

# The Murrumbidgee Naturalist



**June 2014 - Issue #216**

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

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

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

## **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



## **Lawyer's Wig Fungus**

*Caprinus comatus*

**A number of these  
were seen at the  
Narrandera Common on  
the koala count.**

**Photo by Rowena Whiting**

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## **CONTRIBUTIONS**

**For the next issue by  
Wednesday 2 July  
To Penny Williams**

**Email:**

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

**Phone: 6953 3524**

**Annual Subscriptions  
are due on 30 June.  
See Page 12 for details.**

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

<b>President:</b>	Max O'Sullivan	6953 4726	<b>Editor:</b>	Rowena Whiting	6953 2612
<b>Vice President:</b>	Nella Smith	6959 1210	<b>Committee:</b>	Johanna Botman	6963 4855
<b>Vice President:</b>	Eric Whiting	6953 2612		Phillip Williams	6953 3524
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<b>Treasurer:</b>	Phil Tenison	6953 4869			

**MEETINGS** ARE HELD ON THE SECOND THURSDAY EACH MONTH, EXCEPT JANUARY, AT THE Yellow Room, Leeton Library, Sycamore Street at 7.30 PM

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

INTENDING NEW MEMBERS, GUESTS AND VISITORS WELCOME.

### Membership enquiries:

<b>Leeton</b>	Eric Whiting	6953 2612	<b>Griffith</b>	Johanna Botman	6963 4855
<b>Narrandera</b>	Nella Smith	6959 1210	<b>Coleambally</b>	John Wilkinson	6954 4129

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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.

## Chiltern visit - 24-25 May 2014

When reports of Regent Honeyeaters were on Birdline Victoria on 22 May, Nella and I decided to make a quick trip to Chiltern to see if we could find them. Only two had been reported the previous weekend on the May survey by the Friends of Chiltern- Mt Pilot National Park so we didn't expect to see them – and we didn't. However, we had some good birds – 62 in all for our trouble and Nella got onto some more Greenhood Orchids.

The highlight was to eventually see both **Little Lorikeet** and **Swift Parrot** actually perched in trees. There were lots flying over at a rapid pace but only one pair of Littles landed and just one Swift. Apart from that we saw lots of **Flame** and **Scarlet**



Photos:  
Little Lorikeet (above),  
Swift Parrot (left)

**Robins, Diamond Firetails, Fuscous, Yellow-faced, Black-chinned and Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters, Golden Whistler, Turquoise Parrot and Varied Sitella** to name just a few of the more interesting birds for us.

Eileen Collins was a huge help, as always when we visit, and took us to spots where birds had

been seen in recent days. We met up with a group of three guys from Melbourne who were very keen to see the birds of the area and we all spent the two days chasing after particular birds. Unfortunately, the **Regent Honeyeater** eluded us but one was reported on the Monday morning at the spot where we had been looking on the previous two days – typical!

Chiltern is a great spot to visit and Nella and I will try to organise a Club outing there at some stage in the Spring if there is sufficient interest from members. That's when the orchids are at their best and the Regent Honeyeaters might be about in greater numbers – we'll keep you posted.

**Max O'Sullivan**



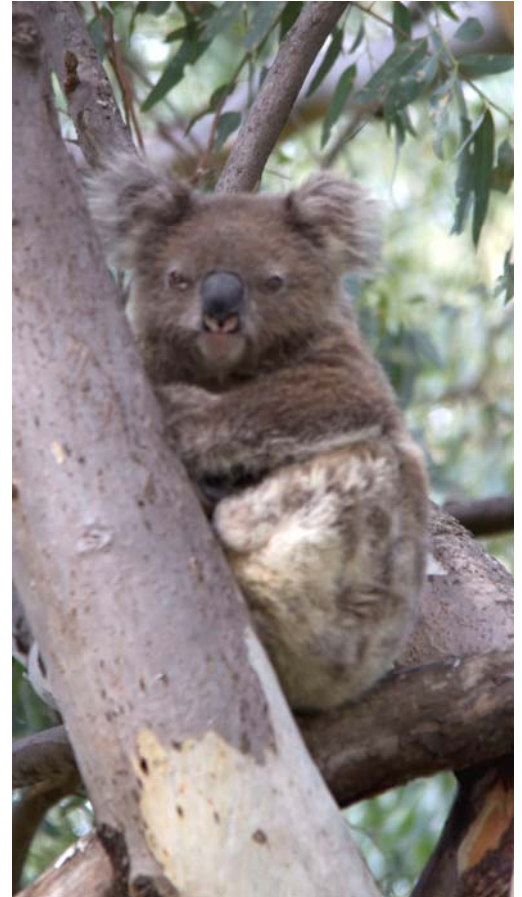
## THE KOALA COUNT

One of our excursion for May was to the Narrandera Koala Count to perform a census of the koalas in the Narrandera Nature Reserve, to check on their numbers and general health. The count is held annually, weather permitting, but this is the first full count in three years. 112 volunteers came from surrounding towns to participate and 'to see a koala', which they did. Thirty six koalas were sighted in total. The census is organised by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Narrandera Koala Regeneration Centre Supervisory Committee and the Rotary Club puts on a sausage sizzle so it was a real family day out.

The volunteers were divided into eleven groups, each with a leader and a roll of coloured tape to mark trees with a koala. I joined the MFN group with Max as leader and we joked about getting lost. I assured them that I wouldn't get lost as we walk the dogs there a couple of times a week. Our group was allotted the area from the front gate to first beach. I soon realised that the trees there were generally too small for koalas and the trees would be better near the beach. I was right and after sighting a koala, I set out along the road to the place where we signed on. As it was a fair way I was pleased to see a car coming, and the driver offered me a lift. It was Lorna Quilter of the Koala Committee and she was on her way to report me lost. I knew exactly where I was! Next time I'll take my mobile and keep with my group.

Koalas were released in the early seventies into the Nature Reserve at the back of the area called 'the common', but the whole area has since been renamed "The Flora and Fauna Reserve". An area of 479 hectares, the common was once an open space with a few huge old River Red Gums, which still remain. During the Depression some very poor families lived on the common in tents and humpies, probably kept a cow, grew vegetables and planted the fruit trees which were removed a couple of years ago. It was sad to see part of our history disappear but the arrival of the fruit-fly menace made it necessary.

According to an old friend with whom I talked recently, (he was a boy here in the forties and lived in Robert Street, the nearest street to the common in those days) the old burnt out shells of red gums which we see on the common were burnt to produce charcoal for 'gas producers', an ugly contraption attached to cars' bumper bars during the second world war when petrol was very scarce and strictly rationed. He also mentioned the lagoon near the gates of the



canal and common where he spent a considerable amount of time watching for the platypuses which lived there!

The floods of the fifties, along with the eradication of rabbits brought up a huge crop of red gum seedlings – now the middle sized trees favoured by koalas. The floods of the seventies brought up the smaller trees which now make the forest so dense.

The new ranger (Allan McLean - Ed) with NPWS was very impressed with the number of volunteers who turned out for the count and suggested that we start at 9.30am in future years to make travelling easier for people from more distant towns. See you next year at 9.30!

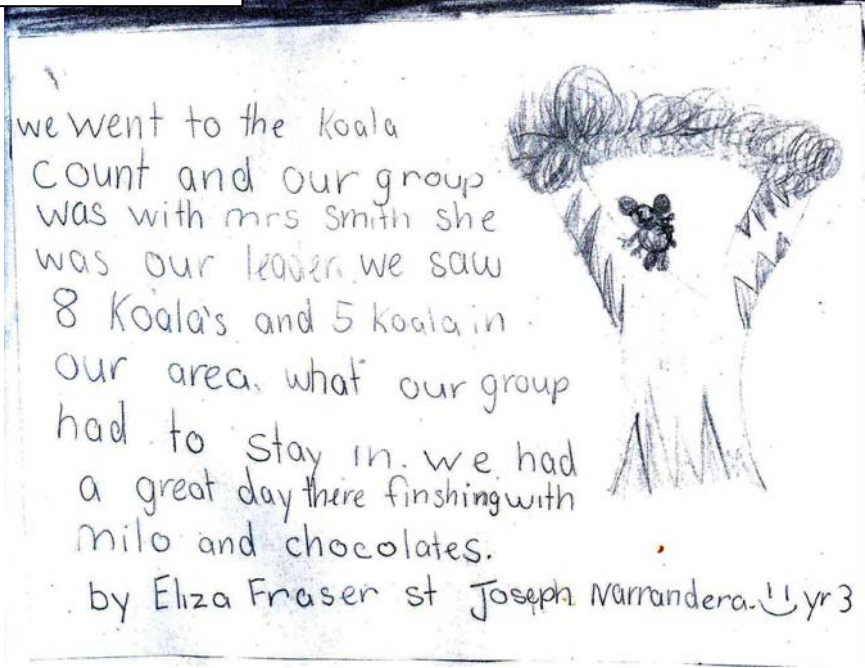
**Betty Bradney**



A young koala, scats at the base of the tree and some MFNers enjoying lunch after the count.  
Photos by Rowena Whiting



Eliza Fraser was one of the participants at the Koala Count. She had Patch with her as it was her turn to look after him for the weekend and she had to tell her class what they did. Here is her story



### Binya, Rocky Point Excursion 18 May 2014

To my knowledge, the last (and maybe first) time the group visited the south-east corner of Binya State Forest was in July 2001. Although not noted as the best part of the forest, I thought it was time to check it out.

From the meeting place, we drove along the Burley Griffin Way to the entrance at the foot of Rocky Point, where there used to be a decent area to park just off the road. Unfortunately logging had commenced and the track going westward was churned up into sticky ruts. However we all found a reasonable space and kitted up.

The idea was to first walk up the track to the top of Rocky Point and return for morning tea. We set off only to find the track ended in a small clearing. On the way we picked out a few bushes of the Ferny Hopbush, *Dodonea boroniifolia* – not a common plant in this area. Also Wonga Vines were in flower. One would expect a quick turnaround but an amazing discussion took place over the origin of such a weed infested clearing in a somewhat boring Cypress Pine regrowth woodland.



**View on Rocky Point  
Wonga Vine  
Photos Rowena Whiting**



Back to the cars for another attempt at going up the hill. Who parked their 4WD so as to obscure the fork in the track? Second go was more successful and we were soon admiring the views from the peak. It was not high but is the most southerly part of the Cocoparra Ranges and we could see right across the Mirool Creek valley. Apart from the views there was little else to note except for the freshness of the bush after the recent rains. We admired the bright green of the mosses on the rocks which were also covered with patches of lichens. (See separate article.)



Back to the cars again for a leisurely morning tea that ended up with an unusual twist. Johanna produced a birthday cake, but the birthday boy was not there. (Max had his cake the following Tuesday – he had been looking for Regent Honeyeaters in Chiltern with Nella).



Off again, we ambled our way to the dam towards the eastern end of the forest. Once again nothing spectacular, it was actually rather quiet, and being late autumn, not much

was in flower. One plant of Scented Matrush *Lomandra effusa* had flowers just past their best. Strangely for a plant usually found in mallee areas, it was butting up against *Haloragis glauca* Grey Raspwort, a plant of heavy soils. Creeping out from one side was the twining stems of *Convolvulus erubescens* Blushing Bindweed.



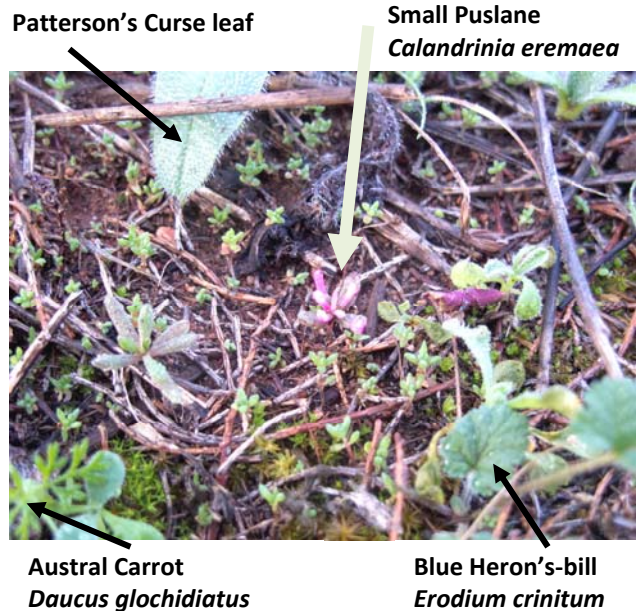
The birthday cake!  
Scented Matrush *Lomandra effusa*  
Photos Rowena Whiting

Once we got to the dam we decided it was a good site for lunch. The car drivers walked back to collect the cars. Meanwhile some of those staying scouted around the dam and found a Warrior Bush with plenty of fresh tender growth. Warrior Bushes are remarkably tough slow-growing plants, but not this one. It was not going to waste this warm season. Nor were we as we sat down for a pleasant lunch relaxing in the sunshine.

**Eric Whiting**



How much can you talk about in a weedy clearing?  
Not all weeds - an array of small specimens with annotations  
Photos Rowena Whiting



Patterson's Curse leaf

Small Puslane  
*Calandrinia eremaea*

Austral Carrot  
*Daucus glochidiatus*

Blue Heron's-bill  
*Erodium crinitum*

**Birds at Rocky Point, 25 May 2014**

It was slim pickings for the birdos on this outing – few in species and few in numbers. Due of course to the time of year, maybe the location within the forest, and also the overnight rain may have played a part with drinking water easily available, all over. Not a pigeon, dove, parrot, bird of prey, wren, ...

The hill gives a different view of the surrounding land than we usually see. It appears to be a quite degraded site though, very weedy and without much understorey, presumably due to goat and/or sheep grazing.

The highlight for me was clearly the 61 Major Mitchell's Cockatoo that flew through prior to the official start of the outing. This is the most I have seen in one group.

**Neil Palfreman**

**Bird List**

- |                      |                           |                          |
|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Galah                | Chestnut-rumped Thornbill | Yellow-rumped Thornbill  |
| Yellow Thornbill     | Southern Whiteface        | Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater |
| Striped Honeyeater   | Brown-headed Honeyeater   | Red-capped Robin         |
| Eastern Yellow Robin | White-browed Babbler      | Crested Bellbird (heard) |
| Grey Shrike-Thrush   | Grey Fantail              |                          |



## What Lies Beneath

A frequent expression during our recent walk through the Rocky Point, Binya State Forest was how fresh the bush looked. There was certainly new growth on the various shrubs, but the forest is largely White Cypress Pine, so the shrubbery was not the complete answer. I think the effect of the 1-2mm overnight rain on the diminutive ground cover was the explanation. The carpets of green moss and the fresh brightness of softened lichens were very conspicuous.

It only takes the slightest of showers to transform the brown, dead looking dry moss plants into the soft green



cushions. This can happen because moss plants do not die on drying out like flowering plants. The leaves of each individual fold upwards as they dry out and the chloroplasts lose the green colour. Life is on hold. With the return of moisture, a heavy dew can be sufficient, water is absorbed and life continues as if nothing has happened. Amazingly this only takes a few minutes.

Lichens have the same ability, although recovery can be slower, taking up to 20 minutes to achieve the fully functional state, (they also take longer to dry out and become dormant).

Although mosses and lichens share this ability to withstand drying, they are very different types of organisms. Mosses are simple plants with a pedigree going back to the first invasion onto land in early Devonian times (that's earlier than the rocks that make up the Cocoparra and Narrandera Ranges were first laid down). They do not have the water transporting vascular system found in ferns, conifers and flowering plants, and they only have hair-like rhizoids to anchor themselves into the ground (or other substrata) not the water and mineral seeking long roots of the higher plants.

Lichens are totally different. For a start they are a combination of a fungus and at least one algal and/or cyanobacterium (formerly called a blue-green alga). Thus we have an apparently single organism that is in fact two or three organisms from entirely separate kingdoms living in perfect symbiosis. Quite a headache for taxonomy perfectionists, but usually taken as a specialised section of the fungi (often termed 'lichenised fungi') as the fungal partner is the dominant one.

This is only a very brief introduction to these lower members of the plant community – more later.

**Eric Whiting**

**Top: Moss and lichen covered rock – Rocky Point.  
Left above: Moss *Triquetrella papillata*  
Below: Moss *Polytrichum juniperinum*  
Below left: Lichen *Xanthoparmelia semiviridis*  
Right: Coral Lichen *Cladia corollaizon***





## Bird of the Month

### RAINBOW LORIKEET

### *Trichoglossus haematodus*



Photo: Phillip Williams

It is now an established fact that this colourful, noisy and aggressive bird is part of the Griffith and environs avifauna list, and much to the distress of the local Mallee ringnecks and Galahs whose nesting sites are being usurped by these “blow-ins”. They have become ubiquitous!! Wherever you go where there are blossoming trees and shrubs they are there and the favoured roosting trees are in the grounds of the Technical College, City Park, St Albans grounds and Scenic Hill, just that I know of.

One can only assume they were escapees from someone’s aviary, maybe 6-8 years ago, as once there seemed to be an occasional sighting of an isolated flock, but now they seem to be everywhere in individual packs ravaging the local gardens. There is no doubt that they are

very pretty and a delightful addition to your environment, but behind those good looks is a squabbling vicious bird that has an extremely strong beak and a temper to match. They are honeyeaters and their tongue is adapted to rapidly lap nectar, unlike many other honeyeaters who have brush tongues. They are decidedly a sweet-tooth, but do eat seeds and insects. They nest in tree hollows between August and January.

Identification: Length: 30cm, Sexes: similar,  
Head: violet blue, Beak: red,  
Green half collar Breast: red/yellow,  
Abdomen: blue Back: green.

OTHER NAMES. Coconut Lory, Rainbow Lory, Blue-bellied lorikeet, Blue Mountain Lorikeet.

#### Sue Chittick-Dalton

**A correction** - the photo captioned Grey Goshawk on page 2 of the May issue was a Grey Falcon.

Here is a picture of a **Grey Goshawk** which was in the Mid Murray Field Naturalists newsletter (May 2014) with this small piece. Koraleigh is a small fruit growing area just over the Murray River from Nyah (where the Fields Nats is based).

Most of us bird watchers would be very happy to have a visit from an unknown Bird of Prey. Maybe not if one of your hobbies is the keeping and breeding of native birds in aviaries. The photo on the left is of a Grey Goshawk, *Accipiter novaehollandiae*, eyeing off the contents of Nance Foleys aviaries. Nance has told us that mostly Brown Goshawks, *Accipiter fasciatus*, are seen on, or close to, the bird aviaries.

The photo was taken in March at Koraleigh NSW by Nance Foley. The Grey Goshawk has not been identified very many times in the Mid Murray, and it was not been included in the Mid Murray Field Naturalists Inc published Bird List “Birds of the Mid-Murray” because of its rarity. So it is fantastic to have such a good photo to use for the purpose of identification.



#### Bitterns in Rice Project

The report on this pilot study by Matt Herring, Neil Bull and Andrew Silcocks is available from the Rural Industries Research and Development corporation website. [www.rirdc.gov.au](http://www.rirdc.gov.au)

## Galore Hill – a Quick Visit on 15 May 2014

I had to be in Wagga for an appointment at lunchtime so decided to call into Galore Hill on the way. I had just a spare hour to kill there and was suitably rewarded with a number (20 in all) of birds seen. First up at the entrance I saw a **Diamond Firetail** fly up from the ground as well as several **Brown Treecreepers**. The Eremophila plot had some flowering bushes but only **White-plumed Honeyeaters** were seen. I drove up to the intersection where the road goes up to the top of the hill and walked about. More firetails were seen and also a group of **Grey-crowned Babblers**.

With limited time, I drove up around the hill past the Grevillea patch to the picnic area at the southern base of the hill and was excited to see several pairs of both **Flame** and **Scarlet Robins** foraging along the road along with several **Speckled Warblers** and an **Eastern Yellow Robin**.

It was also interesting to see a small group of **Red-browed Firetails**. These birds had not, to my knowledge, been recorded at Galore Hill prior to 2013 and have been seen on every visit since. It would appear that they have established a breeding colony there which is encouraging.

A **Spotted Harrier** was also recorded on the way into the reserve

**Max O'Sullivan**



**Last Month's Quiz Question #4** - 'What is the connection between ancient Welshmen and Colinroobie ?' did not receive any answers – I wonder why?

The connection between Colinroobie and a Welsh tribe: The rocks around Colinroobie are of Silurian Age (436 to 408 million years ago). This geological era was named after the Welsh tribe Silures (as the Romans recorded them) who lived in mid-Wales where rocks of this period were first recognised. Interestingly Green Mallee *Eucalyptus viridis* only grows in our area wherever the Silurian rocks outcrop. One such area is on Andrew Thompson's property around his shelter shed. The bulk of the Narrandera and Cocoparra Ranges are formed from later period rocks, late Devonian.

The Silurian period was a watershed time for the Earth. Plants were just beginning to creep up onto dry land. Prior to then UV radiation onto the Earth's surface was too great. Oxygen levels in the atmosphere were beginning to increase due to the prolific growth of algae in the seas. UV light converts oxygen to ozone in the upper levels of the atmosphere which then acts as a UV shield.

**Eric Whiting**

**This Month's Quiz Question #5 is an easy one!**

The Riverina is home to 5 finch species: Diamond Firetail, Double-barred Finch, Goldfinch, Red-browed Finch and Zebra Finch.

Which of the five are not endemic to Australia - that is, not found only in Australia?

**Please send your answer to Max; phone: 6953 4726 or**

**Email: [maxosul@hotmail.com](mailto:maxosul@hotmail.com) to claim your Mars Bar.**



## Birds of the MIA 1940

Nella downloaded an old article written by K.A.Hindwood in the 1940 Emu magazine (Vol XXXIX). It had been written from reports made by a couple of groups as well as individuals in the couple of years before – one was a 1937 Gould League Camp at Kooba on the Murrumbidgee just upstream from Darlington Point and the other a 1939 RAOU Camp on the Murrumbidgee near Euroly Bridge.

It is interesting and a little shocking nowadays to note that 183 species were recorded and that “**not all of the records are based on skins; some depended on sight observations for their inclusion**” You can imagine what a furore that would cause now if 'skins' were required to confirm identification rather than mere sightings!

It was also interesting to read that “**the drainage from the irrigation canals has formed several permanent swamps, providing breeding and feeding grounds for thousands of water birds.**” Of these, Tuckerbil and Fivebough (Five Bough, as it was called then) were mentioned as the major source of the water birds on the list.

Just a few comparisons between then and now might be of interest to some readers as it is interesting to note some major differences in occurrences of species over the intervening 75 years.

- 1) **Emu:** rare and recorded from outlying areas like Binya. During the drought of 1919 several hundred were observed in one paddock and in the main street of Griffith in 1921.
- 2) **Bronze-winged Pigeon:** Apparently a rare species. A specimen was collected by McKeown from Leeton on July 30, 1922 and another at Yanco Ag. High School on September 30, 1932.
- 3) **Black Cormorant** (Great Cormorant): Rare
- 4) **Little Black Cormorant:** Not common
- 5) **Little Pied Cormorant:** Rare
- 6) **Red-necked Avocet:** Listed by Captain S.A.White in 1920 with no specific location; apparently a rare species.
- 7) **Black-shouldered Kite:** Rare although a nest was located after the RAOU campout near Stanbridge swamp on October 1, 1939 containing 2 eggs.
- 8) **Letter-winged Kite:** Observed on occasions, especially during the rice-growing season and immediately after harvest; seen December 1939 between Leeton and Yanco.
- 9) **Red-tailed Black Cockatoo:** Observed among the gum trees along the river frontage near Yanco in 1928.
- 10) **Eastern Rosella:** Rare with only three birds seen.
- 11) **Orange Chat:** Fairly generally distributed, though not in large numbers. F. Barrett reports that “This species nests in the citrus trees on my farm at Corbie Hill, and may be seen throughout the year”.
- 12) **Mistletoebird:** Apparently a rare species in the area. Two records only; one at Leeton on September 3, 1924 (McKeown) and by the Gould League in 1938.
- 13) **Regent Honeyeater:** A specimen was collected by Captain S.A.White in September, 1931, and McKeown lists a specimen from North Yanco on October 2, 1921.

All very interesting reading when you consider how much things have changed over the years. With no more drainage water going into swamplands in the district, we now have to rely on environmental water to keep swamps like Tuckerbil and Nericon with sufficient water at various times during the year in order to attract water birds to remain in the area.

It is also interesting to see that some of the birds mentioned were 'rare' back then but are plentiful now yet others like Orange Chats and Red-tailed Black Cockatoos are all but gone from the area.

### Max O’Sullivan

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*****
**      July newsletter      **
**      Eric and I are heading up to Queensland mid month so will not be available to do the next **
**      newsletter.          **
**      Penny has offered to step in and take up the challenge so please send your contributions to **
**      her in good time. Email: murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com, phone: 6953 3524. **
**
*****
```

## Hong Kong Birding

Well it was a just a week away sightseeing, not a bird trip ... but ... Max said "Hong Kong is great for birding", so I had to at least take the bins with me and have a quick look.

Birding in a foreign land is a challenge. Where do you look? When is the best time? How do you even get there by train? Where is the bus stop? And you have to start from scratch with the actual birds. A Starling there is not much like a Starling here. And how many different Sparrows do you need before you hock the bins and take up lawn bowls instead?



So it is like you are a beginner all over again, just like when I first took up birding and spent an hour trying to identify the bird in the neighbour's yard, which I finally decided was a Starling!

In search of the bird guide at the HKBWS shop we travelled across the city by underground, asked directions, walked up the backstreets, found a street number, down thru the

loading bay, up the back lift, along the corridor and there it was – the needle in the haystack – and reading the book later I found that the main sales outlet was a block from our hotel in North Point.



The urban birding was surprisingly good, I guess the birds get used to the crowds, and I spent two hours with the "grey bearded bulbuls" on their weekly outing in Hong Kong Park, a spot of green by the skyscrapers. Mostly common birds but all new to me so I was constantly in my book. Even on the fourth storey roof of the IFC Mall where we relaxed with wine and nibbles I found seven species resident. By the main ferry terminal I saw Great Egret and Black-crowned Night Heron. Black Kites were common over the waters.



A little out of town by train and bus I visited Tai Po Kau NR. "...

this is often a frustrating area as many birds are heard but not seen." Yep, tick that comment from the guide so I finally resorted to searching for fungi. Plus they said avoid it on weekends as the photographers are a plague, but Saturday was the first day of no rain, so I went anyway. I only saw two and a half birds, but they were good ones, and it was only the swarm of photographers around an insignificant lifeless tree stump that suggested that a bird was even in the area – a Yellow-cheeked Tit feeding a nest as it turned out. Prior to that a Blue-and-white Flycatcher (*cumatilis*) was very nice,

and lastly glimpses of a Speckled Piculet (a tiny woodpecker) which is very rare in HK.

There are excellent marsh areas which I did not visit. Max was correct as usual, HK is good birding, and it is an easy place to get around but you need a week for that, as well as another week for sightseeing. For the serious birder you need to plan as there is a strong seasonal and migratory trend in Hong Kong, but then the serious birder would already know that.

Neil Palframan

**Photos from top:**  
**Black-collared Starling on the IFC Mall roof**  
**I think the birding shop is here somewhere**  
**Black-crowned Night Heron by the Star Ferry terminal**  
**Waiting for the Yellow-cheeked Tit at Tai Po Kau NR**  
**Fungi watching is easier!**





# MEMBERS' SIGHTINGS

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

<b>Little Eagle</b>	Karri Rd Leeton	30/04/14	Barry Allen
<b>Scarlet Robin</b>	Wagga Wagga	04/05/14	Penny Williams
<b>Greenhood Orchid</b> [many]	The Rock	04/05/14	Nella Smith
<b>Ground Cuckoo-Shrike</b> [2]	Koonadan Rd Leeton	07/05/14	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Laughing Kookaburra</b> [6]	Karri Rd Leeton on power lines	08/05/14	Barry Allen
<b>Rainbow Lorikeet</b> [50+]	Gordon Ave Griffith	09/05/14	June Sell
<b>*Australian Painted Snipe</b> [2]	Fivebough Wetlands	11/05/14	Keith Hutton
The birds remained at Fivebough for about 10 days. Keith saw them again on 18/5.			
<b>Red-necked Avocet</b> [9]	Fivebough Wetlands	11/05/14	Keith Hutton
<b>Scarlet Robin</b>	Five Mile Narrandera	11/05/14	Nella Smith
<b>Superb Parrot</b> [1 male]	Wattle Hill Leeton	14/05/14	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Glossy Black Cockatoo</b>	Narrandera Rd flying over from the river	14/05/14	Neville James
<b>Flame Robin</b> [5]	On road to Barry Heihr's property	17/05/14	Nella Smith
<b>Olive-backed Oriole</b>	Barry Heihr's property	17/05/14	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Olive-backed Oriole</b>	Narrandera Koala Count	18/05/14	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Musk Lorikeet</b> [2]	Cherry Ave Parkview Leeton	21/05/14	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Black-winged Stilt</b> [100+]	Fivebough Wetlands in flight	21/05/14	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Major Mitchell's Cockatoo</b> [61]	Binya State Forest -southern section	25/05/14	Neil Palframan
<b>Superb Parrot</b> [5]	Fivebough Wetlands flying over	25/05/14	Keith Hutton
<b>White-bellied Sea-Eagle</b> [Imm]	Fivebough Wetlands	25/05/14	Keith Hutton
<b>Turquoise Parrot</b> [male]	The winery site Binya	27/05/14	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Bar-shouldered Dove</b> [8]	The winery site on power lines	27/05/14	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Double-barred Finch</b> [4]	The winery site Binya	27/05/14	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Rainbow Lorikeet</b> [1]	Cherry Ave Parkview Leeton	28/05/14	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Noisy Friarbird</b> [2]	Cherry Ave Parkview	30/05/14	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Goldfinch</b> [20+]	Fivebough Wetlands	31/05/14	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Glossy Ibis</b> [1]	Fivebough Wetlands	31/05/14	Max O'Sullivan
<b>White-bellied Sea-Eagle</b>	Fivebough Wetlands	31/05/14	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Little Eagle</b>	Fivebough Wetlands	31/05/14	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Brolga</b> [9]	Quodling Rd near Fivebough	31/05/14	Max O'Sullivan
<b>Water Rat</b>	Fivebough on bank opposite the hide	31/03/14	Max O'Sullivan
<b>King Parrot</b> [2]	Gordon Ave Griffith	31/05/14	June Sell
<b>Common Bronzewing Pigeon</b>	Fivebough Wetlands – unusual sighting	05/06/14	Max O'Sullivan

## Fivebough and Tuckerbil Update

The final draft of the Adaptive Management Plan has been received from the consultant. The advisory committee has given itself until 10 June to give their comments prior to accepting it as a working document. The rush of course is to facilitate getting funding from this year's round. I cannot give my comments yet as I am still going through it.

Although the intention is to have all the tracks rebuilt to a standard that would better resist major floods and also be wide enough to allow mechanical maintenance, the tracks have been slashed or sprayed to open then up all round. Also a certain amount of work has been done to make walking them easier. In addition there is now a shorter loop cleared for use.

It was noted that the flood stayed around long enough to decimate the Couch grass down to only scattered small individual plants. Hopefully spring growth will be rapid enough to produce a decent ground cover for the waders.

Eric Whiting

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

- 12 June Thursday**      **Monthly Meeting** the Yellow Room at **Leeton Library**,  
Sycamore St., Leeton, commencing at 7:30pm  
**Topic: Hong Kong trip with Neil Palframan and Johanna Botman**  
**Contact:** Penny Williams 6953 3524  
**Email:** [murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com)
- 14 June Saturday**      **Billenbah National Park, Innisfail Rd and adjacent forest areas.**  
Meet at the Leeton Post Office at 9:00am  
Bring morning tea and lunch,  
Contact: Max O'Sullivan if intending to come on 6953 4726  
**NOTE change of day**
- 29 June Sunday**      **Campbell's Swamp**  
Meet at Campbell's carpark at 9:00am  
Bring morning tea.  
Contact: Max O'Sullivan if intending to come on 6953 4726
- 2 July Wednesday**      **Copy for the July newsletter is due.** Please send to Penny –  
Email: [murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com). Phone: 6953 3524.
- 10 July Thursday**      **Monthly Meeting** the Yellow Room at **Leeton Library**,  
Sycamore St., Leeton, commencing at 7:30pm  
**Topic: TBA**  
**Contact:** Penny Williams 6953 3524  
**Email:** [murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com)
- 13 July Sunday**      **Barry Hehir's property**  
Meet at the Leeton Post Office at 9:00am  
Bring morning tea and lunch.  
Contact: Max O'Sullivan if intending to come on 6953 4726
- 27 July Sunday**      **GPS instruction in the field – Cocoparra National Park with**  
**Stephen Thornton. To be confirmed.**  
Meet at the Whitton Stock Route / Burley Griffin Highway  
crossroads at 9:00am  
Bring morning tea and lunch,  
Contact: Max O'Sullivan if intending to come on 6953 4726  
**NOTE change of date**
- 14 August Thursday**      **Monthly Meeting - this will probably be held in Griffith.**  
**Topic: David Egan on his surveys of the Red-lored Whistler at**  
**Round Hill**  
**Contact:** Penny Williams 6953 3524  
**Email:** [murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:murrumbidgeefieldnaturalists@gmail.com)

## **Membership subscriptions are due on the 30<sup>th</sup> June**

The membership renewal date of the 30<sup>th</sup> June has rolled around again ever so quickly.

Please send your money to the Treasurer, Phil Tenison, promptly to PO Box 541, Leeton, NSW 2705 or make a bank transfer to the MFN's bank account. It is the BSB 062 564, A/c 10039396. (Commonwealth Bank), Don't forget to note your name so Phil can identify it on the Bank Statement.

Any queries Phil can be contacted on 02 69 534869.

Annual subscription rates are currently:-

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