoary-headed Grebe (1, None)
Pink-eared Duck (2, None)	Red-kneed Dotterel (8, None)	Welcome Swallow (8, None)
Fairy Martin (4, None)	Golden-headed Cisticola (P, None)	Swamp Harrier (1, None)
Australian Spotted Crake (1, None)	Yellow-throated Miner (1, None)	

Full survey details at: <https://birddata.birdlife.org.au/survey?id=9417806&h=e6d90424>

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – Paul Maytom



Magpie Geese on the sewage pond – Rowena Whiting



The Great Wildlife Search

Imagine you could identify where threatened species live by collecting just a few samples of water... thanks to new environmental DNA (eDNA) technology this is now a reality.

By knowing where our precious wildlife live, like the platypus and Murray River Short-Necked Turtle, we could conserve their habitat for generations to come. Many people across the state have been collecting water samples which contain DNA from animals that have passed through the area in the past 14 days.



Hundreds of sites across the Murray Darling Basin were identified and marked on a map. Interested citizen scientists and Government Agencies selected sites where they could collect samples.

The process involved collecting water with a 50ml syringe and pushing it through a filter as many times as the filter would allow up to 20 times. The filtered sample was then fed a preservative solution and sent off to the laboratory for analysis.

Glenn and I sampled a site about halfway to Wagga at the confluence of the Bullenbung Creek and Old Man Creek. This just happened to be under the bridge which made access fairly easy.

I believe this project is focussed on detecting platypus DNA.

Nella Smith

Nella has included a brief description of EnviroDNA

It launched in 2016 to pioneer the delivery of eDNA services to industry. Today, they operate as leaders in research and application, monitoring aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems across Australia and abroad. They are science-driven professionals delivering comprehensive data and tailored solutions in areas such as conservation, biosecurity, impact assessments, and research.

EnviroDNA is thrilled to be partnering with Odonata Foundation to deliver the Great Australian Wildlife Search.

If you'd like to know more and/or become involved go to <https://mailchi.mp/odonata/join-the-2023-great-australian-wildlife-search?e=d29399122f> - there is a map showing the sites and a video of what is involved.

Learn more about why eDNA sampling is groundbreaking at <https://greataustralianwildlifesearch.framer.website/about#edna>

The Christmas Beetle Project



Christmas Beetle, Plains MFN summer camp 2009 – Rowena Whiting

You've probably heard some comments that Christmas Beetles aren't being seen as much. Nobody really knows whether they are declining, but many people feel they are. There seem to be no records to confirm or deny the worrying trend, but hopefully there soon will be. A project by 'Invertebrates Australia' which has teamed up with iNaturalist is called 'Christmas Beetle Count' and will hopefully funnel any observations from our citizen scientists out there.

Check it out or upload any photos on <https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/projects/christmas-beetle-count> and read all

about Christmas beetles and the project on the website of 'Invertebrates Australia':

<https://invertebratesaustralia.org/christmasbeetles> 'Invertebrates

Australia' is a relatively new organisation, and it is wonderful that they have come into being!

The Australian Museum website has fact sheets, so learn more about them:

<https://australian.museum/learn/collections/natural-science/entomology/christmas-beetles/>

Spot a Guineafowl in Leeton

It was about a year ago that I first heard a new bird call near my home in Leeton.

The noise was a bit like the Plover and that sounds like an angry rubber duck, but the one that lives nearby doesn't usually venture out of Waipukurau Park and into our street.

This sound was more like a bird making a Tiktok video about a disappointing takeaway meal or something, so it wasn't easy to place.

Then when I was out for a walk in Russet Street, the source became identifiable as this colourful blob made a comic dash across the bitumen.

A Guineafowl had arrived in our suburb and it seemed the most unlikely thing to cross my path.

Now I don't know much about birds but if I had to describe it then I'd say it looks like Roadrunner grew obese in retirement.

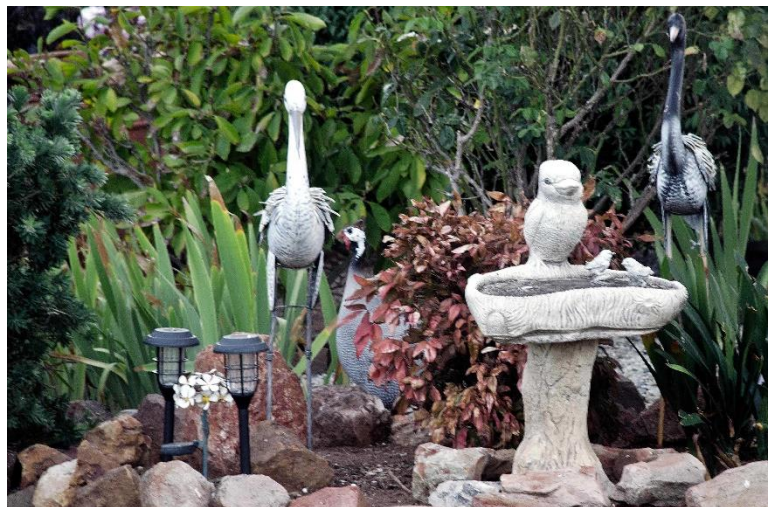
Admittedly that does seem to be a feature of lower-socioeconomic areas, so maybe the Guineafowl felt at home out here?

Often I see it hanging around these bird sculptures that populate one beautifully-tended garden.

Sometimes I ponder whether the stony-faced avians offer companionship to a bird that might've been dumped or escaped from an aviary.

When I lived in Wagga the Aviary at the Botanic Gardens blew down and many of their menagerie escaped into the suburbs around Willans Hill.

So I quizzed the couple who own the birds as I saw them tending to their garden, but they said the Guineafowl just arrived one day.



"Where does it roost?" I wondered aloud and the couple pointed to a nearby Peppercorn Tree.

This seemed unlikely, since I couldn't see the Guineafowl had wings.

It looked like it had been sculpted from balloons and sort of sounded like it too!

Yet Wikipedia states these birds can fly distances and I began to look up at the tree when passing it in the evening or morning.

Recently I spotted it on a branch close that might've been the third storey of a building.

Maybe I stared too long because the Guineafowl seemed to start making an anxious noise.

So I looked away, since I can relate to feeling like an odd duck in a small town.

Rest easy Guineafowl, we're all trying to find comfort and Leeton welcomes new settlers.

Jason Richardson

Mail Box items

Save our Species (NSW) December newsletter highlights 12 of their threatened species success stories of the year.

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/news/12-wins-for-conservation-in-2023>

Birdlife photography award winners for 2023

The BirdLife Australia Photography Awards see thousands of entries every year from photographers of all ages and experiences – including some of Australia's finest. After much deliberation, our judges have decided the **nine winners** of each category from a shortlist of 68 photos.

The winning photos are both a celebration of Australia's spectacular and diverse birdlife and a powerful

statement – and we hope they will inspire more people to connect with, care about and protect birds and nature.

Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors [Nikon Australia](#) and [Lake Cowal Foundation](#), the winners will share in a prize pool of thousands of dollars. But photographers aren't the only winners in the competition – funds raised through entry fees support BirdLife Australia's bird conservation work. This year, proceeds will go to our [Birds on Farms project](#) in central west NSW – helping landholders protect, restore and revegetate threatened woodland bird habitat on their properties.

They can be found at

<https://www.birdlifephotoaward.org.au/gallery-winners-2023>

Certainly some extraordinary photos.

Other Events

13 December Wednesday **Birds (don't) Meet: Cats – A Birdlife Australia webinar 7 – 8pm**

[Register here](#)

Many people are bird lovers, but also love their pet cats!

Join us as we hear Estelle Van Hoeydonck, Conservation Campaigner at Zoos Victoria, and Dr Jess Cove BVSc (Hons), Senior Veterinarian - Department Leader (Small Mammals, Exotics & Wildlife) at RSPCA Victoria, as they discuss their 'Safe Cat, Safe Wildlife' Program.

The session will touch on why it is much better for wildlife for cats to be contained, but also give tips and tricks on how to keep your cats happy and healthy. Keeping cats contained is better for the cats too!

[Safe Cat, Safe Wildlife](#) is a joint initiative between Zoos Victoria and RSPCA Victoria. The program is building a community of cat owners who have the tools to provide their cat with the longest and happiest lives possible by keeping them safe and enriched at home.

SEANA (South East Australian Naturalists' Association)

Friday 19th – Monday 22nd April 2024

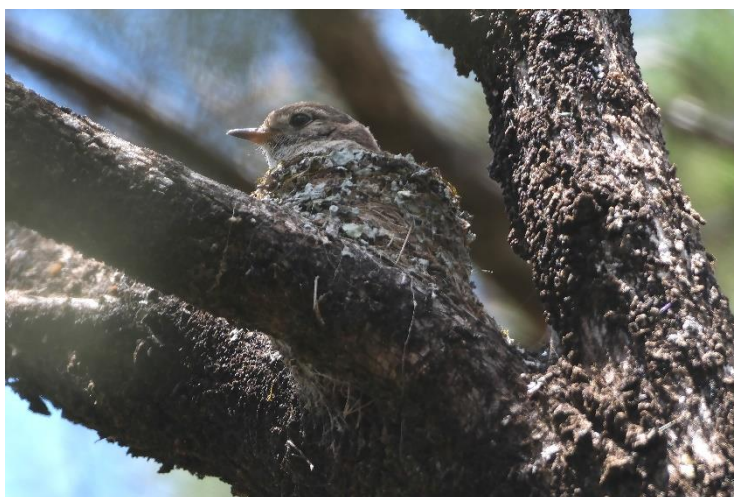
An invitation from the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria (FNCV) to attend their Autumn 2024 get-together which will be based on Phillip Island. The main venue will be in Cowes. Phillip Island offers so much we look forward to giving you a further appreciation of its natural features. This will include: The Nobbies, Swan Lake, Rhyll Inlet, Conservation Hill, Churchill Island, and Cape Woolamai, beach walks, Kitty Miller Bay, Seal Rocks and the Bass Coast. Their focus on geology, botany, birdlife and invertebrates.

An opportunity to explore the area and to meet fellow field naturalists.

Contact Rowena for more information.



Janet Hume's photo of the Australian King Parrot (below) which she and Sarah saw on 3rd December at Tootool Wetland, Tootool (on The Rock to Lockhart road) by the Bullenbung Creek. This is out of area so will need to be confirmed.
Above is a **Jacky Winter** on its nest in nearby Milbrulong Forest.



Hay Public School Creative Catchment Kids Program

Year 6 students at Hay Public School have had the wonderful opportunity to be involved in a year long program centred around creating awareness of the endangered Plains-wanderer as well as learning about the history, culture and protection of the environment on the property Bedarbidgal, owned by Bert and Liz Matthews.

The students attended a habitat day at Bedarbidgal where they were introduced to the captive breeding programme run by Taronga Western Plains Zoo at Dubbo. From there they discovered a property rich in history and passion for the environment.

A trip to Dubbo Zoo with students from St Mary's and HWMHS taught the children more about the Plains-wanderer and all the students participated in creating an expo where they could present ideas that would encourage awareness and protection of such an elusive and vulnerable little bird.

From there the Year 6 Hay Public School students worked on three books. The first being a picture book where they told the story of a Plains-wanderer chick trying to find her way home and encountering dangers and protection on the vast Hay Plains. This book was written in conjunction with their Kinder buddies.

Visiting Bedarbidgal ignited an interest in the children of Bert and Liz's farming practices and Bert's family history. They found that Bert was descended from the Tyson family, who came out to the penal colony of Australia on the ship 'The Indispensable' in 1812. The students were able to follow the history of Bert's family through the Tyson brothers moving out to the junction of the Lower Lachlan and the Murrumbidgee, to purchasing the property Euroлие (back then 100,000 acres), to Bert's father and mother and family and Bert and Liz and family continuing to live on Bedarbidgal (once part of Euroлие).

The students also delighted in hearing Flossie Fitzpatrick's history of her childhood, growing up on Euroлие and loved hearing of her escapades as a young girl with her siblings on the farm with their horses. Flossie loved living on Euroлие and learnt so much from her parents Harold and Mabel Woods.

The students created a book on Bert's history, Flossie's history and Bert and Liz's present day farming practices which not only aim to protect the grasslands on the property from overgrazing, but also in turn, create an excellent environment for the Plains-wanderer. They also then created another picture book about individual people throughout history who had shaped today's environment and families.

The students were privileged to have Chris McClelland assist with the illustrations for the three books, once again giving up his time to conduct art lessons with the students to teach them how to draw landscapes and illustrations of the Plains-wanderer. Jade Auldist from the LLS worked with the children on the program all year, enabling them to attend the wonderful excursions and then generously giving much of her own time to publish the three books. Thank you so much Jade and Chris. Thank you to the LLS and the MFN (Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists) for their support of this program, without which, the children could not have had such wonderful opportunities.

The books were launched last Wednesday at Hay Public School's hall where the children read pages from their books and again, with the help of Jade Auldist, created videos of themselves reading the books. A special mention must go to Broc Moore who created a slideshow of the year especially for the book launch.

The students will end their wonderful year on 13 December (weather dependent) with a trip to the property Toopuntal, near Oxley, where they will follow the trail of the Tyson Brothers and Charles Sturt and have the wonderful opportunity to release Murray Cod Fingerling in the Murrumbidgee and of course, a spot of fishing.

Fleur Cullenward, Hay Public School

[Hay Public School's Creative Catchment Kids program was a recipients of an MFN environmental grant, Ed]



MEMBERS' SIGHTINGS

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

Olive-backed Oriole Adults on nest	Tarcutta Hills Reserve	11/11/23	Sarah Danckert
Brown Treecreeper	Tarcutta Hills Reserve	11/11/23	Sarah Danckert
Fuscous Honeyeater	Tarcutta Hills Reserve	11/11/23	Sarah Danckert
Spotted pardalote	Tarcutta Hills Reserve	11/11/23	Sarah Danckert
Wedge-tailed Eagle	Tarcutta Hills Reserve	11/11/23	Sarah Danckert
Red-necked wallaby	Tarcutta Hills Reserve	11/11/23	Sarah Danckert
Swamp Wallaby	Tarcutta Hills Reserve	11/11/23	Sarah Danckert
Lace Monitor (Bell's form)	Tarcutta Hills Reserve	11/11/23	Sarah Danckert
Speckled Warbler	Livingston Conservation area	12/11/23	Sarah Danckert
Masked Lapwing [27]	Flowerdale Lagoon, Wagga Wagga	19/11/23	Sarah Danckert
Eurasian Coot [40]	Springvale Swamp, Wagga Wagga	21/11/23	Sarah Danckert
Nankeen Night Heron [3]	Springvale Swamp, Wagga Wagga	21/11/23	Sarah Danckert
Black Fronted Dotterel [2]	Springvale Swamp, Wagga Wagga	21/11/23	Sarah Danckert
Superb Parrot [10]	Pomingalarna, Wagga Wagga	23/11/23	Sarah Danckert
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater [2]	Pomingalarna, Wagga Wagga	23/11/23	Sarah Danckert
Speckled Warbler [2]	Pomingalarna, Wagga Wagga	23/11/23	Sarah Danckert
Wood Duck [50]	Flowerdale Lagoon, Wagga Wagga	24/11/23	S Danckert, J Hume
Grey Teal [50]	Flowerdale Lagoon, Wagga Wagga	24/11/23	S Danckert, J Hume
Eurasian Coot [25]	Flowerdale Lagoon, Wagga Wagga	24/11/23	S Danckert, J Hume
Black-fronted Dotterel [2]	Flowerdale Lagoon, Wagga Wagga	24/11/23	S Danckert, J Hume
Restless Flycatcher [1]	Flowerdale Lagoon, Wagga Wagga	24/11/23	S Danckert, J Hume
Black-tailed Native-hen [2]	Flowerdale Lagoon, Wagga Wagga	24/11/23	S Danckert, J Hume
Yellow-billed Spoonbill [2]	Flowerdale Lagoon, Wagga Wagga	24/11/23	S Danckert, J Hume
White-throated Treecreeper [5] Feeding young out of nest	Kyamba Creek, nr Ladysmith	26/11/23	S Danckert, J Hume
Crimson Rosella [2]	Kyamba Creek, nr Ladysmith	26/11/23	S Danckert, J Hume
Dollarbird [1]	Hovenden Creek, Book Book	26/11/23	S Danckert, J Hume
Fairy Martin [30] Nesting under the bridge on the Tumbarumba Rd	Hovenden Creek, Book Book	26/11/23	S Danckert, J Hume
White-breasted Woodswallow [6] Adults flying in and out of hollow	Flowerdale Lagoon, , Wagga Wagga	29/11/23	S Danckert, J Hume
Kookaburra -adult on nest	Wollundry Lagoon, Wagga Wagga	29/11/23	Sarah Danckert
White-breasted Woodswallow Adults on nest	Wollundry Lagoon, Wagga Wagga	29/11/23	Sarah Danckert
Echidna crossing lagoon bridge	Wollundry Lagoon, Wagga Wagga	29/11/23	Sarah Danckert
Australian King Parrot [1]	Tootool Wetland, Tootool	03/12/23	S Danckert, J Hume
Southern Boobook [1]	Tootool Wetland, Tootool	03/12/23	S Danckert, J Hume
Brown Treecreeper [2]	Tootool Wetland, Tootool	03/12/23	S Danckert, J Hume
Fan-tailed Cuckoo [1]	Tootool Wetland, Tootool	03/12/23	S Danckert, J Hume
Fairy Martin [50+] Suggestive Behaviour-nest building	Tootool Wetland, Tootool	03/12/23	S Danckert, J Hume
Brown Treecreeper [2]	Milbrulong Forest, French Park	03/12/23	S Danckert, J Hume
Eastern Yellow Robin [1]	Milbrulong Forest, French Park	03/12/23	S Danckert, J Hume
Jacky Winter [3] Adult on nest	Milbrulong Forest, French Park	03/12/23	S Danckert, J Hume

**** COMING EVENTS ****

Please note all outings are subject to weather conditions.

Please register with the nominated person.

- 31 January Wednesday** Copy for the February newsletter is due. Please send to Rowena.
Email: ericwhiting4@bigpond.com. Phone: 6953 2612.
- 2 February Friday** World Wetlands Day 2024 – theme is Wetlands and Human Wellbeing
<https://www.ramsar.org/our-work/activities/world-wetlands-day>
- 8 February Thursday** Monthly Meeting in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St.,
Leeton commencing at 7pm.
Topic - TBA
Bring along your 'show & tell'
Contact: Dione Russell 0428 536 290
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com
- 10 February Saturday** Rocky Waterholes, Narrandera
A twilight meeting for a walk along the channel bank followed by nibbles at the
area by the bridge.
Meet at the bridge (off Old Wagga Road). Bring binoculars, insect repellent,
nibbles and drinks.
Contact: Dione Russell 0428 536 290
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com
- 3 March Sunday** Wagga waste management facility ponds – Wetland birds
Leader: Steve Moore
- 14 March Thursday** Monthly Meeting in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St.,
Leeton commencing at 7pm.
Topic - TBA
Bring along your 'show & tell'
Contact: Dione Russell 0428 536 290
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com
- 16 March Friday** Glossy Black Cockatoo Count
Participants will be allotted a dam to go to at various locations in the Brobenah
and Narrandera hills and Binya Forest. Timing will be from 6pm.
Details next issue.

MFN Wagga Wagga Tuesday Evening Bird Walks

Through the summer of 2024 we are planning to meet at a designated site each **Tuesday at 6pm** from
9th January until the 2nd of April.

Week one: **Flowerdale Lagoon**. Meeting in the information bay off Edward St West.

Week Two: **Marrambidya Wetlands** Meeting in wetlands carpark off Narrung St.

Week Three: **Lake Albert Wetlands** Meeting at Bosley Memorial Park, Nelson Dr Lake Albert.

Week Four: Kurrajong **Hildasid Farm** Meeting at "Hildasid" off Gregadoo Road, Lake Albert.

Week Five: **Rawlings Park** Meeting in Angel St, Rawlings Park Lake Albert.

Bring: Binoculars, water bottle, mozzie repellent, sunscreen, hat and snake bite bandages.

Contact: Janet 0408 238 890 or Sarah 0427 276 306