

# *The Murrumbidgee Naturalist*



**October 2019 - Issue #275**

**Journal of the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc.**

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## **Objectives**

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



**Crimson Chat by Kathy Tenison**

**One of the photos in our exhibition of local nature photography**

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## **CONTRIBUTIONS**

**For the November issue by  
Wednesday 6 November**

**To Rowena Whiting**

**Email: [ericwhiting4@bigpond.com](mailto:ericwhiting4@bigpond.com).**

**Phone: 6953 2612**

***It is time to celebrate  
25 years of  
Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists***

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

<b>President:</b>	Graham Russell	0419 350 673	<b>Editor:</b>	Rowena Whiting	6953 2612
<b>Vice President:</b>	Alan Whitehead	6959 3779	<b>Committee:</b>	Trevor O'Brien	6962 5614
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<b>Treasurer:</b>	Ellené Schnell	0488 080 866	<b>Website Co-ordinator:</b>	Kathy Tenison	6953 4869

**MEETINGS** ARE HELD ON THE SECOND THURSDAY EACH MONTH, EXCEPT JANUARY, AT THE Yellow Room, Leeton Library, Sycamore Street at 7 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

**Bank details for direct deposit:** 062 564 account no. 10039396, a/c name: Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc. Include your own name and description of payment in the reference box.

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

## Welcome to October

With the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary almost upon us I have taken a couple of snippets from the 1<sup>st</sup> newsletter which comprised 2 pages, no colour, unfortunately there isn't room to reprint the reports of the early outings. Details of the program for the anniversary are on page 11. Please make sure you book for the dinner by 4 October, we need numbers for the caterer.

So far only 5 members know why they joined the club so I hope the rest of you will not find it too hard to pen out a few words. Remember the 150 words is a maximum and preferable to keep it shorter.

Please email to Rowena at [ericwhiting4@bigpond.com](mailto:ericwhiting4@bigpond.com) or mail to MFN PO Box 541, Leeton, 2705.

## A snippet from our very first newsletter – October 1994



### Murrumbidgee Field Naturalist's Club Newsletter



Issue # 1

Tonight our **Foundation President** will be giving the **Inaugural Address** on plant communities in the Leeton Shire. If you haven't seen a copy of Eric's "Flora of Leeton Shire" then try to get your hands on one - its a monumental piece of work.

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**Field Trip:** Our first field trip will be to Fivebough Swamp and the Brobenah Hills on Sunday 16 October. Keith Hutton, a well-known local birdo, will be in attendance to help us sort out the local avifauna. Meeting time is 8.30 AM, western side of Fivebough Swamp on Petersham Road. After a (BYO everything) picnic lunch we will be moving on to Don and Ila Priol's property in the Brobenah Hills to check out the wildlife in a fenced-off sanctuary area that was spared from the fires that went through the area a couple of years ago.

**Things to Bring:** binoculars, notebook, field guides (if you have them), picnic lunch, hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen (or a raincoat, should a miracle occur).

Page 2 contained a list of the 22 members with their addresses and interests.

## Kockibitoo State Forest Visit

For a field trip in the early spring a group of Field Naturalists visited Kockibitoo State Forest, about 40km east of Narrandera on the Old Wagga Road. Nella and myself were there several months ago and based on what we saw, thought it would be worth a visit later on in the year. There was one wattle in particular we couldn't identify, and we thought seeing it in flower might be helpful.

We parked near the western entrance of the forest and walked along the main track. This was lined with a sea of flowering wattles. Most were the species



we wanted to identify, though there were a few *Acacia decora* and *A. hakeoides* mixed in with them. The mass of bright yellow blooms was a wonderful spring sight.

We decided the unidentified wattle is possibly Mallee Wattle, *A. montana*, but will wait for the seed pods to form before saying that with any certainty. Mallee Wattles pods are usually very distinctive, having a "densely woollen" covering.

Cape Weed dominated the edge of the trail, but Blue Heron's-bill *Erodium crinitum* in



flower was abundant. The leaves of Chocolate Lily were also plentiful. Some orchids, *Pterostylis mutica*, were observed as were Scarlet Sundews and Bulbine Lily, *Bulbine bulbosa*.

While the vegetation was interesting, the highlight of this site was the nest of some Red-capped Robins. Alan and Susan spotted the colourful male Robin and watched it carry a 2" long caterpillar back



**Photos from top: Kockibitoo Forest track, Meredith, Glenn and Eric identify the wattle, possibly Mallee Wattle Rowena Whiting**

**A patch of Blue Heron's-bill Glenn Currie, inset of flower Eric Whiting.**

**Female Red-capped Robin on nest Glenn Currie**

to the nest where the female was sitting with the young. Three gaping, squawking small beaks were visible beside the female, just sticking up above the rim of the nest. Alan and Susan saw the male Robin bash the caterpillar against a limb, and when the female got off the nest, he fed it to one of the chicks (maybe the loudest? or highest?).

Alan and Susan alerted the rest of the group to the nest. It would be almost impossible to see to a casual observer, being exquisitely camouflaged and blending in perfectly with the dead Cypress tree it was in.



After morning tea in Kockibitoo we proceeded to Ganmain State Forest on the edge of the town. The western part we walked through was very weedy with Prickly Pear, African Boxthorn, Freesias and Bridal Creeper all readily evident. We didn't spend long there and went to another site for lunch. We had this on other side of Ganmain where the Murumbang Interpretive Walk is located on Boggy Creek.

In 2002 the Ganmain & District Landcare Group rehabilitated this site, removed loads of rubbish and African Boxthorn, then planted 20,000 seedlings. From the signage at the site, it was a tremendous community effort. This was a great initiative in a project to create wildlife corridors between two significant areas of remnant vegetation - the part of Ganmain State Forest situated approximately 10 km North West of the township and this small woodland on the edge of the town.

In 2019 it was a great spot to have lunch. With the floods and droughts since 2002 a lot of the original plantings haven't survived. There were a lot of name signs for species that didn't establish but other plants have survived and regenerated. The most noticeable aspect of the site is the sheer number of Kurrajong seedlings which have germinated in close proximity to each other and have grown into 4-8m trees. They are everywhere! I'm curious to see what happens as these trees compete for light, water and nutrients in the years ahead.

A quite decent birdlist was compiled as we enjoyed lunch here, just one block from Ganmain's main street.



Ganmain Murrumbang Reserve – Rowena Whiting

**Glenn Currie**

**BIRD LISTS**

**Kockibitoo State Forest**

Red-capped Robin	Western Gerygone	White-browed Babbler
Rufous Whistler	Grey Shrike-thrush	Yellow Thornbill
Galah	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Nankeen Kestrel
Jackie Winter	Magpie	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Australian Raven	Pied Butcherbird	

**Ganmain State Forest**

Red-capped Robin	Grey Fantail	White-winged Chough
Rufous Whistler	Australian Raven	

**Ganmain Murumbang Walking Track**

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Magpie	White-winged Chough
Kookaburra	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Crested Pigeon
Red-rumped Parrot	Willy Wagtail	Galah
Grey Shrike-thrush	Eastern Rosella	Magpie-lark
Peaceful Dove	Grey Teal	Pacific Black Duck
White-plumed Honeyeater		

**Malleefowl Mound Monitoring Training**

Do you know how to identify a Malleefowl mound? Would you like to learn about Malleefowl, their amazing nests (mounds) and how to monitor them? We need volunteers to help monitor over 750 mounds across NSW.

Riverina Local Land Services, the National Malleefowl Recovery Team and volunteers from the Victorian Malleefowl Recovery Group are hosting Malleefowl Monitoring Training for those interested in helping preserve one of Australia's unique native species.

See how on ground monitoring is carried out utilising the latest technology and techniques, and learn how you can support the national monitoring effort.

See coming events for details and contact.



## Koala Spotting 2019

The annual Koala Count as it is commonly called, took place on a fine cold Sunday in September under the watchful eyes of National Park Rangers. The date was changed from March – April to September on the advice of Ian Davidson, an environmental scientist who was called on to help us make the count more scientific. He advised the change to September because the joeys are coming out of the pouch and on their mothers' backs, so we can monitor how the colony is going.

He also advised that the team leaders each have a definite marked territory along the river and along the canal where the trees are of much better quality and therefore much more likely to shelter koalas. Many of the interior trees are tall, thin and spindly without good side branches, definitely not inviting to a tired or hungry koala. Next year's count should cover the same territories so we should be able to compare results.

The strategy paid off this year as 46 koalas including several back young were spotted, indicating that breeding is ongoing – a good sign of a healthy population.

The popularity of The Koala Count as a family day out is steadily growing with the largest turnout ever. There were about 250 people, at least half of them children who are the best spotters with the sharpest eyes. As always every one enjoyed the barbeque expertly produced by Rotary – a great finale to a most successful day.

**Betty Bradney**



Photo by Kathy Tenison

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## Being big is not always the best

For animals it is the cute and cuddly that get the attention. With plants it's the beautiful or the big. Names of vegetation communities generally rely on the main highest of the species, the trees. This applies even if the trees are several canopy widths apart. Only when there is a need for subdivision or when trees are totally absent do the lower levels get a mention and then only in general terms like shrublands, heaths, grasslands or herbfields.

It is a pity because the very small plants play a vital role creating and maintaining any community. No natural community is homogenous in age. From time to time catastrophic events occur like fires, floods, landslips or windthrows. Substantial areas can be cleared often to soil surface level. In favourable wetter climates regeneration can be quick though it does have to go through set stages. Herbs and grasses can convert all their photosynthetic energy into growth and early maturity. Thus a cleared area will sport a carpet of herbs and/or grasses for the first growing season or two. Shrubs need to divert some of their energy into creating structural wood to get that extra height. Therefore growth is slower and they can only outgrow or shade out the grasses and herbs after a few years. Trees require more wood and therefore more energy is diverted away from more leafy growth slowing total growth even more.



In harsher habitats the progression to tree growth is slower or even stopped. In alpine area herbs and grasses flourish in the short summer season and then either rest over as seeds or are protected from hard frosts by a blanket of snow. The shrubs are likewise kept low to be protected in winter under snow. Any growth above snow level risks having more losses from frost damage than can be put on in summer. Severe wind prone areas likewise can be kept pruned to an even height below which dense growth affords protection.

In drier climes there is an added hazard. Bare soil can easily dry out robbing any new plant of the moisture to germinate or grow. The harsher or more prolonged the drought the deeper the dry zone gets. Any occasional rain will wet the surface, and enough may allow a period of growth – the greening of the desert after a thunderstorm, or as we are in now, a green-drought.

The taller the plant, the deeper its roots need to go to keep stability, and also the more moisture it requires. Plants that only grow a few centimetres high before flowering have the advantage, but even here there is a gamble. Not enough rain and soil moisture can disappear before seed set. Desert plants have evolved to vary and extend the dormancy of their seeds so that there is always a reserve.

All the above presupposes that the structure of the soil has not been damaged. If it has and soil is lost or lifeless, regeneration is much harder. First the soil has to be created and/or stabilised. It takes bacteria, fungi and algae to do that. Many soil lichens produce complex acids that can break down solid rock. The fungus component of these lichens and other free living microfungi can entangle the new soil particles to prevent them from being blown or washed away. Algae, in particular blue-green forms (actually they are more correctly termed cyanobacteria) can secrete gums to glue the soil particles together to do the same stabilising job. These organisms are very slow growing and it can be five or more years before a worthwhile stable crust can form. Dry periods do not worry them as desiccation does not kill them like it does higher plants.

Once a stable crust has formed small plants can get established. These are often mosses but several species of the daisy family, some *Crassulas* and a few other families have adopted a very miniature growth form that can take advantage of the limited amounts of soil of new crusts. Even though these are annuals and rapidly die with the onset of each summer, their dead roots remain to further bind the soil and the dead remains on the surface can also collect dust etc to further build up the soil. These miniature plants are often called 'inch-highs' by some, but unfortunately ignored by many.

That is a great pity. You may have to get down on hands and knees to observe them, but without them there may not be any bigger plants.

**Eric Whiting**

A selection of low plants found along the stock reserve on the Narrandera to Barellan Road photographed on 21 September

Prev page: Orange Sunray *Hyalosperma semisterile*

Common Sunray *Triptilodiscus pygmaeus*

This page from top: Blushing Bindweed

Dwarf Sunray *Hyalosperma demissum*

*Brachyscome* sp (Ganmain State Forest)

Flannel Cudweed *Actinobole uliginosum*



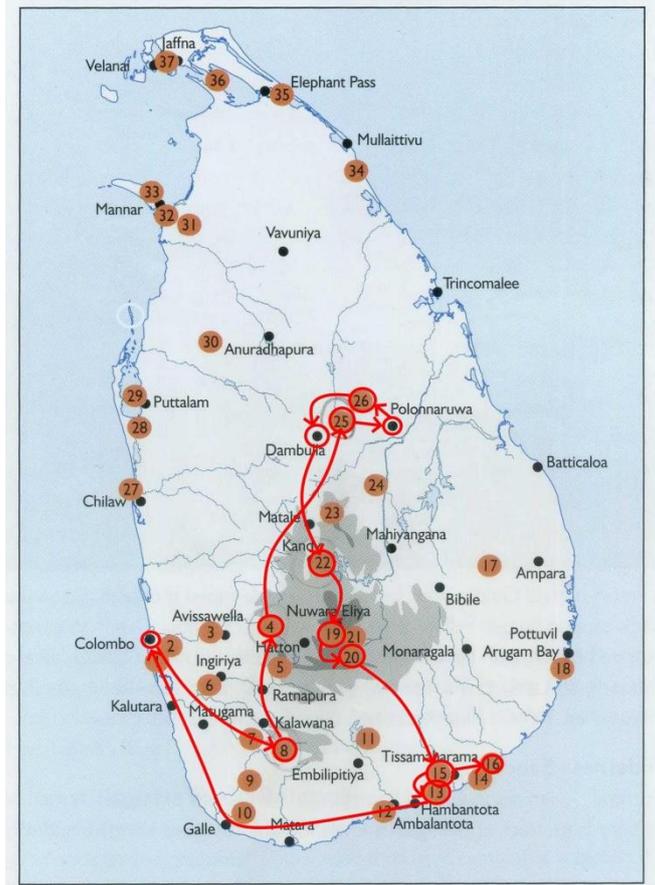
**Photos by Rowena Whiting**

The trip itinerary to Sri Lanka in July turned out to be very full-on as we covered the major aspects of that beautiful country – particularly from a flora and fauna perspective as well as many cultural sites. So we had a very thorough taste of the country. Speaking of taste, that too was very well catered for as every meal was a taste treat for us with such a choice of food (curries of all descriptions) at every place where we stayed or had lunch whilst travelling from one exciting place to yet another.

The general routine was up at 6, breakfast and away by 7.30 or earlier for a full-day, lunch was usually around 2 with dinner at our accommodation around 8 followed by a bird call for what we had seen that day and fall into bed around 10.30 or so.

Sri Lanka as our guide Rahula\* told us consists of 3 penepains – the coast, the second at a higher altitude (500m) that included the historic city of Kandy and the third the high plain in the centre of the country (>1000m). See Neil's map of the route we took.

The first place visited was in the south, **Sinharaja**, which is a World Heritage Tropical Rainforest where many of the 33 endemic species of Sri Lanka can be found. Of special interest was the beautiful **Sri Lanka Blue Magpie** – a very



Map by Neil Palramann  
**Sri Lanka Blue Magpie (left) – Nella Smith; Red-faced Malkoha (below) – Graham Russell**

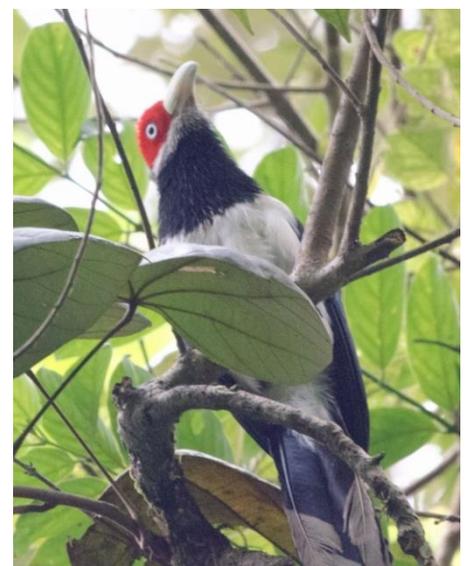


stunning bird which we saw every day we stayed at the Rainforest Lodge there.

This World Heritage forest is a study centre where Rahula had spent time studying the birds and plants. One of his study areas was about the make-up of bird feeding flocks which Graham talked about at the September meeting presentation. A phenomenon of particularly tropical rainforests is how birds behave when feeding. On a couple of occasions we witnessed this behaviour where up to a dozen species were seen feeding together at various levels of the rainforest. The top bird is the **sentry bird** that is aware of any danger mostly from raptors like the **Crested Serpent Eagle** or **Black Eagle** and gives the alarm call if there is a threat. In Sri Lanka the sentry is usually a **Sri Lanka Drongo** which feeds in the upper canopy whilst the rest feed at different levels

underneath right down to ground dwelling species. When the sentry senses a threat, he gives a raucous alarm call and the whole feeding flock disappears instantly and eventually regroups elsewhere when the danger has passed. I have seen such feeding flocks in the tropical rainforests in Far North Queensland but not been aware of the make-up of such a moving flock nor of the sentry bird that keeps a watch for danger.

In this World Heritage Forest, we saw some very interesting bird and plant species. The birds such as **Red-faced Malkoha** was difficult to see clearly but Graham managed a pretty good photo of it. One of the birds we had difficulty seeing was the tiny **Sri Lanka Frogmouth**. It's about half the size of our **Tawny Frogmouth** and is unique in that the male is grey and the female brown – such a cute little bird.



From Sinharaja we travelled further north to the centre of the country stopping at various cultural sites - a Megalithic Burial Site dating back to the Early Iron Age, the 8<sup>th</sup> Century City of Polonnaruwa, Dambulla Cave Temple and the ancient capital Sigiriya dating back at least 5,500 years – all Major World Heritage Historic Sites.

**Sigiriya** is an amazing place with a huge rocky outcrop 350 metres high on which a palace was built way back in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC. The climb up extremely steep stairs proved a real challenge and Nella and I chose not to even attempt the climb, Graham and Johanna made it half-way up and the rest got to the top. It was extremely hot and humid there hence only 5 actually made it all the way.

Once back in the coastal lowlands in the south-east, we had 3 different safari trips to the wetlands at **Tissa** where we saw a herd of about 100 elephants as well as many waterbirds. Next day was a full day in **Yala**

**National Park** where we were very fortunate to see 2 leopards as well as many bird species. The last morning was spent at **Bunyala National Park** before leaving for a return to Colombo. On the way we stopped in the late afternoon at **Galle** on the south coast where we visited the old Dutch Fort and succeeded to get a thorough drenching in a massive rain squall whilst trying to make it back to the coach.

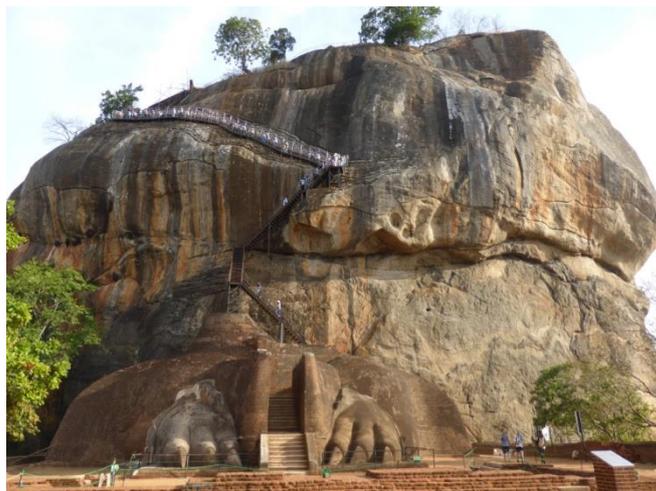
Back in the hotel close to the airport we spent the 2 final nights before departing at 12.02am on the direct flight back to Melbourne tired but very happy about doing such a wonderful trip.

Sri Lanka as Graham pointed out at the last meeting is about the size of Tasmania but has a population larger than Australia's. However, even though the cities and towns we saw were densely populated there were areas of beautiful countryside heavily farmed but with massive areas of natural bushland and forested areas. Such a balance of people and environment makes Australia look a very poor second in comparison.

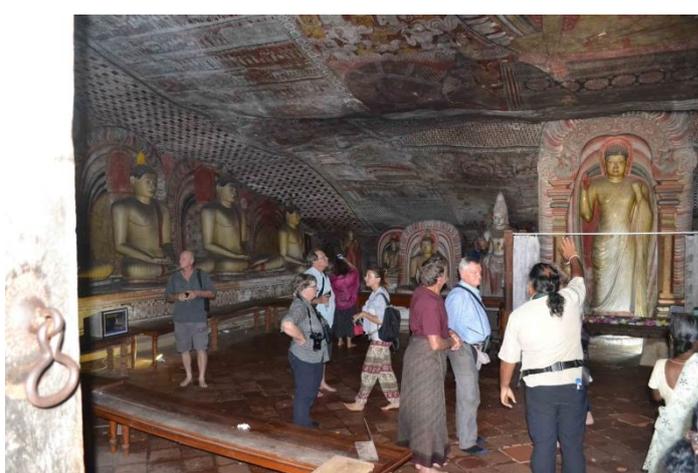
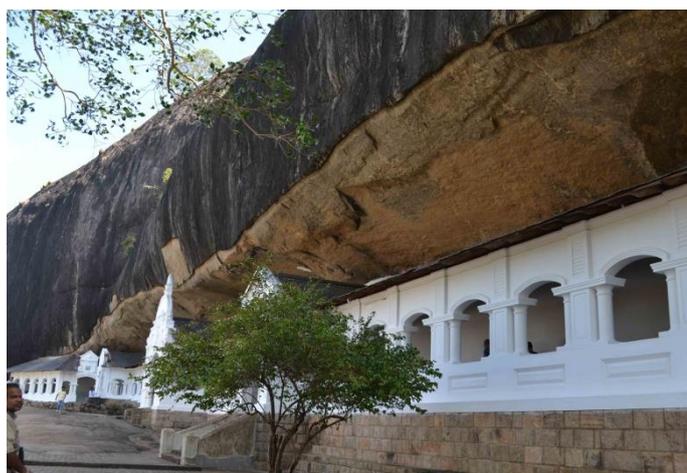
In all we saw 170+ bird species and of those, we managed to see 23 of the 33 Sri Lanka endemics.

### **Max O'Sullivan**

\* Members may remember Rahula Perera was our guest speaker who gave a presentation about elephants and their behaviour and loss of habitat at a club meeting. He also spoke about birds. October 2017 if you wish to refer back to it. Ed.



**Sigiriya Rock by Neil Palframann  
Leopard, Yala Nat. Park by Dione Russell**



**Dambulla Cave Temple by Dione Russell**

## Birdlife Australia National Twitchathon 2019

This year, the event will be held on the **weekend of 26–27 October** in all states and territories.

The Twitchathon is a race in which teams aim to tick off as many species as they can in the allotted time. There are three categories so anyone no matter how experienced or time-restricted, can compete! For over 30 years, hundreds of passionate birdwatchers have been racing around the countryside competing in this unique sporting event. The aim to see or hear as many bird species as possible and help protect our birdlife for years to come.

There are three different events, all you have to do is, choose an event which suits you, form a team, and start planning a route and fundraising strategy!

**The Big Weekend** is a 30 hour marathon bird-race where teams try to collect as many a species as possible with maximum habitat coverage - winning teams regularly record over a quarter of all Australia's birds.

For those with less time, **The Big Day** race is over 12 hours and gives teams half a day to spot as many birds as they can. This more relaxed event avoids the need for teams to camp overnight, and includes an optional lunch break.

**The Birdathon** is suitable for everyone, young and old, experienced and novice. Each team has three 1-hour blocks to birdwatch over the course of the day, which they can choose to use at any time, and in any place. So one hour (or more) could be spent at your local park or wetland, or it could be that patch of mallee or rainforest that's a few hours' drive away.

### SPONSOR A TEAM

Each year, the Twitchathon raises funds that go towards a different bird conservation initiative in each state. For NSW which includes the ACT, it is the **Bush Stone-Curlew** this year.

Canberra is now getting one of the most distinctive sounds of the bush back, the wailing calls of the Bush Stone-curlew filling the night. Bush Stone-curlews became extinct in the ACT around 1970. Its reintroduction was started through a community driven project of several releases of birds over 2014 to 2016 establishing a small breeding population within the Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary. Re-introductions of these birds have been trialled elsewhere but have largely failed, for reasons poorly understood.

Twitchathon funds will build upon this previous work and will help with:

- ◆ Further releases of Bush Stone Curlews
- ◆ Analysis of the core mechanisms behind success and failure of introduction
- ◆ Development of frameworks for reintroductions of other ground-dwelling birds
- ◆ Development of a method for long-term GPS tracking of Bush Stone-curlews

You will find the **Registration Forms** and **Rules** for each race category available for download at the website: <https://www.birdlifetwitchathon.org.au> which includes rules for the different race categories, fundraising targets and information, details on how to donate, the official species list, and a digital copy of the flyer!

**Get involved by joining or forming a team. See coming events for MFN contact.**

#### Top Twitch Tips

Cover as many diverse habitats as possible to maximise the suite of possible species

Put a large distance between your start and end points to increase your range of targets

Find species as quickly as possible, and don't forget that hearing a bird counts too.

Don't waste time looking for one bird that is eluding you – focus on the next one.

Make sure to actually go birding, not just drive hundreds of kilometres between sites.

Have backups for even the most guaranteed birds – they tend to disappear on race day.

Remember the common species – a House Sparrow at the local shopping centre is worth just as much on a Twitchathon as a Grey Falcon hundreds of kilometres away



Drawing by  
Sue Chittick-  
Dalton

# MEMBERS' SIGHTINGS

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

**Correction to August sightings list:** I accidentally wrote on Keith's report that he saw 8 **Brown Honeyeaters** near Woollies (Leeton). It should have been just a single bird and the 8 belonged to the next entry for Glossy Ibis! Apologies for not checking my own report before sending it to Rowena – mea culpa!

<b>Wedge-tailed Eagle</b>	Taleeban Mining Reserve (outing)	31/08/19	Susan Whitehead
<b>Peregrine Falcon</b> [male]	Fivebough Wetlands	01/09/19	Keith Hutton
<b>Musk Duck</b> [male]	Fivebough Wetlands	01/09/19	Keith Hutton
<b>Wood Sandpiper</b> [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	01/09/19	Keith Hutton
<b>Water Rat</b>	Lake Talbot, Narrandera	04/09/19	Warrick Bradney
<b>Glossy Black Cockatoo</b> [2]	Colinroobie Rd, Leeton – flyover	05/09/19	Dionee Russell
<b>Major Mitchell's Cockatoo</b> [5+]	Colinroobie Rd, Leeton	Daily	Dionee Russell
<b>Southern Boobook</b>	Colinroobie Rd, Leeton	06/09/19	Phil Tenison
<b>Common Myna</b> [1]	Contour RD/Whitton Stock Route Rd	08/09/19	Keith Hutton
<b>Wedge-tailed Eagle</b>	Narrandera Common Koala Count	08/09/19	Ellene Schnell
<b>White-winged Chough</b> on nest	Narrandera Common Koala Count	08/09/19	Ellene Schnell
<b>Whiskered Tern</b> [4]	Fivebough Wetlands – season arrival	11/09/19	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Black-tailed Native-hen</b> [5]	Fivebough Wetlands	11/09/19	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Superb Wren</b>	Belah St, Leeton	11/09/19	Joy Young
<b>Superb Parrot</b> [6]	Leeton Golf Course	12/09/19	Alan Whitehead
<b>Red Wattlebird</b> on nest	Narrandera Wetlands	12/09/19	Susan Whitehead
<b>Eastern Rosella</b> [2]	Larmer St, Narrandera	12/09/19	P Castro
<b>Pied Honeyeater</b> [12+]	McCann Rd Reserve, Lake Wyangan	12/09/19	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Black Honeyeater</b> [4+]	McCann Rd Reserve, Lake Wyangan	12/09/19	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Red-capped Plover</b> [pr]	Lake Wyangan north from causeway	12/09/19	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Sharp-tailed Sandpiper</b> [8]	Lake Wyangan north from causeway	12/09/19	Max O'Sullivan
<b>White-breasted Woodswallow</b>	Campbell Swamp – season arrival	12/09/19	Max O'Sullivan
<b>White-winged Wren</b> [male]	Campbell Swamp	12/09/19	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Bearded Dragon</b> [2]	Coleambally	12/09/19	Keith Thompson
<b>Red-necked Avocet</b> [2]	Fivebough Wetlands	12/09/19	Keith Hutton
<b>Red-kneed Dotterel</b> [5]	Fivebough Wetlands	12/09/19	Keith Hutton
<b>Latham's Snipe</b> [4]	Fivebough Wetlands	13/09/19	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Australasian Bittern</b>	Campbell Swamp – north end	14/09/19	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Sharp-tailed Sandpiper</b> [28]	Fivebough Wetlands – season arrival	14/09/19	Keith Hutton
<b>Black-tailed Native-hen</b> [9]	Fivebough Wetlands	14/09/19	Keith Hutton
<b>Red-kneed Dotterel</b> [16]	Fivebough Wetlands	14/09/19	Keith Hutton
<b>Sharp-tailed Sandpiper</b> [28]	Fivebough Wetlands	14/09/19	Keith Hutton
<b>Australian Shelduck</b> [62]	Fivebough Wetlands	14/09/19	Keith Hutton
<b>Whiskered Tern</b> [9]	Fivebough Wetlands	14/09/19	Keith Hutton
<b>White-bellied Sea-Eagle</b> [adult]	Fivebough Wetlands	14/09/19	Keith Hutton
<b>Brown Quail</b> [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	14/09/19	Keith Hutton
<b>Australian Reed Warbler</b> [>20]	Fivebough Wetlands	14/09/19	Keith Hutton
<b>Glossy Black Cockatoo</b> [1]	The Shady Gum Nursery Narrandera	15/09/19	per Glenn Currie
<b>Major Mitchell's Cockatoo</b> [1]	Kamarah/Narrandera Rd intersection	15/09/19	Graham Russell
<b>Red-necked Stint</b> [2]	Lake Wyangan from the causeway	18/09/19	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Painted Honeyeater</b> [5]	McCann Rd, Wyangan – season arrival	21/09/19	Neil Palframan
<b>Budgerigar</b> [1]	McCann Rd, Wyangan – possible escapee	22/09/19	Richard Murray
<b>Sacred Kingfisher</b> [1]	Fivebough Wetlands – season arrival	22/09/19	Keith Hutton
<b>Red-backed Kingfisher</b> [1]	Fivebough Wetlands – unexpected	22/09/19	Allan Richards
<b>Silver Gull</b> [36]	Fivebough Wetlands	22/09/19	Keith Hutton
<b>Sharp-tailed Sandpiper</b> [16]	Fivebough Wetlands	22/09/19	Keith Hutton
<b>Australian Shelduck</b> [94]	Fivebough Wetlands	22/09/19	Keith Hutton
<b>Glossy Ibis</b> [89]	Fivebough Wetlands	22/09/19	Keith Hutton

Both the Shelducks and Glossy Ibis are increasing in numbers as the month progresses.

<b>Whiskered Tern</b> [10]	Fivebough Wetlands	22/09/19	Keith Hutton
<b>Black Falcon</b>	Fivebough Wetlands	22/09/19	Keith Hutton
<b>Baillon's Crake</b> [2]	Fivebough Wetlands	22/09/19	Keith Hutton
<b>Spotless Crake</b> [3]	Fivebough Wetlands	22/09/19	Keith Hutton
<b>Spotted Crake</b> [2]	Fivebough Wetlands	22/09/19	Keith Hutton
<b>White-naped Honeyeater</b>	Cypress St, Leeton	23/09/19	Eric Whiting
<b>Crimson Chat</b> [male]	Koonadan Rd, Leeton	23/09/19	Phillip Williams
<b>Latham's (Japanese) Snipe</b> [1]	"Willow Park", Koonadan	23/09/19	Peter Draper
<b>Red Kangaroo</b>	"Willow Park", Koonadan	23/09/19	Peter Draper
This is the first time Peter has recorded a Red Kangaroo on his farm so close to Leeton.			
<b>White-winged Triller</b> [11m 4f]	Fivebough Wetlands	25/09/19	Keith Hutton
<b>Magpie Goose</b> [1]	Campbell Swamp	26/09/19	Ron Broomham
<b>Latham's Snipe</b> [1]	Campbell Swamp	26/09/19	Ron Broomham
<b>Superb Parrot</b> [2]	Lake Coolah	12/09/19	Rowena Whiting
<b>Superb Parrot</b> [20+]	Stephenson St, Whitton	14/09/19	Margaret Strong
<b>Mallee Ringneck</b> [1]	Brunell St, Whitton	14/09/19	Margaret Strong
<b>Frogmouth</b> [1]	Naradhun St, Whitton	17/09/19	Margaret Strong
Perched on my fence at dusk.			
<b>Kookaburra</b> [5+]	Naradhun St, Whitton	09/19	Margaret Strong
Calling at dusk everyday			
<b>Grey Butcherbird</b> [2]	Whitton Museum	17/09/19	Margaret Strong
Calls throughout the day, all seasons			
<b>Glossy Black Cockatoo</b> [16]	"Yarrabimbi", Colinroobie	27/09/19	Andrew Thompson
In pairs flying over			

## 25 Years Celebration is to run over 3 days: the following program is proposed

### Friday 18th October, 2019.

Meet at Leeton Presbyterian Church Hall 2pm  
 Outing to Narrandera Area  
 Bring and Share Dinner by the Water at Rocky Waterholes

### Saturday 19th October, 2019

Re-enactment of Original First Outings  
 Meet at Fivebough Wetlands @ 6am  
 Breaky/Brunch location yet to be confirmed  
 Head to Colinroobie Hills.  
 BYO Lunch and Afternoon Tea

**Formal Dinner at MIA Social Club 7-7.30pm Cost: \$50 p/p for dinner – drinks purchased at the bar**

**Guest Speaker: Matt Cameron,**

**Matt is a Senior Team Leader with Ecosystems & Threatened Species, South West Branch, one of his research area is the Glossy Black Cockatoo.**

**Eric Whiting will talk about the history of the Club.**

**Please RSVP for Formal Dinner by 4th October 2019**

### Sunday 20th October 2019

Meet at Corner of Whitton Stock Route & Burley Griffin Way at 8am  
 Head into Cocoparra National Park for the morning  
 BYO Morning Tea and Lunch.

Depart after Lunch

All Enquiries please call Graham 0419 350 673 or Dione 0428 536 290

Email: [murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com)



# \*\*\*\* COMING EVENTS \*\*\*\*

Please note all outings are subject to weather conditions please email or phone if you intend to come.

**10 October Thursday**      **Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7 pm.  
**Topic:** Kathy and Phil Tenison about their trip to England and Singapore  
**Contact:** Nella Smith 6959 1210 or [murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com).

**11 12 October Friday Saturday**      **Leeton Show**  
**MFN are organising a display stand.**  
Please contact Alan Whitehead 6959 3779 or Glenn Currie 0488 563 321 if you are able to help with setting up or manning the stand.

**18/19/20 October 2019 Our Celebratory Weekend**  
**for the club's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**Anniversary Dinner, Outings and Photographic Exhibition**  
**See previous page for the proposed activities**

**21 – 27 October week**      **Aussie Backyard Bird Count 2019**  
Be a 'citizen scientist' and spend 20 minutes in your garden or local place and count the number of birds. Details at [Aussie Backyard Bird Count](#)

**26-27 October Sat - Sun**      **Birdlife Australia National Twitchathon 2019**  
**Registration is now available.** Take part in the race or sponsor a team. The idea is to see how many species of birds you can find in either the 30, 12 or just 3 hours. See page 9 for the details.  
If you would like to join a team or require further details contact Max O'Sullivan on 0434923766 or Email: [murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com)

**2-3 November**  
Saturday Sunday      **NSW Malleefowl Recovery Group**  
**Training Sessions for volunteers at West Wyalong** – See page 4 for more details  
Training monitors on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and  
Monitoring of the mounds in the Riverina on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
**RSVP** David Kellett P: 0428 693 990, E: david.kellett@lls.nsw.gov.au  
**Club Contact:** Ellené Schnell, Email [schnell.letaba@gmail.com](mailto:schnell.letaba@gmail.com).

**6 November Wednesday**      **Copy for the November newsletter is due. Please send to Rowena.**  
Email: [ericwhiting4@bigpond.com](mailto:ericwhiting4@bigpond.com) Phone: 6953 2612.

**11-18 November week**      **Spring Wild Pollinator Count**  
This gives you an opportunity to contribute to wild pollinator insect conservation in Australia. You can **join in** by watching any flowering plant for just ten minutes sometime in our count week. <https://wildpollinatorcount.com/>

**14 November Thursday**      **Annual General Meeting and Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7 pm.  
**Topic:** to be decided  
**Contact:** Nella Smith 6959 1210 or [murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com).

**16 November Saturday**      **Murrumbidgee Valley National Park (Cuba Forest)**  
**Meet at the Lions Park, Darlington Point at 8:30am.**  
**Bring morning tea and lunch.**  
**Contact:** Graham or Dione Russell P: 0419 350 673 / 0428 536 290 resp.  
Email: [murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com)