The Murrumbidgee Naturalist



June 2025 - Issue #336

Journal of the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc. PO Box 541, LEETON 2705 ISSN-1327-1172

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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

Strawnecked Ibis
rookery
at
Campbell's
Wetland

Nella Smith



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CONTRIBUTIONS

For the July issue by Wednesday 2 July To Rowena Whiting

Email: ericwhiting4@bigpond.com.

Phone: 6953 2612

I would feel more optimistic about a bright future for man if he spent less time proving that he can outwit Nature and more time tasting her sweetness and respecting her seniority.

~ E.B. White ~

Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc. Office Bearers and Annual Subscriptions

0427 276 306 **Editor:** Rowena Whiting 0429 726 120 **President:** Sarah Danckert **Vice President:** Margaret Strong **Committee:** 0434 060 973 Eric Whiting 6953 2612 Vice President: Nella Smith 0428 890 537 Graham Russell 0419 350 673 0434 831 031 Vice President: Virginia Tarr Janet Hume 0408 238 890

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Glenn Currie 0488 563 321 **Website Co-ordinator**: Virginia Tarr 0434 831 031

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

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

INTENDING NEW MEMBERS, GUESTS AND VISITORS WELCOME.

Membership enquiries:

Leeton Eric Whiting 6953 2612 Griffith Virginia Tarr 0434 831 031 Narrandera Nella Smith 0428 890 537 Wagga Wagga Sarah Danckert 0427 276 306 **Annual Subscriptions:** Family \$45.00 Adult/Single \$35.00 Journal only/Concession \$25.00 Bank details for direct deposit: BSB 082 672 account no. 722043387, 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 June

Another commendable issue with many interesting articles across a wide range of topics. I'm sure you'll find plenty of interest. Thanks to all the contributors particularly those who have taken their time to provide additional details of a species to enhance our knowledge.

Remember feedback/additional information is welcome and do share with us any nature observations of interest or any queries you may have.

There is one thing I would like to comment on is how photos are sent. Please use **email** and attach as .jpg files (Outlook is 'insert / attach' NOT include). Also use a reasonable quality; a 100Kb file looks blurry. Having to retrieve files from links requires extra steps and I'm not always able to download or save in a useable format.

Hopefully we'll see the sun before too long though the rain is much needed.

Enjoy your read, Rowena.

Please note: Membership subscriptions are due on the 30th June

Please send your money to the Treasurer, Glenn Currie promptly to PO Box 541, Leeton, NSW 2705 or make a bank transfer (preferred) to the MFN's bank account (Please make sure you are using the current account - BSB 082 672 account no. 722043387). Make sure you include your name and description of payment.

There is no change to our **Annual Subscriptions**:

Family \$45.00, Adult/Single \$35.00, Journal only/Concession \$25.00

Any queries, Glenn can be contacted on 0488 563 321.

For Bird Photographers: BirdLife Australia Photography Awards are open for 2025

2025 Special Theme is Diurnal Raptors. a celebration of Australia's birds of prey that are active in the day **Visit (their)** our website for more information including other categories.

Remember – the welfare of birds always comes first, and no winning shot should see birds losing out! All entries must adhere to <u>BirdLife Photography's Code of Ethics</u>.

"There's a hole in my bucket ..."

"It looks like elephant poo." I thought – luckily before I vocalised such a stupid notion. But at least I was halfway there. The large brown lump that we were presented with was actually poo.

This was in response to a minor incursion in our quarterly birdcount at Narrandera Wetlands earlier this year. This outing, as usual, had been competently organised by Glenn, who also submitted our observations to Birdlife Australia. Disappointingly, on this day it resulted in only 17 species observed; a very low count. Our highest was around double that in the prescribed early morning hour in earlier counts.

But back to poo.

The 'minor incursion' occurred when one of our group wandered off the track to collect some rubbish. - A good example of citizen

science being able to multi-task. - He soon returned with a large lump of hard, brown material, looking for all the world like fossilised elephant poo. (With thanks to my addiction to nature documentaries, which have provided me with keen scatological identification skills.)

"Yes, it's poo." replied our rubbish collector. And after a moment or three of confused silence, he advised us that it was actually *termites'* poo. And he knew what he was talking about, as he had spent his long working life in the area as a forester and builder.

Apparently the termites, or as many paranoid home-owners know them, white ants, are very sanitary conscious arthropods. Who knew? Instead of the legion inhabitants of the nest soiling their labyrinthine tunnels with disease-carrying faeces, they create dedicated toilet chambers. These are usually located deep within the nest. As is their wont, these are of course completely lightless.

Here the deposits build up over months, years ... decades? The piles exclusively comprise the waste products of wood, their food of choice – which is of course cellulose; an allied material of tree sap and gum. This liquid accumulation in time becomes a solid concretion. On close inspection it looks like heavily pitted, brown basaltic lava, shot through with purple and orange melted accretions. The lump is, for an organic material, very hard indeed.

The man's encyclopedic knowledge of everything ligneous further revealed itself when he described how the old bushmen (bushfolk?) once used this remarkable material as a glue or sealing paste. It would be heated in a billy over a fire, and according to the amount of water added, would melt down into a malleable material which, according to its viscosity, would be used for all kinds of bush mechanic repairs; such as saddlery, bucket and water tank sealing, and even boot cobbling. And in later times, fixing farm and transport vehicles, such as tyre and radiator hose leaks.

Anecdotal evidence confirms that the processed material was very hard, strong, and according to its preparation, flexible.

So much for local wisdom. In later reflecting on the magic material, the question in my mind arose:

"How did these old-timers find out about it?"

From here on all is speculation.

It is well-known that First Nations people utilised glues, pastes and bonding materials made from various plant saps and gums (hence gum trees); a salutary example being the resin from the many species of grass trees that abound in the Australian bush. Considering that these same people had occupied the Terra Australia landscape for thousands of generations (compared with the mere century or two of foreign occupation), it is inconceivable that they would not have been aware of the many bonding and sealing properties of this remarkable – and common – material.

I can imagine them repairing holes in coolamons (water, food and baby-carrying dishes); fixing decorative elements in their hair; or reinforcing the bindings on their tools and weapons.

My conjecture is that these were the teachers who generously bequeathed this precious knowledge to the early settlers; who in turn handed it down through further generations.

And you, Dear Reader, are the latest to receive this wondrous inheritance.





Livingstone National Park

4 May 2025

A small group of six attended this field trip, the conditions were very dry. We walked the 2nd Multipurpose Trail Loop. Observations from the track included a beetle - genus Scopodes that has large eyes, hunts during the day in leaf litter, on fallen timber, or in the image on the soil surface; Two pellets from a raptor containing fur, feathers and bones broken into small pieces; Stunted orchids, most past flowering with just the fruit capsule remaining; We identified the Grey Box trees *Eucalyptus microcarpa* by its 'Y' shape, boxbarked trunk and ribbons peeling from the smaller branches and the juvenile leaves thick, grey-green and ovate changing to adult form lanceolate with tapering at both ends.

Sarah Danckert

Yellow-footed Antechinus by Reanna

Raptor pellets

Below from left:
Grey Box Eucalyptus
microcarpa
Box and ribbon bark;
'Y' shape;
juvenile thick, greygreen, ovate leaves.











Member Observations / Items

First: regarding the gecko, the identification has been questioned, it is more likely a **Barking Gecko** *Underwoodisaurus millii* (far right)

The photo on the right is **Nephrurus levis** (scanned from *Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia* by Harold G. Cogger





Many features need to be into account when identifying as well as distribution, habitat, et al.

Currawananna State Forest - Two in One

11 May 2025

Dry conditions again at Currawananna with 7 members attending. We met at the Cemetery where there were many White-winged Chough nests. We split our time between the Box-pine forest and the Box-pine woodland.

In the former there was evidence of White Cypress Pine *Callitris glaucophylla* harvesting in the past. A new acacia to me was the Mallee Wattle *Acacia montana* which has dense foliage and an interesting feature of a 'woolly' seedpod.

In the Box-pine woodland, this is its easternmost range. In response to the extended dry autumn, the Silver Wattle *Acacia dealbata* has closed its pinnae to minimise moisture loss, usually the leaves are open by day and close by night.

There were Dry Rock Moss mounds (looks like I need another excursion for an 'after rain' shot, However some plants flourished, not just the eucalypts, like the Corrugated Sida Sida corrugata.



White-winged Chough nest bowl in a mature Callitris glaucophylla







I was disappointed to have not seen the Double-barred and Red-browed

Finches I had seen on a previous visit, but did notice a cluster of Antlion larvae pit traps, waiting for a passing ant.

Sarah Danckert

Above from left:

Acacia montana
A Rock moss and seemingly flourishing
Corrugated Sida Sida corrugata
Antlion pit trap (left)



In lieu of Pulletop Nature Reserve, due to recent heavy rain there, an enthusiastic group of seven people met at the Campbell's Wetland entrance to this part of Lake Wyangan, on a perfect sunny day.

While walking to the Bird Hide we noticed and discussed many interesting natural phenomena, as is the usual vibe amongst field naturalists. There was a Brown Falcon flying around and a variety of wader birds and water birds perched in dead trees on the water's edge that held our attention. A White-bellied Sea-Eagle was spotted amongst more dead branches further away which was an awe inspiring, though not unusual, sight so far inland.

The variety of shapes and sizes of Miljee shrubs, *Acacia oswaldii*, along the track were intriguing with different degrees of curving leaves that momentarily confused some of us, until details were checked. It's

amazing how much discussion can be generated from looking at a leaf!









Clockwise from top left:
Lignum flower on a seedling – Sarah Danckert
Miljee shrubs, *Acacia oswaldii* (Web)
Milgee leaves and seed pods – Eric Whiting
Zebra Finches (male top) – Phillip Williams (2016)

A surprise for most of us were Zebra Finches in a small flock with a few Double-barred Finches. They favoured a dense, dead shrub to perch in for preening and were therefore difficult to see clearly. It was exciting to see and hear the Zebras, though, and most of us caught the bright colours of a male in their shaded hideout.

Further along, tiny Lignum flowers on seedlings alongside the mature masses of this hardy plant were a reliable and beautiful sight for us in this area that is intermittently inundated. Widely known as *Muehlenbeckia cunninghamii*, its new Botanical name has been *Duma florulenta* since 2014 which doesn't role off the tongue so well, despite being shorter.

The once informative MFNs Bird Identification display inside the Bird Hide was a topic of shared thoughts for ways of renewing it to endure the natural rigor of bird droppings and the unnatural defacing of it from human vandalism. The reeds in front of the Hide now block the view to the water, so plans to improve its use as a bird-watching space are rumoured to be under review.

The second part of our Field Trip was a split between the nearby Nericon Swamp and Jones Road. At the Nericon site we disturbed a Golden-headed Cisticola as we entered that section. Like the Finches, Cisticolas are small grassland birds that are usually seen near water. They're perky in their habit of calling from a prominent shrub or tall grass clump and flying vertically to display over their summer territories. However, on sighting this one in May, it gave a quick call and darted away.

Over these last two sites we spent an engrossing hour observing plants, including Mistletoe, other birds and invertebrates until we called time on our excursion. Some of us went on to Scenic Hill after lunch, which is a story to catch up on at another time.

Margaret Strong

Ibis Colony at Campbell's Wetland

When I go to Campbells Swamp I usually walk through to the hide, walk back out and turn to the west. Along there a bit was usually found a colony of White Ibis and Straw necked Ibis. I hadn't seen them for a while except the odd individual.

At the field trip we entered from the Jones Road side and there they were. They have moved house. The environmental water has made the area look like its going to be great for the shorebirds in Spring.

Nella Smith



Wyangan before Griffith and the Irrigation Era

Wyangan, as it's been known since British occupation of this area from the 1850s, was presumably an ephemeral lake for eons in the past. Its shallow depth, location in a low rainfall area and an absence of natural creeks running into it suggest this.

High summer temperatures and wind would have evaporated water from the lake after rainfall quickly in the past, before irrigation water has kept the level artificially high for long periods. No doubt, Wiradjuri people would have made use of the water resource when it was available and details about that would be fascinating to know.

During the British colonial era, Wyangan was a Pastoral Run along the top of Kooba Holding and in possession of William Waller by 1869, then Stanbridge and McGaw by 1880. It was locally known then as Jondaryan Back-station and covered the lake, most of the McPherson Range and the present-day area of Griffith City.

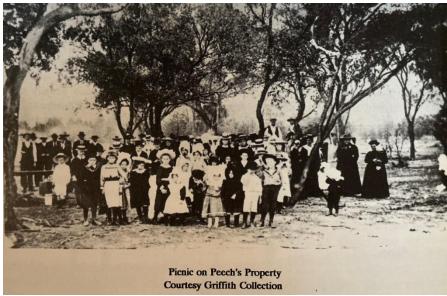


Lake Wyangan photo - Visit NSW website

In 1880, with the South-western Line Railway nearing this area from Junee, Wyangan Run was revoked by the NSW Colonial Govt and sold to multiple Selector families as square mile blocks for grain and mixed agriculture production. Portions of nearby Runs from the

Yenda Valley through to Goolgowi were also revoked for dry area food production. The rail connection to markets east of Goulburn was essential for these farming enterprises to progress, as grains and other produce needed to get to consumers quickly.

The 640 acre Selector block named "Lake View" that enclosed Lake Wyangan was firstly bought by J. Smith, then in 1888 by Carl Peeck and family who remained there until 1912. The Jondaryan community, who were their neighbours in the nearby area, often congregated at Lake View for social events such as tennis, cricket, dances and picnics. Historic newspapers report a close-knit and active community, despite their difficulties.



Farming was on the whole very

challenging in that era with some good seasons, but many that were drought stricken and devastated by fires. To add to their financial woes, the plan for irrigation involved the Selector blocks being revoked and the owners being paid the same as they had paid 30+ years prior. Most of the Selectors in the present-day Griffith area left the district to start all over again elsewhere.

It's likely that changes to native vegetation around Lake Wyangan, which we see today, are a mixed result of Selector farming and irrigation era activities. Higher water levels due to irrigation runoff into the lake have killed native trees that would have been growing above natural levels in past eras. The dead trees are still significant habitat for birds to perch, nest and hunt from. Revegetation projects, including those at Campbell's and Nericon Wetlands by MFN, have provided important new, living habitat for biodiversity by planting locally native species amongst others.

Written and researched by **Margaret Strong**, using Historic Newspapers and NSW Govt Gazettes via <trove.nla.gov.au>.

Two pairs of confusing raptors Written by Julian Reid

Two pairs of raptors cause a lot of confusion in identification. How do we tell them apart?

Brown Goshawk – Collared Sparrowhawk

A large female Brown Goshawk is unmistakable on size and colour alone once you have narrowed your ID down to Accipiter species (and we will ignore Grey Goshawks henceforth as an unlikely but possible, distinctively coloured vagrant). Similarly the tiny male Collared Sparrowhawk – Australia's smallest raptor – presents no problem.

However, female sparrowhawks and male goshawks, being roughly the same size, are notoriously difficult to separate, except in one detail which is the shape of the tail of a bird in flight. If you can see the tail clearly from underneath (and there's no visible moult or too much wear and tear), the goshawk's tail is rounded whereas the sparrowhawk's is square, even slightly notched. This clear difference – provided you have good views – applies to both sexes, although HANZAB states that it is the male sparrowhawk which has a clearly notched (lightly forked) tail. Other distinguishing characters rely on



experience and judgement; often a bird's tail will not be clearly visible from underneath. When perched (in relation to a sparrowhawk), a Goshawk's tail will appear rounded (not square/notched), the ridged brow will give it a fiercer, frowning look (as opposed to a wide-eyed stare or glare), the lower legs and feet are sturdier (v thin, dainty "chicken" legs), and the long middle toe while long is not exceptionally long (sometimes the proportionately longer middle toe of a sparrowhawk appears absurdly long).

Some observers swear they can identify the species on call – we [JR at least] are not that confident. The following underlined call descriptors are those given by the "Michael Morcombe" bird app. The territorial/breeding call of the goshawk ("kek-kekkek-kek ...") tends to be lower pitched and the staccato not as rapid, and a disyllabic loud whistling (agitated) call is thought to be made only by goshawks (Menkhorst et al., "The Australian Bird Guide"). Having listened to a range of calls on the Michael Morcombe and "Pizzey and Knight" apps, and on "Xeno Canto Wildlife Sounds" (link below), we doubt that the two species can always be definitively identified on call alone. However, a plaintive, slowpaced "wiii wiii wiii ..." (four to nine notes) was only attributed to Collared Sparrowhawks (e.g. Xeno Canto calls XC893957, XC299599, XC209907 and XC923320; from three States).

Both species can chatter at fast and slow tempo and at different pitches, with some renditions very similar to a Nankeen Kestrel or Australian Hobby's chatter and screeching. From HANZAB's morphometric tables, the greater length of the sparrowhawk's middle toe is appreciable – the female sparrowhawk's middle toe length as a proportion of tarsus length is 13% greater than that of the male goshawk; in both species it appears the female has a proportionately longer middle toe! Therefore, with judicious reference to the facial appearance (brow, and frown vs stare), sturdiness of the lower legs and feet, length of middle toe, and shape of tail, we may identify our bird with some confidence.

Brown Falcon - Black Falcon



Black Falcon

A very dark, dark-phase Brown Falcon can be as dark as a pale Black Falcon, but unlike the pair just discussed the difference in jizz of these two falcons is like chalk and cheese. The Brown Falcon, formerly colloquially known as a 'Brown Hawk', is hawklike, being bulky, fat-headed, and quite broad-winged for a falcon. Its long unfeathered legs, if perched, are diagnostic compared with the "longtrousered", shorter-legged appearance of a Black Falcon. The bare skin around the eye, the orbital ring, in both species can sometimes be yellowish, although usually pale grey in the Black Falcon.

When perched, front-on, the small, "neckless" head of a Black Falcon, contrasts with its broad shoulders,

from where its body tapers sleekly to its narrow tail. The Brown Falcon is bulky all over, wide-headed and has a broad tail usually

with more prominent barring on the undertail. On the wing the Black Falcon's narrower, more-pointed wings give it a distinctive "uber-falcon" (almost swift-like) form and "flicky" flight, whereas the Brown Falcon's wings and tail are broader, neither being as finely tapered as with a Black. We regret to opine that if you are really humming and hahhing (dithering) over which species you are looking at, it is probably a Brown Falcon. Once you see a Black Falcon it should be unmistakable! Around here, you might have to toss aside 50 to 100 Brown Falcons before the real gem appears — they are very uncommon, compared with further north and inland. Black Falcons will often trail behind a tractor in a field when quails and buttonquails are about, while in the Kimberley and Top End a single bird circling with and above a column of Black Kites is a frequent sight around a mob of cattle and fires. They are a bit lazy and will take prey from other raptors (kleptoparasitism), often from hapless Brown Falcons. They are a magnificent bird.

https://www.birdsinbackyards.net/forum/Brown-goshawk-v-Collared-sparrowhawk

Xeno Canto: https://xeno-canto.org/(for bird calls).

Submitted by Nella Smith - taken from an article written in Cowra Ramblings by Julian Reid. Photos by Nella

Carp Biocontrol Program

Next Phase of the Carp Biocontrol Program (Extract from a presentation by Bertie Hennecke, Australian Chief Environmental Biosecurity Officer)

The National Carp Control Program began in 2008. After a quite a few processes in 2023 Agricultural ministers agreed to proceed with the program.

Priority research actions have included checking of the virus on non-target species and threatened species, transmissibility, cost benefit analyses, efficacy, epidermiological modelling and Integrated carp management.

There are many regulatory approvals required by Commonwealth Acts and processes and must go to many levels of governance and decision making. In this way we should never have another problem similar to the cane toads.

THE PROBLEM WITH CARP

- Carp is an introduced fish species that causes environmental, economic,

And social impacts

- Climatic conditions and river regulation have led to an increase in carp populations
- Current control methods are not enough



Biocontrol in Australia

The carp virus (Cyprinid herpes virus 3) is currently being assessed as a biocontrol agent to control carp populations

Australia has rigorous assessment processes that include:

- Research to understand risks
- Assessment of costs and benefits
- Legislative frameworks to ensure all aspects are considered
- Commonwealth, State and Territory governance regulatory approvals and decision making.
- Biocontrol agents are assessed on a case by case basis.

The National Carp Control Program is a major program of carp virus research assessment managed by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation involving 11 national and international research institutions and over 40 research scientists.

KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

40%-80% reduction in carp numbers is expected

Initial major outbreaks followed by ongoing seasonal kills.

Water quality is less if the virus spreads freely.

Ongoing monitoring and assessment of virus impacts will be needed after release

Integrated Carp Management could be used with or without the virus

- physical removal of carp, carpathons, fish cages
- Use of exclusion techniques eg carp screens on inflow pipes
- Allowing wetlands to dry out and kill larger carp and allowing vegetation to recover

For more information about the current program of work carp@aff.gov.au

Findings of National Carp Control Plan carpscience@frdc.com.au

Edited and submitted by Nella Smith

MEMBERS' SIGHTINGS

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

Significant sightings

| Red-capped Robin [1] | Campbell's Wetlands | 09/05/25 | Virginia Tarr | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|--|
| Red-capped Robin [3] | Currawananna State Forest | 11/05/25 | S Danckert | |
| Dusky Woodswallow | Currawananna State Forest | 11/05/25 | S Danckert | |
| Variegated Fairy-wren [4] | Turkey Flat, nr Yanco | 15/05/25 | SD, JH, P Walker | |
| Superb Parrot [3] | Middle Beach, nr Yanco | 15/05/25 | SD, JH, P Walker | |
| Superb Parrot [16] | Silvalite Wildlife Reserve, Wagga | 16/05/25 | S Danckert | |
| Brown-headed Honeyeater [2] | Silvalite Wildlife Reserve, Wagga | 16/05/25 | S Danckert | |
| Little Eagle [1] | Rocky Hill, Wagga Wagga | 18/05/25 | MFN outing | |
| Grey-crowned Babbler [13] | Cottee Rd Reserve | 23/05/25 | P Walker, S Danckert | |
| Superb Parrot [3] | Cottee Rd Reserve | 23/05/25 | P Walker, S Danckert | |
| Grey-crowned Babbler [7] | Lester State Forest | 23/05/25. | P Walker, S Danckert | |
| Speckled Warbler [2] | Pomingalarna Reserve, Wagga | 24/05/25 | J Hume | |
| Golden-headed Cisticola | Nericon Swamp | 24/05/25 | MFN outing | |
| Varied Sittela [6] | Dundundra Falls, Terry Hills | 28/05/25 | J Hume, Julia Lipski | |
| Collared Sparrowhawk [1] | Rawlings Park, Lake Albert, Wagga | 31/5/25 | H Germantse, S Danckert | |

Other sightings of note These do not meet the criteria of significant sightings that the Committee are discussing – see Meeting minutes for details.

| Blue-faced Honeyeater [2] | McCaughey's Lagoon, Yanco | 15/05/25 | SD, JH, P Walker |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------|------------------|
|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------|------------------|

Blue-faced Honeyeater [1] Rawlings Park, Lake Albert, Wagga 31/5/25 H Germantse, S Danckert

Compiled by Janet Hume, reviewed by Nella Smith.

Citizen science needed!

There are too few experts in Australia, especially away from the cities so the task of collecting the required records fall to citizen scientists – us! However, while we pursue our particular passions, are we being biased in our recordings which are leading to knowledge gaps in our environment?

It is customary on our field trips to do lists of species from our particular passions, whether it be feather or frond. Occasionally a mammal or reptile is recorded. It is extremely rare for an invertebrate to be observed let alone recorded. This is a pity as because invertebrates far exceed vertebrates in number and variety and play a much greater role in the web of life.

It's not just our records; both the Atlas of Living Australia and Bionet are very thin on invertebrate records. Some of our butterflies we commonly see are not recorded as being here. Admittedly with the vast number of species it is much harder to identify them down to species level. Knowing where a species does occur or is likely to occur makes identification easier, but that knowledge is based on existing records. Therein lies our Catch 22!

So how do we build up this knowledge? Our recordings are collaborative affairs where there **is** shared knowledge. Our challenge is to build up our own local and personal knowledge and that could mean broadening our own observations and recordings. Each time we are out in the field note down as many animals you see and can put a name too. The aim is to have longer lists over time. It will also be important to do our own individual research when we hit gaps in identifying the unknown. At times you may only get down to a generalised name in the field but further research and questioning could reveal the species name. By creating these precise records, we play a vital role in understanding our surroundings and, after all, isn't that why we go out there!

Eric Whiting

**** COMING EVENTS ****

Please note all outings are subject to weather conditions.

Please register with the nominated person so they can be contacted if there is a change in arrangements. Registering also means that the leader is better able to plan activities.

12 June Thursday Monthly Meeting in the Yellow Room at the Leeton Library, Sycamore St.,

Leeton commencing at 7pm.

Topic: Sarah Danckert - Common Myna presentation in preparation for giving this

to Uranquinty CWA. presenting Bring along Show and Tell

Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com

14 June Saturday Boree Creek (town) Crown Land patch. Grey Box Woodland.

Meet at Boree Creek Cemetery, off Strontian Rd. at 9.00am. (Cemetery Rd off Sandigo Rd is impassable and unsigned). A Public Toilet is located in the village park, Drummond St. Leader: Margaret Strong Email: strong.margaret@bigpond.com

Text: 0434060973

22 June Sunday Woodland Birdwalk - Rocky Hill, Wagga Wagga

Meet between 73 & 75 Simkin Cres.

Time: 2:30 pm

Leader: Sarah Danckert

2 July Wednesday Copy for the July newsletter is due. Please send to Rowena.

Email: ericwhiting4@bigpond.com Phone: 0429 726 120.

3 July Thursday Committee Meeting held at 7pm by Zoom

All members are welcome to attend and submit agenda items

Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com

13 July Sunday Woodland Birdwalk – Pomingarlarna, Wagga Wagga

Meet Sturt Hwy western entrance, across the Hwy from San Isidore

Time: 2:30 pm

Leader: Sarah Danckert

Other Events

MFN volunteering at Wagga Botanical Gardens - ongoing

Complete a WWCC volunteer application form prior, contact Sarah 0427276306 2nd & 4th Tuesdays 8am - contact Paul Walker 2nd & 4th Fridays 8am - contact Sarah Danckert

Winter - Spring Woodland Birdwalks in Wagga Wagga 2nd & 4th Sundays 2:30pm - Leader Sarah

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1a9CSEbztQOQyM_xprq_5i9l5KXWkY5e/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=114269324805868343099&rtpof=true&sd=true