

# ***The Murrumbidgee Naturalist***



**January 2024 - Issue #322**

**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



**Rainbow Bee-eater**

**Janet Hume**

**I watched them come and enter their nest frequently; always headfirst and reversed out. The nest hollow was on the side of a fire trail that is used regularly by joggers, dog walkers and bikers**

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## **CONTRIBUTIONS**

**For the March 2024 issue by  
Wednesday 6 March**

**To Rowena Whiting**

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**"Nature is the source  
of all true knowledge."**

**- Leonardo da Vinci**

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

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<b>Treasurer:</b>	Glenn Currie	0488 563 321		Virginia Tarr	0434 831 031

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

**FIELD TRIPS** NORMALLY TAKE PLACE ON THE FOLLOWING WEEKEND; (Leeton, Griffith, Narrandera areas) AND ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH (Wagga Wagga area)

INTENDING NEW MEMBERS, GUESTS AND VISITORS WELCOME.

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

## Welcome to 2024

I'm afraid this issue has had to be collated rather quickly as Eric and I were away enjoying our alpine country last week.

Thank you to those people who have contributed to this issue, A good variety to start the year.

I hope everyone is looking forward to another year of activities and contributing in some way with leading, presenting, writing an article. Please bear in mind the copy date - it does takes a couple of days to put together.

Here's to a year of enjoying and sharing nature's wonders with others. Enjoy your read.

**Rowena.**

## Griffith Environmental Citizen of the Year

We were delighted to hear that one of our members, **Ema Munro**, is the recipient of this award. Ema, a high school geography teacher, is passionate about sustainability and been involved in environmental initiatives most of her life. She has branched out into community work and is participating on the Griffith city council Lake Wyangan committee, collaborating with council to find a way to improve the ecology of the lake; hopefully resolve the blue green algae problem.

As she says planting plants is one of the easiest things to do to capture carbon and cool the urban environment thus providing habitats for our birds and other animals. Tree cover has been greatly reduced resulting in less moisture in the vegetation making it more combustible. So, creating a canopy of shade on gardens, urban streets, farms benefits everyone. "Plant, plant, plant."

Ema initiated the wildflower walks on Scenic Hill with MFN members leading on the day and we also supported her for the tree plantings on Bromley Road and at Campbells Wetland. She has initiated a community garden with St Alban's Anglican Cathedral church on their grounds. She collects and raises local seed and gives away plants. She is indebted to the support and conveys her thanks to MFN, Griffith City Council, Narrandera Landcare, Riverina Nursery, Wormtech, Owen Toyota and Bunnings.

Congratulations, Ema, very well deserved. **Rowena Whiting**



## Reconnecting River Country

**Reconnecting River Country (another look at constraints on the rivers)** is being led by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's Water Infrastructure NSW in partnership with the department's Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Division and the Department of Regional NSW's Local Land Services.

At present, a range of constraints (physical, policy and operations) limit the flow of water for the environment along river systems in the Southern Murray Darling Basin (that's us).

As a result, rivers connect to their wetlands and floodplains less often than is needed.

### Why do we need to consider flow options?

Flows of different sizes and durations achieve a range of outcomes for river and wetland health, connectivity, productivity and wildlife.

At present, managed flows are capped at relatively low levels. This means rivers and floodplains are connecting less often than they used to and need to be. River and floodplain health are at risk.

### By allowing more flexibility in the delivery of flows, water managers will be able to:

- Reinststate some natural flow patterns.
- Release and transfer carbon and nutrients that underpin the aquatic food web.
- Improve the health of forests, woodlands and shrublands along river corridors and on low-lying floodplains.
- Trigger breeding and movement of native fish, waterbirds and other water-dependent animals.
- Regulate the accumulation of leaf litter on the forest floor which may help to reduce the risk of low oxygen 'blackwater' during moderate-scale natural flow events.



### The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment has conducted an initial analysis of environmental benefits from relaxed constraints. This analysis shows:

- The health of iconic river red gum forests improves, and water can be delivered to larger areas of both red gum forest and black box woodland.
- More habitat for water dependent birdlife can be provided, allowing them to breed, feed and support their young to maturity.
- The area of available habitat for native fish to breed, feed and move is increased, providing additional nursery habitat and a significant boost to fish numbers.
- The likelihood of low oxygen 'blackwater' events may be reduced by providing more regular flows that shift debris from the floodplain floor. This provides a more regular boost to river productivity through additional inputs to the aquatic food web.



Photos: McCaughy (top) and Yarrada Lagoons.  
Taken in 2020

The program involves consultation with landholders about how a higher flow will affect them and what can be done to ameliorate this. This could involve building infrastructure and various other things. Community information and consultation has been conducted for a long time.



Remembering the high flows we have had in the last 3 years which was from local rain and management of the dams upstream, most of the high flows which will be sent for environmental purposes will be less than those that occurred (no more than minor flood level). The website has some wonderful information which really shows where water should flow under different scenarios.

For more information visit the website: <https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/water/water-infrastructure-nsw/sdlam/reconnecting-river-country-program>

**Nella Smith**

## A Community Bushwalk in Narrandera

Last year Rita Wilkie started to organise “Community Bushwalks” on the first Sunday of each month with the goal of bringing people together and out into nature. has been a terrific supporter of, and volunteer for Narrandera Landcare for many years. I love her passion for community and the environment.

I haven’t been able to go along on any of her previous walks but was free for the 4<sup>th</sup> of February one. When I phoned Rita for the details of it, I somehow ended up leading it and the choice of where to go was up to me. The brief was a walk of not much more than an hour, cater for different fitness levels and the group may be quite small or a lot of people. Rita didn’t want to know what I had in mind and just said surprise her.

I decided on a short walk through the Narrandera North precinct of our local Murrumbidgee Valley Regional Park. It’s along the river so was flat, was basically short but had side trails to a billabong and an old sand mining to explore if the group was up for it. And for a surprise was the biggest River Red Gum I know of in the area.

I wrote about this tree in our [October 2020 Newsletter](#). It’s still there and is still slowly dying (in senescence) but always inspires awe in anyone I take it to see it. As it’s on National Park estate I got permission from the National Parks and Wildlife Service Area Manager in 2020 and registered it on the [National Big Tree Register](#) \*. At the time I wanted to somehow make its existence known to the public in a way that if they were curious enough, they would be able to find it.

The group ended up as seven people and it was a pleasant walk. Only one was familiar with the park and the others enjoyed exploring a new area. They were suitably impressed by the big Red Gum, learnt about the

threatened status of the Superb Parrots we saw and a sharp eyed Argentinian (Nico) somehow spotted an incredibly obscure koala high up in the fork of a tree. Nico also learnt a “billabong” is more than a clothing brand.

Time didn’t allow us to get to the old sand mining site which means another walk out there could be organised. I mentioned MFN’s outing to Rocky Waterholes next Saturday and invited them along to meet our members and to give them the opportunity to discover more of the environment around Narrandera.

**Glenn Currie**

\*to view this big tree on the website you need to access the “Tree Data” tab then click on “Archive”.



Photo by Nicolas Galluccio



Measuring the River Red Gum in 2019  
Photo: Nella Smith

## MABA – Moths and Butterflies Australasia Inc.

MABA is a new (2019) international group based in Canberra and ran by lepidopterists who are closely associated with the Australian National Insect Collection (ANIC), either as professionals or volunteers. The MABA Annual Event was held in early Nov 2023 for the first time, which I attended, and is planned for a similar time each year to bring Lepidoptera enthusiasts together over one evening and two days to share knowledge and experiences. A full account of this can be read on the MABA website under the *Events* tab.

The first evening started in the main CSIRO Library with a 'meet and greet' of participants. On display were special works of Butterfly Art from the Library collection, something which the general public would never usually have the chance to see. Neville Cayley's original watercolour paintings for his 1932 book What Butterfly is That? were the most special to see as the printed reproductions in the book, using the inferior technology of that era, were of poor quality and therefore didn't receive high acclaim.

We had an introduction to the new ANIC building under construction near the library. We heard much about the mould control problems of the collection and how the new design will help manage that aspect of keeping such an important collection safe for the future.

That night, from sunset until 11.00pm, we were again privileged by having access to the Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) to view wild moths attracted to perpendicular white sheets with bright lights underneath them. There were four 'Sheets' set up within a few hundred metres.

Most participants were familiar with this activity and were very willing to share their knowledge. Of the many things I didn't know, the waves of moth Species that usually fly at different hours of the night is amongst the most significant. At each progressive hour after sunset until about 2.00am, there are species flying on any night that wouldn't be seen at earlier hours, despite the season or weather.

A reassuring fact is that many moth species are known only by their biological Family name, due to there being about 22,000 species Australia wide and only about half of them having been named, so far. Most named species don't have a Common Name, unless they are regularly seen by people and have endearing or memorable features. The chances of finding a photo of a particular moth species in a resource available to the general public isn't great. Descriptions of the 65-85 Families are listed in books and online resources, which at least gives some structure to this large Order of winged insects.



From top:  
Purple Wave (*Idaea inversata*), a Geometridae Moth (female) - wingspan 1.5cm  
Geometridae Moth (male) - wingspan 2cm.  
Geometridae Moth (female) - wingspan 1-1.5cm.  
(left) Wood Moth, Cossidae (male) - wingspan 10cm



The biological (Latin) Family name always ends with 'ae' (pronounced 'ee'), as you'll see in the photo captions. The use of the Family name in any resource means that the species name isn't widely known, if at all. The Geometridae moths are easily photographed due to their habit of perching for long periods with wings held flat, hence the dominance of that Family in my photos.

A Moth Pinning Workshop held on the final afternoon was divided into micro moths and larger species collected from the ANBG Sheets. My specimen (pictured), *Gastrophora henricaria*, was recognized by other participants as a favourite local species and even has a Common Name.

#### **Butterflies Australia – Website, Citizen Science App.**

Under the *Projects* tab on the MABA website you'll find Butterflies Australia, a project to promote Butterfly conservation and research in Australia. It's similar to iNaturalist, only specifically for Butterflies and both platforms give their data to Atlas of Living Australia (ALA).



It will be important for records (with photos) to be submitted for our Murrumbidgee region, even though we have few species compared to Australia's East Coast and Great Dividing Range. There's no reason why the same butterfly photo couldn't be submitted to both platforms, at least until users work out their long term preference.

**Margaret Strong**



**Above:**  
**Beautiful Leaf Moth (male),**  
***Gastrophora henricaria*, at**  
**wingspan 3cm.**  
**Left: Looper caterpillar (baby**  
**Geometridae Moth)**

## **Found! The proverbial needle: a bittern nest in a rice crop**

[10 years ago was the beginning of the Bitterns in Rice project. Taken from our February newsletter]

**by Matt Herring** - Posted on: January 27th, 2014 – [www.murraywildlife.com.au](http://www.murraywildlife.com.au) .

It's with great joy that I share this news. Any niggling doubts I've had about the likelihood of widespread breeding in rice crops have evaporated. There it was – a glowing beacon of bittern reproduction: three chicks and two eggs. After so much effort, I was beginning to worry that someone would find that I'd 'bittern the dust' out in a rice paddock somewhere without having found a single nest!

Since last season, we've known that very significant numbers of the endangered Australasian Bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*) use rice crops in the NSW Riverina. Many things have pointed toward there being widespread breeding, but until now the [Bitterns in Rice Project](#) had been unable to find an active nest or other conclusive evidence of breeding in rice crops.

The landholders are delighted. Like many rice farmers, they're familiar with this special bird and have a real soft spot for them. There is plenty of time for the chicks to fledge (approx. 55 days) before their crop is





harvested. And in a bizarre coincidence, the property is called 'Tarkoori', an Aboriginal word for Australasian Bittern. I presume the 'Tar' is the male sucking air in and the 'kooi' is the boom. Go on, try it. Sure, it's only one nest, but more are bound to follow, and the site is just one of many randomly selected rice farms (with aerially-sown or dry-sown crops) in the Coleambally region where bitterns have been recorded. As of yesterday, across the NSW Riverina rice-growing regions, we passed the 50-individual mark for bitterns confirmed in rice crops this season.

It's clearer than ever that birds don't arrive in the crops until the rice is about 30 cm and in mid-December that meant a smaller proportion of sites supported them because of the late season. From where they came once the crops were tall enough, we can only speculate. It's intriguing. There are already a few sites that now have rice above 80cm and if last season is any indication, the males will quieten by about mid-February, so we only have a couple of weeks of the main survey window remaining.

## Camping Out West

Johanna and I were overdue for a camping trip so we headed west in the lead up to Xmas. Some highlights were a couple of Santas out in the middle of nowhere, a family(?) of four Rakali on the Darling at Pooncarie, a multitude of animal tracks in the sand of Gluepot Bird Reserve, and a Malleefowl tending a nest. Also of interest at Gluepot is a three-year infestation of the mallee by a looper moth ... there is a full story in the latest edition of the Gluepot newsletter.

We also stayed overnight at Mungo ... a very warm overnight, and we had the place to ourselves.



**Top: Santa out west.**

**Left: Roos enjoyed the thunderstorm**



Near Pooncarie we managed to not avoid a thunderstorm and came across kangaroos on the seal at the cattle grids licking up the welcome fresh water.

In the evening on the Darling at Pooncarie I spotted two rakali, and next morning four rakali. I was keen not to scare them off so I stood calm and quiet, taking pics as one came close. But looking at the pics later I noticed it was looking right at me so I'm guessing it was hoping for a handout! I disappointed it, I think.

**Rakali in the morning**



**Rakali in the afternoon**





Around Griffith I have noted rakali at four locations in drains and channels. There is a rakali info sign at Campbells Swamp but I have never seen one there, or at Nericon Swamp. What sightings have other MFN members had?

**Neil Palframan**

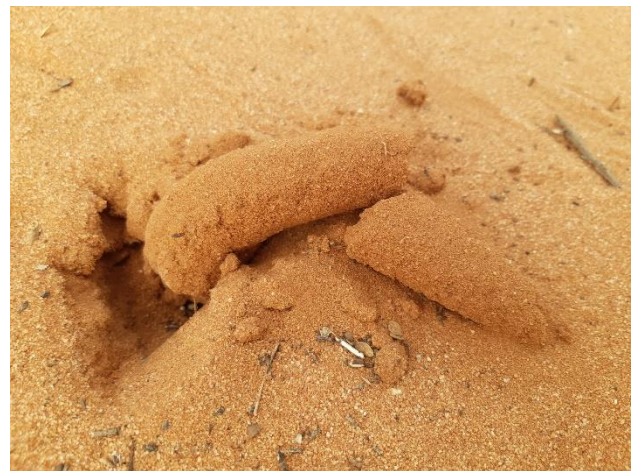


Tracks in the sand –  
echidna and ?  
I got dodgy pics of the  
real thing but the silo  
Regent Parrot at Waikeri  
is beautiful.



**Neil also sent these photos which are puzzling him... Any ideas?**

I have seen these “sand poos” many times and they are a mystery to me. I wonder if any other MFN’er knows what they come from. Possibly echidna poos? I would guess echidnas pick up a lot of roughage in their foraging. But they seem to be pure sand.



## **Mail Box items**

**From Matt Herring**

**Happy New Year Generous Painted-snipe Supporters,**

We are thrilled to introduce MARCELINA, the second **Australian Painted-snipe** to ever be tracked.

She is from the same farm as Gloria, near Balranald. We caught her on Wednesday night and valuable insights are already rolling in. Huge thanks to her sponsor, the Ricegrowers' Association of Australia.

You'll be able to see a bunch of photos of her and some of the areas she's been using if you follow this link then click on "Introducing Marcelina" down below:

<https://paintedsnipe.com.au/follow-the-birds/marcelina-ricegrowers-association/>

Kind regards,

Matt, Inka and the whole Australian Painted-snipe Tracking Team



## Other Events / items

### Narrandera

**Clean-up Australia Day is Sunday 3rd March.** If you would like to help us pick up litter around Narrandera, we'll be meeting at the Tiger Moth Memorial at 9am. We'll be providing gloves, bags and safety vests then assigning areas we think need to be covered. Feel free to suggest an area you think needs cleaning up! If you'd like to join us please wear appropriate footwear, wear a hat and sunscreen, and bring a water bottle. We should be done by around 11am and hope the volunteers will join us for coffee/ tea and scones afterwards at The Food Garden.

### Wagga Wagga

**"Parasites, Australia's silent threat: Coincidence, nature's hand, or policy complacency?"**

Join Professor Shokoofeh Shamsi as she delivers this public event.

Date: **Wednesday 28 February, 2024**

Time: **6 pm - 7 pm**, followed by light refreshments

Venue: **CSU Riverina Playhouse, Wagga Wagga.**

This event will also be live-streamed. For this option, you can choose the live-stream ticket when registering for the event.

<https://events.humanitix.com/provocations-public-lecture-c3qc7cnf>

Wagga has some amazing world class people, Shokoofeh is one of them & worth your time & mind.

**What do we want Wagga Wagga City Council to focus on from the Field Naturalists perspective?**

Wagga Wagga members - please contact Sarah Danckert regarding a submission for the Wagga Wagga 2050 Community Strategic Plan

[https://haveyoursay.wagga.nsw.gov.au/csp2050?mc\\_cid=7b6477829d&mc\\_eid=aaaeb8cdab](https://haveyoursay.wagga.nsw.gov.au/csp2050?mc_cid=7b6477829d&mc_eid=aaaeb8cdab)

**Wagga Wagga 2024 ClubGrants funding now open for applications.**

Do you have a project you think we should / could apply for Grant funding?

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

Phone 0427 276 306 Sarah Danckert

<https://wagga.nsw.gov.au/community/grants-and-sponsorships/club-grants>

**SEANA** (South East Australian Naturalists' Association)

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024**

An invitation from the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria (FNCV) to attend their Autumn 2024 get-together which will be based on Phillip Island. The main venue will be in Cowes.

Phillip Island is located on Western Port Bay and remains a unique place for wildlife including penguins, seals, Cape Barron Geese, Short-tailed Shearwaters and migratory waders. Its geology, dominated by numerous basalt flows and coastal cliffs, is spectacular. We look forward to giving you a deeper appreciation of the many natural history experiences Phillip Island has to offer.

There will be a number of walks: The Nobbies, Swan Lake, Rhyll Inlet, Conservation Hill, Churchill Island, and Cape Woolamai, beach walks, Kitty Miller Bay, Seal Rocks and the Bass Coast. The focus will be on geology, botany, birdlife and invertebrates. There is also an evening program with various speakers.

A great opportunity to explore the area and to meet fellow field naturalists.

Here is a link to their circular: <http://www.fncv.org.au/wp-content/uploads/publications/seana-1.pdf>

Contact Rowena for more information.

#### Correction

Please note that the Sandpiper on Page 6 of December's issue should be a Wood Sandpiper. I'm afraid I just took the name from the photo file name. Rowena.

# MEMBERS' SIGHTINGS

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

<b>Rainbow Bee-eater</b> [3]	Pomingalarna, Wagga Wagga	26/12/23	S Danckert, J Hume
<b>Painted Button-quail</b> [1]	Pomingalarna, Wagga Wagga	26/12/23	S Danckert, J Hume
<b>Red-capped Robin</b> [2]	Pomingalarna, Wagga Wagga	26/12/23	S Danckert, J Hume
<b>Speckled Warbler</b> [3]	Pomingalarna, Wagga Wagga	26/12/23	S Danckert, J Hume
Adults entering nest with food			
<b>White-browed Babbler</b> [8]	Pomingalarna, Wagga Wagga	26/12/23	S Danckert, J Hume
<b>White-necked Herons</b> [6]	Old Narrandera Rd,	26/12/23	Glenn Currie
Together in a group			
<b>Azure Kingfisher</b> [1]	Riverglade Park, Tumut	09/01/24	Janet Hume
<b>Platypus</b> [1]	Riverglade Park, Tumut	09/01/24	J & I Hume
Feeding in river for over 2 hours			
<b>Glossy Black-Cockatoo</b> [5]	Mountain Dam, Colinroobie	09/01/24	Dionee Russell
<b>Chestnut-rumped Thornbill</b> [3]	Pomingalarna, Wagga Wagga	12/01/24	S Moore, J Hume
<b>Pink Cockatoo</b> [1]	Mountain Dam, Colinroobie	09/01/24	Dionee Russell
<b>Glossy Black-Cockatoo</b> [1]	Mountain Dam, Colinroobie	18/01/24	Dionee Russell
<b>Superb Parrot</b> [22]	'Quandong Park', Milbrulong	19/1/24	S Danckert, J Hume
<b>Rainbow Bee-eater</b> [4]	Pomingalarna, Wagga Wagga	21/12/23	S Moore, J Hume
Feeding from the air and entering a hole in the ground			
<b>Double-barred Finch</b> [2]	Pomingalarna, Wagga Wagga	21/01/24	S Moore, J Hume
Nest building, carrying nesting material from wattles nearby to the nest			
<b>Red-capped Robin</b> [3]	Pomingalarna, Wagga Wagga	12/01/24	S Moore, J Hume
<b>White-bellied Sea Eagle</b> [1]	Sth Lake Wyangan, Griffith	28/01/24	Virginia Tarr
<b>Mistletoebird</b> [1]	Sth Lake Wyangan, Griffith	28/01/24	Virginia Tarr
<b>Great Egret</b> [1]	Sth Lake Wyangan, Griffith	28/01/24	Virginia Tarr
<b>Rainbow Bee-eaters</b> [6]	Sth Lake Wyangan, Griffith	28/01/24	Virginia Tarr
<b>Buff-rumped Thornbill</b> [2]	Sth Lake Wyangan, Griffith	28/01/24	Virginia Tarr
<b>Crested Shrike-tit</b> [1]	Wiradjuri Reserve, Wagga Wagga	30/01/24	MFN's outing
<b>Brown Treecreeper</b> [5]	Wiradjuri Reserve, Wagga Wagga	30/01/24	MFN's outing
Adults with young out of nest			
<b>Rainbow Bee-eater</b> [30]	'Gundillawah', Mundarlo [BOF's]	25/01/24	S Danckert, J Hume
BOF's = Birds on Farms survey			
<b>Grey-crowned Babbler</b> [2]	'Trewella', Book Book [BOF's]	25/01/24	S Danckert, J Hume
<b>Diamond Firetail</b> [2]	'Trewella', Book Book [BOF's]	25/01/24	S Danckert, J Hume

## Other observations of note

<b>Apostlebird</b> [10]	Pomingalarna, Wagga Wagga	26/12/23	S Danckert, J Hume
<b>Australasian Pipit</b> [2]	Pomingalarna, Wagga Wagga	26/12/23	S Danckert, J Hume
<b>Grey Butcherbird</b> [3]	Pomingalarna, Wagga Wagga	26/12/23	S Danckert, J Hume
Juvenile, plus 2 adults			
<b>Long-billed Corella</b> [2]	Pomingalarna, Wagga Wagga	26/12/23	S Danckert, J Hume
<b>Jacky Winter</b> [2]	Pomingalarna, Wagga Wagga	02/01/24	S Danckert, J Hume
<b>Sacred Kingfisher</b> [1]	Pomingalarna, Wagga Wagga	12/01/24	Janet Hume
<b>Pied Butcherbird</b> [2]	Pomingalarna, Wagga Wagga	12/01/24	Janet Hume
Juvenile & adult			
<b>Bluebonnet</b> [2]	Mountain Dam, Colinroobie	19/01/24	Dionee Russell
<b>Fairy Martin</b> [15]	'Hildsaid', Wagga Wagga	21/01/24	MFN's outing



<b>Mistletoebird</b> [1]	Sth Lake Wyangan, Griffith	28/01/24	Virginia Tarr
<b>Singing Honeyeaters</b> [2]	Sth Lake Wyangan, Griffith	28/01/24	Virginia Tarr
<b>Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters</b> [5]	Sth Lake Wyangan, Griffith	28/01/24	Virginia Tarr
<b>Crested Pigeon</b> [20+]	Sth Lake Wyangan, Griffith	28/01/24	Virginia Tarr
<b>White-plumed Honeyeater</b> [8]	Sth Lake Wyangan, Griffith	28/01/24	Virginia Tarr
<b>Pacific Black Duck</b> [8]	Sth Lake Wyangan, Griffith	28/01/24	Virginia Tarr
<b>Australasian Darter</b> [1f,1m]	Sth Lake Wyangan, Griffith	28/01/24	Virginia Tarr
<b>Little Pied Cormorant</b> [3]	Sth Lake Wyangan, Griffith	28/01/24	Virginia Tarr
<b>Australasian Grebe</b> [2]	Sth Lake Wyangan, Griffith	28/01/24	Virginia Tarr
<b>Variegated Fairy-wren</b> [3]	Sth Lake Wyangan, Griffith	28/01/24	Virginia Tarr
<b>Red-rumped Parrot</b> [6+]	Sth Lake Wyangan, Griffith	28/01/24	Virginia Tarr
<b>Yellow-throated Miner</b> [12]	Sth Lake Wyangan, Griffith	28/01/24	Virginia Tarr
<b>Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike</b> [2]	Sth Lake Wyangan, Griffith	28/01/24	Virginia Tarr
<b>Sacred Kingfisher</b> [6] Adults with 4 young	Wiradjui Reserve, Wagga Wagga	30/01/24	MFN's outing
<b>White-breasted Woodswallow</b> [5] Adults feeding chicks in nest.	Flowerdale Lagoon, Wagga Wagga	04/01/24	MFN's outing
<b>Willie Wagtail</b> [2] Adult building nest	Flowerdale Lagoon, Wagga Wagga	04/01/24	MFN's outing

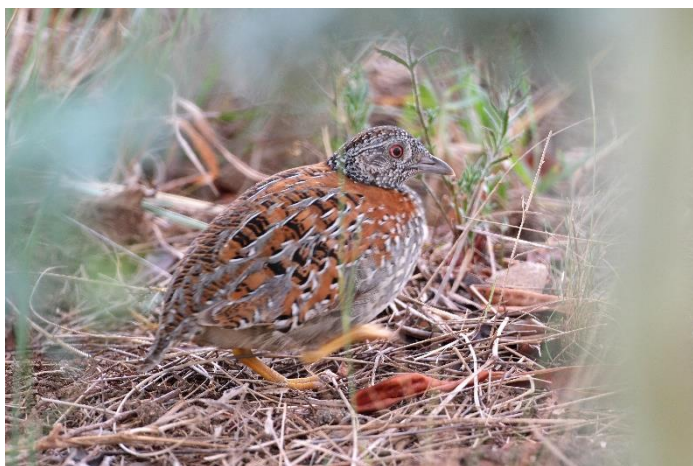
**A selection of Janet Hume's photos taken at Pomingalarna Reserve and Wiradjuri Reserve, Wagga Wagga.**

**Painted Button Quail**

**Red-rumped Parrot**

**Juvenile Grey Butcherbird**

**Crested Shrike-tit**



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

Please note all outings are subject to weather conditions.

Please register with the nominated person.

- 8 February Thursday**      **Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7pm.  
**Topic – Short video on using iNaturalist**  
**Discussion on future ideas for meetings and outings.**  
**Bring along your ‘show & tell’**  
**Contact:** Dione Russell 0428 536 290  
**Email:** [murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com)
- 10 February Saturday**      **Rocky Waterholes, Narrandera**  
A twilight meeting for a walk along the channel bank followed by nibbles at the area by the bridge.  
Meet at the bridge (off Old Wagga Road) at 5pm  
Bring binoculars, insect repellent, nibbles and drinks.  
**Contact:** Dione Russell 0428 536 290  
**Email:** [murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com)
- 3 March Sunday**      **Explore Willans Hill, the Wagga Zoo and Museum of Riverina tour.**  
**Starting at 8am, Museum Tour 11am.**  
**Contact:** Sarah Danckert 0427 276 306.
- 6 March Wednesday**      **Copy for the March newsletter is due. Please send to Rowena.**  
**Email:** [ericwhiting4@bigpond.com](mailto:ericwhiting4@bigpond.com). Phone: 6953 2612.
- 7 March Thursday**      **Committee Meeting @ 7pm via Zoom**  
**All members are welcome to participate.**  
**Contact:** Dione Russell 0428 536 290 or the Club email.
- 14 March Thursday**      **Monthly Meeting** in the Yellow Room at the **Leeton Library**, Sycamore St., Leeton commencing at 7pm.  
**Topic - TBA**  
**Bring along your ‘show & tell’**  
**Contact:** Dione Russell 0428 536 290  
**Email:** [murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com)
- 16 March Friday**      **Glossy Black Cockatoo Count**  
Participants will be allotted a dam to go to at various locations in the Brobenah and Narrandera hills and Binya Forest.  
Timing will be from 6pm. Details next issue.  
**Contact:** Dione Russell 0428 536 290  
**Email:** [murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com)
- MFN Wagga Wagga Tuesday Evening Bird Walks are continuing until 2 April meeting at 6pm.**  
**Bring:** Binos, water bottle, mozzie repellent, sunscreen, hat and snake bite bandages.  
**Contact:** *Janet* 0408 238 890 or *Sarah* 0427 276 306.