

The Murrumbidgee Naturalist



November 2015 - Issue #232

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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

Congratulations to our Twitchathon Teams



In the Absence of Max

Penny Williams, Phil Tenison, Nella Smith



Carefree Curlews

Virginia O'Brien Sue Chittick-Dalton,
John Tarr

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CONTRIBUTIONS

For the December issue by
Wednesday 2 December

To Rowena Whiting

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Phone: 6953 2612

**November is the AGM
Outings to Fivebough Wetlands
and Tharbogang Swamp**

Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc. Office Bearers and Annual Subscriptions

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Vice President: Nella Smith 6959 1210
Vice President: Eric Whiting 6953 2612
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Treasurer: Phil Tenison 6953 4869

Editor: Rowena Whiting 6953 2612
Committee: Johanna Botman 6963 4855
Phillip Williams 6953 3524
Betty Bradney 6959 2901

MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE SECOND THURSDAY EACH MONTH, EXCEPT JANUARY, AT THE Yellow Room, Leeton Library, Sycamore Street at 7.30 PM

FIELD TRIPS NORMALLY TAKE PLACE ON THE FOLLOWING WEEKEND.

INTENDING NEW MEMBERS, GUESTS AND VISITORS WELCOME.

Membership enquiries:

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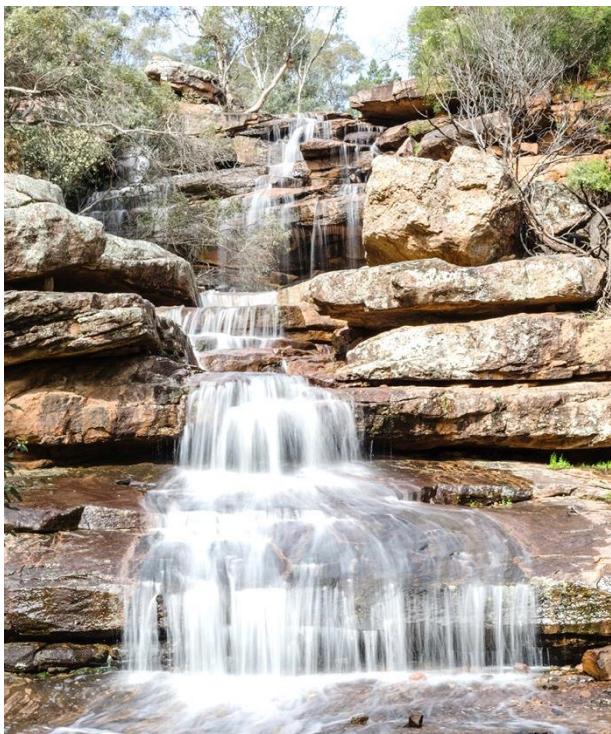
Annual Subscriptions: Family \$45.00 Adult/Single \$35.00 Journal only/Concession \$25.00

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

OUT and ABOUT



Penny and Phillip Williams have been travelling in Queensland – a preview of what we could see at Thursday meeting.
Platypus, Bush Stone Curlew and the Brush Turkey by Phillip Williams



Ralph Turton took these images at Store Creek, Cocoparra National Park on 6 September, probably when the flow of water was at its peak.



Livingstone National Park/ "Silver Springs" Conservation Property - 17 October 2015



All the best plans of mice and men were thrown out the door at the last minute with the cancellation of our planned walk in Livingstone National Park (LNP). This was due, after much deliberation, to the Police and NPWS closing the park on account of an extensive search being conducted in the local area for two of the most wanted criminals in the country. The most disappointed person was Grace Hargraves, the NPWS ranger for the park who had been so looking forward to learning

from the many knowledgeable plant and bird people within the group.

However, an enthusiastic group of 30 had turned up at the park entrance with representatives from the Wagga Wagga Wilderness Walkers, Kyeamba Valley and Wagga Urban Landcare groups and our own Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists and were not to be denied. So, after a cuppa and a brief introduction to the Wiradjuri and settler Australians history, native vegetation and qualities of the park by Helen Wood (former botany CSU lecturer) and Dick Green (Regional Landcare Facilitator) we transferred our activity to the property of "Silver Springs". This property, some 18 kms to the north east of LNP, formerly donated to Greening Australia, has a Conservation Agreement in place with the owners,



Jerry and Chris Garner. Chris kindly offered to conduct us around some of the remnant vegetation area along a track she uses for visiting interested parties and school groups.

We traversed some 2 to 3 kms of bush track and the farm access road over a 2 hour period. Much photography took place, mainly of plants. Only about 10 bird species were sighted due to the movement of the large group, the time of day and the scattered nature of the vegetation.



From top clockwise: View across 'Silver Springs and beyond – The Tenisons Virginia and Dick confirming an identification, Willie Wagtail in nest – Rowena Whiting Group on the walk and a wallaby – Penny Williams





Areas of the property are recovering well with some native plants in flower at this time. This included Yam Daisy, the vulnerable Woolly Ragwort and late in the walk sun orchids. Amongst the many treats were a pair of circling/ nesting wedge-tailed eagles and views distant to the east as far as the Snowy Mountains and westwards we could see The Rock (Kengal) and beyond.

Many stayed for lunch and a yarn in the shade near the woolshed.

MFN members discussed some options for a January 2016 camp.

Our thanks go to Chris and Jerry Garner for stepping in as an alternative to LNP. The disappointment was that LNP was at its height in terms of native plants in flower. A brief check out visit by MFN members Melanie Baulch and Dick Green on the 14 Oct 2015 revealed some 7 orchid species in flower amongst the 30 groundcovers and understorey species noted. Also 20 bird species.

Perhaps something to look forward to on the plans for 2016 would be a visit to LNP. Maybe we will see some swift parrots previously sighted there earlier this year! Thanks to all who attended and contributed to sharing knowledge and their good company.

Dick Green



**Wedge-tailed Eagle - Phil Tenison
Yam Daisy and Chocolate Lily – Rowena Whiting**

Woolly Ragwort

During our alternative walk to the Livingstone National Park visit we were shown a small patch of Woolly Ragwort *Senecio garlandii* on a hilltop. This species is regarded as vulnerable under the Threatened Species Act. Its occurrence is very limited being only known from nine sites scattered down a slightly curved line from Temora to Chiltern (Victoria). The line follows the mid region of the western slopes of the Great Dividing Range. In all nine sites it is restricted to the upper slopes of the steeper more rugged hills. At only three of the sites are the numbers significant (The Rock Nature Reserve, Table Top Nature Reserve and Trungley Hall near Temora),



though actual numbers seem to peak after fires then gradually decline, but with the extent unchanged.

Woolly Ragwort is a perennial shrub up to 2 metres in height, quite noticeable in flower with numerous bright yellow rayed heads. When not in flower it is easily recognised by the large broad stem-clasping leaves that are dark glossy green above and densely white woolly underneath. It tends to die back each summer, re-sprouting with the coming of winter rains. Though not known for sure it is regarded as relatively long living for a shrub.



Eric Whiting

Twitchathon 2015

This year's event saw 2 teams from the Club competing in the Champagne Race. Once again the weather conditions were not the best with high humidity and windy with storms around though the rain was overnight or after 4pm on the Sunday. Nibbles at Lake Wyangan was interrupted by a thunderstorm about 4:45pm, sending everyone rushing for cars; luckily the final counts had been completed.

In the Absence of Max 145 species with their rarest bird the Australasian Bittern dipping on a Silvereye

Carefree Curlews - 98 species with their rarest bird Painted Honeyeater and they dipped on an emu.

I should mention that the Curlews missed out on the Fivebough Wetlands as they were advised it was closed.

If you haven't already done so please show your support for one or more of our teams by making a donation to their fund raising. This year's Twitchathon aims to continue the support given in the 2011 and 2013 Twitchathon's to the Powerful Owl Project. It is intended that the additional funds will enable BirdLife Australia to extend the project for a sixth breeding season. Using citizen science and a team of amazing volunteers, the Powerful Owl project has monitored Powerful Owls (*Ninox strenua*) in Greater Sydney for the last five years, providing detailed information on breeding success, habitat use, mortality rates and diet of these threatened birds.

You can send your money to the Treasurer, Phil Tenison, to PO Box 541, Leeton, NSW 2705 or make a bank transfer to the MFN's bank account. It is the Commonwealth Bank, BSB 062 564, A/c 10039396. Don't forget to include 'twitch' and your name so Phil can identify it and give you a receipt. Donations are tax deductible.

Rowena



Group at the finish – enjoying nibbles and discussing their results
Photo: Rowena Whiting

CAREFREE CURLEWS TWITCH REPORT

30 October/1 November



Firstly I must congratulate the winning local team, but also congratulate my team, John Tarr and Virginia O'Brien, for our efforts, for the collection of such wondrous birds in a short space of time was amazing.

There were so many highlights. **Painted Honeyeaters**, at the winery, **Turquoise Parrots** at Wattle Dam, **Peregrine Falcon** on Dalton Rd., John took us for a ride around the Golf Course in his golf cart where we saw



the **Tawny Frogmouth** in Ross Cres., **Major Mitchells** at Darlington Point, many **Superb Parrots** and a **White-bellied Sea-Eagle**. **Grey-crowned Babblers** and a **Diamond Firetail** were seen at Store Creek and at Tharbogang Swamp a flock of **Crimson Chats** that were within metres of us without concern. Pure magic! I have counted 98 species. An incidental stat is that our combined ages exceeded 270 years.

Thanks go to Eric as our convenor and the members who supplied the much appreciated "goodies". The wild weather brought the gathering to an early close, however it certainly behaved itself most of the time. A very enjoyable outing.



Sue Chittick-Dalton

On Common Ground

On Common ground was a three day festival of textiles, performance, video projection, installation, story telling and music which took place at the Narrandera Common on 16-18th October 2015.

The Murrumbidgee River has a long history as a contested site. Colonisation, the development of agriculture, species extinction and reduction, continuing environmental changes, only partly reversed by environmental flows.

Featuring over 24 artworks from 20 local artists, 7 visiting artists and over 50 community members, on Common Ground was a celebration of what links us, through all our different viewpoints and histories.

Presented in partnership with The Cad Factory, Narrandera Council, Arts NSW, Regional Arts NSW, Performance Space, Narrandera Art and Creative Network, National Association for the Visual Arts, National Museum of Australia, Western Riverina Arts, Happy Herbs Company, Bendigo Bank and Rotary Narrandera.

The Narrandera Common was festooned with textile art which you could access by walking or by taking the Lions Train. At night there was video projection on the far bank of the river.

MFN/Landcare had a static display of threatened species and some artefacts.

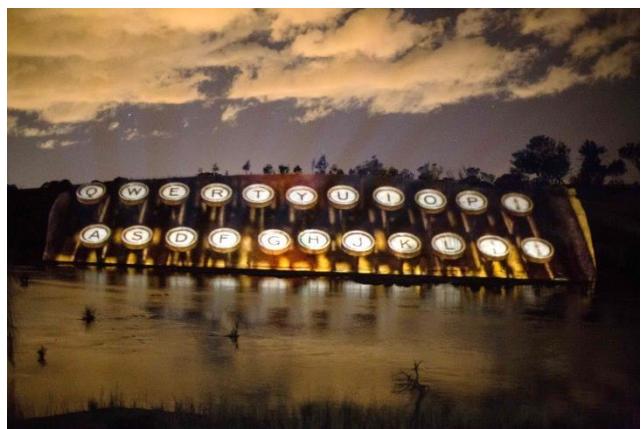
We also conducted an environmental Red Gum walk/talk.

Nearly all of you who did not come missed out on a great event.

Thanks to Kimberley Beattie, Peter Beale and Betty Bradney for all their help on both days.

Written by **Nella Smith**

[Images from the Western Riverina Arts e-news]



on and off the perch by Melanie Baulch



Recollections on the plants at Nangar National Park

Our campout to Nangar National Park was not just a change of scenery for me. It was into an entirely different bioregion with many plants to be seen that just do not occur around here. There were of course many similarities as we were not that far away.

The trees were mainly Black Cypress Pine *Callitris endlicheri*, Mugga Ironbark *Eucalyptus sideroxylon*, Grey Box *E. microcarpa*, and Blakely's Gum *E. blakelyi*. White Box *E. albens* was also present but they can readily be seen on the way to Albury or at The Rock. Trees that we don't see here were Tumbledown Gum *E. dealbata* with their clear white trunks, Long-leaf Box *E. goniocalyx*, Red Box *E. polyanthemos* and the tall stately Spotted Gum *E. rossii*.

The shrub layer was almost completely different with the heath family much more prominent – Daphne Heath *Brachyloma daphnoides*, Peach Heath *Lissanthe strigosa*, the prickly Northern Honeypos *Acrotrophe rigida* with its flowers hidden down the stems and the Beard-heath *Leucopogon attenuata*. Also prominent were pea-flowering shrubs *Daviesia virgata* (a Bitter-pea), *Dillwynia juniperinum* (a Parrot pea

with prickly leaves like the Honeypos), the distinctive leaved Handsome Flat-pea *Platyllobium formosum* and Spreading Bush-pea *Pultenaea micropylla*.

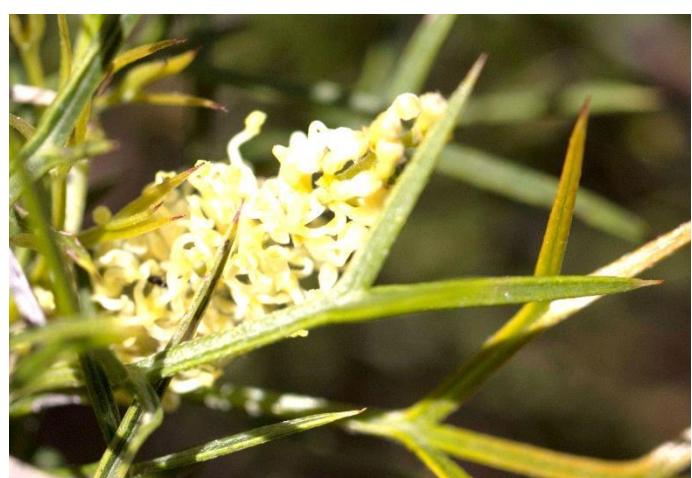


Wattles were not to miss out though most were past their best. Even the Deane's Wattle was the finer leaved subspecies *deanei* not the subspecies *paucijuga* that we get. Varnish Wattle *Acacia verniciflua* was common, not the occasional as here. Mountain Hickory Wattle *A. penninervis*, *Acacia uncinata* and *A. venulosa* all had us guessing at first with their different leaf shapes, though we readily identified the Western Golden Wattle *A. decora*, the Hedge Wattle *A. paradoxa* and the Currawang *A. doratoxylon*.

Rusty Spider Flower *Grevillea floribunda* put on a good show in parts but of course we are used to that. New to us was the smaller much divided pungent pointed leaved *Grevillea triternata*. Trying to photograph the creamy flowers tucked into the leaves was quite a problem.

Everybody remarked about the occurrence of Grass-trees *Xanthorrhoea australis* (or were they *X. johnstonii* that Bill Moller so patiently keyed out at the nearby Mandagery Nature Reserve earlier that week?). Lower down were the large pinnate leaves of the Cycad *Macrozamia secunda*, unfortunately no fruits were seen.

And to cap it all was the finding of several plants of the Mayfly Orchid *Cyrtostylis reniformis*. It does occur around here, but sightings are very few and far between.



Strangely the plant lists I received from Rosemary did not include the Bottlebrush that lined the Terarra Creek nearly all the way from the camping ground to Dripping Rock. As I expected it to be listed I never attempted to identify it there. Just another reason to go back there again.

Eric Whiting

Handsome Flat-pea (left), Northern Honeypot (above top), Grevillea triternata (above) – Rowena Whiting

Nella's Ordeal at Mareeba

Most people would now be aware of the fateful visit of Nella to Far North Queensland in October. I was house-sitting for friends just outside Yungaburra on the Atherton Tableland and had planned a number of outings during her stay with me. Into the fourth day, I had organised the dog to be cared for overnight whilst Nella and I went along the tableland through Mareeba eventually to end up with an overnight stay at Kingfisher Park – a wonderful bird lodge at Julatten.

Part of my plan was for us to visit, on the way, the Mareeba Wetlands – a bird lodge situated in the dryer areas of the tableland where an artificial lake has been established as a result of the overflow from the irrigation in the area storing unused water from the Lake Tinaroo Irrigation System.

My main purpose for the visit was to try to relocate the Black-throated Finches that I had seen on the Pandanas Trail just a few days before Nella's arrival. At the very spot where I had seen them before, there was a large log across the path and I, with Nella close behind, stepped over it and was aware of movement around my feet. I'm not sure if I actually trod on it or just disturbed it and it flared back and was writhing between Nella's legs. All I can still picture is Nella with this large snake all around her and she jumping trying to get away from it. I was also conscious of the snake coming towards me but fortunately it shot off into the bush. All this took maybe 5 long seconds but seemed to be minutes before it went off.

Nella had to be persuaded not to go looking for it before looking down at her trouser leg and seeing blood. She pulled up her pant's leg and there it was, the tell-tale sign of double marks about a centimetre apart. I made her sit down immediately and went to get help. Again all logic goes out the window in such times as I had my mobile with me but it had no signal, however, I could have dialled 000 for help. Fortunately, not 2 minutes later as I was heading off back to the wetlands centre to get help a young guy came along who had his mobile with full signal – there is some merit in having Telstra in isolated places like that, mine is with Optus!

The guy got onto the management at the centre and they were out within 10 minutes with First Aid Kit containing a snake bandage! In the meantime his wife had got onto the ambulance and also got advice as to what to do until it arrived. Nella in the meantime had removed her bra and had used that as a tornique – the bite was on her right calf so she tied it just below her knee. She was feeling fine until not long after the ambulance men arrived when she started feeling nauseous and had shimmering eyesight.

She was taken to Mareeba Hospital where they administered a polyvalent covering all brown snakes and put her on an adrenalin drip. But as they had no Pathology Department at the hospital, they arranged for the Rescue Helicopter to come from Cairns and she was flown down by 2pm where they established that the bite, or rather bites, were from the very venomous Coastal Taipan – Australia's third most deadly snake! The worst thing about this species is that it has long needle-like fangs that can penetrate even the thickest material. I was told by a local later that a man was bitten by one through his rubber boots and received enough venom to require hospitalisation. The taipan bites several times in quick succession in order to immediately demobilise its prey.

King Brown Snakes, on the other hand, have very stunted fangs and often don't affect people when bitten even though their venom is more toxic. However, there are more fatalities from King Browns than taipans because they are far more widespread throughout Australia.

Nella is now almost fully recovered apart from the area of the bite. She suffered badly from double vision for



Coastal Taipan and Taipan fangs

a week or more and still gets very tired eyes by afternoon. The toxin seemed to have affected her optic nerves more than anything else and there was a period on the first day when she was unable to open her eyes unless they were forced open by the medical staff.

Not long after Nella's drama, there was a report of a guy in Townsville being bitten by a snake and he died of a heart attack before help arrived. Whether it was brought on by the bite or shock was never established nor was the species of snake.

All was an extremely sober lesson about being prepared at all times – as if my experience last year at Round Hill wasn't enough but we in the bush are very casual when encountering snakes. We avoid them at all costs and keep a safe distance but when you encounter one as we did we didn't have time to do anything except suffer the consequences of being too close.

It's not worth thinking about what could have happened if I had been bitten or if both of us had. It was just fortunate that the young guy came along when he did and managed to get help so quickly.

Max O'Sullivan



A new Superb Parrot website for the community monitoring program!

Earlier this year colleagues in Queanbeyan developed a new Superb Parrot website to provide people interested in the Superb Parrot an opportunity to exchange information about the species, particularly the community monitoring programs, but across a broader geographic range. This website allows people to post and share observations and photographs with everyone who accesses the website.

This page also provides opportunity for you to record your sightings of Superb Parrots.

Have a look here: <https://engage.environment.nsw.gov.au/superb-parrot>

A few rules for the website

You will need to register your email address to share your stories, and we will also have to check and accept them before they are published. This is a precaution we need to take so nothing inappropriate is posted on the website which is standard internet protocol. We can also open or close your posts for comments, let us know if you wish us close your stories off for comment. We will also make a judgement on how appropriate any comments are to make sure our website stays family friendly and focussed on the life and times of the Superb Parrot.

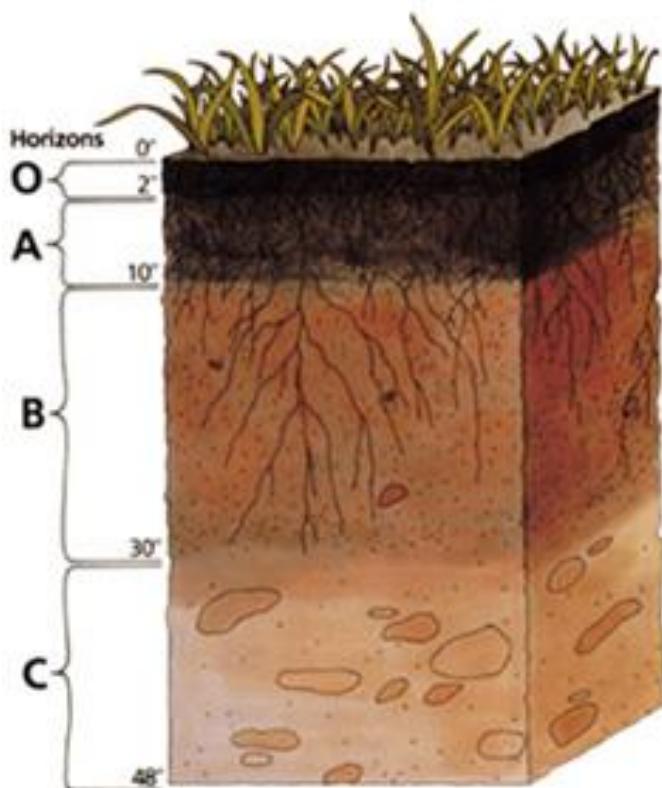
Feedback about this website is welcome – is it useful, easy to use, or not? We look forward to hearing from you via the website!

David Parker, Senior Threatened Species Officer National Parks & Wildlife Service

Soils – the Forgotten Component

How many of you know that this year is “The International Year of Soils”? How many of you take notice of soils outside your gardens? Even the keenest of gardeners goes no further than is theirs sandy, clay or the desired mix of the two we call loam and perhaps an idea of acidity or otherwise i.e. the pH.

For all their basic nature, soils are very complex. The Australian Soil Classification System gives 14 orders each hierarchically divided into suborders, great groups, sub groups and families – a tour-de-force to work through. Tests required include particle size, pH, chemical content (Calcium, Iron, Magnesium, Potassium and Sodium as cations and carbonates and sulphates as anions), organic content and colour. An idea of the genesis of the soil helps. To complicate matters soils can have distinct layers (horizons), so there is a need to dig down to the bedrock or at least beyond the depth where there is a biological influence.



Soils are initially mostly formed from the underlying bedrock by weathering, but weathering can also involve transportation. Water is a great transporter and the movement down slope into streams, rivers and out to sea is the classic story. For Australia the final destination is often over flood plains or into ephemeral lake basins. During this transportation particles are sorted by size with the smallest clay being carried furthest.

Wind is also an important transporter of soils, especially in drier climates and times. During the Ice Ages, wind in Australia has been estimated to be 20% stronger. This is when the great dune systems of inland Australia formed. Windblown material has had a marked affect locally with the western sides of our ranges especially the Cocoparra Ranges having distinctly sandier soils than on the eastern sides. Clay particles swept up from the plains have been detected far up the western slopes of the Divide. Also during the Ice Ages, rainfall was much reduced leaving river beds exposed to winds that scooped up the sand into source bordering dunes. As an example of how effective wind transport can be, a decade ago red dust from central Australia coated New Zealand glaziers.

Not often realised is the amount and diversity of living organisms present in the soil. A European report quotes 50 kilometres of mycelium of hundreds of species of fungi, hundred million bacteria in 10,000 species, 100,000 cells of protozoa, 10,000 nematodes, 5,000 individual insects, arachnids, molluscs and worms, and hundreds of species of algae all in one handful of soil. The estimate was 5 tonnes of living matter per hectare. Australian soils probably have much the same content depending on location.

Bacteria are the main organisms responsible for the breakdown and recycling of organic matter. Many animals usually recognised as decomposers actually rely on the bacteria in their intestines to do the work. Fungi are also decomposers. On the other hand some play the important part in plant growth as mycorrhizas. Algae and cyanobacteria have the same role as higher plants. In addition many cyanobacteria and mycorrhizal fungi can fix atmospheric nitrogen and make it available to plants.

Soil animals range in size from 1-2 microns for micro flagellate protozoa to the metres long Giant Earthworm. The smaller generally exist on decomposed products. Larger invertebrates either physically dismantle the organic material making it available for the smaller organisms and/or are predators. Their movements through the soil opens up the soil structure and generally mix it, with earthworms being the often quoted example.

So the next time you are in the bush, think of all that complex structure and unseen diverse life you are just about to tread on.

Eric Whiting

MEMBERS' SIGHTINGS

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

Wombat	Grong Grong	30/09/15	Nella Smith
Crimson Chat	Birrego [Jan Strong's place]	30/09/15	Nella Smith
Budgerigar [1-12]	Nericon	7-12 Oct 15	Neil Palframan
Red-necked Avocet [80]	Tharbogang Swamp, Griffith	14/10/15	Neil Palframan
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [20]	Tharbogang Swamp, Griffith	14/10/15	Neil Palframan
Marsh Sandpiper [20]	Tharbogang Swamp, Griffith	14/10/15	Neil Palframan
Budgerigar [2]	Tharbogang Swamp, Griffith	14/10/15	Neil Palframan
Painted Honeyeater [6]	McCann Rd, Griffith	14/10/15	Neil Palframan
Crimson Rosella not Yellows [2]	Hyandra St, Griffith (possible escapees)	28/10/15	Neil Palframan
Neil also said there was an unconfirmed report of Magpie Geese on the Main Canal in Griffith.			
Sacred Kingfisher [1]	16 Palla St, Griffith	04/10/15	Virginia O'Brien
King Parrot [1]	16 Palla St, Griffith	04/10/15	Virginia O'Brien
Little Wattlebird [3]	3 Cutler Ave, Griffith	12/10/15	Virginia O'Brien
Red Wattlebird [4]	4 Hillston St, Griffith	29/10/15	Virginia O'Brien
Magpie Goose [3]	McCaughay Park, Lake Yanco	07/11/15	Max O'Sullivan
Turquoise Parrot	Wattle Dam, Binya State Forest	31/10/15	Carefree Curlews
Painted Honeyeater	'The winery' site, Binya	31/10/15	Carefree Curlews
White-winged Triller	'The winery' site, Binya	31/10/15	Carefree Curlews
Diamond Dove	Store Creek, Cocoparra National Park	01/11/15	Carefree Curlews
Crimson Chat	Tharbogang Swamp, Griffith	01/11/15	Carefree Curlews
Little Bittern [calling]	Fivebough Wetlands	22/10/15	Keith Hutton
Australasian Bittern [2]	Fivebough Wetlands	22/10/15	Keith Hutton

Following are some of the interesting numbers from Keith's surveys of Fivebough and Tuckerbil at the end of October.

Fivebough Wetlands recorded on 29/10/15.

Australian Shelduck [136]	Grey Teal [1095]	Glossy Ibis [2060]
Straw-necked Ibis [22]	Yellow-billed Spoonbill [45]	Black-tailed Native-hen [11]
Black-winged Stilt [2500]	Red-necked Avocet [135]	Banded Lapwing [1]
Common Greenshank [7]	Marsh Sandpiper [27]	Wood Sandpiper [1]
Pectoral Sandpiper [1]	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [2300]	Whiskered Tern [2040]
Australian Reed-Warbler [50]		

Koonadan/Tuckerbil Wetlands recorded on 30/10/15.

Magpie Goose [3]	Freckled Duck [1]	Pink-eared Duck [1]
Glossy Ibis [8]	Silver Gull [1]	

From Keith's surveys it is clear that the waders are migrating through in numbers as well as the build-up of the Glossy Ibis and Whiskered Tern numbers for the new rice growing season.

Black-tailed Native-hen	The Basin Dam Tuckerbil	31/10/15	Nella, Penny, Phil T
Hooded Robin	Evans Smyles Rd via Leeton	31/10/15	Nella, Penny, Phil T
Crimson Chat	Evans Smyles Rd via Leeton	31/10/15	Nella, Penny, Phil T
Budgerigar	Evans Smyles Rd via Leeton	31/10/15	Nella, Penny, Phil T
Australasian Bittern [4]	Fivebough Wetlands	31/10/15	Nella, Penny, Phil T
Greenshank	Fivebough Wetlands	31/10/15	Nella, Penny, Phil T
Red-necked Stint	Fivebough Wetlands	31/10/15	Nella, Penny, Phil T
Marsh Sandpiper	Fivebough Wetlands	31/10/15	Nella, Penny, Phil T
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [100s]	Fivebough Wetlands	31/10/15	Nella, Penny, Phil T
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	'The winery' site, Binya	01/11/15	Nella, Penny, Phil T
Painted Honeyeater	'The winery' site, Binya	01/11/15	Nella, Penny, Phil T
Splendid Fairy-wren	'The winery' site, Binya	01/11/15	Nella, Penny, Phil T

**** COMING EVENTS ****

- 12 November Thursday** **Annual General Meeting and Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7.30pm.
Topic: Far North Queensland – DVD and images of birds – Max O’Sullivan
Contact: Penny Williams 6953 3524
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com
- 14 November Saturday** **Outing to Evans Smyles Road (north of Leeton) and Fivebough Wetlands.** See the **Glossy Ibis** and **Whiskered Tern** flying in at dusk to roost and hear the **Bitterns boom**.
Meet at 4pm at Fivebough Wetlands car park – car pool for Evans Smyles.
Bring nibbles to share.
If you are intending to come
Contact: Penny Williams 6953 3524 Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com
- 29 November Sunday** **Tharbogang Swamp – artefacts (camp mounds and scar trees) and water birds.**
Bring morning tea and lunch.
Meet at the Griffith Information Centre at 8:30am
Leader is Joanne Tarbit, phone 0408629449 for further details.
Contact: Penny Williams 6953 3524 Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com
- 2 December Wednesday** **Copy for the December newsletter is due. Please send to Rowena.**
Email: ericwhiting4@bigpond.com. Phone: 6953 2612.
- 10 December Thursday** **Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7.30pm.
Topic: to be decided,
Contact: Penny Williams 6953 3524
Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com
- 12 December Saturday** **Christmas Break up**
This will take the usual form of an afternoon walk followed by a meal
Venue: “Yarrabimbi” – Ana and Andrew’s place
Catering will be a communal effort with everyone to bring a dish – nibbles, meat and salads or desert. BYO drinks. Please let Penny know what you will bring so she can co-ordinate by 9 December, then we can finalise it at the December meeting.
Contact Penny Williams on 6959 3524 or preferably **Email:** murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com

Other events:

- 10-11 November** **Biodiversity Dreaming Conference at CSU Bathurst**
Information and registration <http://stks.be/biodiversity-dreaming>
Conference convenor is Dr Cilla Kinross.



The latest news of the Bitterns in Rice project is that Matt Herring, Neil Bull Mark Robb, Wayne Robinson and Andrew Silcocks have attended the 2nd International Global Food Security Conference at Cornell University in New York where they gave a their presentation **“Co-management of water for rice production and wetland biodiversity in Australia”**. They said It was well received, with lots of interest. They were also able to see the innovative work being done in the Californian rice fields which they found inspiring and learnt a great deal; much of which could be applied here. Go to <http://www.bitternsinrice.com.au/latest-news/> for details of the conference, an abstract of their presentation and their tour of the Californian rice fields following the conference.