

The Murrumbidgee Naturalist

July 2008 - Issue #151

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



Betty and Nella studying the leaves of a Grey Mulga

Photo: Rowena Whiting

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CONTRIBUTIONS

**For the next issue by
Wednesday, 6 August 2008**

**To Rowena Whiting
Email: ericwhiting4@bigpond.com
Phone: 6953 2612**

**Spring Camps are coming up
See page 6 for details**

Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc. Office Bearers and Annual Subscriptions

President:	Bill Moller	6960 1341	Editor:	Rowena Whiting	6953 2612
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Secretary:	Jan Cameron	6953 2202	Web Co-ordinator:	Johanna Botman	6963 4855
Treasurer:	Phil Tenison	6953 4869			

MEETINGS ARE HELD EACH MONTH, EXCEPT JANUARY

FIELD TRIPS NORMALLY TAKE PLACE ON THE FOLLOWING WEEKEND.

LEETON MEETINGS SECOND THURSDAY - Seminar Room 1, Block 34 at Dept. Primary Industry at 7.30 PM

GRIFFITH MEETINGS FOURTH THURSDAY - Conference Room, Dept. of Primary Industry AT 7.30 PM

INTENDING NEW MEMBERS, GUESTS AND VISITORS WELCOME.

Membership enquiries:

Leeton	Eric Whiting	6953 2612	Griffith	Johanna Botman	6963 4855	
Narrandera	Nella Smith	6959 1210	Coleambally	John Wilkinson	6954 4129	
Annual Subscriptions:	Family	\$45.00	Adult/Single	\$35.00	Journal only/Concession	\$25.00

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

Swift Parrots Presentation

At the June meeting in Yanco, David Parker gave a very informative presentation about this endangered species, the surveys and brief analysis of the data which has been collected over the years.

First he described the species distinguishing features, feeding habits and habitats. It is the only member of its genus but is related to rosellas, blue bonnets and ringnecks; however it is often confused with lorikeets. Inland its common habitats are in Yellow/White/Grey Box and Ironbark woodlands; feeding on lerps and other insects, nectar, wattle buds and flowers.

Breeding occurs in open Blue Gum forests in Tasmania (on the East Coast and the North central coast), starting in October. They cross to the mainland in late February, early March and with birds reaching NSW around April. Birds start to return to Tasmania late August or early September. The main areas are central and southern Victoria, NSW south coast and south west slopes. Later on, July-August, they move on to central and north-east Victoria, NSW coast, western slopes, and into southern Queensland if they are very active.

He showed maps showing their distribution with Central Victoria and the coast showing higher numbers due to there being more observers. The population is on the decline with 2001 being a peak. In 2007 the Central Coast (NSW) was a hotspot with 200 birds. Their locations and numbers vary wildly from year to year. It is an on going project of gaining knowledge of what they need, recording what they are eating and habitats they frequent in addition to numbers.



Swift Parrots once ranged as far west as Ivanhoe and near Wentworth with records from the 1960's. More recently birds have been recorded locally at Berrigan, Balldale, Deniliquin, Mulwala, and Walbundrie to the south; Charcoal Tank and West Wyalong to the north; Temora and Reefton to the north east; and Coolamon and Wagga Wagga to the east. Not to forget the birds Neil observed in Griffith last year!

The opportunity exists to search local areas where potentially suitable habitat (i.e. Yellow Gum, Ironbark, Grey Box and Red Gum) occurs. Areas might include Buckingham State Forest, Travelling Stock Routes and State Forests particularly between Narrandera and Wagga (via Coolamon or the Sturt Highway), and Ardlethan to name a few.

Some members have taken part in these surveys which are held bi-annually during the third week of May and first week of August. Volunteers are important for surveying so if you'd like to take part or organise a group then contact David at the Griffith DECC Office on 6969 0705. Reporting any Swift Parrot sightings outside of the survey weekends is also very important.

We all enjoyed your very well illustrated talk, David relating many of your personal observations – many thanks.

Rowena Whiting (with some notes and photo from David)

Field Trip to Gillenbah State Forest

14 June 2008

Only a few of us gathered at Narrandera for Gillenbah State Forest. At a recent Vegetation Identification Workshop Gillenbah was identified as one of 3 significant sites in the South West slopes west of Wagga.



Mosses in the forest

It has also recently been opened for recreational shooting for better or for worse. I know there are a few feral goats in there because one day I came across a skin and head draped over a log which startled me some, the fact that it was getting dark didn't help.

We visited the western part which is more mixed woodland, rather than the Pine woodland you get on the gravelly areas to the east .

The first dam was empty but nearby are some planted eucalypts, some of which were flowering which is where I expected some honeyeaters: Striped Honeyeaters were present.



The hopbush *Dodonea cuneata* were budding up but the Acacias, Deanes, Brachybotrya and Hakeoides are a long while off flowering. Not a single flower was seen on the *Eriostemon difformis* which is fairly widespread in this part of the forest. Eric was able to collect a few mosses and liverworts. Lorna enjoyed it so much that she took Neville for a walk there the next day.

Afterwards we visited Clare's Square which is meant to be high biodiversity value Travelling Stock Route. It amounted to about an acre of Grey Box, surrounded by cropping land. A pity it's not a lot bigger.

Bird List:

Striated Pardalote
Magpie
Raven
Yellow Thornbill

Kookaburra
Grey-crowned Babbler
Crested Pigeon
White-browed Babbler

Striped Honeyeater
Weebill
Yellow Rosella

Nella Smith

Photos Rowena Whiting

Grey Box at Clare's Square



Grey Box



Subscriptions are due so

If you have not sent your money to the Treasurer, Phil Tenison, please do so promptly - PO Box 541, Leeton, NSW 2705 or make a bank transfer to the MFN's bank account. It is the Commonwealth Bank, BSB 062 564, A/c 10039396. Don't forget to note your name so Phil can identify it on the Bank Statement.

Any queries Phil can be contacted on Wk 02 69 530649 Home 02 69 534869

Annual subscription rates were increased at the last meeting and are now :-

Family - \$45, Adult/Single - \$35, Journal only/Concession - \$25

Barren Box Swamp 22nd June 2008

Following the Short Film night probably wasn't the most successful strategy for a big roll up for the stomp around Barren Box Swamp the following morning. A forecast of fresh to strong cold southerly winds, didn't add much to the success either, but hey, those that



managed to struggle along, got a pretty good pay-off.



The cold wind really didn't do us any favours but despite the wind we did manage to put together a pretty impressive bird list, 59 species, that included all of the

Cormorants, (most of which were nesting), plenty of ducks, (the only ones that weren't sighted included the Freckled Duck, Blue-billed Duck and Plumed Whistle Duck), heaps of Hoary Headed Grebes, plenty of Great Crested Grebe, (at least a dozen), while the White-bellied Sea Eagle, Swamp Harrier, Whistling Kite and Australian Kestrel patrolled overhead.

After morning tea the brave took a 4.5 km sortie around the dry eastern section of the wetland in search of the birds that inhabit or frequent the area but all that could be encouraged to make a show was Richards Pipit, Rufous and Brown Songlark and a Brown Quail. We were a little disappointed that we didn't get to see the White-winged Fairy-wren or the Orange and Crimson Chats, but I guess any self respecting small bird was always going to keep its head down on a day like Sunday.



A couple of the diehards took the opportunity to take a look at the Griffith

Sewage ponds on the way home, a bit keen to sight a Freckled and Blue billed Duck but alas no such luck, there was surprisingly little in the ponds, a few Black Swans, some Eurasian Coot and Hoary-headed Grebe, a smattering of the ducks listed below, but strangely enough about 43 Musk Duck so the stop-over was not a complete waste of time.



Barren Box is always a good visit we should do it more often.

Barren Box Swamp 22nd June 2008 Bird List

Welcome Swallow
Great Cormorant
Little Black Cormorant
Pied Cormorant
Little Pied Cormorant
Darter
Australian Raven
Australian Little Raven
Rock Dove
White-breasted Sea Eagle
Whistling Kite
Swamp Harrier
Great Egret
White-fronted Chat
Rufous Songlark

Brown Songlark
Australian Pipit
Australian Magpie
Pee Wee
Emu
Black Swan
Pink Eared Duck
Pacific Black Duck
Grey Teal
Chestnut Teal
Southern Shoveler
Australian Shelduck
Hardhead
Musk Duck
Hoary-headed Grebe

Great Crested Grebe
Australian Pelican
Whiskered Tern
Caspian Tern
Eurasian Coot
White-faced Heron
Pacific Heron
Australian Little Grebe
Masked Lapwing
Silver Gull
Australian Wood Duck
Galah
Red-rumped Parrot
Tree Martin
Australian Kestrel

Brown Quail
Yellow-billed Spoonbill
Royal Spoonbill
Little Eagle
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Pied Butcherbird
Red-capped Plover
Black-fronted Dotterel
Purple Swamp Hen
Crested Pigeon
Cockatiel
Common Starling
Zebra Finch
Australian White Ibis

Bill Moller

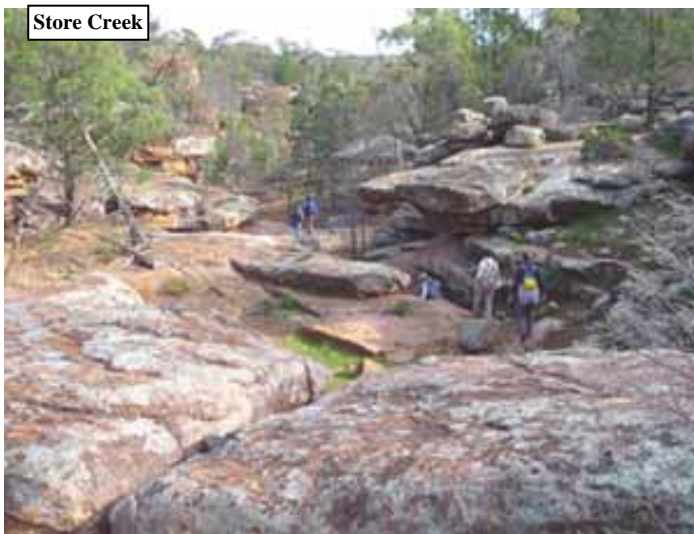
Shingle Hut Creek – Store Creek - 29th June 2008

Some days you just get lucky, no frost and up to 17 degrees, slight breeze, June days don't come any better than that for a walk in the rugged hills of the Cocoparra. That was Sunday 29th so eat your heart out, it was a great walk.

This is a great walk, you get the tough stuff out of the way on the first leg. Shingle hut Creek starts out pretty easy, a leisurely stroll up the track to the first major confluence, then it gets interesting, a few hundred metres along the stream bed, easy enough, then a wall of stone, that gets the heart going, if you get to the top of that bit you don't have a heart problem, it gets the heart and respiration rate up a bit so a bit of a break, a drink of water, a chew on some dried fruit, time to let the legs settle, then it's on up the creek.



Shingle-Hut Falls



Store Creek

Hill Teatree, Pink Honey Myrtle, Small Cypress, Calytrix, and a myriad of other healthy shrubs, crowd the creek and conspire to slow the progress for the next 6-700 metres before we can strike north to cross the ridge into the Store Creek valley.

Chalk and cheese, the two valleys are totally different, where Shingle Hut Creek is close and difficult, Store Creek is open and magnificent, it is also down hill.

There are some spectacular vistas on the way down the creek, to which the camera cannot do justice. To fully appreciate the beauty of the place you just have to be there.



Wombat sign



Having a spell

We didn't keep a plant or bird list but there were a couple of interesting sightings, the first was the stand of Pink Honey Myrtle *Melaleuca erubescens* in the top end of Shingle Hut Creek and the other was fresh sign of Wombat, see photo, looked only a day old.

Bill Moller

MFN 2nd Annual Soup and Film Night

On Saturday evening (21 June) a very select group of MFN members were treated to a night of great food and excellent entertainment at the second annual soup and film night.

The success of the evening was a direct result of the hard work and patience of Johanna who organized everyone to submit films – or else! – and to Bill and Patty for making the venue available with lavish catering – as only Bill can. Various people provided soups and other goodies all washed down with the excellent selection of vintage wines from the Moller cellars!

After nibbles and then soup we all retired to the movie room where Johanna presented the various offerings – and what a fine mixture of films we had. Without going into too much detail about individual efforts, I do think my contribution won hands down – particularly for artistic skill and composition – not to mention the musical accompaniment – none of which was my own work, I must confess! Thank you Johanna for your effort – an excellent job. Of course that doesn't take away from other contributors who did an admirable job as well!

Contributions from Eric and Rowena, Bill, Warwick, Col, Dennis, Michelle, Nella, Neil and Johanna all excelled in quality – though some of the music was a bit iffy!

Johanna has made an excellent DVD of the evening's films and they can be purchased from her.

For next year's effort, I will be submitting someone else's photos of Tanzania for the entertainment of the masses! All I need is to keep on Johanna's right side so she will come up with another brilliant film – only kidding! And Bill has the perfect music I can pinch – "The Baby Elephant Walk" – so don't throw it away Bill.

I think I had better start taking lessons now so I'll have something ready by this time next year!

Max O'Sullivan

[Don't you think we should make Max make his own contribution next time? Rowena]



From the Mail Box

Dot and Phil Green are enjoying life at Merimbula and have joined the Far South Coast Birdwatchers. They wrote about their first trip with the group for the newsletter. A copy will be available at our meeting. They will be pleased to see anyone who is heading that way.

I have their contact details. Rowena

An occasional publication **The Whistler** from the Hunter Bird Observers has a number of articles about research projects and studies being undertaken in the Hunter area. Again available at the meeting if you're interested.

The DVD of the 2008 MFN Short Films is available at the bargain price of \$15 or \$25 for two.

There are still a few of the 2007 DVDs left as well.

Contact Johanna.

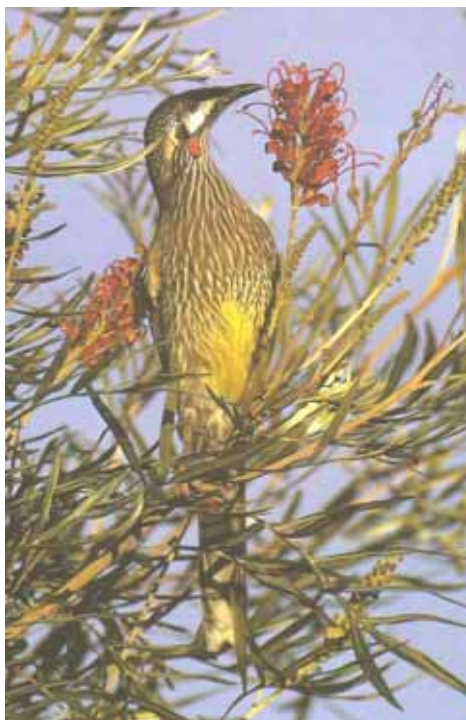
Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists



2008
Short Film Festival

BIRD OF THE MONTH...

RED WATTLEBIRD *Athochaera carunculata*



We've all been to gatherings where someone is the loudest, most obvious and most active of the group. Well I liken this person to the Red Wattlebird who flits from branch to branch wearing its red earrings and making a raucous sound that could never be described as "Music to the ears"!

The Red Wattlebird is one of the larger members of the honeyeater family, eating nectar, fruit and insects. It builds its nest of twigs, grass and occasionally includes softer material, from 2 to 15 metres above ground and lays 2-3 tapered oval creamy pink and blotched eggs that take 15 days to hatch. The fledging also takes 15 days.

They are showoffs when it comes to protecting the young too, for it has been noted that a female was seen dropping to the ground, feigning a broken wing to divert attention away from the nestlings, and another witness observed a bird running with spread wings haphazardly then charging the intruder. Also, they are bullies where smaller birds are concerned and are regularly seen chasing them off if they are dining at the same restaurant.

In early Australian times, the Red Wattlebird was considered "the best eating bird in the bush" and was sold in poultry shops. This practice continued until native birds became protected.

These endemic birds are found across the lower end of Australia but not Tasmania, although a few have migrated to New Zealand. They

also migrate from the alps in winter or may meander following the food chain.

Some other names for this Wattlebird are Barkingbird, What's-o'clock, Muttonbird, Gillbird and Wattled Honeyeater.

Length 320-325 mm, sexes similar upper parts brown streaked with white, forehead dark, cheeks white, red wattle lobes behind red eyes, bill black, lower breast and belly yellow and legs pink-brown.

The voice is harsh and scratchy, or repeated kwoks and other unmusical notes.

Breeds July to December.

Sue Chittick-Dalton

[Excerpts from National Photographic Index of Australian Wildlife]

Camp-out - Shepherds Hill 29th-31st August 2008

I am organising a camp-out to Shepherds Hill (near Round Hill N/R) north-west of Lake Cargelligo, on the last weekend in August. Arrive Friday 29th leave Sunday 31st.

This is a full Bush camp ie. no facilities.

The plan is to make the dinner a joint affair (small charge) but self cater for breakfast and lunch.

Note this is not the usual Spring outing. (that will be to Kalyarr SCA *Norwood* on Sept 12-15th)

Should be plenty of birds and flowering plants on offer.

Spring Outing

Kalyarr State Conservation Area (Norwood) 12th to 15th September 2008

This year the Spring camping weekend is to Norwood (now officially Kalyarr State Conservation Area). Note this is not the long weekend.

The arrangements will be similar to previous years. Cost \$50 / head, all meals provided and wine of course.

There will be some beds (mattress only) available in the cottage and plenty of room for tents. If you want a bed you will need to book in early.

If you wish to come along to either or both of these events please contact me by email - bill.moller@dpi.nsw.gov.au or call 02 69 601311, mobile 0427 102673

I will need to know numbers for both Shepherds Hill and the Spring Outing by Thursday 14th August.

Plants of the Month – Green Mallee Communities

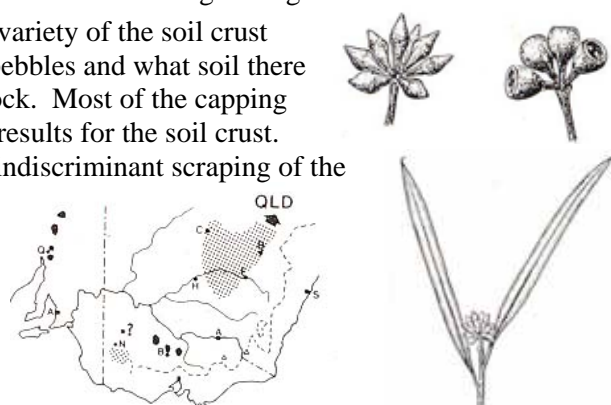
Although Green Mallee *Eucalyptus viridis* can commonly be seen in the Mallee communities in well defined areas between Colinton and the Mirrool Creek. These areas are tightly restricted to where Silurian rocks are exposed. Two of the areas about the Narrandera Ranges – one on Hehir's property and the other familiar to group members as it surrounds the shelter area we so often visit on Andrew's property of Yarrabimbi.

Other areas are similarly on private property but can be readily seen as the low woodlands capping the various rises in the area.

The features of these communities is the gravelly or stony surface of the ground and sparsity of shrubs. For the most part even herbs are few and far between. Plant lists are therefore always limited. This lack of diversity generally results in a lack of birds (could be very different when the mallee flowers). I have often noted the strange quietness on entering any of these communities. The low (usually only 8 – 12 metres high) canopy forms a low ceiling not far above one's head – its almost like entering a dungeon.

If the flowering plants are a poor show, the abundance and variety of the soil crust organisms are not. Innumerable lichens bind small rocks, pebbles and what soil there is into a firm surface, unless of course it is broken up by stock. Most of the capping copses on the rises are used as shelter belts with disastrous results for the soil crust. Other parts such as on Andrew's place have suffered from indiscriminant scraping of the gravel usually as a source of road metal.

Next time we are at Andrew's for a BBQ, take the time to compare the mallee area with the Dwyers Gum/Cypress Pine community further up towards the rock outcrops. You could possibly draw a line between the two – it would mark the change in the underlying rock from



Silurian to the later Devonian.

Eric Whiting

Green Mallee at sunset and a woodland of Green Mallee. photos Rowena Whiting

Drawings from Leon Costermann's Trees and Shrubs of SE Australia



S I G H T I N G S

Major Mitchell Cockatoo [many]	McNabb Crescent, Griffith	Daily 06/08	Sue Chittick-Dalton
Grey-crowned Babbler [12]	McNabb Crescent, Griffith	15/06/08	Sue Chittick-Dalton
Caspian Tern [1]	Barren Box Swamp	22/06/08	MFN Group
Great Crested Grebe [14]	Barren Box Swamp	22/06/08	MFN Group
Musk Duck [9]	Barren Box Swamp	22/06/08	MFN Group
Musk Duck [43]	Griffith Sewage Ponds	22/06/08	MFN Group
Long-necked Turtle [12 hatchlings]	Channel Bank, Murrumbidgee	15/05/08	Bill Draper
Superb Parrot [many]	Euroley	Early 06/08	Kathy Mahy
Fox [1]	Cypress Street, Leeton	14/06/08	Eric Whiting

A Correction: A change of identity for the Red-capped Robin reported by Neil and Johanna last month at Lake Wyangan it should have been a **Red-capped Plover**.

Water Way out West

The June long weekend of 2008 was a prime opportunity for Neil and I to go out beyond the Darling to see the effects of the January rains in western Queensland.

Those of you who were at the Short Film night were treated to Neil's film about the origins of the waters of the Paroo and where it ends up. He had maps and 27 8 x 10 coloured glossy pictures with the circles and arrows and a paragraph on the back ... sorry I got carried away there for a minute...back to the story.

Essentially, our trip was from Griffith to Cobar, then across the Darling to Tilpa and along the road to Tongo. From there we headed south towards Wilcannia via Peery Lake. All these roads are easily passable in a two wheel drive.

North from Tilpa is where the fun of the journey started. We had been this way in 1989 and been surprised to see water on a nasty, stinking, hot drive in a dust storm, and again in 2001 when the water was plentiful and the channels were full and deeper than my Patrol could cope with. The landscape was dry until we reached the channels themselves.

Are we allowed to admit that we camped along the edge of one of these channels? The setting sun created many photo opportunities, and the calls of the many birds in the area promised an interesting day to follow. And we were rewarded with that.

Mobs of Crimson Chats in all their different stages of development swamped our little camping area. Flocks of Pelican cruised back and forth. Shy waders ducked from lignum to lignum. Wrens called from cover... you get the idea. The channel was one of seven or eight of varying widths and depths over about 10 kilometres of the road. While crossing one channel, we disturbed a Nankeen Night Heron, so stopped to see where it landed again. There were at least a dozen of them in the one stretch of road, and while they may have been wary of our presence, they were not keen to leave and often re-settled nearby, just out of sight in the Bimble Box, Yapunyah and Lignum.

The Paroo is 'the last unregulated river in the Murray-Darling' because its 'valley' is too shallow and wide to be dammed. So the water in the channels meanders and flows into a wetland / lake system with Peery Lake as the biggest. Now a National Park with the barest of visitor facilities, it is a magnificent sight at the moment as it is chock full. The water laps right up to the edge of the rocky Peery Hills on the western side and with massing thunderclouds makes, again, for some great photo opportunities. Thanks goodness for digital cameras or else the waste of film would have been economically catastrophic.

So the lake may have been full and visually spectacular, but the birds were more a sprinkling, despite being told there would be thousands. My expectation is that they weren't there at this time because the water levels were too high, and there was so much water elsewhere in less accessible places. We are planning to go back again soon to have another look when the water levels recede. Our National Parks hosts tell us that the lake will hold water for three years.

Our journey south to Wilcannia could have been uneventful and straight down the road, but there are many diversions for inquisitive people armed with topographic maps. So we deviated where we could to cross the Overflow again and then on to the Norma Downs – Wilcannia Road and to where the Paroo would enter the Darling if it flowed enough, or where the Darling sometimes backflows into the Paroo. Now a dry looking lake bed, with evidence of previous opportunistic farming, it would be a body of water to rival Peery Lake if full.

So off to Wilga campsite upstream of Wilcannia for the night. There were marked camping areas, toilets and two other sets of campers settling in when we arrived. Sunset was a fizzer as the high cloud cover was deepening.

So you know how it is, you pitch the tent, get dinner ready and settle in with a plunk or two. And then the ranger stops by for a chat. He's made the 12 kilometre trip in the dark to tell us of the weather forecast. Isn't that a great little service? But what he was really saying was that if we didn't have 7 days worth of provisions with us we should think about leaving now. Now now. We were tempted to stay, but being the responsible workers that we are, we headed off to Cobar in the dark. And they did get rain. About 15 mm I think.

Some of the notable birds were 100 Pink-eared Duck, Budgerigar (small flocks), Pied Honeyeater, Square-tailed Kite, Chestnut-crowned Babblers, Chirruping Wedgebills, Owllet Nightjar and Inland Dotterel.

Johanna Botman and Neil Palframan



COMING EVENTS CALENDAR

- 10 July Thursday** **Leeton Meeting** at 7:30pm in the Seminar Room 1, Block 34 at Department of Primary Industry. Yanco Ag Institute Enquiries Eric Whiting 6953 2612
Guest Speaker: Paul Childs, Wetlands Ecologist, National Parks and Wildlife Service. Topic: Work Project for West Rivers Region
- 12 July Saturday** **Outing – A walk in the Brobenah Hills**
Meet at 9:00 am at the entrance to Milbrae Quarry on the Colinroobie Road
 Bring morning tea, lunch optional.
Contact: Eric Whiting 6953 2612
- 20 July Sunday** **Bush Walk – Cocoparra National Park –**
Walk will head up Homestead Creek – 8km hard walk, no tracks
Meet at the Yenda PO at 8.30 am.
Bring “play lunch” to carry and lunch for return to cars,
Contact: Bill Moller – 0247102673, or email bill.moller@dpi.nsw.gov.au
- 24 July Thursday** **Griffith Meeting** – 7.30 pm, Griffith DPI Conference Room.
Contact: Bill Moller 6960 1341
Guest Speaker: Paul Childs, Wetlands Ecologist, National Parks and Wildlife Service. **Topic:** Work Program for West Rivers Region
- 27 July Sunday** **Outing – a walk on the Griffith Hill**
Meet at Sir Dudley De-Chair Look-out (Hermit’s Cave) 8.30am,
Bring Morning tea.
Contact: Johanna Botman 02 69 634855 or Johanna@griffithgateway.com
- 27 July Sunday** **National Tree Day - Tree Appreciation Day**
- 2 – 3 August** **National Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot Survey**
 If you are interested in taking part in this survey then contact David Parker at Griffith DECC Office on 6969 0705.
- 6 August Wednesday** **Copy for August newsletter is due**
- 14 August Thursday** **Leeton Meeting** at 7:30pm in the Seminar Room 1, Block 34 at Department of Primary Industry. Yanco Ag Institute **Enquiries** Jan Cameron 6953 2202
Guest Speaker: Mal Carnegie, Lake Cowal Foundation. The Foundation monitors the environment at the Lake Cowal Gold Mine.
- 16 August Saturday** **Outing – Lake Cowal Gold Mine** guided tour of the Foundation’s projects by Mal Carnegie, maybe the mine site itself. Details to come. Contact Eric 6953 2612.
- 28 August Thursday** **Griffith Meeting** – 7.30 pm, Griffith DPI Conference Room.
Contact: Bill Moller 6960 1341
Guest Speaker: TBA
- 29 - 31 August** **Bush Camp-out Shepherds Hill – See page 6 for details**
Contact Bill Moller 69 601311 or email bill.moller@dpi.nsw.gov.au
- 6 - 7 September** **Nature Conservation Council Regional Conference – Conference Room Griffith DPI.**
Contact Bill Moller 69 601311 or email bill.moller@dpi.nsw.gov.au
- OTHER DATES**
- 12 – 15 September** **MFN Spring Camp - Kalyarr State Conservation Area (Norwood)**
 See page 6 for details
Contact Bill Moller 69 601311 or email bill.moller@dpi.nsw.gov.au
- 25 - 26 October** **Twitchathon**
- 15 November** **Superb Parrot count**
- 14 - 16 November** **Australian Birdfair – will be held at the Yanco Agricultural Institute**
Theme “Climate Change: What Are the Birds Telling Us?”