



WAG tales

Newsletter of the
Lachlan Fold Wildlife Action Group

Issue #3 October 2012

Mission Statement
To create a sustainable habitat for our native species, particularly the Glossy Black Cockatoo and other threatened species.

Birds of the Bush Festival Rankins Springs



Pictured above: The Mayor addressing the crowd before he cut the ribbon to officially open the sculpture. The placement of this sculpture on the Mid-Western Highway should encourage travellers to stop and also alert people to the plight of the Glossy Black, which most people have never heard of and even less have actually seen.

Congratulations to the Birds of the Bush committee on the wonderful festival that was held on the second weekend in October. From the brilliant, dramatic production of Richard 111, staged by the Griffith and Regional Association of the Performing Arts Inc. (GRAPA) under the stars on Friday evening, to the market day on Sunday, the weekend was one to remember.

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Saturday afternoon saw the opening of the magnificent public art installation in the Allan James Park. A crowd of interested spectators witnessed the Mayor of Carrathool Shire, Cr. Peter Laird, cut the ribbon to open the sculpture, which had three glossy blacks that 'fly' in the wind.

The opening of the Birds of the Bush weekend and awarding of prizes for the art and photography competition was held in the Rankins Springs War Memorial Hall on Saturday evening. The standard of the art and photography was very high and everyone enjoyed the celebration with champagne and finger food while they viewed the exhibition. The winners of the most outstanding artwork and photograph were Michelle Harpley from Griffith and Lorraine Williams from West Wyalong respectively.

The Lachlan Fold WAG's catered for the camp fire dinner at the Golf Club on Saturday night. It was well attended and we got some great feedback about the food and the weekend in general. A very big thank you to all the members that cooked, donated food and worked to make it such a successful event.

Following the dinner and campfire, Wally Lamont took the kids on a Ghost Tour and from all accounts it was very exciting and scary. Apparently there were lots of 'ghosts' around, one almost being captured by the enthusiastic children. It seems to have been a big hit with the kids. Thanks to Wally for leading this adventure.

The all day bird tour left from the hall in Rankins Springs at 9 am on Saturday morning and arrived back in time for the opening of the artwork. Jim Caughey drove the bus, which went out to Lake Ballyrogan via Lake Cargelligo. Many bird species were sighted and the bird watchers were very happy with their day. The early morning bird tour on Sunday was well attended by enthusiastic birders. They were so involved in their birding that Jim had to come back to the hall and pick up some lunch for them as they didn't want to interrupt their birdwatching.

It was a beautiful warm sunny day for breakfast in the park, the P & C fun run and the Birds of the Bush Market Day. About 40 runners took part in the fun run and competition in each category was well contested. The winner of the women's 10 km run was Glenys Curphy with Tony Gullo taking out the men's. Local Champions for the 10 km runs were Richard Argent-Smith and Cheryl Glyde and for the 5 km runs Sabrina Finch and Robert Castle.

The children's activities were busy all day with lots of kids having fun on the Lions Club train rides, the jumping castle and there were beautifully painted faces everywhere. The baby animal farmyard was enjoyed by all the kids who

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Richard 111



Birds of the Bush Festival



Above: Crs. Jim Caughey, Peter Laird, Mick Armstrong with Julie Groat, Melinda Roberts-Kelly and Wally Lamont after the opening.



Above: The sculpture, which features the beautiful Glossy Black Cockatoo and is titled "Resilience" to depict the ability of these birds to survive against the odds. The sculpture was created by John Woods from Wagga.



Kids at the market day having fun doing the chicken dance.

loved getting up close and personal with the animals.

This year there were over 20 stalls with everything from books to chooks for sale. The stalls were busy, especially the food stalls with everyone reporting a profit for the days work.

The tour out to the old hotel was once again

one of the highlights of the weekend with everyone very interested in the history of the old hotel especially the fact that the hotel was an important stop over and rest stop for the Cobb & Co. Coaches as well as drovers and those that travelled from north of Rankins Springs onto the Murray River and Melbourne.

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Well known local football identity, Matt Groat, helps Birds of the Bush Treasurer, Amanda Townsend, draw the raffle. Matt plays for the West Tigers



Robert Castle, local champion of the 5km run displaying the unique perpetual trophy



Dedicated WAG's Secretary, Linda Thomas, caught leaving her post where she was promoting the LFWAG's and their activities, to get a bit of sustenance. Linda did a great job on the day and manned the WAG's information table all day. Thanks Linda for a great job.



Birds of the Bush Co-ordinator, Melinda Roberts-Kelly presenting Jeanie Parslow and her two boys, Seamus and Owen, with one of the raffle prizes

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The entertainment at the market day was really cheerful and bright and gave the day a festive ambience. Sue-Ellen got everyone involved and there was dancing and singing for all to enjoy.

The MC for the day was Carl Chirgwin from Griffith and Carl did a great job keeping everyone informed of times for events and tours as well as advertising for the stall holders.

It was a really great weekend. Each year it just gets better and better. It will be a signature event that everyone will want to come to in the years ahead. Congratulations to everyone involved.

The dates for next year are the 12th, 13th & 14th October, 2013.



Photography & Art Co-ordinator, Ellen Walker with Mayor Peter Laird and Griffith Showgirl, Claire Walker at the opening of the Birds of the Bush



The festive scene at the market day



One of the colourful stalls at the market day with lots of goods for sale



The morning and afternoon tea room was a popular spot for people to catch up and have a break.



Pictured left: The hallway of the old hotel with visitors inspecting the ruin. The hotel is situated near the original site of the 'springs'.



Judges for the Photography and Art competitions, Louise Miller (left) and Joanna Wood

Pictured right: Brian & Jason Richards' truck with the Lions Club Train loaded ready for the trip back to Leeton. Thanks to Brian and Jason for helping out with transport for the train.





Local historian, Jean Guiton, showing some of the visitors the old pub photos when it was in its heyday



The activity in the kitchen at the Golf Club when the LFWAG's catered for the camp fire dinner



The all day bird tour about to board the bus before leaving Rankins Springs to travel to Lake Cargelligo and Lake Ballyrogan



*Pictured left: Brian Beazley, entertaining the crowd at the camp fire.
Right: Fun Run Organiser and local P&C President, Richard Argent-Smith checks his watch at the finish of the 10 km run*





From the Secretary

I hope the newsletter will update everyone in lieu of a meeting. As soon as harvest is over and things quieten down a little we will schedule a meeting.

Gus Arnott is now organising a seed collection workshop to be held at Lake Cowal Conservation Centre for 7 groups from around the area. They are hoping for maybe 2 people to represent each group at the training day. I am keen to be one of our representatives but if anyone else is keen we can certainly work something out. They have offered a proposal where we would get paid to attend training and to collect seed and another for 4 days of cleaning seed, educating others, school involvement. There is significant funding available for anyone keen to be involved but you must commit to collecting the seed as well.

Whilst on the topic of seed collection and propagation Carl Chirgwin, who was on the PA at the Birds of the Bush Festival and is an agriculture teacher at Griffith High School, was very excited about the Glossy Black project and the opportunity to get his students involved in our group. He thought students may be able to help with seed collecting and planting out for starters, with some possibilities arising for habitat assessment surveys and nest box construction. We'll be able to discuss this at the next meeting. Carl's father, Larry Chirgwin, owns Coleambally Saltbush Nursery and has offered to grow some seedlings out for us as well. He has a gas chamber to improve seedling germination. If anyone is interested in saltbush, Larry's phone number is 02 6954 4215.

Lachlan CMA girls, Andrea Cashmere and Angela Higgins, brought lots of giveaways to the market day during Birds of the Bush including 200 Drooping She-Oak trees, which have hopefully been planted on many people's properties around the area. There were 25 trees remaining at the end of the day (despite an odd touse or two), which they donated to LFWAG. We were planning to plant them out when we have our seed collection workshop...yes, they are still alive and looking happy! Thankyou ladies (and LCMA)!!

Murrumbidgee CMA has kindly agreed to grant us \$1000 for start-up costs including website development, newsletters, posters and maps. Thankyou MCMA.

The fundraising dinner for the Birds of the Bush festival reportedly went very well with 69 adults, 10 kids and 7 pre-schoolers being catered for. Many people donated casseroles, ingredients, money and most of all time to make the evening a success. Thanks to Jenny Caughey and Penny Black and their band of merry workers!!

The market day stall for LFWAG Inc. was a great success on Sunday, with some new contacts made and

maybe a new member or two.

I had a phone call from a salesman at Nifty Lifting Equipment last week regarding two second hand cherry pickers, which had come in (I'd spoken to Michael previously about the possibilities and prices of cherry pickers). He had a 2006 model, 12 metre machine, dual powered for \$15,000 + GST or a 2005 model for \$13,000 + GST. Both machines were previously owned by hire companies and would have a few years left on them before their OHS permits expire and a major inspection would be required. Unfortunately, we will need to wait until April/May at the earliest before we will have any idea whether we are successful in our grant application and we are able to start investigating the purchase of a cherry picker. We have a hire proposition detailed through Coates hire in Griffith if funding should point us in that direction... (we had to have all prices, and quotes in place for the grant application process). Throughout the course of the conversation with Michael I asked if a sponsorship proposal would be a possibility from Nifty ie hire of a cherry picker...they are interested but will take a little time to decide.

Following an application to the Australian Tax Office for an Income Tax Exempt Fund I received a phone call from Georgina Jones (our caseworker) at the ATO for more information regarding the group and the regulations involved in Income Tax Exempt Fund. It involves modifying our constitution (through a group meeting) and a few other details, which will mean a bit more research. It is something that most likely needs setting up through an accountant – or someone who can decipher Tax terminology....any suggestions? Without a meeting on the horizon, I think we are best to withdraw the application and reapply when we have it a bit better sorted.

For those who haven't heard, we were unsuccessful with our application to Canon for binoculars for our group members, maybe next time.

On a more positive note, Mark Dwyer was speaking to Peter O'Shannassy, Head Ranger for Livestock Health and Pest Authority (LHPA), who is based at Corowa Office, which covers this area. Peter received significant Federal Government funding 'To Improve Biodiversity on Travelling Stock Routes'. Peter has been working with Ian Davidson (Private environmental consultant who also conducted the Crown Land Survey of Glossy Black Cockatoo Habitat last November) to undertake surveys across 25 sites initially around the Moulamein area. After discussions with Mark, he is keen to move the survey area to include Rankins Springs TSR's in the initial surveys and get some nesting boxes installed on those sites for Glossy's. He is also removing invasive species and direct seeding sites according to the survey results from Ian Davidson's reports. We hope to work with Peter and Ian on the Glossy Black Cockatoo aspect of the project and maybe get some survey technique tips from Ian while he's in the area.

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From the Editor

My apologies for this edition of the newsletter being so late. When the end of October arrived I had several commitments and so had to prioritise and unfortunately the BAS won the

contest.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that cooked, donated money, ingredients or food as well as those that helped out for the WAG's catering of the Birds of the Bush Camp Fire dinner. We had lots of lovely comments and feedback, which was really nice. It should also have been a financially gratifying project.

In this issue there is a lot on the very successful Birds of the Bush Festival. If you were unlucky enough to miss this great weekend maybe WAG tales will fill some of the gaps. Don't forget to put it in your diary for next year.

Cheers,

Jenny

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Kimberley Beattie (Landcare Facilitator) has been keeping me well informed of a number of events including a visit to the area from the Environmental Defenders Office that is doing workshops, free of charge and are looking for anyone interested in attending or topics of interest to this area. Please call or email Kimberley on 0269 530 456 or kbeattie@murrumbidgeelandcare.asn.au

Kimberley has also forwarded a Focus Group Invitation for the group or individuals called "**Healthier places, healthier people: Understanding the role of NRM policy in achieving wellbeing**", which aims to understand how natural resource management (NRM) policies activities influence the health and wellbeing of landholders, their families and the communities they live in. NRM includes everything from national policies such as the proposed Murray-Darling Basin Plan, to landcare groups and farmers carrying out their own activities such as fencing or tree planting on their property. The research will help identify how to design NRM policies and programs so they improve health and wellbeing in farming communities, and minimise negative impacts on wellbeing resulting from them. It is voluntary but they aim to work with existing groups and you get a \$50 gift card for your efforts. It takes approximately 1-2 hours and is an excellent opportunity to have a say in Government policies - past and present! Should we schedule one for end of January/early Feb?

I think that is about all I have to offer for the moment.

Happy Harvesting to all those with grain dust in the blood.

Linda

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

URGENT

SEED COLLECTION PROGRAM

An opportunity for LFWAG members to participate in a seed collection workshop/ TAFE course provided by LCMA is available.

Please see pages 11 and 12 of this newsletter for more information. If you are interested please ring or email Linda ASAP
0269726253 or
glgubbata@activ8.net.au



MEETING

The next meeting won't be held until after harvest. Members will be informed as soon as a date is set.

Watch this space!!

REMINDER

To send your photos, bird sightings, stories and information for **WAG tales** to Jenny
Deadline for next newsletter is the 30th November

ADVERTISING

If any one has businesses or anything relevant to the aims and objectives of the LFWAG and would like to advertise in WAG tales, please send details to Jenny, email james.caughey@bigpond.com or telephone 02 6965 3384 or send a fax on 02 6965 3381

MEMBERSHIPS

Membership has been set at \$10 per person or \$20 a family per annum Payable to the Treasurer, Jim Caughey



Take care of the earth and it will take care of you.



Glossy Black Cockatoo Sightings

A reminder to report any sightings of Glossy Blacks to Rodney 6966 1295 for those living in the south of the Lachlan Fold and to Jenny 6965 3384 for those in the north



These five glossy blacks were photographed by Jenny Caughey on the 14th October. They had come into drink at a small dam on Knockalong. The three on the left are a family group with the middle one being a juvenile.



*The young glossy black begging for food. It did this for quite some time, trying both parents.
Typical childlike behaviour.*

Opportunities for Community Environmental Outreach in Murrumbidgee Catchment

Kimberley Beattie, Lower Murrumbidgee Regional Landcare Facilitator, has advised that the Environmental Defenders Office is considering conducting some FREE community workshops on environmental law in our area. Topics people may be interested in include tree clearing legislation as well as other issues relating to the environment. If you are interested please contact Linda ASAP and let her know when the most suitable time for a workshop and any issues that you are interested in. Linda 02 6972 6253 Email: glgubbata@activ8.net.au



Community Group Seed Collection Project.

The Lachlan CMA is looking for community group members who would be interested in being paid to both be trained in and collect native seed for direct seeding into local projects.

What we are offering?

We have support to pay people for up to 18 days of seed collection activities including:

- 10 days of paid seed collection
- 4 days of paid training in seed collection (Certificate II)
- 4 days community activity which may include helping other groups such as schools, preparing sites for direct seeding or other approved activities that assist the project.

The groups will also receive a seed collection starter kit including:

- Collection equipment including: loppers, secateurs, sieves, data collection sheets, tarps, buckets etc
- Electronic copy of the "Mid Lachlan Revegetation Guide."
- A copy of "Plants of Western NSW"
- GPS if the group does not have one.
- OH&S Equipment including hard hat, gloves, sunscreen etc
- Support for person to attend 1st aid training if they do not have their certificate.
- A trip to the Murray CMA to have a look at both their seed bank (3.5tonne of seed in storage!) as well as their direct seeding (3000km per year!)

We also have support for helping with the preparation of a local site such as fencing, and ground preparation.



Catchment Management
Authority
Lachlan

2 Sheriff Street, Forbes NSW 2871
Tel: 02 6851 9500 Fax: 02 6851 6991
www.lachlan.cma.nsw.gov.au
Follow us on twitter @lachlanema or
like Lachlan CMA on facebook



Where's all the seed going?

We would like your group to identify a project in your local area that would be suitable to direct seed or plant out with propagated seed. You may be able to work in with a local school, other community groups or even organise a local farmer who may have a site. The Lachlan CMA may be able to assist with organising direct seeding if required. Seed that is left over may be stored in the storage facilities at Grenfell or we have a number of farmers in the area who are looking for seed to revegetate areas on their properties.

Training?

The first training day is on the **26th of November** at the Lake Cowal Conservation Centre near West Wyalong. We are limited to 7 groups so it will be on a first in first served basis. Your group would need to identify someone to attend this training as well as 3 follow up sessions, (locations for further training days will be discussed on the day with the aim to tailor it to suit your group).

What's the rate?

The Lachlan CMA will pay your group \$300 per day for a person to carry out the training and collection activities. The nominated person would be paid through your community group. We would encourage the group to send two people, the second person would receive the training and trip to Murray CMA for free. (Groups may choose to split the money between the two members if they choose but both then must undertake all the activities) The \$300 would need to cover any other expenses incurred that we have not mentioned such as travel assistance. Groups must also have their own insurance that covers these activities.

How to get involved?

Call Gus Arnott (soon as the first day is on the 26th of November!)

P: 02 6341 9322

M: 0419 489 529

E: angus.arnott@cma.nsw.gov.au



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