The Murrumbidgee Naturalist

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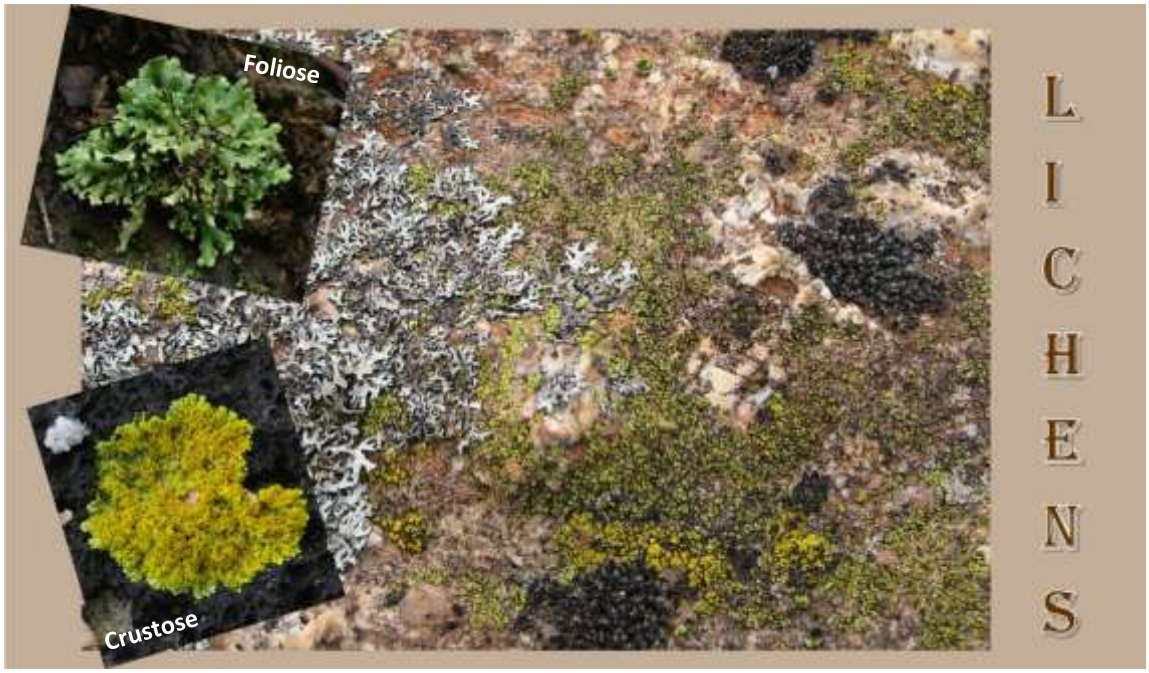
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com

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



Foliose and crustose lichens with moss on rock – Eric Whiting

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CONTRIBUTIONS

For the August issue by Wednesday 5 August

To Rowena Whiting

Email: ericwhiting4@bigpond.com.

Phone: 6953 2612

"There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after the winter" – Rachel Carson

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:	Nella Smith	0428 890 537		Graham Russell	0419 350 673
Vice President:	Virginia Tarr	0434 831 031		Janet Hume	0408 238 890
Secretary:	Vacant				
Treasurer:	Glenn Currie	0488 563 321	**Website Co-ordinator**: 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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Welcome to July

Another issue with plenty of interest; many thanks to everyone who has contributed.

So far Winter has been on the miserable side, however the rain was very welcome and hopefully we will see more sun this month.

Our focus this month has again been with the fascinating world of cryptogams: Eric gave us an interesting insight into lichens and our field trip to Coleambally allowed us to discover mosses, liverworts and lichens in the field. We also learned about the vegetation, birds and history of the Coleambally Trust Blocks from the environment officer at Coleambally Irrigation, an MFN member Keith Thompson. We were lucky the rain held off.

There are plenty of other items of interest from Bogong moth migration, a book review, an insight into vegetation and wildlife of the Alfredtown quarry site along with the usual observations and sightings.

This month we have a presentation about the seasonal movements of honeyeaters to look forward to and a field trip to the Milbrulong area which will be later in the month, on the 25 July.

Enjoy your month, **Rowena**.

I have just come across this video (non audio) – a good introduction to cryptogams.

https://www.csiro.au/en/news/all/articles/2024/march/new-discoveries-cryptogams

Live Parrot Imports - Send a message to Minister Watt today

Please consider writing to Environment Minister Murray Watt to remove all 33 parrot species currently on the live import list. You can do this by using the following link:

https://invasives.org.au/how-to-help/take-action/land-of-parrots/

Or draft your own letter (remember to include your full name and address) direct to:

minister.watt@dcceew.gov.au

Bitterns in Rice Project

Sarah has shared a link to Matt's project https://www.bitternsinrice.com.au/new-project-building-bittern-refuges/?brid=YWdncwH-qIswrSJn2KsQQdiJquKI

"I Like Lichens"

This was the title Eric gave to his presentation about one of the lesser known inhabitants of the landscape – lichens. Being small and inconspicuous they are easily overlooked. However they are ubiquitous and occur in the most diverse of habitats more than any other life form with the exception of the microscopic bacteria.

They will be found on most forays into the bush and play a significant role in the ecosystem. They occur throughout the world from sea level to the highest peaks not covered by ice, from Antarctica and the Arctic to equatorial deserts, from arid deserts to rainforests. In Australia there are about 5,000 known species, which is only a fraction of those estimated to occur.

They are dual organisms consisting of a symbiosis between a fungus and algae. The algal partner (photobiont) can be a Green Alga or a Blue-green (Cyanobacterium), or sometimes both.

They grow on almost any surface: bark, dead wood, leaves, soil, rock and have adapted to grow on artificial surfaces, tiled rooves is a common one; other examples are glass, plastics, metal. The soil crust is important to preserve the soil from blowing or washing away.

Reproduction: a feature of many lichens is the fruiting structure. They can form colourful cups on the surface of the lichen. Only the fungal partner is involved in sexual reproduction leading to the formation of spores. The algal partner only multiplies by cell division within the body of the lichen. The released fungal spores have to locate a new algal partner to form a new lichen.

Some common growth forms are foliose, crustose, fruticose. These terms define the shape of the lichen.

Fruticose lichens are three dimensional forms typically growing up or away from the substratum.

Foliose lichens grow in two dimensions and have a cortex (outer layer) on both upper and lower surfaces.

Crustose that are also two dimensional but the lower surface is in intimate contact with the substrate and does not have a lower cortex.

Unfortunately like the terms tree, shrub and herb, the boundaries get a bit hazy with some species being clearly intermediate. It all adds to the fun of identifying them he said.

Fruticose. *Teloschistes sieberiana*

Foliose. *Xanthoparmelia reptans*

Crustose. A soil species of drier country

Lichens derive much of their nutrition from trace chemicals in the atmosphere or surface moisture. Lichens do not have roots or vascular tissue to uptake or transport nutrients from the soil. Most of their water and chemical nutrients are absorbed from the air. This makes lichens very sensitive to toxic chemicals and pollution.

There was quite a variety of questions which added to our understanding of these organisms. We learned that they act as sponges on rainforest epiphyte trees and slow the rain down; in dry country their crusts absorb the rain shed under shrubs. They are used in the dating of grave stones. As they absorbed most of their water from the atmosphere they are very sensitive to toxic chemicals and pollution making it is possible to measure pollution from lichens. Climate change is changing their growing pattern so extinction is quite likely. They are used in dyes.

The Australian National Botanic Gardens website is a good source for information.

Eric's display in the Yellow Room

Judging by the number of questions, the talk was of great interest and engaged people, so a huge thank you, Eric, for giving us an insight into what we are consistently walking over or seeing on tree trunks and other surfaces. Next time you are out in the bush or anywhere take time to stop and have a closer look.

Rowena Whiting

Exploring the Coleambally Trust Blocks 13 June 2026

On a fine cool Saturday 10 members of MFN met at the park in Coleambally with our guide, Keith Thompson, conservation officer with Coleambally Irrigation Co-operative Limited (CICL). CICL has managed 1,200 ha of crown land as biodiversity reserves for environmental protection since 2007. There are 8 separate blocks included in this.

The first site visited was Regeneration Block 5, the largest of the blocks at 426 ha. This is a well drained sandy area previously grazed and partially cleared. Mostly the canopy is composed of White Cypress, *Callitris glaucophylla* with patches of Yellow Box, *Eucalyptus melliodora* and Black Box, *E. largiflorens* seen.

The management team has attempted, with partial success, to restore a shrub mid-layer in open areas by direct seeding. Some areas now have Wattles, Hop Bush and Hakea resultant. Many of the usual exotic weed species associated with farming were evident however the ground surface was found to be delightfully well covered in a range of native mosses, lichens, grasses and flowering plant species. Areas of ground are covered thickly in places with tiny Ruby Saltbush, *Enchylaena tomentosa* around the parent plants. These were sporting their bright, edible fruits.

Coleambally Trust Block 5 – aerial sowing on the sandhill – Rowena Whiting

Some of the birds observed during the day include Galah, Superb Parrot, Australian Magpie, Little Raven, Noisy Miner, Grey Butcherbird, Pied Butcherbird, Laughing Kookaburra, White-winged Chough, Bluebonnet, Australian Ringneck, Red-rumped Parrot, Common Myna, Magpie-lark, Crested Pigeon, Black Kite. Of note, Keith Thompson described behaviour of Superb Parrots he observes when working in the field; a small flock of 10 followed his exact description. They were present in the trees as we arrived and flew off, only to return pausing to roost at a distance before circling off again and roosting a little closer, circling again until they flew right through our group, softly chattering all the while.

Between sites is roadside Boree, *Acacia pendula* dominating areas. In some areas the Grey Mistletoe, *Amyema quandang* were heavily parasitic on them.

The second site we visited was at the edge of Coleambally township. This area is not as dry as the first site and the increase in plant density was obvious. The canopy was composed mainly of Gums and Buloke *Allocasuarina luehmannii.* A feature of this site is a vigorous patch of Desert Jasmine, *Jasminum lineare.* This plant although distinctive, is previously unknown to me. It is widespread and found in all mainland states and Northern Territory. NSW Plantnet states '… Tangled shrub 1 - 2 m high, or prostrate or scrambling over trees or shrubs with branches to 3 – 5m long …. Grows in woodland, scrub or vine thickets, often among boulders; widespread in inland districts …'.

A large bundle of flowering Grey Mistletoe – Rowena Whiting

Desert Jasmine flower and fruit - Paul Walker

Paul Walker and Sarah Danckert

Bird Lists

Block 5 https://birdata.birdlife.org.au/survey?id=10556019&h=59a94bd9

Town Reserve k
https://birdata.birdlife.org.au/survey?id=10556018&h=c3d0dcea

Fungi by the ants nests – above, Ants nests - below

Aphenogaster - Funnel Ants

We came across these ant nests as we wandered across the area observing the plants which had been aerially sown. The architecture and number of ant colony entrances was striking. They were so perfectly formed, we had to step carefully, not wanting to disturb them. The colony entrance is described as torus, a convex profile or funnel which indicates the species is *Aphaenogaster*. Two species occur in NSW *A. barbigula* and *A. longiceps*, both occurring in *Callitris* woodlands. The central opening can be up to 4cm, which can be seen in the images. Multiple funnels are present within a single colony. The wall of the entrance and funnel consist of granulated micro-aggregates - grains of clay, silt and fine sand cemented together with mucous-like secretions. The ants construct and repair these entrances after rain.

Sarah Danckert

Ref: Eldridge, D., John Pickard, J. Effects of Ants on Sandy Soils in Semi-arid Eastern Australia: II.* Relocation of Nest Entrances and Consequences for Bioturbation. 1994.

Coleambally Trust Block 4 – Boree Woodland and Bretts Forest - White Cypress Pine
The afternoon session 13 June 2026

The mature **Boree**, *Acacia pendula*, **remnant woodland** at our lunch spot had various **Moss**, **Liverwort** and **Lichen** species. We spent enough time there to take close-up views of these tiny organisms. Under magnification, definite features were visible and a variety of species in close proximity made comparisons possible. As novices, this was a memorable event for us.

Recent rain had resurrected the plants famous for the trait of becoming green, glossy and fully functioning in producing food through photosynthesis with even a splash of water. No **gametes** (sexual reproductive structures) or **sporophytes** (spore producing, stemmed structures which grow from the gamete after fertilisation) were visible on the **mosses,** though their quick life-cycles would certainly have been underway. The details and beauty of the mosses were breath-taking. It's difficult to conceive that these same plants can survive for long periods in a desiccated state until water from rain or dew revives them.

Moss, Gigaspermum repens
The bulb is the female sex organ, the spikey circle the male

Above: Soil crust with mosses, liverworts and lichens. This was where we had lunch.

Below: Liverworts
Right: *Riccia lamellosa,* has white side scales with go above the top surface
Left: *Riccia nigrella*, with black margins

Liverworts are the other non-vascular plants in our region and also seen at Block 4, Coleambally. They too are resurrection plants which were in their revived state without any reproductive structures visible. As they are noted for their very quick reproductive responses after revival, I wondered at no visible signs of this. Eric informed me that those structures are hidden in the Riccia genus of liverworts. Again, I wonder why and will pursue this information from Australian resources.

Many **Black Crystalworts**, *Riccia nigrella*, were recognised with their characteristic thallus margins of black scales clearly visible. The dark green of the thallus made them easy to see in the damp, red soil. Two other **Riccia species** were spotted where we sat feeding ourselves, as well as at other sites around Coleambally.

They also survive for long periods in a desiccated state by curling over to protect the sensitive photosynthetic cells from damage by harsh sunlight. Soil also covers them in the curling process, adding extra protection. This results in them not being as visible to human observers until they are revived by rain or dew.

Other non-vascular organisms, which aren't plants, were seen nearby in the form of **Lichens.** There were many **crustose lichen species** visible to those of us on the lookout for them. The complexity of **soil crusts** is beyond novices and even more knowledgeable citizen scientists to attempt species identification. We enjoyed looking at them and realising that some of the dark spots were fruiting bodies of the lichens. It's easy to understand that they are very slow-growing organisms when seen in the thin soil crusts typical of our region.

A **foliose lichen** seen back at our lunch spot looked so much like a plant that it was difficult to conceive that is in fact a combination of a fungus and an algae, with many more cells of the former than of the latter. The ancient symbiotic relationship between these two entities has produced vast numbers of lichen species, though not so many in our part of the world on our vast dry continent.

***Xanthoparmelia* sp. - foliose lichen piece**

A piece had broken off the **foliose lichen**, to my dismay, and I thought it a shame that such a long-living and slow-growing organism had been damaged. Remembering Eric's recent Yellow Room talk reassured me that the broken peace will grow into a new lichen and that such accidental breakages in nature are one of the ways that lichens can multiply. They are in that sense almost indestructible, though they may take a long time to regrow.

Looking away from the soil surface and the small worlds of wonder there, we admired the graceful old acacias with their pendulant tassels of grey-green leaves and bundles of **Grey Mistletoe**, *Amyema quandang*, some of which was in flower. The trees without an understory due to former years of sheep grazing and rabbit infestation are a lonely sight compared to the **Myall Woodlands** which we can only read about in historic descriptions and which covered much this region in past eras.

Good news, thankfully, is in the making with the regenerative work of directly seeding understorey species in the Coleambally Conservation Trust Blocks. Our guide for the day and MFN member, Keith Thompson, works on this long-term project and has stayed in the Coleambally district for long enough to learn how success in growing locally native species can be achieved over time. We acknowledge the importance of his work and his dedication in persisting with the projects.

Our last site for the day was a remnant **White Cypress**, *Callitris glaucophylla*, **forest** where some very old and large trees still stand. After admiring one such tree, Keith explained that past cattle grazing was responsible for the manicured appearance of younger Cypress trees, comprising most of the forest, at a distance which have no branches below the average height that cows can reach up and eat the foliage.

Plans are underway for this forest to become a high security refuge for an endangered Australian marsupial, so we will wait to know what happens regarding that. If they become reality, the Coleambally Conservation Trust Blocks will become more well-known by the general public, by default. Birds seen at this site were Striped Honeyeaters (2) seen by 3 of us, Noisy Miners, Fantail, Willy-wagtail, Yellow Thornbills, Magpie Larks.

We thank Keith Thompson, Environmental Compliance Officer with Coleambally Irrigation, for an excellent day out in their blocks. We saw a variety of vegetation types that are no longer widespread in this region, including a sizeable patch of Rosewood, *Alectryon oleifolius ssp canescens*, which had reproduced by its usual habit of suckering. This was an unexpected delight and also reassuring that these special trees are now protected from human destruction.

Margaret Strong

Some of the group at the Rosewood site – Rowena Whiting

Birds seen at this site were Striped Honeyeaters (2) seen by 3 of us, Noisy Miners, Fantail, Willy-wagtail, Yellow Thornbills, Magpie Larks – Virginia Tarr.

Australia's most commonly spotted bird

The results of the 2025 Aussie Bird Count can be found on Birdlife's website.

For a brief summary: Australia wide, over 5 million birds were counted by 63,990 participants completing 153,855 surveys.

Across the week, 621 different bird species were observed, with the **Australian Magpie** swooping into top spot as the bird Australia sees the most.

One in every two surveys completed in 2025 included a sighting of the iconic black-and-white bird, revealing its ubiquitous presence in Australian life.

The Rainbow Lorikeet claimed second position on the list of our most commonly spotted species, ahead of the native Noisy Miner, the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, and the Magpie-lark.

As in previous years, the Rainbow Lorikeet was the most numerous bird counted, with regular sightings of colourful flocks resulting in more than 535,000 individual birds added to the Count.

"Because rainbow lorikeets are more social, hanging out in flocks, when we see them, we see more of them," said BirdLife Australia's National Public Affairs advisor (and chief bird-nerd) Sean Dooley.

"But the magpie is the bird we encounter most often. Every second person who did the Count last year added a magpie to their list."

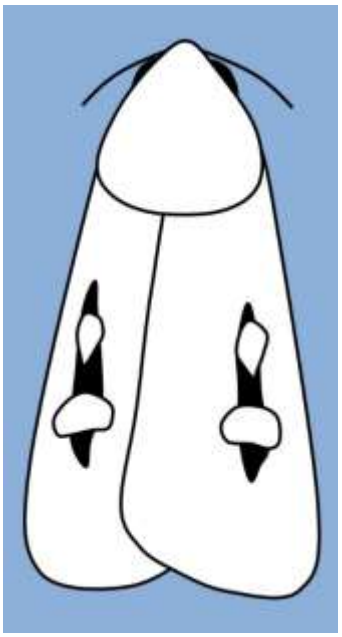
50,980 surveys were completed in NSW and the top 10 species in NSW, in order, were Rainbow Lorikeet, Australian Magpie, Noisy Miner, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Magpie-lark, Laughing Kookaburra, Galah, Crested Pigeon, Common Myna and Australian Raven.

It should be pointed out that around 70% of surveys were from urban areas so it is important for us rural folk to participate.

This year's count will be held over the week of 19-25 October.

Bogong Watch - final report for this season

Parts of SE Australia had an unusually strong and prolonged season of Bogong Moth activity, shown in the results of the tagging and monitoring work done by many volunteers and Bogong Watch Team.



Some unusual sighting results include:

- Victoria recorded more late season moth sightings than in previous years, which exceeded NSW and ACT.
- Observations from western Victoria, South Australian border, NSW/Qld border, New Zealand (3 sightings) and several swam events outside the traditional alpine migration zone.
- Hundreds, or possibly thousands, of moths were reported at Melbourne airport late season.

Strong breeding activity reports include:

- Extensive Cutworm outbreaks during March likely to be Bogong Moths as confirmed by trapping in various unnamed areas. Reportedly, thousands of hectares of pasture needed replanting.
- Widespread, low-density populations were observed across northern Victoria.

New discoveries in the Alps include:

- Seventeen sites in Victoria, NSW and ACT revealed aestivating moths where they haven't been recorded for many years.
- Three previous 'zero sites' were found to be active aestivation locations.
- Maelstrom behaviour as late as May 9th was observed around Numbananga.

To read the full report, subscribe to the Bogong Watch Newsletter at bogong.org

This will also keep you up to date with the next tagging and other projects ahead in the quest to understand and conserve this important species.

Margaret Strong

Alfredtown Travelling Stock Route, The Quarry

The Wagga Wagga 4WD Club leases the Alfredtown Travelling Stock Route (TSR), The Quarry. Linda Burgess, 4WD club member (and new MFN member) invited MFN to view the site, undertake a bird survey and night spotting with a view to assist the group on how best to support the wildlife in this area, e.g. nest boxes, planting additional plants etc. Paul Walker and I attended with a small group of 4WD club members.

Eroded creek

The TSR is a 27ha, long, east-west rectangular shape, sloping uphill from River Road where there is a small area of **Yellow Box grassy tall woodland** with mostly mature trees transitioning to **White Box grassy woodland** with a good number of mature hollow bearing trees and many younger regrowth trees. The block also has a 4 month grazing lease with an adjoining landholder. There is a heavily eroded creek with substantial hard waste dumped, in the lower Yellow Box section and some ephemeral water storages adjacent to the retired Quarry. One of the activities of the 4WD Club onsite is driver skills training - the quarry readily offers steep slopes and water passes. What was missing was the middle storey, shrub layer vegetation.

Linda had a good fauna list, which grew to 37 birds on the day - notably Brown Treecreeper, Australian King Parrot, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Double-barred Finch, Southern Boobook and overhead, the Wedge-tailed Eagle. With limited shrub middlestory and adjoining paddocks with isolated trees, the Noisy Minor numbers dominated over the smaller birds. Ringtail Possums have been sighted at night, there are Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Eastern Brown Snake have been seen previously. Given the density of the trees, and number of hollows, it is likely there are Brushtail Possums, Squirrel Gliders and Goannas. We didn't pay particular attention to invertebrates, however we did see the shell of Christmas beetles *Anoplognathus montanus*, I found a Horehound bug *Agonoscelis rutila*, and there was a Bag moth sack hanging in one of the White Box.

Trees		**Ground cover**	
Yellow Box	Many large	Vanilla/Chocolate Lily	*Arthropodium / Dichopogon*
White Box	Many large & regrowth	a Wallaby grass	*Austrodanthonia sp.*
Blakely's Redgum	5 - 10	Redleg grass	*Bothriochloa macra*
River Redgum	< 5	a Speargrass	*Astrids sp.*
Kurrajong	< 20	Rock Fern	*Chelianthes sieberi*
White Cypress Pine	Stunted	Flax-lily	*Dianella ?revoluta*
Woody weeds	5 - 10	Climbing Saltbush	*Einada nutans*
		Glycine	*Glycine tabacina*
Shrubs	Very small numbers:	Stinking Pennywort	*Hydrocotyle laxiflora*
Silver Wattle	*Acacia decora*	Mat-rush	*Lomandra*
Senna/Cassia bush	*Senna / cassia*	Windmill grass	*Chloris truncata*
Hickory Wattle	*A. implexa*	A Tussock grass	*Poa sp.*
Deane's Wattle	*A. deanei*	Soft rolypoly	*Salsola australis*
Small leaf bluebush	*Maireana microphylla*	Oxalis	*Oxalis*
White Cypress-pine	*Callitris glaucophylla*	Corrugated sida	*Sida corrugata*
		Purple fuzzweed	*Vitadinnia ?cuneata*
Introduced species	Capeweed	Bluebell	*Wahlenbergia sp.*
Peppercorn tree	Bridal creeper	Native geranium	*Geranium potentilloides*
Privet	Common sow-thistle		
Patterson's curse	Variegated thistle		
St John's wort	Dandelion		
Horehound	Fumitores		
Common verbena			
Nettleleaf goosefoot			

Horehound bug *Agonoscelis rutila*

Bag moth sack in White Box *E. albens*

Sarah Danckert

Member Observations

Sally Bamblett

I saw these tracks in early May on Scenic Hill Griffith and followed them for some way before I found the hole and shell. I pulled the shell out of the hole to have a look. The track was quite large and clear in the soft dirt. I think it's a **witchetty grub**.

Jason Richardson

Has shared a link about bird names and their history through folk knowledge and science.

https://birdhistory.substack.com/p/the-100-greatest-bird-names-of-all

Also attached are a couple of photos that I took at Rocky Waterholes this morning (28 June).

Janet Hume

Flame Robins along the fence. Seen and photographed at "Gundillawah", Mondarlo.

The Vanishing Wild by Justine Hausheer

A fabulous read.

The research, plight, news stories, collaborative actions and breakthroughs about our threatened species are so fragmented in my mind..... until reading this book. Justine has pulled together the fragments of the stories of all the species in this book.

Remember the demise of the Bogong moth numbers? They're recovering but where are they at now and which animals suffered alongside them? And what about the Bogong Bikkies, remember them? What were they all about and did you know they've been re-deployed?

Justine details how scientists shared and received knowledge working with indigenous rangers. She pulls in so much real-life detail and melds it with the pointy end research in a very reader friendly way. Don't let me sugar coat it, there's truths you won't like reading, however there's hope as well.

I love that there's information on creatures in our patch and surrounds - the Mountain Pygmy Possum, Bogong Moth, Australasian Bittern and cats & foxes and I can find out where we're up to with these creatures.

Read now!

Available at Wagga Wagga Library, soon to be available at Coleambally and Jerilderie Libraries

And lastly, I'm in the process of getting Justine to our Murrumbidgee region for a book tour. Keep a lookout for that.

And, I'm so excited MFN continues to be involved in one of the creatures in the book's next chance, the Australasian Bittern. Soon that chapter will be out of date!! Matt Herring's project, Building Bittern Refuges is progressing. Two big sites within Coleambally Irrigation Area - 13 ha and Murray Irrigation Area- 24 ha, were approved by the committee and finalised designs are being developed before construction commences very soon! The landholders are super keen on the "Building Bittern Refuges" project and to host some amazing wetlands, not just for bitterns but for Riverina wildlife in general, including other threatened species like Southern Bell Frogs and Australian Painted-snipe.

Sarah Danckert

H5N1 Avian influenza has reached Australia

This strain of avian influenza has had significant impacts overseas, causing widespread mortality in poultry, wild birds and some mammals. If you notice multiple sick or dead birds or other animals, you should not touch them or get too close. Record your location and report it to the **24-hour Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888**.

For more information, visit Bird flu (Avian influenza) - DAFF

The Biodiversity Council have a

Webinar H5N1 Bird Flu and Australian Wildlife

Experts will unpack the impacts of bird flu globally and the risk to Australia's unique birds, mammals and ecosystems. They then will identify urgent actions needed today to improve Australia's response – including deeply engaging Traditional Knowledge Holder Elders in decision making.

The webinar will include a Q&A session.

Register for free

Date: Thursday 9 July, Time 4 to 5:30pm

This webinar is in partnership with the Australian Marine Conservation Society, BirdLife Australia and Invasive Species Council

MEMBERS' SIGHTINGS

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

Significant sightings

King Parrot [2]	Alfredtown TSR - The Quarry	13/06/26	L Burgess, S Danckert
Blue-faced Honeyeater	Alfredtown TSR - The Quarry	13/06/26	L Burgess, S Danckert
Superb Parrot [10]	Coleambally Trust Block	14/06/26	MFN Field Trip
White-fronted Honeyeater [1]	Farm 2068/428 Irrigation Way, Leeton	22/06/26	Mike Schultz
A bit out of its range, first time recorded on my property			
Brown Treecreeper [4]	Mundarlo, Old Hume H'way	25/06/26	S Danckert
Fuscous Honeyeater [11]	Mundarlo, Old Hume H'way	25/06/26	S Danckert
Speckled Warbler [2]	Mundarlo, Old Hume H'way	25/06/26	S Danckert
Brown Treecreeper [4]	Mates Gully TSR	25/06/26	S Danckert
Jacky Winter [2]	Silvalite Reserve, Wagga Wagga	27/06/26	S Danckert
Grey-crowned Babbler [2]	Scenic Hill, Griffith - nr Kelly Ave	27/06/26	Lisa Parker
Red-capped Robin [2]	Silvalite Reserve, Wagga Wagga	27/06/26	S Danckert
Grey-crowned Babbler [16]	Dunlevy's Lane, Lockhart	28/06/26	S Danckert
Blue-faced Honeyeater	Dunlevy's Lane, Lockhart	28/06/26	S Danckert
Superb Parrot [10]	Dunlevy's Lane, Lockhart	28/06/26	S Danckert
Red-capped Robin [2]	San Isadore Reserve, Wagga Wagga	28/06/26	MFN Birdwalk
Flame Robin [50+]	'Gundillawah', Mundarlo	02/07/26	J Hume, P Lawson
Flock containing at least 25 males seen sitting and feeding along the fence line – see photo page 11			
Rakali [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	02/07/26	Ann Lepper

Sightings of interest

Blue Bonnet [3]	Coleambally Trust Block	14/06/26	MFN Field Trip
Yellow-faced Honeyeater [4]	Mundarlo, Old Hume H'way	25/06/26	S Danckert
Wedge-tailed Eagle [1]	San Isadore Reserve, Wagga Wagga	28/06/26	MFN Birdwalk

Compiled by Janet Hume, reviewed by Nella Smith

Other events / items

Narrandera Koala Festival & Koala Count

Saturday 19 September 12 - 7pm at Brewery Flat

The program includes koala habitat tours, guided bushwalks, kayak adventures, nature and art workshops, reptile encounters, live music and dance performances. On the Lions Train Koala Tour you are guaranteed to see Koalas and learn all about the Narrandera Koala population successes.

Sunday 20 September ?9:30am TBC at the Narrandera Flora and Fauna Reserve

Please support this essential koala population by attending the annual Koala Count - one of Australia's longest-running citizen science events. It's an opportunity to meet local National Parks Rangers, Landcare and LLS staff in the field within the River Redgum Flora and Fauna reserve. It's a great day out.

https://www.narrandera.com.au/whats-on/koala-festival-2026

National Tree Day – 26 July

Planet Ark's National Tree Day started in 1996 and has grown into Australia's largest community tree planting and nature care event.

It's a call to action for all Australians to get their hands dirty and give back to the community. While every day can be Tree Day, we generally celebrate Schools Tree Day and National Tree Day on the last Friday and Sunday in July.

Narrandera Landcare will be having are holding tree planting day, if you'd like to participate contact Glenn Currie glenncurrie100@hotmail.com

**** 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.

9 July Thursday **Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore Street Leeton.
Topic/speaker: Research project on large-scale seasonal movements of Honeyeaters from Canberra region explained by James Klarevis-Irby (ANU) via Zoom, with findings so far. James will talk for about twenty minutes, then take questions and comments from the audience.
Join us at 6.45pm for 7.00pm by clicking the Zoom link in the Newsletter email.
For the audience in the Yellow Rm at Leeton Library, bring Show and Tell for after the presentation and enjoy a light supper and social chat.
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com if you have any queries

12 July Sunday **Wagga Sunday afternoon Birdwalks**
Rawlings Park - meet in Power St, near the corner of Craft St.
Time 2:30pm for 1-2hrs depending on your time, the weather and the birds.
There are binoculars for those without, and bird ID booklets. Dress for the weather, comfortable shoes.
Contact: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com
Phone: Sarah 0427 276 306 or Janet 0408 238 890

25 July Saturday **Milbrulong district – Dunley's Lane,** a geological site (quarry) via laneways and **Quandong Park** - a private Biodiversity Conservation Trust site with a regenerating Grey Box / Callitris Woodland and understory. Expect to see large bird species. New ground cover flora species since our Sept 2024 visit will be seen.
Meet 9.30am at Milbrulong Lutheran Church - turn into Gerhardt Hoffmans Ln off the Lockhart-Rock Rd to park at back of church. Toilet block at Hall & Rec ground Orange St.
Bring morning/afternoon snacks, drinks and lunch.
Register with Margaret Strong by text to 0434 060 973
Bring morning/afternoon snacks, drinks and lunch**. Dress** for cold weather with coat, boots and hat. **Carry** a hand lens to see moss, liverworts and lichens if we're lucky.

26 July Sunday **Wagga Sunday afternoon Birdwalks**
Silvalite Reserve - meet at the truck stop on the Olympic Way, 300m from the Sturt Hwy
Time 2:30pm for 1-2hrs depending on your time, the weather and the birds.
Contact: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com
Phone: Sarah 0427 276 306 or Janet 0408 238 890

5 August Wednesday **Copy for the August newsletter is due. Please send to Rowena.**
Email: ericwhiting4@bigpond.com Phone: 0429 726 120.

6 August Thursday **Committee Meeting held at 7pm by Zoom**
All members are welcome to attend and submit agenda items
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com

9 August Sunday **Wagga Sunday afternoon Birdwalks**
Rawlings Park - meet in Power St, near the corner of Craft St.
Time 2:30pm for 1-2hrs depending on your time, the weather and the birds.
Contact: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com
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