

# *The Murrumbidgee Naturalist*



**December 2005 - Issue #124**

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

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**Objects of the Club**

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



**By Melanie Brougham**

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**CONTRIBUTIONS**

**For the next issue by  
Wednesday, 1 February 2006**

**To Rowena Whiting**

**Email: [ewhiting@iinet.net.au](mailto:ewhiting@iinet.net.au)**

**Phone: 6953 2612**

**Fax or collection can be arranged.**

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE**

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

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

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

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

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

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

INTENDING NEW MEMBERS, GUESTS AND VISITORS WELCOME.

### Membership:

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

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

## Some useful information from the latest edition of THE WEB (national newsletter for the Threatened Species Network)

**NEW NSW THREATENED SPECIES WEBSITE LAUNCHED** The NSW Department of Environment and Conservation has launched its new threatened species website, providing a central portal for threatened species information in NSW. The site includes an exciting search function, allowing visitors to obtain regional lists of known and predicted threatened species, as well as information on ecology and habitat, threats and recovery actions for each. As it's developed, the site will be the home of the Priority Action Statement (PAS). The new site is <http://threatenedspecies.environment.nsw.gov.au/index.aspx>

### NSW BIODIVERSITY WEBSITE

This website allows the public to simultaneously search flora and fauna datasets of the Australian Museum, NSW DEC (including NPWS, the National Herbarium of NSW and the Botanic Gardens Trust) and NSW DPI (including NSW Fisheries and State Forests). The website can be found at [www.bionet.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bionet.nsw.gov.au)

### ENVIRONMENTAL LAW TOOLKIT

A Community Guide to Environmental Law in NSW

The NSW Environmental Defenders Office has released a new edition of this toolkit for community groups. It provides a guide to NSW law, as well as community opportunities to engage in public engagement opportunities. To order a copy look online at [www.edo.org.au/edonsw](http://www.edo.org.au/edonsw), email [info@federationpress.com.au](mailto:info@federationpress.com.au) or call 9552 2200. Cost \$45

**Myall woodland**, more commonly referred to as Boree by us has been listed under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 in the Endangered Ecological Community category. This includes a number of areas – the Darling Riverine Plains, Brigalow Belt South, Cobar Penepplain, Murray-Darling Depression, Riverina and NSW South Western Slopes Bioregions.

### An update from Birds of Bland

The bird survey kit is in draft and I will send to the MFN when it has been approved by the Lachlan CMA. ( It has come up well – I think). Part of registration for BOB asks landholders if they would like someone to visit their property to do an additional bird survey. Once I have some of these I can go through them with the MFN and choose appropriate survey locations. The Lachlan CMA is also going to try and purchase about 50 bird field guides for participants which is an unexpected bonus so fingers crossed. There is the possibility that some schools will want to get involved too.

Bindi Vanzella

[Nella and I have a copy of the draft flyer and will bring it to the meeting. Ed.]

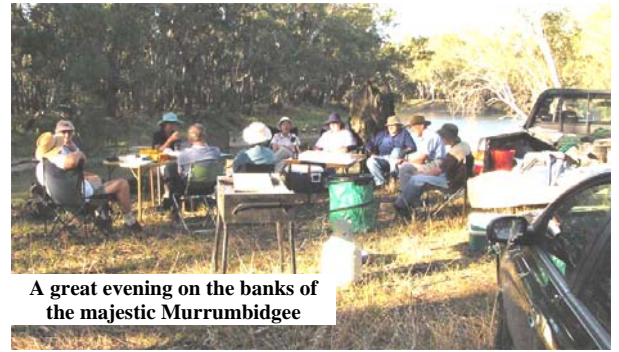
## Yarradda Lagoon 26-11-2005

The forecast was all over the place leading up to Saturday, the day of the Yarradda trip and Christmas party, but as it turned out it was a magnificent day. A mild to warm day with a bit of wind, just enough to back the flies off a bit and to keep things comfortable.

It was only a relatively small crew who managed to make it along on the day but all were keen for a walk at the outset at least so we made off along the river track.

The Forestry must have just graded the roads (for fire breaks I suppose) so the walking was very easy.

There were plenty of birds about, see the list below for a full list but the notables included the songsters the Western Warbler, Rufous Whistler and Grey Shrike-thrush, then there were a few family groups of Superb Blue Fairy-wrens with their busy calling and good representation from the Black & whites, the White-winged Chough, Australian Magpie, Grey Butcherbird, Pee Wee and Willy Wagtail, Colour was added by the Yellow Rosella, Red-rumped Parrot, and of course the beautiful Superb Parrot (we saw about 5-6 of those) and you cannot ignore the Galah or Sulphur-Crested. This was rounded off with several Sacred Kingfisher and a few Dollarbirds but by far the most common bird on the day was the Brown Treecreeper, they were everywhere, there must have been at least 30-40 of them.



I did a bit of turning over of logs and bits of bark but only managed to turn up the odd Ground and Jewel Beetle, Centipede and Earwig but did manage a great specimen of a Wolf and Huntsman Spider.

We continued along the road, it goes in a loop along the river then cuts up along the boundary fence in the east and returns through a sand ridge to the end of the Lagoon and back to the river (about a 4.5 km walk). We had lost a few on the way (not literally like last time) but piked on the walk. I think they just wanted to get back to the camp for a bit of a snort. The balance of the group continued to complete the loop and so eventually returned to the camp site and settled down for the odd drink and nibble.

The vegetation was a little disappointing, first of all the River Red Gums looked very sad, last time we were here (two years ago) they looked sick but now there is a significant percentage that are dead and they are not just the young ones, there is a little bit of sign of recovery or I should say sign of response to a little bit of moisture, bit of fresh growth appearing here and there and the odd epicormic bud responding indicating a bit of response after some severe stress. The ground cover appeared to be dried off ryegrass with a bit of barley grass and not much else, there was in fact the odd native plant but they were the exception. There was one consolation in that there wasn't too much trouble with grass seeds in the socks.

I had thrown in a few rods and reels, some worms and a shrimp trap which Ruben (Pellizzer) had put in on arrival, thinking we might have a bit of a fish, but I had another senior moment (they seem to be a bit too frequent lately) and forgot to pack the tackle, good one, so we just sampled some more plonk.

June & Col were two of the early pikers and while they were sitting quietly by the river they observed a good sized Goanna (*Varanus varius*), it emerged from a tree nearby and casually sauntered past their lounging forms, sampled its way over the road around the cars and slowly disappeared into the tangled veg beyond.

No one was too keen on waiting about to go spotlighting so after the food had time to settle we packed up the BBQ stuff and vacated the site

It was a very pleasant evening, if you could guarantee it would be like that you would go much more regularly, in fact we might do it again in January, not necessarily to Yarradda though, maybe just east of Darlington Point.



### Bird List Yarradda 26-11-2005

Western Warbler	Red-rumped Parrot	Yellow Thornbill	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Rufous Whistler	Superb Parrot	Weebill	Noisy Miner
Grey Shrike-thrush	Galah	Striated Pardalote	Darter
Superb Blue Fairy-wrens	Sulphur-Crested Cockatoo	Australian Wood Duck	Pied Cormorant
White-winged Chough	Sacred Kingfisher	Grey Teal	Australian Pelican
Australian Magpie	Dollarbird	Australian Raven	Tree Martin
Grey Butcherbird	Brown Treecreeper	Little Friar Bird	Crested Pigeon
Pee Wee	Mistletoebird	Red-capped Robin	
Willy Wagtail	Kookaburra	White-faced Heron	
Yellow Rosella	White-plumed Honeyeater	Pacific Heron	

**Bill Moller**

## Greenland spectacular

At our meeting in November members were treated to some wonderful pictures and an informative talk from the Drapers. Peter had taken up a Nuffield Scholarship in 2003 from the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation for a study of pulse crops for rotating with rice. While overseas, a trip to Greenland was an opportunity not to be missed and Erin packed her bags to join him.

Here are a few interesting points from their presentation: Greenland is a county whose name is deceptive as 84% of the country is permanent ice. It is part of the Arctic shield. The ice cap varies in thickness, measuring 3km in the centre, it is surrounded by a mountainous, generally ice-free rim. Glaciers flow from the centre down the deep ice fjords which intersect the coast line and break away as icebergs into the sea. Showing a photo along side a map or diagram served to enhance our appreciation of the landscape and its formation.

The scenery and their photos were truly magnificent; many were taken from the water, some from the air and also featured some of the towns along the south west coast; this is where most of the population of 60,000 live. The people are of mixed ancestry, primarily Inuit and European especially Danish and Norwegian. The dog population far outweighs the human and no other dogs are allowed in to ensure the pure breeding of the sled dogs.

Their close up shots of the ice cliffs showed how rugged they are as are some of the land formations. This is from the result of it having been at the centre of glaciers. The colours from the extended daylight, mists and hues served to enhance the beauty. Blue ice is from the intense pressure and an absence of oxygen. Black ice is actually clear as so named as the ships can't see it. They also showed some of plant life and birds – gannets, Atlantic Puffins, Magpie Geese to name a few. An ocean rich for feed for whales.

A great family effort and our thanks go to Peter, Erin and Kylie for a most enjoyable presentation.

## Rowena

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### Griffith Meeting Minutes 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2005.

**Present** : Bill & Patty Moller, Dennis Moretto, John Austin, June & Col Sell, Anna & Lorenzo Pellizzer

**Apologies** : Sue Dalton, Nan Simpson, Jan Condon, Melanie Brougham, Johanna Botman and Neil Palframan

#### General Business.

**White Ibis Count** – NPWS Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec anywhere – see insert

**Environmental water** – approval has been given for 235 MI water for Campbell's Swamp and 230 MI water for Nericon Swamp, to be delivered asap.

**Bird Interest Group Network (Bignet) meeting** to be held at Griffith over the weekend of 11-12 March 2006 at Griffith.

National Parks Association is keen to organise a Biodiversity survey in the Riverina, preferably along the Murrumbidgee or Lachlan River possibly early next year (Autumn) keep it in mind could be very rewarding.

Next Meeting – There will be no Griffith meeting in December, the next meeting in Griffith will be 26<sup>th</sup> January 2006

January Outing. The River somewhere for an early morning walk, Meet at the Rotary Park at Darlington Point at 8.30am - Contact Bill Moller 69 601341.

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Flame Robin,  
taken at  
Tuckerbil by  
Phil Tenison

Red Gums at  
Yanga Station,  
Eric Whiting



## Plant of the Month – Lignum

When walking through our over-grazed River Red Gum forests saturated with introduced grasses, it is hard to imagine what the original ground cover was like. By piecing together what natives still occur throughout the Riverina it soon becomes clear that there were several different communities largely dependent on what flooding regime they received, from almost constant immersion, to close to 'normal' river levels, to the higher very rarely flooded limits of River Red Gum growth.

At the level of frequent (at least every two or three years) inundation each lasting for only a few weeks, there is a very distinctive community. This is dominated by the shrubby growth of Lignum *Muehlenbeckia florulenta*. Lignum is also common in Black Box depressions and floodways across the Riverine Plains with a similar flooding regime.

Growing up to 3 metres high with intricately branched thin, almost cane-like stems, Lignum can form dense impenetrable thickets though usually animal movements, particularly cattle keep most areas to a labyrinth of partly separated bushes, but still dense enough to lose stock or more seriously harbour ferals such as pigs and foxes. Rabbits can also flourish even though Lignum usually occurs on heavy grey self-mulching clays that are useless for burrows (not withstanding the likelihood of being flooded!).



Although confined to essentially wetter areas Lignum can survive prolonged periods of dry. The narrow 1-5 centimetre long leaves are readily dropped, in fact most times they are hard to find. Even in flooded periods larger leaves would be a big disadvantage in flowing water and from siltation in still water. Being a member of the Polygonaceae there is a membranous sheath surrounding the stem (called an ocrea) at the base of each leaf.

The yellowish flowers are small but are in tight clusters along the

branches and can give a welcome brightness to the otherwise sombre flowerless community. Male and female flowers are on separate plants, the males having 8 stamens within the 5 sepaloid petals. Female flowers have some sterile staminodes surrounding the trifid style on top of the single ovary. Fruit is a single trigonous nut.

Although Lignum may seem to be connected with the Latin for wood, it is actually a corruption of the old genetic name Polygonum. The current genus name Muehlenbeckia honours a French physician and botanical collector, Henri Gustav Muehlenbeck (1798 – 1845). In 'Plants of Western New South Wales' Lignum is listed under its old name of *Muehlenbeckia cunninghamii*.

**Eric Whiting**

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**Some good news about our website.**

The new site is up and running at

[www.mfn.org.au](http://www.mfn.org.au)

Johanna Botman has taken on the job of creating a new domain and so far has transferred items from the angelfire site. Recent copies of the newsletter are also there. Still in its infancy and Johanna would like comments, suggestions and items for inclusion are warmly welcomed. Also links to other sites. Johanna's email is [johanna@dragnet.com.au](mailto:johanna@dragnet.com.au)

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

which opened at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2005, in the Family Centre of the Leeton Uniting Church, Church Street, Leeton.

**Present:** Nella Smith, Rowena Whiting, Betty & Allen Bradney, Neville James, Phil Tenison, Kathy Mahy, , Barb Mansell, Peter Draper, Dot & Phil Green, Barry Allen, Roy Wade, Andrew Thompson, Jan & Garth Strong and Richard Faulder

**Apologies:** Eric Whiting, Rosie Smith, Graham Strong and John & Jan Cameron.

### Minutes of the previous meeting:

Accepted by acclamation.

### Matters Arising from the Minutes:

1. In response the minutes of the Griffith group, a new Web site for the association, with a new domain name, was supported. Johanna has volunteered to set it up.
2. **Eric Whiting's** Flora book will not be available until after February 2006 because he was unable to take many of the photos required because of the drought.
3. The Ian Oag Memorial Stump awaits further work, starting with slicing off the top. **Terry Smith** has volunteered to slice off the top, and we have made contact with a dendrochronologist
4. As part of her work on accumulating a bank of native plant seeds **Rosie Smith** became aware of a lack of roadside surveys in the Narrandera Shire. That raised the question as whether shire councils are obliged to have a policy on roadside environment surveys, at least over those roads over which they have jurisdiction  
The association wrote to the Narrandera Shire Council asking that they organise environmental surveys of the roadside environment. There was no meaningful response, so **Rosie Smith** was asked to write again
5. A Narrandera Wetlands Committee, including **Neville James**, has been constituted. The proposed wetlands will be for water treatment, which raises the problem of water availability. Nether the less the local indigenous group is on on-side, and earthworks are complete. A tree-planting was organised, with the planting of 1,600 young trees, which are doing very well.
6. The placing of articles in *The Irrigator* and *The Narrandera Argus* was suggested.
7. On behalf of Narrandera Landcare **Betty Bradney** has written a letter to the Narrandera Shire Council and NSWIPNR opposing projected commercial development in the cypress/yellow box woodland in the Five Mile Reserve on the Newell Highway.
8. Allan Morris from BIGNet would like to visit the area on 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> March 2006.
9. The Murrumbidgee College of Agriculture would like a list of the birds that could be observed on the campus, for the benefit of short-stay Short-course participants
- 10 Barry Allen and Bill Moller have been nominated to the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority as this association's delegates

### Correspondence:

#### In:

1. From the Birds Australia Southern NSW & ACT Group, the September 2005 issue of *Bird Notes*.
2. From the Broken Creek Field Naturalists Club, the September 2005 issues of their newsletter.
3. From the Nature Conservation Council of NSW: Business Papers for their annual conference.
4. From Cumberland Bird Observers Club, the October 2005 issue of their newsletter.
5. From the WWF, the Winter 2005 issue of *Living Planet*.
6. From the Illawarra Bird Observers Club, the November 2005 issue of *I.B.O.C. News*.
7. From Dr Matthew Brookhouse, School of Resources, Environment & Society, The Australian National University: "I am a PhD scholar working on the climatological potential of eucalypt tree-rings. I have worked with eucalypt tree-rings for around 10 years and occasionally undertake additional work for external organisations. I would be happy to discuss with you, your plans for the stump and offer my assistance in interpreting it's age from tree-rings. Considering that the stump is located in an area in which tree-ring formation may be unreliable, they may be some limitations to the interpretation, but we can discuss this in more detail later."

#### Out:

- .. none

### Financial Report for 13<sup>th</sup> October to 8<sup>th</sup> November 2005

<b>Opening balance</b>	\$18,331.79		\$ 29.00	\$18,360.79
<b>Income:</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>		
Memberships	\$ 0.00	Newsletter print & post	\$ 0.00	
GST input credits refund	\$ 29.00	GST input credits	<u>\$ 0.00</u>	
GST	<u>\$ 0.00</u>		\$ 0.00	\$18,360.79

**Richard Faulder** moved:

That the financial report be accepted and all payments endorsed

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

Seconded by **Phil Tenison** **Carried**

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

### General Business:

- ..

The meeting closed at 9:50 p.m.

The next meeting will start at 7:30pm on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2005 in the Family Centre of the Leeton Uniting Church, Church Street, Leeton.

# S I G H T I N G S

<b>Budgerigar</b> [12]	Narrandera Common	24/10/05	Neville James
<b>Superb Parrot</b> [5]	Narrandera Common	28/10/05	Neville James
<b>Superb Parrot</b> [6]	Narrandera Wetlands	29/10/05	Neville James
<b>Australasian Bittern</b> [1]	Fivebough Swamp, Leeton	02/11/05	Rowena & Graeme Whiting
<b>Superb Parrot</b> [3]	Narrandera Nature Reserve	22/11/05	Neville James
<b>Peregrine Falcon</b> [3]	Lake Talbot, Narrandera	22/11/05	Neville James
<b>Sacred Kingfisher</b> [1]	Cypress Streer, Leeton	27/11/05	Eric Whiting
<b>Mossgiel Daisy <i>Brachycome papillosa</i></b>	Yanga Station, Balranald	22/11/05	Eric Whiting
Several large areas			
<b>Flame Robin</b>	Ricegrowers, Petersham Rd, Leeton	08/11/05	Jan Cameron
<b>Crimson Chat</b>	Cocoparra National Park	22/10/05	Dot & Phil Green
<b>Budgerigar</b>	Cocoparra National Park	22/10/05	Dot & Phil Green
<b>Superb Parrot</b>	Cocoparra National Park	06/11/05	Dot & Phil Green
<b>Budgerigar</b>	Cocoparra National Park	31/10/05	Jan Strong
<b>Superb Parrot</b> [3]	Kywong	05/11/05	Jan Strong
<b>Superb Parrot</b> [1]	"Arcadia"	07/11/05	Jan Strong
Jan reports seeing small groups (1-6 birds) of Superb Parrots daily during September at Arcadia			
<b>Emu</b> [1]	Erigolia (old mine site)	25/09/05	Jan Strong
<b>Dollarbird</b> [2]	Audley Street, Narrandera	28/10/05	Roy Wade
<b>Budgerigar</b> [20]	"Yarrabimbi", Brobenah	01/11/05	Andrew Thompson
<b>Glossy Black Cockatoo</b> [6]	"Yarrabimbi", Brobenah	01/11/05	Andrew Thompson
<b>Woodswallows</b> [6]	"Allambie", Brobenah	08/11/05	Bill Draper
<b>Pied Robins</b>	Brobenah	10/11/05	Bill Draper
<b>Painted Honeyeater</b> [1]	Widgelli	27/10/05	Neville James
<b>Magpie Goose</b> [5]	Near Darlington Point	07/10/05	Neville James
<b>Noisy Friarbird</b> [2]	Narrandera Common	07/10/05	Neville James
<b>Superb Parrots</b>	Euroley	10/11/05	Kathy Mahy
<b>Curlews</b>	Euroley	10/11/05	Kathy Mahy
<b>Australian Shoveler</b> [4]	Nericon Swamp	11/11/05	June Sell
<b>Painted Honeyeater</b> [2]	Nericon Car Park	11/11/05	June Sell
<b>Little Eagle</b> [1]	Campbell's Swamp	18/11/05	B Moller, D Moretto
<b>Sacred Kingfisher</b> [2]	Edward Street, Griffith	22/11/05	June Sell
<b>Brown Treecreeper</b> [30-40+]	Yarradda State Forest	26/11/05	MFN Group

## From Neville James a list of the birds he recorded at the Narrandera Wetlands on 14/11/2005

Pacific Black Duck	Grey Teal (6)	Australian White Ibis (1)	Yellow-billed Spoonbill
Dusky Moorhen	Crested Pigeon	Peacefull Dove	Galah
Yellow Rosella	Eastern Rosella	Laughing Kookaburra	Sacred Kingfisher
Dollar bird	Noisy Friarbird	Little Friarbird	Grey Shrike -Thrush
Magpie Lark	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Australian Magpie	Australian Raven
White-winged Chough	Common Blackbird	Common Starling	

### Waterbird breeding at Fivebough continues to provide a few surprises.

Observed a few Whiskered Terns carrying material to a small area in the east section of management area 1b. A small number of terns were sitting amongst the water couch, with others at times attacking the odd intruder (Coots).

Numbers of White Ibis and area of cumbungi in 1a that has been trampled have increased since first seen two weeks ago. As to whether or not they are attempting breeding I don't know, but will check in the next week.

Three Australasian Bittern males were calling today. Although the odd individual call has been heard previously this is the first time I've recorded male boom trains in Fivebough. They called through the hour I was there and were continuing. One was in 1b and the other two in 1a. We will need to wait and hear/see if they remain over the next 2 to 3 months. The only breeding record at Fivebough I'm aware of is October 1939 (J. Ramsay *in* Hindwood 1940).

Didn't observe any Magpie geese today.

**Mike Schultz 17/11/2005**

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**COMING EVENTS CALENDAR**

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- 8 December Thursday **Leeton Meeting at 7.30pm at Uniting Church Family Centre.  
Speakers: Dot and Phil Green, Topic: Magnetic Island / Townsville.**
- 11 December Sunday **Outing to Euroley where Curlews have been reported.  
This will be followed with an end of year / Christmas basket lunch by the river. Bring food and drink with a salad or slice to share.  
Meet at Yanco Post Office at 8.30 am.  
Enquiries Nella Smith 6959 1210**
- 11 December Sunday **White Ibis Count - see insert below**
- 2006**
- 16 January – 2 February Australian Naturalist Network - Get together 2006 High Country in the Alpine Spring – hosted by South-east Naturalists' Association at Harrietville and Jindabyne. Further information Nella Smith 6959 1210.
- 26 January Thursday **Griffith Meeting at 7.30pm at Conference Room, Dept. of Primary Industries  
Topic – TBA**
- 29 January Sunday **Along the River somewhere for an early morning walk. Meet at Darlington Point at 8.30 am.  
Enquires: Phone Bill Moller on 6960 1341**
- 1 February Wednesday **Copy for February newsletter is due.**
- 9 February Thursday **Leeton Meeting at 7.30pm at Uniting Church Family Centre.  
Topic to be decided.**
- 11 - 12 March Sat/Sun. **BIGNET Meeting  
Conference Room, Dept. of Primary Industries**

**You are invited to count Australian White Ibis**

The management of Australian White Ibis on a regional basis requires good knowledge of the NSW population. To help us obtain this "snap-shot" the Parks and Wildlife Division of the Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW) are organising a state-wide count. This will aid with research involving movements and abundance of ibis and assist with the conservation practices to be put in place.

The Parks and Wildlife Division of the Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW) requests your participation in this event. You can help provide valuable information on this misunderstood species. Your counts (along with location and time of day) can be faxed, emailed, input straight to the online database, or "snail-mailed" to us.

To help with planning, please RSVP by 5th December where your count will take place to  
kirsty.nicol@environment.nsw.gov.au

When: Sunday, 11th December  
Where: anywhere in NSW  
How: Report ibis numbers, band colours, nesting sites, location, etc.  
Contacts: Online form:  
[http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/ibis\\_survey](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/ibis_survey)  
Phone the Environmental Line: 1300 361 967 Mon-Fri only  
Fax: (02) 9895 7414 Attn: Wildlife Management  
Mail: Australian White Ibis Survey  
Wildlife Management, PO Box 95  
Parramatta NSW 2124

