

The Murrumbidgee Naturalist



October 2024 - Issue #330

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

Wildflowers



*at
their
best*



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CONTRIBUTIONS

For the November issue by
Wednesday 6 November

To Rowena Whiting

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*Our 30th anniversary
celebration is on
22-23 November
See page 13*

Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc. Office Bearers and Annual Subscriptions

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

FIELD TRIPS NORMALLY TAKE PLACE ON THE FOLLOWING WEEKEND; (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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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 October issue

Another month, another newsletter!!

There has certainly been plenty of activities to participate in and a number of these are reported on in this issue so you can share in some of the delights, particularly the flora, we have encountered in the field. Many thanks to all the contributors particularly Margaret Strong who has compiled reports from a couple of these with details of the wildflowers and other species encountered; also to the bird listers. Don't forget feedback is always welcome either to me or the author.

There are many activities on the calendar for the coming month with a full page of MFN events on page 14 and a further page of other events you may like to participate in on page 13. All will be of considerable interest and these organisations appreciate our support. Then in November (w/e 22/23) we will be celebrating our 30 years of field natting.

I'm sure you'll find plenty to interest you and to participate or contribute to in some way over the coming month.

Enjoy your month, Happy reading **Rowena**.

Rocky Hill additional information - see page 14 for outing details. Join the October monthly meeting to hear Milena Dunn talk about the Rocky Hill Regeneration Program.

Come on the 13 October for the bird walk which is a chance to learn/hone up on your bird watching skills on before Aussie Bird Count starts.

Bring: Binoculars, Water, Mobile phone (preferably with Birds in Backyard App loaded), Sunscreen, Snack if you'd like something while you walk.

Wear: Long pants, hat, closed shoes.

A couple of things she suggests in preparation for the bird walk:

- 1) Make sure you have Birds in Backyard App on your mobile
- 2) Look at the [rockyhill.com.au](https://www.rockyhill.com.au) website to see some of the many birds recorded and for Bird List to see the full list compiled by Geoff Burrows, Sarah Danckert and Melanie Baulch

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jue7J3Y2gmKj2eqKQ-uARZjYEX3DEbKo/edit?usp=drivesdk&oid=117622909734498287145&rtpof=true&sd=true>

September Meeting – The Wildlife Land Trust

We were pleased to welcome **Louisa Bartels** (via Zoom) as our guest speaker and learn about the work and benefits of this organisation. Copies of their newsletters are available from our library.



With 60% land in Australia being privately owned the role of landowners is significant in Australia conserving 30% of its land by 2030. This is in line with the global biodiversity framework. Their network covers a network of over 930 member-owned sanctuaries around Australia with whom they have conservation agreements and covenants. Their work is conserving and restoring their land, being committed to preserving wildlife and habitats.

Louisa highlighted a few of those in the Murrumbidgee Region, of note were Baamirra Sanctuary, a remnant open Black Box woodland, on the outskirts of Leeton; Narimba with 500ha of ephemeral wetland south of Leeton (some members may know as Dry Lake, also the owner's Mark and Susie Rowe who are MFN members)), also Warriwillah near the Namadgi National Park, which is used as a field training centre and they would welcome our Club for nature walks and/or surveys. There are also 62 eco-friendly sanctuaries with accommodation.



See last month's newsletter for an article submitted by Louisa and more information. We would like to convey our thanks to Louisa for your interest in our Club, we all very much appreciated hearing about the Wildlife Land Trust and some of the properties. If you would like to learn more about the Wildlife Land Trust program or browse our existing member-owned sanctuaries you can visit their website at www.wildlifelandtrust.org.au or contact Louisa Bartels at lbartels@hsi.org.au.

Rowena Whiting

From the Inbox

[Aussie Bird Count](#) (Birdlife Australia)

14 to 20 October, Australia-wide Now in its eleventh year, the Aussie Bird Count is a week-long citizen science event that aims to raise the profile of Australia's birds - by encouraging people to get to know the birds around them. You can count from home, at school, in your backyard or a nearby park or any outdoor space. Each count takes just 20 minutes.

New strain of bird flu - risks to Australian wildlife

A particularly deadly strain of the highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 has been devastating bird populations around the world over the last two years and will probably arrive in Australia this spring. Its not only going to impact our native birds but other species as well. We need to be aware of this and should read the [Biodiversity Council's Briefing Note](#) then to inform themselves more, watch the recording of the [Webinar: Preparing for bird flu impacts on Australian wildlife](#).

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 planning considerations and draft POM, go to [Kalyarr National Park Draft plan of management: public consultation](#). Eric is coordinating a submission from MFN so if you are able to contribute please contact him ericwhiting4@bigpond.com or phone 02 6953 2612 after 19 October.

Wanted - photos of past years for a digital display of MFNs history

Please send to Eric Whiting – ericwhiting4@bigpond.com

On Sunday 1 September 11 members met at Mandamah State Forest. This location was chosen on recommendation from Eric Whiting for an exploratory survey, being within close proximity to Ariaiah Park where we were to join members of the local community for the 2nd Annual Mirrool Creek Walk.

Being a State Forest, the understory and ground cover vegetation were disturbed and limited in diversity. Plants that took my eye were flowering *goodenia*, *Pterostylis mutica* (Midget Greenhood orchid), *Pauridia glabella* (Tiny Star), *Cheilanthes sieberi* (Mulga Fern) (the only of fern), *Maireana microphylla* (Small-leaf Bluebush), possibly *Camphorosmeae* and a tall eucalypt bearing a scar.

There were several threatened bird species sighted (underlined) and it's always terrific to see a Wedge-tailed eagle.



For a change, we dined in for lunch at the Ariaiah Park Hotel before joining locals at the cemetery to walk to Mirrool Creek. The birds were quite different, with Australian Pelicans and a Little Eagle flying over, and on the ground an echidna with very pale spines.

Scar on eucalypt; Tiny Star; Noisy Friarbird (Janet Hume); Echidna; below: Mirrool Creek (Rowena Whiting)



Sarah Danckert

Mandamah State Forest compiled by Sarah

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater [12], Laughing Kookaburra [4], Apostlebird [12], White-winged Cough [12], Rufous Whistler (8), Grey Fantail [6], White-plumed Honeyeater [10], Peaceful Dove [4], Red-capped Robin [2], Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike [2], Western Gerygone [4], White-necked Heron [1], Yellow-rumped Thornbill [4], Eastern Yellow Robin [7], Brown-headed Honeyeater [4], Yellow Thornbill [15], Little Raven, Magpie-lark [1], Grey Shrike-thrush [1], Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Wedge-tailed Eagle [1], Grey-crowned Babbler, Brown Quail [2], Australian Raven [5], Inland Thornbill [4], Spotted Pardalote [1], Willie Wagtail [2], Australian Magpie [3]

Mirrool Creek (Broken Dam) walk Ariaiah Park compiled by Sarah

Magpie-lark, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, Apostlebird, Crested Pigeon, Galah, Rufous Songlark, Jacky Winter, Grey Fantail, White-plumed Honeyeater, Dusky Woodswallow, White-breasted Woodswallow, Willie Wagtail, Laughing Kookaburra, Noisy Friarbird, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Welcome Swallow, Nankeen Kestrel, Grey Shrike-thrush, Australian Pelican, Grey Butcherbird, Eastern Rosella, Common Bronzewing, Australian Magpie, Grey-crowned Babbler [5], Common Starling, Little Eagle [1]



Heading north east along Yalgogrin Rd, our convoy made a few stops for examples of mallee shrubs before we veered off onto adjoining lanes for the rest of our spring flower adventure. The least beautiful shrub of the day, but still very impressive, being **Mallee Pine** (*Callitris verrucosa*) was one of those stops. Another was for **Desert Phebalium** (*Phebalium squamulosum*), being one of the most beautiful shrubs in our region.



The car crawl along the best patch of mallee laneway vegetation enabled passengers to walk that distance (1.8km) while drivers did some walking between moving the vehicles forward. We all had a rich experience spotting many flowering plants that we don't usually see so close together. For example, **Velvet Bushes** (*Lasiopetalum baurei*) next to **Shrub Violets** (*Hybanthus floribundus*), **Scarlet Mintbushes** (*Prostanthera aspalathoides*) and **Rankin's Springs Grevilleas** (*Grevillea glabella*). It was also pleasing to see seedlings of these and other mallee shrubs growing there.

Spiny Cream Spider-flowers (*Grevillea anethifolia*) were seen next to **Red Parrot-peas** (*Dillwynia hispida*), **Mallee Bush-peas** (*Eutaxia microphylla*), **Spur-wing Acacias** (*Acacia triptera*) and **Mallee Bue-flowers** (*Halganina cyanea*). A lone **Bushy Dampiera** (*Dampiera adpressa*) was a stunning, rare sight along with

Above: Desert Phebalium – flower and bushes along roadside; photographing, checking consulting on names (Mallee Pine behind) – Rowena Whiting
 Below from left: Bushy Dampiera, Red Parrot-pea, Spur-wing Acacia – Margaret Strong



several **Slender Westringia** (*Westringia eremicola*). **Fringed Heath-myrtle** (*Micromyrtus ciliata*) with their numerous tiny, white flowers perfected the scenes as did the many acacia blossoms of the other typical mallee species of our region, being **Grey Mulga** (*A. brachybotrya*), **Needle Wattle** (*A. rigens*) and possibly a few **Streaked Wattles** (*A. lineata*). In patches, there was so much yellow that it was difficult to distinguish one species from another.



A shrub given attention by many of us was **Felted Wallaby-bush** (*Beyeria leshanaultii*) with their

dioecious flowers. The males were easily identifiable with their small, bright, yellow flowers against the shiny green of the upper leaf surfaces. **Punty Bushes** (*Senna artemisoides*) and **Twiggy Bush-peas** (*Pultenaea largiflorens*) were also numerous. **Spiny Mallee-peas** (*Templetonia aculeata*) were visible with their large, pale flowers amongst their almost leafless stems.

Above: Slender Westringia –Rowena Whiting; Spiny Cream Spider-flower; Shrub Violet
Below: Spotted Jezabel (male, upperwings) on Olearia pimeleoides - Margaret Strong; Caper White (male) between shrubs (Scarlet Mintbush) Janet Hume

Attracted to all these sources of nectar were some of our seasonal migrant butterflies, like **Caper Whites** (*Belenois java*), **Spotted Jezabels** (*Delias aganippe*), **Lemon Migrants** (*Catopsilia pomona*) and **Australian Painted Ladies** (*Vanessa kershawi*). Many unidentified moths and other insects were also seen. Ants with distinctive tunnels were noted by Sarah D, who also spotted a **Twining Fringe-lily** (*Thysanotus patersonii*) amongst the forbs and grasses, which included many **Creamy Candles** (*Stackhousia monogyna*).



While our eyes were busy, so were our ears with a continuous stream of birdsong coming from the mallee eucalyptus trees that lined the lane. The unusual call of **Singing Honeyeaters** soaked into us during our visit to their beautiful territory, while

Weebills' cheerful whistles seemed to carry us forward. The excitement of **Rufous Songlarks'** seasonal calls described the vibe amongst the 19 human participants, interspersed with the calmer melodies of **Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters**. There were a large variety of birds (36 species) present for remnant vegetation bordered by farmland. Thanks to Janet for compiling

that list while also enjoying the plants.

In the last stop towards the high end of the lane, to admire a large stand of mature and sapling **Currawang** (*Acacia doratoxylon*), Nella spotted **Small-leaf Waxflower** *Philotheca difformis* shrubs to everyone's delight. We concluded the event with a well-earned lunch break in a nearby **Callitris / Bimble Box** (*E. populaea*)

woodland. Thanks to Eric for confirming the pea flowers that I had guessed at identifying and to Margrit for assisting in preparing for the event and pointing out plants while walking the lane.

Margaret Strong

Moombooldool Lanes Bird List - compiled by Janet Hume, 14 September 2024

Crested Pigeon, Peaceful Dove, Little Black Cormorant, Cockatiel, Galah, Red-rumped Parrot, Eastern Rosella, Purple-backed Fairywren, Striped Honeyeater, Noisy Friarbird, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Brown-headed Honeyeater, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, Singing Honeyeater, White-plumed Honeyeater, Striated Pardalote, Western Gerygone, Weebill, Speckled Warbler, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Yellow Thornbill, Chestnut-rumped Thornbill, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Rufous Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Australian Magpie, Pied Butcherbird, Grey Butcherbird, Willie Wagtail, Grey Fantail, Australian Raven, Magpie-lark, White-winged Chough, Apostlebird, Rufous Songlark, Welcome Swallow

Humby Rd. (Lunch spot) Bird list, compiled by Janet Hume, 14 September 2024.

Laughing Kookaburra, Grey Butcherbird, Eastern Yellow Robin

Ardlethan Ridge / Common

14 September 2024

Following our morning event in the Moombooldool lanes, some of us made a quick visit to Chard's Lane, Ardlethan, to see the Spring flowers on a rocky hill known as the Ardlethan Common. The habitat and therefore the plant species are mainly different to those in the red mallee soils we saw hours before, though the distance between the sites isn't great.



Just as we started on a track around the hillside, Gary Deayton from Victoria saw a **Spotted Nightjar** that we, or perhaps another bird, may have disturbed. This was an unexpected, but exciting, sighting as their camouflage would make them impossible to see when stationary.

Currawang (*Acacia doratoxylon*) and **White Cypress Pine** (*Callitris glaucophylla*) are probably the only species seen at both sites due to elevation. The understory of this tree canopy was dominated by **Rusty Spider-flowers** (*Grevillea floribunda*) and **Daviesia mimosoides** (*Leafy Bitter-pea*). Another Pea-flower (Fabaceae family) was also prolific, but not identified by us on that visit. There was a scattering of ground orchids, including a **Spider Orchid** found by Glenn, in the 100-200 metres that we walked.

Left: Leafy Bitter-pea – Margaret Strong
Below: Spotted Jezabel, underwings – Janet Hume

Despite the short time spent there, we could see that it was like a wonderland of beautiful plants and a special place that we all said deserves a dedicated outing in another season. There were a variety of birds present, made obvious by their calls, as well as butterflies and other insects. Janet cleverly got a photo of the underwing of a migratory **Spotted Jezabel** as it rested with wings folded in a tree. The upper wing colour, though distinctive, is plain in comparison (see photo on previous page).

Margaret Strong



Ardlethan Ridge and Cemetery, Chard's Lane, Bird List Compiled by Janet Hume, 14 September 2024

Spotted Nightjar (seen by Gary Deayton from Victoria), Crested Pigeon, Peaceful Dove, Galah, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, White-plumed Honeyeater, Noisy miner, Striated Pardalote, Weebill, Rufous Whistler, Australian Magpie, Willie Wagtail, Grey Fantail, Australian Raven, Magpie-lark, White-winged Chough, Apostlebird

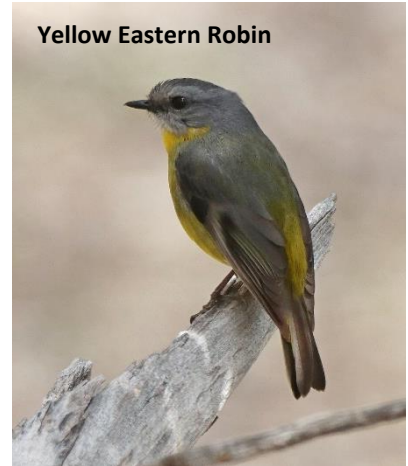
Narrandera Koala Count

21 September 2024

Just under 90 people, including team leaders and children participated in this year's koala count at Narrandera on 21st September. Participants met at the muster point in the Narrandera Commons and after a Welcome to Country by Lee Reavley, a safety talk by Brenda Hartmire and an introductory talk by Leigh Mathieson, everyone divided up into groups to walk the 10 mapped transects.



Koala with young



Yellow Eastern Robin

Together 34 koalas were spotted, including 5 back young and a couple of others that looked like they may have only recently left their mums. Team leaders recorded koalas into the improved I Spy Koala App, while all participants were welcome to record their findings into iNaturalist App and could also take part in the Narrandera Great Southern Bio Blitz.

The weather was fantastic and after an enjoyable morning koala spotting there was a sausage sizzle.

Joanne Connolly

Birds and Blooms at Ingalba

9 September 2024

A small, but enthusiastic, group gathered to explore some areas of flowering shrubs near the entrance to Ingalba Nature Reserve (near Temora) on Burley Griffin Way, organized by Murrumbidgee Landcare. MFN members made up the majority of the participants with a few local landowners as well.

Before we went into the bushland we listened to information from the Biodiversity Conservation Trust

Left: Leopard Orchid Right: Rough Mintbush
Photos by Rowena Whiting

(BCT), which was relevant to landowners, and to information on **Swift Parrot** migrations and the importance of Ingalba NR from the Dept of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water which was relevant to everyone present. Local Land Services (LLS) gave us information about **Superb Parrot** research, while those endangered birds were feeding in the tree canopy above us.



The first patch of bushland was deceptively rich in flowering forbs, shrubs and bird song which absorbed our wonder, attention and enjoyment for the length of our visit. Some plant species were familiar to MFNs from Wagga more than Narrandera-Griffith regions, for example **Peach Heath** (*Lissanthe strigosa*), **Rough Wattle** (*Acacia aspera*) and **Daphne**



**Left: Small Flower Grevillea by Rowena Whiting
Right: Peach Heath by Margaret Strong**

Heath (*Brachyloma daphnoides*). Others were different species of familiar genus, for example **Erect Guinea-flower** (*Hibbertia riparia*), **Rough Mintbush** (*Prostanthera denticulata*) **Small Flower Grevillea** (*Grevillea parviflora*) and **Leopard Orchid** (*Diuris maculata*).

Mason Crane from BCT was very precise in identifying bird songs along with Janet Hume. It was a great opportunity for enthusiasts of varying experience to learn new bird ID skills. There was a lot of activity from a male **Mistletoebird**

which made us think that his nest was close to us.

Our second bushland site was dominated by a large number of **Shiny Daisy-bushes** (*Olearia tenuifolia*), all in flower. Butterflies, moths and other insects we would expect to see were in hiding in the overcast, cool conditions. On a sunny day those missing creatures would be a delight to see, as the huge number of flowers would certainly provide a feast of nectar. Birds in the trees filled the gap and we were all satisfied with the time spent in that special spot and especially the activity of **Jacky Winter**.



Group amongst the Shiny Daisy-bushes and wattles by Rowena Whiting

Views of a **Swift Parrot** after the end of the organized event topped off our day. A Local landowner, who lived nearby, invited us to see Swift Parrots that had not yet made their return flight to Tasmania. The

Swift Parrot by Janet Hume

birds visit Ingalba NR every winter to feed



on the flowering **Mugga Ironbark** (*Eucalyptus sideroxylon*) and other tree species. After listening to the soft, whispering chatter of several 'Swifties' and surveying the canopy repeatedly, we finally saw one well camouflaged, though brightly coloured, parrot! It was a sight worth waiting for and an experience that we all claimed would be clearly remembered. Janet cleverly got a great photo that shows the special detail of the wing plumage.

Margaret Strong

Bird List for Ingalba NR, compiled by Janet Hume

Australian Wood Duck, Galah, Superb Parrot (4), White-throated Treecreeper, Superb Fairy-wren (heard), Noisy Friarbird (10+), Little Friarbird (heard), White-eared Honeyeater, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Red Wattlebird (heard), Yellow-plumed Honeyeater, Fuscous Honeyeater, White-plumed Honeyeater (heard), Noisy Miner, Spotted Pardalote (heard), Weebill (heard), Grey Shrike-thrush (heard), Olive-backed Oriole (heard), Willie Wagtail, Grey Fantail, Australian Raven, Magpie-lark, White-winged Chough, Jacky Winter, Eastern Yellow Robin, Mistletoebird.

'a black goeey deposit in the cliffs'

In the August 2024 edition of *The Murrumbidgee Naturalist* there was an article about a trip to 'Yarrabimbi', and the discovery of 'a black goeey deposit in the cliffs'. As the article notes, these deposits were known to Enid Atkinson, who showed me some in a cave at Mt Caley in Cocoparra National Park nearly 50 years ago. At that time I was a recent recruit to NSW NPWS, and Enid was a great help in teaching me plants in Cocoparra.

This goeey deposit would be amberat, also known as amber rat, which is congealed rat droppings. There are no native rats still living in the Riverina, so what could have produced these deposits? An internet search suggests that these are droppings of Lesser Stick-nest rats, a species that rapidly declined with colonisation. Probably the droppings would have been deposited in dung piles, and being in shallow caves in cliffs, have been protected from rain, while the stick nests have since disappeared. I have seen other deposits in Cocoparra NP, and one that had a small rat jaw bone stuck to it. In my ignorance as a new naturalist, before I learnt about amberat, I took no interest in that specimen and discarded it! Another deposit, if memory serves me correctly, seen in Yathong Nature Reserve was so large that from a distance across a gully it looked like a curled up python. Other information briefly seen on the internet suggests that deposits of amberat in Western Australia have been dated to 7,500 years old.

Another experience from about 50 years ago relates to another cave in Cocoparra NP where a young Ranger and I climbed up a low cliff face into a small cave and found many small mammal bones. We collected what we could at the time and identified 27 left and right jawbones (no longer connected) of a rat, as well as many other small bones. We assumed these to be from owl pellets (that are regurgitated after digestion) and that the fur has disintegrated. I was put in touch with an expert from Sydney Uni (whose name I cannot remember) and he travelled out to Griffith. With his spotlight, and a good torch we collected about 300 small bones, which he took back to Sydney for analysis.

I assume that the bones were from mammalian food of a large owl, a barn owl or possibly a masked owl. Some of the bones were quite old, as they were under a large slab of rock that had come down from the roof of the cave. Unfortunately, I did not keep up contact while patiently waiting for results. Then I heard that he had gone overseas on sabbatical for 6 months, and about a year after he returned I heard that he had suddenly died. And to my great regret, I had lost track of that collection of bones, and what mammals they would reveal. However, I clearly remember being in the cave, and this expert picking up bones in his tweezers and identifying the jaw of a small bat, and surprisingly the jaw of *Isoodon*, a bandicoot. I will never know which species it may have been, the most common *Isoodon* left in NSW is the brown bandicoot, now restricted to coastal areas.

John Brickhill

Show & Tell at the September meeting

Rowena Whiting showed some images of the recent wildflower walk at Ingalba Nature Reserve and their sighting of a Swift Parrot. See Margaret's article

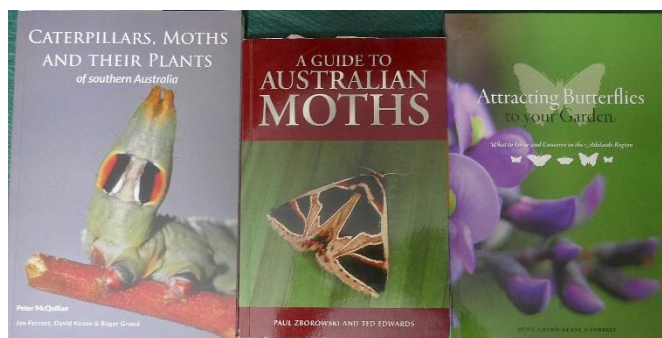
Margaret Strong outlined the content of the books she uses for identifying butterflies and moths of this region. Useful additions to your library.

A Guide to Australian Moths Paul Zborowski and Ted Edwards CSIRO publishing

Attracting Butterflies to your Garden – What to Grow and Conserve in the Adelaide Region Lindsay Hunt, Roger Grund, David Keane and Jan Forrest – Butterfly Conservation SA inc.2007 (reprint 2016)

Caterpillars, Moths and their Plants of southern Australia – Peter McQuillan Jan Forrest, Roger Grund, David Keane - Butterfly Conservation SA inc.2019

Moths in the A.C.T. Glenn Cocking, Sizi Bond, Ted Edwards – website: mothsintheact.org.au



Member Observations

Gary & Lisa Deayton (visitors from Numurkah)

were pleased to see some of the endemic Pomaderris at Cocopara National Park in flower. At Mt Bingar, it was very noticeable in flower; we also saw it in other locations. They also saw Forest Germander on the east side of Ironbark Trail, growing in the creek near the Ironbarks (put those photos on iNaturalist).



Ilse Katalinic - 18 Brolgas in a group on Urana- Boree Creek Rd near Yuluma



Virginia Tarr from her recent trip to central Queensland

Here are some of the different birds we saw on our recent journey and stay at our Monte Carlo mine camp. The nearest town to our camp is Herberton. The region has been drier than normal, so spring flowers on herbage and bushes were not available this time and therefore a big reduction of birds. No mozzies, tho still the flies!

Kooroongaloo Station, QLD, dry times this trip, 6-26/9/24 - Australian Hobby [2] Residence of Monte Carlo Hill (our mining lease), Variegated Fairywren [3], Pied Honeyeater [1], Red-backed Kingfisher [1], Dusky Woodswallow [12+], Masked Woodswallow [3], Quail-Thrush Chestnut-breasted [4], Restless Flycatcher [1], Diamond Dove [6], Bourke's Parrot[2], Babbler Hall's [7]

Hot Springs Dam, Kooroongaloo Station QLD 08/09/24 - White-necked Heron [1], Budgerigar [6], Mulga Parrot [2], Spotted Bowerbird [2], Diamond Doves [4], Inland Dotteral [1], Spinifex Pigeon [12]

Australian Bustard [2] 30 + kms south of Cunnamulla, QLD 26/09/24.

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

Hooded Robin [1]	"Colale", Eunanoreenya	31/08/24	Deb Clark
Swift Parrot [2]	Bushbys Block, nr Temora	09/09/24	J Hume
Red-capped Robin [2]	Mandamah State Forest, nth of Ariaiah Park	01/09/24	MFN Field Trip
Western Gerygone [4]	Mandamah SF, nth of Ariaiah Park	01/09/24	MFN Field Trip
Brown-headed Honeyeater [4]	Mandamah SF, nth of Ariaiah Park	01/09/24	MFN Field Trip
Grey-crowned Babbler	Mandamah SF, nth of Ariaiah Park	01/09/24	MFN Field Trip
Wedge-tailed Eagle [1]	Mandamah SF, nth of Ariaiah Park	01/09/24	MFN Field Trip
Jacky Winter [1]	Mirrool Creek, Ariaiah Park	01/09/24	MFN Field Trip
Blue-faced Honeyeater	Mirrool Creek, Ariaiah Park	01/09/24	MFN Field Trip
Dusky Woodswallow	Mirrool Creek, Ariaiah Park	01/09/24	MFN Field Trip
Little Eagle [1]	Mirrool Creek, Ariaiah Park	01/09/24	MFN Field Trip
Glossy Black Cockatoo [3]	"Mountain Dam", Colinroobie Rd, Leeton	01/09/24	Graham Russell
Pink Cockatoo [1]	Colinroobie Rd, Leeton	08/09/24	Graham Russell
Little Friarbird	Naradhun St, Whitton	10/09/24	Margaret Strong
	Seasonal migrant, first sighting for return season		
Superb Parrot [1]	Calrose St, Leeton	12/09/24	Graham Russell
Crested Shrike-tit [1]	Rawlings Park, Lake Albert	12/09/24	S Danckert, J Hume
Sacred Kingfisher [1]	Rawlings Park, Lake Albert	12/09/24	S Danckert, J Hume
	Seasonal migrant, first sighting for return season		
Spotted Jezabel Butterfly	Yalgogrin Rd, Moombooldool	12/09/24	Margaret Strong
	Seasonal migrant, first sighting for return season		
Lemon Migrant Butterfly	Spencer's Ln, Moombooldool	12/09/24	Margaret Strong
	Seasonal migrant, first sighting for return season		
Australian Painted Lady Butterfly	Spencer's Ln, Moombooldool	12/09/24	Margaret Strong
	Seasonal migrant, first sighting for this season		
Spotted Nightjar	Chards Ln, Ardlethan Ridge	14/09/24	MFN Field Trip
Caper White Butterfly	Yenda Flora & Fauna Reserve	19/09/24	Margaret Strong
	Seasonal migrant, first sighting for this season and eggs laid on nearby Warrior Bush.		
Western Gerygone	Rawlings Park, Lake Albert	12/09/24	S Danckert, J Hume
Glossy Black Cockatoo [10]	"Yarrabimbi", Colinroobie Rd, Leeton	20/09/24	Andrew Thompson
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Fivebough Wetlands	03/09/24	Penny & Phillip Williams
Red-kneed Dotterel	Fivebough Wetlands	03/09/24	Penny Williams
Black-tailed Native Hen	Fivebough Wetlands	12/09/24	Penny & Phillip Williams
Tawny Frogmouth	Koonadan Road, via Leeton	12/09/24	Phillip Williams
Barn Owl	Fivebough Rd, near Walnut Farm, Leeton	01/09/24	Graham Russell
Barn Owl	Calrose St, Leeton	10/09/24	Graham Russell
Banded Lapwing [4]	Boorga Rd at Dickie Rd (nth Nericon)	04/09/24	Neil Palframan
	2 adults, 2 chicks		
Mistletoebird [1]	Nericon Village	09/09/24	Neil Palframan
	First of the season.		
Brolga [18]	Urana-Boree Creek Rd, nr Yuluma	26/09/24	Ilse Katalinic
Superb Parrots [10]	Naradhun St, Whitton	28/09/24	Margaret Strong
Sacred Kingfisher [1]	Naradhun St, Whitton	27/09/24	Margaret Strong
	Seasonal migrant, first sighting for return season		

Other sightings of note

Cockatiel [8]	Spencer's Ln, Moombooldool	14/09/24	MFN Field Trip
Rufous Songlark	Spencer's Ln, Moombooldool	14/09/24	MFN Field Trip
Rufous Whistler	Ingalba Nature Reserve, Temora	09/09/24	Birds + Blooms event

Compiled by Janet Hume, reviewed by Nella Smith.

30th Anniversary Celebration on the w/e 22-23 November

Friday 22 November - informal dinner at the Leeton Soldiers Club 6:30 for 7pm

Guest Speaker: Rahula Perera, a field biologist, nature photographer and nature based tourism product developer

Saturday 23 November - a re-enactment of our first field trips

Morning: Fivebough Wetlands morning walk at 7am

Afternoon: Brobenah Hills - "Yarrabimbi", Colinroobie Road - Andrew and Ana's property for a BBQ or picnic lunch and walk
(note: camping is available on their property)

Other Events

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. [Aussie Bird Count](#) (Birdlife Australia)

Take part in the BirdLife Australia's Aussie Bird Count. the Aussie Bird Count is a week-long citizen science event that aims to raise the profile of Australia's birds - by encouraging people to get to know the birds around them. 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

16 October – Guarding the Grasslands, a native grass identification and Plains-wanderer Protection Field Day at Urana from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm

Learn about the Plains-wanderer and its habitat, and regional projects dedicated to conservation of the species. Take part in a native grass identification and management paddock walk, and improve your understanding of managing, monitoring and protecting biodiversity. For enquiries or phone bookings, please call Claire at Corowa District Landcare on 0417 858 533, RSVP essential. To register <https://tinyurl.com/mtfmku4k>

17 October, Thursday 'Birds 'N Binos' at Lake Cowal. Meet at Lake Cowal Conservation Centre, 1197 Blow Clear Rd. 10am-2pm. \$10 for lunch. RSVP to Britt Hicks: 0427559635 bhicks@mli.org

2/3 November Malleefowl Mound Training followed by Monitoring at West Wyalong. Volunteers are needed.

Training is free but you need to be a member of the group (\$20) to assist in their annual monitoring program.

Meeting at the West Wyalong Services & Citizens Club, 100 Monash Street, West Wyalong.

Contact is David Kellett (President NSW Malleefowl Recovery Group) nswmrg@gmail.com phone 0428 941 061. RSVP 25 October.

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.

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

Facilitated by Martin Driver, Ecologist, PlainSense Vegetation Management, this workshop will cover seed collection including ripeness for harvest, different techniques for collection, processing and storage, seed data and tracking, and the what, when, where and how native seed is best used.

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

**** 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.

- 10 October Thursday** **Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7pm.
Presenter: Milena Dunn – Rocky Hill project – birds and plants
Show & Tell - photos for the 30th slide show
Contact: Dione Russell 0428 536 290
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com.
- 12 October Saturday** **Lake Wyangan / Campbells Wetland** and possibly **McCann's Road**
Leader: Virginia Tarr
Meet at the Griffith Information Centre at 9am
Bring morning tea and lunch.
Please register with (or for more details) Virginia 0434 831 031
Email: vobrien3@hotmail.com
- 13 October Sunday** **Rocky Hill, Kooringal** - Learn/Hone Your bird watching skills for the Aussie Bird Count
Meet: At Gate entry between 99 and 101 Simkin Cr Kooringal, Wagga Wagga
Time: 8:30am
RSVP by 12 October rockyhillreserve@gmail.com or SMS Milena on 0429 893 786
Additional information is on page 2.
- 20 October Sunday** **Picnic for Nature - Wagga Wagga Botanical Gardens** hosted by MFN
Place: Australian Flora Section in the gardens, Macleay Street
Time: 11am – 2pm
Bring: chair or rug and a picnic
Contact: Sarah Danckert 0427 276 306
Register: https://www.nature.org.au/wagga_wagga_picnic_for_nature_2024
- 26/27 October** **TWITCHATHON – NSW & ACT**
Saturday/Sunday This is a team-based birdwatching and fundraising event with a choice of 3 timed 'races' – 30-hour, 8-hour and 3-hour.
For information about this event see <https://www.twitchathon.com.au/>
If you are interested in participating contact the secretary -
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com
- 6 November Wednesday** **Copy for the November newsletter is due.** Please send to Rowena.
Email: ericwhiting4@bigpond.com Phone: 0429 726 120.
- 7 November Thursday** **Committee Meeting @ 7pm via Zoom**
All members are welcome to participate.
Contact: Dione Russell 0428 536 290
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com.
- 14 November Thursday** **Annual General Meeting and Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7pm.
Finalise preparations for the 30th anniversary including photos for the slide show
Contact: Dione Russell 0428 536 290
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com
- 22/23 November** **30th Anniversary Celebration - see page 13**