

The Murrumbidgee Naturalist



September 2024 - Issue #329

Journal of the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc.

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Website: www.mfn.org.au

Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com

Objectives

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

Enjoying Our Biodiversity



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CONTRIBUTIONS

**For the October issue by
Monday 30 September**

To Rowena Whiting

Email: ericwhiting4@bigpond.com.

Phone: 6953 2612

***September is
Biodiversity Month***

Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc. Office Bearers and Annual Subscriptions

President:	Sarah Danckert	0427 276 306	Editor:	Rowena Whiting	0429 726 120
Vice President:	Margaret Strong	0434 060 973	Committee:	Eric Whiting	6953 2612
Vice President:	Alan Whitehead	6959 3779		Nella Smith	0428 890 537
Vice President:	Virginia Tarr	0434 831 031		Janet Hume	0408 238 890
Secretary:	Dionee Russell	0428 536 290	Website Co-ordinator:		
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.

Membership enquiries:

Leeton	Eric Whiting	6953 2612	Griffith	Virginia Tarr	0434 831 031
Narrandera	Nella Smith	0428 890 537	Wagga Wagga	Sarah Danckert	0427 276 306

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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 September issue

Another full issue so I'm sure you'll find plenty of interest. Many thanks to all the contributors. Feedback is always welcome.

Spring is well and truly with us so I hope you are all out there enjoying its delights and will have plenty to report for the next newsletter. We have already held a wildflower walk in Griffith, the flowers are looking impressive.

There are a lot of activities in the coming weeks see the last page for the club organised ones and the page before for those organised by others but will be of considerable interest and our club's support is appreciated.

There is a request for photos of club activities and members in past years. It is proposed to have a slide show at the November meeting and/or at an inside event over the Anniversary weekend. Please send to Eric - ericwhiting4@bigpond.com.

Make sure you have saved the date - w/e 22-24 November.

Finally, please note that for the next issue I will be away when it is due to be compiled so I'm asking for contributions a little earlier, by Monday, 30 September (no need to wait for that date!) so I can compile it before I leave.

Enjoy your month, **Rowena**.

Our 30th Anniversary will be celebrated on the w/e 22-24 November

Make sure you have saved the date

How would you like to celebrate this occasion?

Some suggestions are a dinner, nature walk, BBQ / picnic lunch / tea.

We will be discussing this at the Yellow Room on Thursday (12 September)

Monitoring of Feral Animals

Jessica was our guest speaker at last month's meeting, she has kindly contributed the following piece about her research work in this area. We all found her presentation very informative and hope to learn more of how your projects progress in the future; our grateful thanks, Jessica. Native and exotics are picked up on the sensor cameras. Rowena.

At least 24 exotic mammal species have established self-supporting feral populations in Australia since European settlement in 1788. Many of these species have proven to be highly invasive and now occupy substantial areas of the continent. Species such as feral pigs, red foxes, European rabbits and goats have long been recognised as major threats to important biodiversity, environmental, and agricultural resources and have a long history of active management. Wild dogs and dingoes also have a long history of control; mainly to protect livestock production.

More recently, feral cats have been widely recognised as important pests, and several deer species that have become established in Australia have caused concern, as their distribution and density have increased rapidly and their impacts have become more widely apparent. Tens of millions of Australian dollars are spent each year by public and private landholders to reduce the damage or risk of damage caused by introduced mammals over hundreds of thousands of square kilometres, usually through population control programs using methods such as poison baiting, trapping, and aerial shooting.



Our research plays a pivotal role in ensuring the best methods of monitoring and humane control are available to landholders. I have worked across a range of projects, such as disease prevention and management (canine rabies, foot and mouth disease), how to maximise camera trap placement for effective monitoring and improving monitoring and control techniques of feral cats, wild dogs, foxes, feral pigs and deer.

Community groups can also become involved in helping to protect our native wildlife by logging pest animal sightings through platforms such as FeralScan (www.feralscan.org.au) or through

Citizen Scientist projects such as DigiVol (<https://volunteer.ala.org.au/#/learnMore>).

Jessica Todd, Research Officer, Vertebrate Pest Research Unit, NSW Department of Primary Industries

The Kalyarr National Park Draft plan of management is on public exhibition until 5 pm 1 November 2024. This provides members of the community with the opportunity to have a say in the management directions for the park.

The draft plan is accompanied by the Kalyarr National Park Draft planning considerations report. It is recommended that readers of the plan refer to the planning considerations report for detailed explanations of the park's values and management considerations.

To find out more and to view the planning considerations and draft POM, go to [Kalyarr National Park Draft plan of management: public consultation](#).

Club members, particularly those who've been on our camps there may like to consider this plan and contribute to MFN's submission. Eric will coordinate this so please contact him ericwhiting4@bigpond.com.

At Quandong Park - 4 August 2024

When Is a Grey Box Not a Grey Box?

Our outing to Jeff Hoffman's Quandong Park on Sunday 4th August, provided a fascinating view of what the country was like before colonisation.

A ground cover, *Eremophila debilis* (Winter Apple or Amulla), was prolific, growing in dappled shade at the bases of trees and outcompeting any other species including weeds.

However, the most eye-catching thing, for those botanically inclined, was provided by some magnificent old trees and one in particular.

We expected to see some Yellow Box, *Eucalyptus melliodora* and Grey Box, *Eucalyptus microcarpa*, which we did, but on the periphery of the Woodland, away from the road, were some huge Grey Box trees and one old giant which was distinctly different in form, from anything else that we saw.

Instead of having a few huge trunks like the grey boxes around it, it had one main trunk with a number of large branches which made it a much shadier tree (see photos).

Some of us remembered seeing something similar in the Tarcutta Hills.



Eremophila debilis Winter Apple

One of our group, Catherine Conroy, started the ball rolling when she suggested that it might be an Apple Box, *Eucalyptus bridgesiana*.



Grey Box and fruit (left), Apple Box and fruit (right)



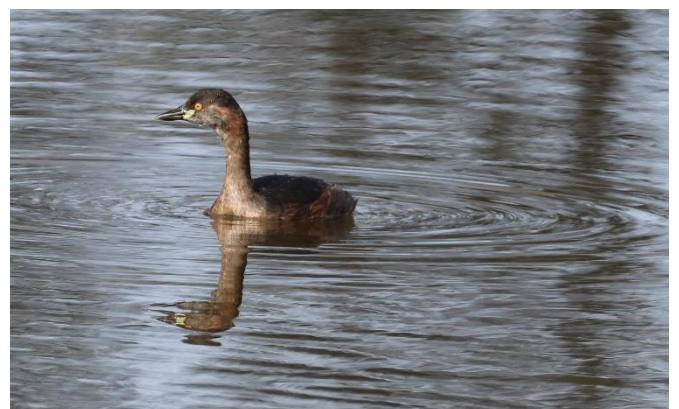
I managed to obtain fruits of the possible Apple Box and those of a Grey Box and subsequent comparison of the fruits indicated that Catherine was correct.

Hence, an answer to: "When is a Grey Box not a Grey Box? When it's an Apple Box!"

David Dunn (text and images above)



Nice tree hollows (Tootool Wetland) – Joanne Connolly
Beetles under bark (Quandong Park) - Joanne Connolly
Grebe & reflections in dam (Quandong Park) - Janet Hume



Bird Lists compiled by Sarah Danckert

Quandong Park

Apostlebird, Noisy Miner, Little Corella, Australian Magpie, Australian Raven, Galah, Australasian Grebe, Crested Pigeon, Eastern Rosella, Grey Butcherbird, Laughing Kookaburra, Pacific Black Duck, Pied Currawong, Red-rumped Parrot, Striated Pardalote, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Australian Wood Duck, Striped Honeyeater, Grey-crowned Babbler.

3 Swamp Wallaby
Grey Kangaroo
Eremophila debilis

Tootool Wetlands

Peaceful Dove, Red Wattlebird, Australian Raven, Magpie-lark, Restless Flycatcher, Superb Fairy-wren, Rufous Whistler, Galah, Eastern Rosella, White-plumed Honeyeater, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, White-winged Chough, Willie Wagtail, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Noisy Miner.

Brown Snake

Milbrulong State Forest

Grey Shrike-thrush, White-plumed Honeyeater, Fairy/Tree Martin spp, Australian Raven, Laughing Kookaburra, White-throated Treecreeper, Grey Butcherbird, Rufous Whistler, Willie Wagtail, Grey-crowned Babbler.

12 Eastern Grey Kangaroo



Grey Butcherbird in Forest near Tootool Rd spot in trip – Joanne Connolly 2024_09

An Early 'Early Nancy'

The defining characteristics of an Early Nancy, *Wurmbea dioica* is the ring of dark purple on the petals. (To be correct they are tepals – 3 petals and 3 sepals all looking petal-like). The purple ring is actually two raised nectaries on each of the tepals being only separated by a narrow mid-rib.



***Wurmbea dioica* Rowena Whiting**
Slopes region.

W. latifolia also differs from *W. dioica* by usually being smaller, our plants were barely 6cm high, and flowers earlier from late winter to spring. So an early Early Nancy.

Eric Whiting

So when we came across plants with all white flowers but otherwise looking like an Early Nancy in Milbrulong State Forest we had to wonder was it an Early Nancy or something else. Turns out it was a closely related species, *Wurmbea latifolia*. This species has the paired nectaries but they are white or at the most very pale purple. Unlike *W. dioica* which is widespread across Australia, *W. latifolia* is confined to the Southern Tablelands, Central West Slopes and South West Slopes and equivalent areas in Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia. Milbrulong is fairly central in the South West



***Wurmbea latifolia* (above) and below shows how small it is - Sarah Danckert**



Our visit to Barren Box Swamp - August 2024

Murrumbidgee Irrigation contacted our club early in the year wondering if any of our members would like to do some birdwatching at Barren Box Swamp. The way I understand it, Barren Box is the drainage point for the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area (MIA) and the drainage water can be recycled to supply the Benerembah, Tabbita and Wah Wah irrigation districts.



Great Egret (right), Australian Pelican (below) – Janet Hume



Barren Box is a large natural depression approximately 25km NW of Griffith. It covers a bit over 3000ha. and has been developed into three cells to assist with the management of it and is now known as “Barren Box Storage”. There’s an active cell, an intermediate storage cell and the third one is a wetland which probably only receives water in very wet years or when the Murrumbidgee is flooding.

MFN have had good outings there before and were aware the swamp has an infestation of Alligator Weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*) and if we wanted to visit strict biosecurity protocols would have to be adhered to.



Group bird watching - Eric Whiting

This is from [NSW Weedwise](#) “Alligator weed is a potentially devastating weed that grows in water and on land, affecting both waterways and floodplain areas.....extremely vigorous growth and great tolerance of normal control measures..... a major threat to wetlands, rivers and irrigation systems..... considered one of the world's worst weeds because it impacts on both aquatic and terrestrial environments. Overseas experience indicates that its potential impacts in Australia could be devastating.”

Given the above, certain protocols to the visit had to be observed. Any member who expressed an interest in the excursion had to do an online

induction, read the [General Biosecurity Direction](#) for the Swamp and obtain the necessary permit to visit. It wasn’t particularly onerous, but it was a process that understandably just had to be followed.

Nine of our members went through the process and we were joined by two young non-members from Albury and Griffith who availed themselves of this opportunity to visit Barren Box. Their enthusiasm and general interest in birds was great to see through the day!

We all met at MI’s depot in Griffith on August 8th, sorted out the carpooling then proceeded out to the swamp. We recorded 47 species in all. Waterbirds like Cormorants, Pelicans and Black Swans were abundant. There were also lots of various ducks but no threatened species were observed.

Numerous woodland birds were recorded but I found the different raptors seen especially interesting. There were so many, and I learnt a lot from the more experienced birdos about the characteristics that needed to be noted to be able to identify them. I should be an expert now on Whistling Kites from the number we saw! (But never will be 😊)

Our inductions are valid for the next two years and if we do another field trip here, any other member is welcome to join us, they'll just have to do go through the permit process.

I'd like to thank Cindy and Ashleigh from Murrumbidgee Irrigation for facilitating the day and Nella and Sarah for organising the MFN end of it.

Glenn Currie

Bird list

Australian White Ibis, Welcome Swallow, Black-shouldered Kite, Willie Wagtail, Little Pied Cormorant, Crested Pigeon, Australian Pelican, Dusky Moorhen, Nankeen Night-Heron, Magpie-lark, Little Black Cormorant, Black Swan, Grey Teal, Whistling Kite, White-winged Fairy-wren, Australian Hobby, Common Starling, Great Egret, Purple Swamphen, Great Cormorant, Splendid Fairy-wren, Variegated Fairy-wren, Zebra Finch, Little Raven, Galah, Cockatiel, Nankeen Kestrel, Australasian Darter, Little Grassbird, House Sparrow, Masked Lapwing, Australasian Grebe, Eurasian Coot, Silver Gull, White-faced Heron, Swamp Harrier, Emu, Black-faced Woodswallow, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Noisy Miner, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Fairy Martin, Great Pied Cormorant, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Black Kite, Pacific Black Duck.

Member Observations

Virginia Tarr

Has sent some images of the fire damage at Campbells Wetland on 29 August; the bird hide was saved by the firemen but the board walk is partly burnt. Also some of the plants in flower – Bulbine Lilies

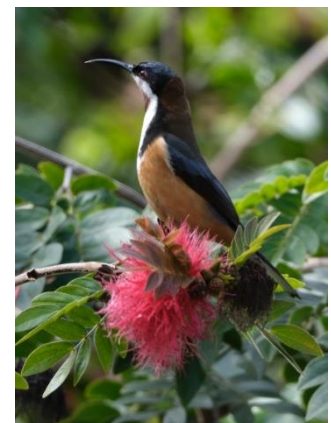


were just coming out (left), Broughton Peas (right), the first time she has seen it there. The Griffith City Council have added 4 old cement blocks further along the pathway towards the end.

Janet Hume

I visited my daughter in her new home "Tarlalinni" Tarlam, nr Macksville early in July. We spent much of our visit working in her garden and I had a lovely time observing the birds. Highlights being the Eastern Spinebill feeding outside our bedroom, Eastern Whipbird (right) calling from a magnolia tree, Eastern

Yellow Robin, a Rose Robin (centre) and Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo (left) feeding in the Liquidamber each afternoon.



Outing to MIA 1 Sandhill Revegetation Site – 10 August 2024



I was the leader for our August field trip to the Sandhill Rehabilitation Project site in MIA 1 (part of the Murrumbidgee Valley National Park). I led my very first outing for MFN to this site in May 2018 [The Murrumbidgee Naturalist #260](#), then visited it on my own during the Covid restrictions in May 2020 [The Murrumbidgee Naturalist #282](#).

I need to correct something in those articles - I incorrectly identified an acacia as Miljee *Acacia oswaldii* whereas it should have been Cooba *Acacia salicina*. Sorry about that.

This Sandhill Reveg site was originally set up

by State Forests before it became a National Park. They planted tubestock and did some direct seeding of various acacias and Old Man Saltbush in a small area a few hundred metres from the entry in about 2001. These are going well and had quite a few thornbills and fairywrens in them when we visited. Rabbit burrows were very evident under the Saltbushes.

Then after NPWS took stewardship of the forests, they had some direct seeding done in 2015 by Greening Australia as part of a project to increase habitat for Superb Parrots. Acacias and hophushes were sown but they didn't get a great result – weed competition, dry conditions and browsing by kangaroos and rabbits were probably all contributing factors.



2020's direct seeding in 2024 – above
2015's direct seeding in 2018, 2020, 2024 (from left)



Yellow Box sapling 2024,
planted 2020

When we visited in 2018 the plants that did survive were noticeable but patchy and quite small. Then on my visit in 2020 I could see they had grown considerably.

Then also in 2020 Greening Australia did more direct seeding of acacias and hophushes, as well as handplanting Yellow Box, White Cypress and Buloke. These species don't establish well by direct seeding hence the planting of tubestock to get an overstorey of trees established.

2020's efforts were during a La Nina weather cycle and the photos show how well they have done! This was considered a successful direct seeding project. Lots of the acacias were flowering when we were there and some of the handplanted Yellow Box are a couple of metres high.

We generated a fairly small bird list on the day – with the increase in biodiversity on the hill, I was hoping for more.

Bird list – Eastern Rosella, Galah, Striated Pardalote, Pied Butcherbird, Little Eagle, Yellow Thornbill, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Willie Wagtail, Weebill, Australian Raven, Silvereye, Superb Fairywren.

After we left MIA I, I took the group to the small **Narrandera Landcare revegetation site** that I did speak about at our May Yellow Room meeting. It's situated along the Mad Mile Travelling Stock Route just north of Narrandera. NLG first planted this site in 2001, then we added to it in 2018. It's also on a red sand hill so it's a tough site to revegetate and is a work in progress. What did get started in 2018 had trouble surviving the grazing by whatever.

The most interesting thing I've noticed there recently is some the Sweet Bursaria *Bursaria spinosa*, originally planted over 20 years ago, are finally starting to recruit and new seedlings are evident. I think about why it took so long and the fairly favourable last three seasons would have helped a lot. I wonder if the three good seasons have given the kangaroos, wallabies and hares/rabbits, enough other vegetation to graze which allowed these seedlings to get to a size where they can keep growing?

I base this on observing some of our tree-guarded seedlings in 2018 which we watered and nurtured until they were sticking out the tops of the tree guards, but ended up being grazed down to ground level, by probably a macropod sticking its head and neck down inside the guard. 2018 was a dry year and they were probably desperate for anything to eat.

When I wrote something for our newsletter in 2020 and tried to supply comparison photographs for the different years, I remember Eric mentioning the value of set photo points. I could see his point at the time, and still can. But to compare the years in this article you'll have to use the big Yellow Box in the background as a reference and a bit of imagination.

Glenn Currie



Sweet Bursaria regenerating

Scenic Hill Wildflower Walk - 1 September 2024

Unfortunately, due to rain on the advertised date this event was postponed a week which put it on Father's Day as well as the day for our Aria Park outing. However approximately 20 people took advantage of the glorious spring weather and attended the afternoon's walk. Plenty of flowers were seen though the Indigofera had lost a lot of theirs during the week because of the rain.

There were Twining Glycine, Austral Indigo, Leopard Orchids (in profuse number), a scattering of Spider Orchids, Midget Greenhoods, Dwarf Greenhoods, Creamy Candles in patches, Currawang Wattle. Along with Early Nancy, Common Everlastings, Golden Everlasting, Tiny Stars, Mulga ferns, Fringe Lily, and many more.

Attendees appreciated finding out where to walk and were grateful for knowing that we have a great diverse number of flowers on our back door-step. Our thanks go to Ema Munro for organising the event and Virginia Tarr for her assistance, along with Nella Smith and Glenn Currie for being leaders on the day and Jess McPherson (MLi) for helping to produce the laminated handout.



Photos by Virginia Tarr – (from left) Austral Indigo, Leopard Orchid, Spider Orchid and Currawang Wattle

Campbells Wetland 3 September 2024

There was a recent fire (still smoking) at Campbells Swamp. So, what is the impact of that fire?

The fire was mostly confined to the area between the water and the gravel path on the eastern side. The dry reeds have been razed. A few dead trees also. Some of the recently planted Eucalypts have been scorched but I expect that most of them will reshoot. No damage to the new infrastructure, although the old boardwalk is now well and truly finished off. I tried making enquiries about the progress of the proposed new boardwalk but I don't have a reply yet.

And what about the birdlife? I visited today and it seemed like business as usual. I had heard that Robins are early into burnt areas, and true to that, there was a Red-capped Robin in a scorched bush, surveying the ashes. It is a common bird in the region but not one I commonly see at Campbells.

There were more Grey Teal than usual, or were they simply easier to see, or is it a sign of the drying of other habitat they use? A Swamp Harrier landed on the track near to me, walked around, took off with nesting material, and I followed its flight to the probable nest in the cumbungi in the centre of the swamp. There were more than the usual few Red-rumped Parrots. Normally they drop in for a drink then leave but today they were dallying and laying claim to their nesting sites. One pair of Black Swan showed off two grey chicks. There were plenty of Reed Warblers loudly singing in the remaining reeds. One Magpie Goose and one White-bellied Sea-Eagle perched and one lone Pink Cockatoo flew over. Altogether a list of 41 species.

Neil Palframan

A Press Release from Griffith City Council today is good news

"FIRE AT CAMPBELLS WETLANDS DESTROYS BOARDWALK"

Griffith City Council remains committed to the restoration of Campbells Wetlands despite a recent fire that destroyed critical infrastructure. The fire, which started on Tuesday, 27 August 2024, has caused significant damage to the boardwalk and surrounding areas, forcing Council to reassess its current plans.

Funded by a grant under the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund, Council had initially planned to replace the existing boardwalk using the current structure as a working platform, with construction scheduled to begin on 7 October 2024. However, due to the destruction of the existing infrastructure, these plans are now under review.

The contractor appointed by the Council to undertake the project assessed the site last weekend, and will provide a revised solution ensuring that the project remains on track despite the recent setback.

In addition to the fire damage, vandals have further compromised the site by kicking in some of the metal lining on the bird hide.

The boardwalk is now closed to the public due to safety concerns, and barricades will be in place to prevent access. Council urges residents and visitors to respect these closures for their safety. Council remains fully committed to delivering the project within the allocated timeframe and budget, with the aim to complete all works by 30 April 2025 to meet the Crown Reserves funding milestones"



Saving lives by saving land: The Wildlife Land Trust

Private Land Conservation

In 2022, Australia committed to conserving 30% of its terrestrial, inland water, and coastal marine areas by 2030, in line with the global biodiversity framework. A crucial aspect of achieving this goal is **private land conservation**. With approximately 60% of the country's land privately owned, the role landowners have to play is significant.

Many landholders are already taking actions to improve habitats for wildlife, removing invasive plant species and allowing native ecosystems to regenerate, or revegetating degraded landscapes on their properties to enhance ecosystem resilience. Restoring habitat helps to reconnect fragmented landscapes and link habitats to adjacent bushland, nature reserves or national parks and improves ecosystem connectivity.

Various conservation agreements and covenants offer landholders valuable ways to preserve their land both now and into the future and receive land management support. One such conservation program is the Wildlife Land Trust (WLT).

The Wildlife Land Trust

The WLT is the national private land conservation program of Humane Society International Australia. It's a network of over 920 member-owned sanctuaries that are conserving and restoring their land, committed to preserving wildlife and habitats.

The WLT is an inclusive and free program with participating landholders varying in their land use. They include farmers, eco-accommodation providers, conservationists, wildlife carers and regular landowners who want to support wildlife on their land.



Lola Topsom of Lolaland



Louisa Bartels Program Officer with Gilbert wombat joey at Wombat Stomp

Program eligibility

Properties must be sized over 1 acre to be eligible for the WLT program, however exceptions can be made for smaller properties with high biodiversity value. To become a member, landholders must agree to not partake in recreational or commercial hunting of wildlife or commercial logging or harvesting of timber or other activities that would destroy wildlife habitat on their property. The agreement is not legally binding, and the program complements current or future land protection arrangements.

Member benefits

WLT members benefit from the program through personalised conservation advice and support on conservation issues, access to wildlife events and potentially funding assistance through grants. Members can share their conservation stories with other members through the twice-yearly print newsletter and monthly e-newsletters.

Initiatives accessible to members also include **Sanctuaries You Can Stay**, for accommodation providers to connect with environmentally conscious travellers. Landholders seeking an environmentally-minded steward for their land to maintain its biodiversity can also advertise through the **Sanctuaries for Sale** website section.

Interested in becoming a Wildlife Land Trust member?

The first step to joining the Wildlife Land Trust involves filling in a simple application form with an overview of your property and goals for your land. Scan the QR code or visit the link to start your application

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/wlt>

Learn more about what the WLT is all about at: www.wildlifelandtrust.org.au

Or contact Program Officer Louisa Bartels at lbartels@hsi.org.au

Louisa Bartels

M E M B E R S ' S I G H T I N G S

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

Significant sightings

Red-capped Robin [2]	Pomingalarna, Wagga Wagga	02/08/24	S Danckert, J Hume
Brown-headed Honeyeater [8]	Pomingalarna, Wagga Wagga	02/08/24	S Danckert, J Hume
Varied Sittella [4]	Pomingalarna, Wagga Wagga	02/08/24	S Danckert, J Hume
Fuscous Honeyeater [20]	Mates Gully TSR	11/08/24	S Danckert
Crested Shrike-tit [2]	Mates Gully TSR	11/08/24	S Danckert
Diamond Firetail [8]	Mates Gully TSR	11/08/24	S Danckert
Jacky Winter [1]	Mates Gully TSR	11/08/24	S Danckert
Brown Treecreeper [1]	Mates Gully TSR	11/08/24	S Danckert
Nankeen Kestrel [2]	Rawlings Park, Lake Albert, Wagga	14/08/24	S Danckert, J Hume
Dusky Woodswallow [20]	San Isadore Reserve, Wagga	21/08/24	S Danckert, J Hume
Crested Shrike-tit [2]	Flowerdale Lagoon, Wagga	26/08/24	S Danckert
Hooded Robin [1]	"Colale", Pattersons Rd, Wagga	31/08/24	Debra Clark
Tawny Frogmouth [2]	Narrandera Flora and Fauna Reserve	24/08/24	Chris Dalitz, Ilse Katalinic
Wedge-tailed Eagle [1]	"Yarrambimbi", Collinroobie Rd, Leeton	25/08/24	Andrew Thompson
Glossy Black Cockatoo [8-10]	"Yarrambimbi", Collinroobie Rd, Leeton	25/08/24	Andrew Thompson
Wedgie was circling, causing the glossies to take to the air.			
Nankeen Kestrel [2]	Rawlings Park, Lake Albert, Wagga	27/08/24	J Hume
Breeding activity: suggestive behaviour - seen entering and leaving tree hollow, copulation and carrying prey			
Superb Parrot [4x4 males]	Irrigation Way	6/09/24	Nella Smith

Other sightings of note These do not meet the criteria of significant sightings that the Committee are discussing – see Meeting minutes for details.

White-bellied Sea Eagle [1]	Flowerdale Lagoon, Wagga	01/08/24	S Danckert
Blue-faced Honeyeater [8]	Rawlings Park, Lake Albert, Wagga	14/08/24	S Danckert, J Hume
Fan-tailed Cuckoo [1]	Rawlings Park, Lake Albert, Wagga	20/08/24	J Hume
Brown Quail [8]	San Isadore Reserve, Wagga	21/08/24	S Danckert, J Hume
Recently fledged young, 4 juv			
Zebra Finch [10]	Coolac, MLI event	30/08/24	S Danckert
White-bellied Sea Eagle [1]	Sth Lake Wyangan	30/08/24	V Tarr

Compiled by Janet Hume, reviewed by Nella Smith.

Tawny Frogmouths taken by Michael Katalinic



Nankeen Kestrel's suggestive behaviour – Janet Hume



Other Events / Items

Great Southern Bioblitz – events in and around Narrandera

Wildflowers

Thursday 19 September 5pm - 6pm Bundidgerry Lookout, Corner of Old Wagga Rd and Ridgeview Rd

Platypus

Friday 20 September 10am - 12pm Meet at the Morundah park and convoy to the location.

Koalas

Saturday 21 September 10am - 12pm Annual Koala Count at the Narrandera Flora and Fauna Reserve

Bring your own water. Have an active account on the iNaturalist app.

For more information contact our Local Landcare Coordinator on 0438 406 417 or email jmcpherson@mli.org.au

Friday 20th September - Lake Cowal Wildflower Walk – with Murrumbidgee Landcare and Lake Cowal Conservation Centre.

10am – 12pm at Lake Cowal Conservation Centre 1197 Blow Clear Rd. \$10 for lunch.

RSVP to Britt Hicks: 0427559635 bhicks@mli.org

25 September and 13 November Western Riverina Seed Workshop Series near Tabbita to explore the enchanting world of native species seed and regeneration.

The September Workshop will be during the flowering season and discussion will focus on native seed knowledge and skills, availability, production and projected harvest, seedbanking licencing and record keeping, storage networks, soil moisture status and seed dispersal methods and management.

For more information please email bidgeewest@mli.org.au or call 0408 629 553.

27 September 6:30-8:30pm at CSU

Wildlife Spotting with Wagga Wagga Urban Landcare - Squirrel Gliders, Brushtails, Tawny Frogmouths. Free BBQ dinner supplied.

Contact Sarah Danckert for further information - Ph 0427 276 306 spdanckert@gmail.com

12-13 October - Narrandera Koala Festival at Brewery Flat

A weekend of koalas, fun, and conservation with live music, food stalls, environmental information stalls.

Activities include story telling, interactive workshops, a twilight bush walk.

MFN contact: Joanne Connolly Mob 0405649525, Email: jconnolly@csu.edu.au). Joanne would particularly like to hear from anyone able to assist with guiding the nature walks.

14-20 October – National Bird Week. Take part in the BirdLife Australia's Aussie Bird Count. You can do a 20-minute survey of birds anywhere, in your backyard, local park or somewhere in the bush or a reserve. Registration is open at aussiebirdcount.org.au

8-17 November - Frog ID Week. This is run by the Australian Museum and uses the free FrogID app, where you can record the frogs calling around you and help count Australia's frogs.

Fivebough Wetlands Here's a link to the Fivebough facebook page (for non Facebook users)
<https://www.facebook.com/fiveboughswamp/>

Mike Schulz has put up some photos of the early days of the 'wetland' when it changed from being a grazing lease to become an area of significance for birdlife. You'll have to scroll down to the 7 August. There's also a couple showing the damage done to the 2 broilgas at the track junction. The heads were able to be rescued and will be able to be repaired.

Photo also shows the new signage.



**** COMING EVENTS ****

Please note all outings are subject to weather conditions.

Please register with the nominated person so they can be contacted if there is a change in arrangements.
Registering also means that the leader is better able to plan activities.

- 12 September Thursday Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7pm.
Topic / Guest Speaker: Wildlife Land Trust with Louisa Bartels, Program Officer
Join in person if you can. The presentation will be via Zoom
Bring along your 'show & tell'
Contact: Dione Russell 0428 536 290
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com.
- 14 September Saturday Moombooldool / Kamarah area Laneway mallee vegetation.**
A car crawl with frequent stops to see flowering plants in remnant mallee patches along a lane. Local traffic will be infrequent, though dust protection for cameras etc is advised. We'll also explore a nearby Travelling Stock Reserve with the expectation of seeing birds and plants in a different habitat.
Bring: morning tea, lunch and wear the usual protective clothing for the season.
Meet: 8.45am
Place: Yalgogrin Rd intersection with Burley Griffin Way, Moombooldool.
Contact: Margaret Strong 0434060973 (text) or strong.margaret@bigpond.com by 12 September.
- 21 September Saturday Narrandera Annual Koala Count**
Meet at 9.30am at entrance to Narrandera Flora & Fauna Reserve.
Event runs from 10am-12 noon
Contact Jessie McPherson, Local Landcare Coordinator on 0438 406 417 or email jmcpherson@mli.org.au
- 30 September Monday Copy for the October newsletter is due. Please send to Rowena.**
Email: ericwhiting4@bigpond.com Phone: 0429 726 120.
- 3 October Thursday Committee Meeting @ 7pm via Zoom**
All members are welcome to participate.
Contact: Dione Russell 0428 536 290 or the Club email.
- 10 October Thursday Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7pm.
Guest Speaker/topic TBA
Contact: Dione Russell 0428 536 290
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com.
- 12 or 13 October Saturday or Sunday Lake Wyangan / Campbells Wetland**
Leader: Virginia Tarr
Day and other details next month (Virginia is currently away)
Enquiries Glenn Currie 0488 563 321
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com.
- 9 November Thursday Annual General Meeting and Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7pm.
Topic –
Contact: Dione Russell 0428 536 290
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com