

# *The Murrumbidgee Naturalist*

**November 2005 - Issue #123**

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#### **Objects of the Club**

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

## **Paper Daisies**



**By Melanie Brougham**

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## **CONTRIBUTIONS**

**For the next issue by  
Wednesday, 30 November**

**To Rowena Whiting  
Email: [ewhiting@iinet.net.au](mailto:ewhiting@iinet.net.au)  
Phone: 6953 2612  
Fax or collection can be arranged.**

**MAGPIE GESE ARE BREEDING AT FIVEBOUGH SWAMP**

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

<b>President:</b>	Nella Smith	6959 1210	<b>Editor:</b>	Rowena Whiting	6953 2612
<b>Vice President:</b>	Bill Moller	6960 1341			
<b>Vice President:</b>	Eric Whiting	6953 2612	<b>Committee:</b>	Neville James	6959 2963
<b>Vice President:</b>	Betty Bradney	6959 2901		Enid Atkinson	6962 1181
<b>Secretary/Treasurer:</b>	Richard Faulder	6955 7039		Dot Green	6953 6143

**MEETINGS** ARE HELD EACH MONTH, EXCEPT JANUARY

**FIELD TRIPS** NORMALLY TAKE PLACE ON THE FOLLOWING WEEKEND.

**LEETON** MEETINGS SECOND THURSDAY - Uniting Church Family Centre, Church Street AT 7.30 P.M.

**GRIFFITH** MEETINGS FOURTH THURSDAY - Conference Room, Dept. of Agriculture AT 7.30 P.M.

INTENDING NEW MEMBERS, GUESTS AND VISITORS WELCOME.

### Membership:

<b>Leeton</b>	Richard Faulder	6955 7039	<b>Griffith</b>	Bill Moller	6960 1341	
<b>Narrandera</b>	Neville James	6959 2963	<b>Coleambally</b>	John Wilkinson	6954 4129	
<b>Annual Subscriptions:</b>	Family	\$30.00	Adult/Single	\$25.00	Journal only/Concession	\$15.00

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

## 70,000 insects collected in recent study

A recent study by staff from Charles Sturt University (CSU) netted some 70,000 individual insects of almost 600 different types. The invertebrates were collected from patches of native vegetation in the MIA as part of the Biodiversity Benchmark being conducted through the MIA EnviroWise program.

Fourteen sites were selected for surveys and four different survey methods were used to target species in different vegetation layers. Survey methods included: pitfall traps, sweep nets, beating shrubs and fogging tree canopies. Surveys were conducted over a 2-week period during spring 2004 and samples were taken back to the CSU laboratory for sorting and identification. What a huge task!!

The results found that ants, bees and wasps were the most diverse group with almost 150 different species. Spiders, beetles and flies were also well represented with about 100 different types of each collected during the surveys.

Another interesting result was that the different vegetation communities and different layers of vegetation were found to host different groups of insects. Generalist or "weedy species" often replaced more specialist species in simplified habitats that lacked a shrub layer or fallen timber.

Given that invertebrates are the biggest and most diverse group of animals found in the world and the critical role they play in healthy functioning ecosystems, it is important to know what species are out there and how to retain beneficial species.

A comprehensive report has been completed on the study and is available on the MIA EnviroWise website [www.mia-envirowise.com.au](http://www.mia-envirowise.com.au) (although it is a very large pdf file & may take some time to download). An A4 fact sheet has also recently been prepared to summarise the findings of the study and a copy is available from Annette Pavese at Murrumbidgee Irrigation on phone 69620200.

Louise Harrison  
28 Oct. 05



*"MIA EnviroWise program has been made possible thanks to funding from the National Action plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP)."*

**EnviroWise workshop** was attended by two MFN members, landholders who had done the EnviroWise courses and Catchment Management Authority delegates and other delegates from different groups. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the effectiveness of the work that EnviroWise has done in the last years.

This includes works like, reducing seepage, reducing surface drainage, keeping drainage water within a quality benchmark, managing drainage disposal, and protecting natural resources. 450 large area farmers and 637 horticultural farmers have completed the course EnviroWise offers before the landholders are offered funding for various works.

Various issues were discussed and the outcomes presented to the whole forum. Nella Smith

After meeting up at the Narrandera Tourist Office 9 group members drove out on the Barellan Road past Lake Coonah Lake. A little water was seen in part of the lake – a welcome change from past years. A Brolga had recently been sighted here, but unfortunately for us, not to be seen that day.

Turning off on the Kamarah road we past over the saddle to the north of Lake Mejum and soon came to the Mejum State Forest. A side road here leads back into the private property on the hills. Mt. Olive itself is the last high point along the ridge line down the east side of the Ranges. However we drove over a saddle a little to the north into the heart of the Ranges, pulling up at a delightful dam. A few birds were around, including a pair of Grebes on the dam which were a delightful diversion from the obligatory cuppa.

**How Frustrating!**

- The Sun was shining and the ground was covered with flower – but no one was feeding on their nectar.
- A little new foliage – but no one was eating it.
- Rocks on the trail to the top of the hill were moist underneath – but no one had made their home there.
- Branches had fallen onto moist earth – but only a few termites were under one and a few small black ants under another.
- Some lerp on a sapling's leaves – but no ants feeding on their sugary exudate.
- Some dragonflies flying around a dam, perhaps feeding on gnats emerging from the water.

**Richard Faulder**

We then set off over a cleared paddock to the next line of tree covered hills. After a short while we picked up a track to climb up to the top and on down the otherside. This made it easy to see the great variety of wildflowers along the way; from diminutive Scarlet Sundews to a patch of Snowy Mintbush. Sun orchids were just beginning to add their colour to the bush. In many parts the effects of the big fire a few years ago were evident in the large areas of thick regrowth of eucalypts, casuarinas, and wattles.

Following along the track we descended past a gully that showed the volume of recent rainwater run-off down to another dam. The waterbirds on this dam saw / heard us before we got there and took evasive action to the disappointment of the birdo's. A butterbush in full flower gave some respite as it is unusual to see this.

Then it was time to head back up another track towards the cars. Unfortunately this track ended abruptly high above the valley we wanted. A bush-bash down a steep rocky slope eventuated, but was negotiated without any undue problems. It did however enable us to spot a couple of small plants of Hardenbergia, a great rarity in the Hills. Unfortunately they were too young to be in flower.

We were back at the cars for a leisurely lunch time, until the increasing nuisance of flies and some mosquitoes called a halt. Why is it that flies are in abundance yet there is still a sparsity of other insects on the lush new growth?



A Dragonfly at the dam

**Eric Whiting**

**Bird List compiled by Neville James**

Stubble Quail	Australasian Grebe	Pacific Black Duck	Australian Wood Duck
White Necked (Pacific) Heron	White-faced Heron	Brown Falcon	Common Bronzewing
Crested Pigeon	Peacefull Dove	Galah	Cockatiel
Budgerigar	Yellow Rosella	Eastern Rosella	Mallee Ringneck
Blue Bonnet	Red-rumped Parrot	Mulga Parrot	Rainbow Bee-eater
White browed Treecreeper	Brown Treecreeper	Striated Pardalote	Inland Thornbill
Southern Whiteface	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	Noisy Miner	White-plumed Honeyeater
White-browed Babbler	Red-capped Robin	Jacky Winter	Grey Shrike-hrush
Rufous Whistler	Grey Fantail	Willy Wagtail	Magpie Lark
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	White-winged Triller	White-browed Woodswallow	Grey Butcherbird
Pied Butcherbird	Australian Magpie	Australian Raven	White-winged Chough
Apostlebird	Welcome Swallow	Skylark	Rufous Songlark

A little information on the website [www.diggers.com.au](http://www.diggers.com.au) that Phil Tenison drew member's attention to at the meeting: Diggers Direct is a nursery that specialises in traditional plants; flowers and vegetables from Australian heirlooms to European Treasures. They pioneered the reintroduction of heirloom garden seeds in 1992 and have access to the best of 25,000 non hybrid (open-pollinated) varieties from their seed bank. They have two historic gardens; at Dromana and Blackwood in Victoria.

# Stackpoole State Forest Walk

30 October 2005

After a wet night and a few doubts that we would actually go, 13 of us met at the Post Office in Griffith. Maybe the thirteen was the reason we misplaced one, however he reappeared after some time.

As we headed to Stackpoole a couple of Vs of Black Swans soared overhead near the Lavender Bend. *Acacia hakeoides* on the roadside is one of the only stands in the area and some Bulloke futher along has regrown nicely after being cleared 30 years ago.

22 km west of Griffith is a stand of Grey Mulga, once there were only about 6, now there are a heap. Also along the roadsides are a few Gum barked Coolabah, *Eucalyptus intertexta*.

When we got to the end of Cahill's Rd, the wet, red sandy track was slippery but manageable for ordinary cars.

In an open area near where we parked the cars were *Eremophila Glabra* and *Eremophila Longifolia* flowering and *Acacia Oswaldii* in bud.



An old Yarran – Eric Whiting

We walked our way mainly through Cyress Pine and noticed that there had recently been rain; petals of the yellow paper daisies had been washed up into furrows by the heavy rain. We followed the fence along the road and came to Mallee with its associated shrubs, *Olearia* species, *Acacia Havilandii*, occasional Deane's Wattles and Spurwing Wattle, some of which had died maybe due to the extended dry period, and *Melaleuca Uncinata*. We also came across a huge ancient Yarran and a Rosewood, *Pittosporum* (Butterbush). The Wilgas were looking good.

Spider Trapdoor –  
Dennis Moretto

Also seen were Wedge-leafed Hopbush and Narrow-leafed Hopbush. One Greencombe



Spider Orchid and a few clumps of Mallee Blue Bush and a few Green Mintbush were of interest in the Mallee.

Along Arcadia lane out of Goolgowi the Sturt Desert Pea comes up every year. The desert pea used to be common on the farms around Arcadia Lane until sheep became more numerous, the only remaining plants are on the roadsides. This was also a good area for parrots, with Blue Bonnets, Cockatiels Mallee Ringnecks and Red-rumps flying off as we flew down the road.

Thanks Dennis for leading the fieldtrip, and chauffering a couple of ladies.

## Bird List

Nella Smith

Red-capped Robin	Pied butcherbird	Western Warbler	Rufous Whistler
Splendid Fairy Wren	Crested Bellbird	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Southern Whiteface
White-winged Triller	Common Bronzewing	Galah	Striped Honeyeater
Brown-headed Honeyeater	Weebill	Sacred Kingfisher	Rainbow Bee-eater
Shy Heath Wren	Eastern Yellow Robin	Yellow Thornbil	Grey Shrike Thrush
White-winged Chough	White-browed Babbler	Raven	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
Grey Butcherbird	Magpie	Mistletoebird	Little Friarbird
White-plumed Honeyeater	Pallid Cuckoo	Mallee Ringneck	Red-rumped Parrots
Budgerigar			

Enid, Sue and Jan – Rowena Whiting



*Eremophila longifolia* – Eric Whiting



## Plant of the Month – Sundews



Tall Sundew

Flies have been bad this year. Bad for us but not for the Sundews, they catch and digest flies as a vital supplement for their nutrition. Their traps are the numerous sticky topped glandular hairs on the leaves, and the sensitivity of the leaves that curl up as soon as something has been trapped. The tiny drops of sticky fluid glistens in the sun leading to the common name of sundew and also the Generic name of *Drosera* (from the Greek *droseros* = dewey).

The genus *Drosera* has about 90 species world-wide with 54 of them in Australia. Of the 54, 42 occur only in the south-west of Western Australia! We have three of the nine species in New South Wales. Two (*Drosera auriculata* and *Drosera peltata*) are very similar and have at some time been treated as subspecies. Both have characteristic shield shaped leaves that are peltate that is the leaf stalk attaches to the

surface of the blade not at the edge or bottom. These leaves appear regularly up the weakly erect stems. Other more spoon-shaped leaves form a basal whorl that often withers as the plant grows taller. The third species (*Drosera glanduligera*) has spoon-shaped basal rosettes.

Flowers of *Drosera auriculata* and *Drosera peltata* have five white or pink petals 4-8mm long. The difference between the two is that *Drosera peltata* has hairy sepals and *Drosera auriculata*'s sepals are glabrous. Flowers are usually in open clusters usually only at the tops of the stems. The flowering period is usually spring but can extend into summer depending on how moist the site is. *Drosera glanduligera* has smaller but strikingly orange to bright red petals. A single cluster of flowers which often open sequentially is held only 5 cm or so above the ground (*Drosera peltata* stems can reach to 50 cm high) and the flowering period is earlier from late winter to spring.

Sepals and stamens are likewise in fives, but the fruit is a single capsule containing very small seeds.

And yes the Venus Flytrap of Northern America is related (in the genus *Dionaea*).

### Eric Whiting



Scarlet Sundew

## Bountiful Budgies

Not rising quite early enough to make it to Griffith at 9 am last Sunday (we would have to be up at 5am real time - 6am daylight saving time), we decided to take a leisurely trip to the Cocoparras after a quick trip to the Yanco markets en route. It was well worth the 330km round trip.

Shortly after leaving the bitumen a flash of brilliant green caught my eye. Surely a parrot but not superb, rosella, grass or ringneck... we did a U-turn, got out the binoculars and there, preening themselves was a pair of budgerigars, on the ground a small flock! The air was abuzz with all sorts of bird talk to boot. Rufous Whistlers, Peaceful Doves and many others were clearly heard above the cacophony of all sorts of insects. Such a change from the last few years. We pressed on towards Falcon Falls picnic area where the bush was busier than ever. Budgies in profusion -some only metres away. Feeding on grasses, preening and socialising in trees. A storm overnight and continuing warm temperature meant it was pretty humid. We did the quick walk up to the falls and were just finishing our cuppa when it started to pour. Back in the car- on to Store Creek - more budgies (See Garth's photo), and a pair of what we thought were Pied Honeyeaters nesting in the fork of a tree only a few metres away. We were about to walk up to the waterhole when a tropical downpour worthy of Darwin in the wet let loose, so it was back to the car.

The bird list for the Falcon falls picnic area is included with additional sighting of Sacred Kingfisher and Pied Honeyeater at Store Creek car park.



Diamond Dove	Peaceful Dove	Inland Thornbill	Rufous Whistler
Rufous Songlark	Speckled Warbler	Bugerigar	Galah
Kookaburra	Willy Wagtail	White-browed Babbler	

### Jan Strong

## Minutes of the meeting of the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc.

which opened at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2005, in the Family Centre of the Leeton Uniting Church, Church Street, Leeton.  
Present: Nella Smith, Eric & Rowena Whiting, Betty Bradney, Neville James, Phil Tenison, Kathy Mahy, John & Jan Cameron, Dot Green, Barry Allen, Andrew Thompson, and Richard Faulder  
Apologies: Barb Mansell, Phil Green, Sue Allen, Jan Strong and Roy Wade.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** Accepted by acclamation.

### Matters Arising from the Minutes:

1. In response the minutes of the Griffith group, a new Web site for the association, with a new domain name, was supported. Johanna has volunteered to set it up.
2. **Eric Whiting's** Flora book will not be available until after February 2006 because he was unable to take many of the photos required because of the drought.
3. At least 300 goats have been removed from the Narrandera Hills, The NPWS decided to use a helicopter, but some are still roaming. The Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists supported the endeavour by partly paying for the costs of the cull. There may further culls in the future if required.
4. The Ian Oag Memorial Stump awaits further work, starting with slicing off the top. **Terry Smith** has volunteered to slice off the top, but we still need a dendrochronologist
5. As part of her work on accumulating a bank of native plant seeds **Rosie Smith** became aware of a lack of roadside surveys in the Narrandera Shire. That raised the question as whether shire councils are obliged to have a policy on roadside environment surveys, at least over those roads over which they have jurisdiction  
The association wrote to the Narrandera Shire Council asking that they organise environmental surveys of the roadside environment. There was no meaningful response, so **Rosie Smith** was asked to write again
6. A Narrandera Wetlands Committee, including **Neville James**, has been constituted. The proposed wetlands will be for water treatment, which raises the problem of water availability. Nether the less the local indigenous group is on-side, and earthworks are complete. A tree-planting was organised, with the planting of 1,600 young trees, which are doing very well.
7. The placing of articles in *The Irrigator* and *The Narrandera Argus* was suggested.
8. The Nature Conservation Council plans to hold a regional conference in this area.

### Correspondence: In:

1. From the Birds Australia Southern NSW & ACT Group, the September 2005 issue of *Bird Notes*.
2. From the Broken Creek Field Naturalists Club, the October 2005 issues of their newsletter.
3. From the Nature Conservation Council of NSW: Business Papers for their annual conference.
4. From Bindi Vanzella, project manager for Greening Australia, information about the Birds at Bland project, about which she will be speaking at our October meeting.
5. From the Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club, the August 2005 issues of *The Granite Belt Naturalist*.
6. From the WWF, the Winter 2005 issue of *Living Planet*.
7. From the Illawarra Bird Observers Club, the October 2005 issue of *I.B.O.C. News*
8. From Murrumbidgee Irrigation, an invitation to workshops to be held in October for MIA Envirowise, the MIA and Districts Land & Water Management Plan, designed to ensure the sustainability of this region for future generations. The Griffith workshop will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> in the Gemini Hotel and the Leeton workshop will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> in the Mia Sports Club. Each evening will begin at 7:00 pm with free drinks and light refreshments, the workshop itself starting are 7:30 pm. RSVP to 69530100.
9. From the Far South Coast Birdwatchers, the September/October 2005 issue of their newsletter.
10. From the NSW Field Ornithologists, the October 2005 issue of *Birding NSW*.

**Out:** . To the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority, nominations of Barry Allen and Bill Moller as the association's delegates to the Committee.

### Financial Report for 7<sup>th</sup> September to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2005

<b>Opening balance</b>	\$18,381.93		\$ 60.00	\$18,441.93
<b>Income:</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>		
Memberships	\$ 54.55	Newsletter print & post	\$ 100.13	
GST input credits refund	\$ 0.00	GST input credits	<u>\$ 10.01</u>	
GST	<u>\$ 5.45</u>		\$ 110.14	\$18,331.79

**Richard Faulder** moved:

That the financial report be accepted and all payments endorsed

Seconded by **Phil Tenison**

**Note that most of this is allocated for the Hills Project**

**Carried**

**Andrew Thompson** will carry out an audit.

### General Business:

1. On behalf of Narrandera Landcare **Betty Bradney** has written a letter to the Narrandera Shire Council and NSWIPNR opposing projected commercial development in the cypress/yellow box woodland in the Five Mile Reserve on the Newell Highway.
2. Alan Morris from BIGNet would like to visit the area on 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> March 2006.
3. The Murrumbidgee College of Agriculture would like a list of the birds that could be observed on the campus, for the benefit of short-stay Short-course participants.

The meeting closed at 9:50 p.m. The next meeting will start at 7:30pm on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2005 in the Family Centre of the Leeton Uniting Church, Church Street, Leeton.

# S I G H T I N G S

<b>Superb Parrot</b> [10]	Midway b/n The Rock & Collingullie	08/10/05	Phil Tenison
<b>Noisy Friarbird</b>	Jarrah Street, Leeton	10/10/05	Jan Cameron
<b>Spotted Harrier</b> [1]	McCracken Road, Corbie Hill	26/09/05	Jan Cameron
<b>Curlew</b> [2]	Innisvale Lane, Euroley	13/10/05	Kathy Mahy
<b>Major Mitchell</b> [dead]	Brobenah Road, about 1km past	10/09/05	Dot & Phil Green
Had been hit by a car (not theirs) cemetery heading towards Ardlethan			
<b>White-winged Triller</b> [2]	Narrandera Common	11/10/05	Neville James
<b>Brolga</b> [1]	Barellan Road, Narrandera	09/10/05	Betty Bradney
	North side opposite Coolah Swamp		
<b>Corella</b> [1] flying over	Narrandera	12/10/05	Betty Bradney
<b>Sacred Kingfisher</b> [1]	Palm Ave/Brobenah Rd, Leeton	20/10/05	Phil Tenison
First time for Phil in the town			
<b>Crimson Chat</b>	Fivebough Swamp, Leeton	17-23/10/05	Mike Schultz
<b>Orange Chat</b>	Fivebough Swamp, Leeton	17-23/10/05	Mike Schultz
<b>Magpie Goose</b> [6, 2 clutches]	Fivebough Swamp, Leeton	20./10/05	Nella Smith Mile Schultz
<b>Magpie Goose</b> [with 7 tiny goslings]	Fivebough Swamp, Leeton	20/10/05	Nella Smith
<b>Australasian Bittern</b> [2]	Fivebough Swamp, Leeton	20/10/05	Nella Smith
<b>Crimson Chat</b> [2]	Fivebough Swamp, Leeton	20/10/05	Nella Smith
<b>Magpie Goose</b> [1]	Five Mile Reserve, Narrandera	22/10/05	Nella Smith
<b>Superb Parrot</b>	Five Mile Reserve, Narrandera	22/10/05	Nella Smith
<b>Dollarbird</b>	Five Mile Reserve, Narrandera	22/10/05	Nella Smith
<b>Latham's Snipe</b> [5]	Five Mile Reserve, Narrandera	22/10/05	Nella Smith
<b>Blue-faced Honeyeater</b> [Pair]	Willow Park, Koonadan	11/10/05	Peter Draper
<b>Crimson Chat</b> [Pair] On dam	Willow Park, Koonadan	28/10/05	Peter Draper
<b>White-fronted Chat</b> [1M]	Farm 50, Murrami	28/10/05	Peter Draper
<b>Black Swan</b> [16] in rice paddock	Willow Park, Koonadan	01/11/05	Peter Draper
<b>Magpie Goose</b> [3] in rice paddock	Willow Park, Koonadan	01/11/05	Peter Draper
<b>Spiny Fanflower</b> <i>Scaevola spinescens</i>	Woolshed Flat, Cocoparra NP	02/11/05	Eric Whiting
<b>Sandplain Fanflower</b> <i>Scaevola humilis</i>	Arcadia Lane, Goolgowi	30/10/05	Eric Whiting
<b>Painted Honeyeater</b>	Cnr Boorga Rd & West Rd	30/10/05	Neil and Johanna
Feeding on Mistletoe Berries			

Melanie Brougham reported on 6 October having Grey-crowned Babblers and Speckled Warblers feeding in her garden at present - it is so lovely to have so many native plants about us

**Fivebough and Tuckerbil Management Trust** are holding beginner bird identification workshops during the week commencing the 14 November. They will consist of 3 sessions of approximately 2 hour duration. Anyone interested should contact Leeton Tourism on 6953 6481. There will also be a field day on the 26 November.

### **Birding news from Mike Schultz on 24<sup>th</sup> October**

Nella Smith has recorded Magpie Geese breeding at Fivebough. Two clutches Thursday October 20. Up to six adults have been present since early September.

This is the first known breeding record for Magpie Goose at Fivebough.

Numbers of waterbirds continue to increase, with ~1500 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, many Whiskered Terns and egrets present today.

### **Birds in Bland**

Bindi Vanzella our last guest speaker spoke about "Birds in Bland" a 12-18month project by Greening Australia and funded by the Catchment Management Authority. It is aiming to give a snapshot view of birds of the Bland Shire. Looking at birds can identify how healthy the Bland Catchment is. Another question to be asked is "How quickly do birds colonize after replanting? This could in turn indicate the effectiveness of the revegetating.

We know that landholders are aware of what's around, however to assist with identification a "Buddy" system maybe could be established between experienced birdos and landholders.

A monitoring sheet for landholders will be produced so that they can accurately record their observations in different parts of their properties. Bindi is hoping to involve MFN in the workshops, as buddies, and to perhaps help supply some photos for the booklet which will be produced.

**Nella Smith**

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## COMING EVENTS CALENDAR

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- 10 November Thursday **Leeton Meeting at 7.30pm at Uniting Church Family Centre.  
Speaker: Peter Draper – Topic Greenland**
- 12 November Saturday **Field Trip: Murrami (Naismith Hill) and Tuckerbil Swamp  
Meet at Leeton PO at 8 am.** Phone to arrange meeting at Murrami.  
Enquiries Nella Smith 6959 1210
- 14 November (week) **Bird Identification Workshops** Contact Leeton Tourist Office 6953 6581
- 24 November Thursday **Griffith Meeting at 7.30pm at Conference Room, Dept. of Primary Industries  
Topic – TBA**
- 26 November Saturday **Christmas Walk and Barbecue – Yarradda Lagoon.  
Meet at Rotary Park, Darlington Point at 2.30 pm  
Enquires: Phone Bill Moller on 6960 1341**
- 30 November Wednesday **Copy for December newsletter is due.**
- 4 December Sunday **Superb Parrot annual census.**
- 8 December Thursday **Leeton Meeting at 7.30pm at Uniting Church Family Centre.  
Speakers: Dot and Phil Green Topic**
- 17 or 18 December **Outing to Euroley where Curlews have been reported. This will be followed  
by an end of year / Christmas BBQ at Yanco Weir .  
Enquiries Nella Smith 6959 1210**
- 16 January – 2 February Australian Naturalist Network - Get together 2006 High Country in the Alpine Spring – hosted by South-east Naturalists' Association at Harrierville and Jindabyne. Further information Nella Smith 6959 1210. Organiser John Gregurke, Ballarat- phone 03 5339 4993.

### Safety in the Bush

There is safety in numbers. That is one of the advantages of belonging to a group like ours. Provided of course we stay in a group. But what if one gets separated ?

There are a few precautions we should all take, because separation could easily happen to any of us. In everyone's daypack there should be:

- A whistle
- A litre of water
- A snake bandage
- A space blanket (perhaps)
- A compass or GPS unit

The standards for using the whistle are:

One blast = where are you?

Two blasts = here (and both callers walk towards each other)

Three blasts = HELP (Orienteers say six blasts)

Leaders should also make it clear to all of their route intentions and if possible a safety direction (to a distinct track, edge of bush, etc.) to be followed in an emergency. For larger groups a member should be designated as a whip to keep at the rear of the party and ensure all the party keeps together.

Compiled by Nella and Eric.

**Travelling to the Cairns area** – a web site has been set up in Cairns, far north Queensland, to report recent rare and interesting sightings in the local area.

This website contains detailed reports for the current month with a summary of previous months in the archive. Every 2-3 days, observations from over 25 local birdwatchers are collated and posted to the website in detail and emailed to the local subscribers.

Also on the website, are "Bird Routes" lists for 3 separate day trips around the Cairns area. These are designed for drive-yourself birding visitors.

This website is a NON-COMMERCIAL service.

Website address is [www.cairnsbirds.blogspot.com](http://www.cairnsbirds.blogspot.com) email address is [cairnsbirds@yahoo.com.au](mailto:cairnsbirds@yahoo.com.au)