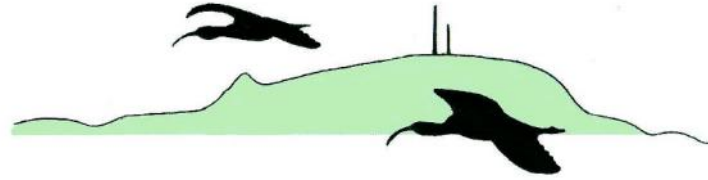


ORANGE FIELD NATURALIST AND CONSERVATION SOCIETY Inc



NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2022

NEXT MEETING

Thursday 11th August, 7.30 pm.

By Zoom

Saving Our Threatened Plants in the Central West.

Speaker – Terry Mazzer, Senior Threatened Species Officer, Department of Planning and Environment, Dubbo.

Committee Meeting, 6.30pm. By Zoom.

Excursion

Sunday 14th August

Curumbenya Section, Goobang National Park.

Details below

Next Meeting – Thursday 11th August, 7.30 pm, **by Zoom.**

Saving Our Threatened Plants in the Central West. Speaker – Terry Mazzer, Senior Threatened Species Officer, Department of Planning and Environment, Dubbo.

Under the Saving our Species program Terry has responsibility for co-ordinating a number of projects for threatened plants in the Central West, and other species in the North West. He will discuss the programs conserving Giles' Prostanthera, *Prostanthera gilesii*, and Silver-leaf Candlebark, *Eucalyptus canobolensis*, at Mt Canobolas. Also, Mountain Trachymene, *Trachymene scapigera*, south of Oberon, the newly rediscovered Leafless Indigo, *Indigofera efoliata*, at Geurie, the Granite Zieria, *Zieria obcordata*, at Wellington and Bathurst and the Barradam-bang wattle, *Acacia meiantha*, at Orange and Lithgow. Terry gave a similar talk at the Botanic Gardens on 18th June however this talk will include more scientific information and two additional species.

The Zoom link will be emailed to members a few days beforehand.

Next Excursion – Sunday 14th August. Curumbenya Section, Goobang National Park. Meet at Orange High School Bus Bay at 9.00 am.

Like in July this excursion will be to a place that OFNCS has not visited recently, if ever. It is a Callitris woodland section of Goobang National Park to the west of Cumnock. There are shrubby and rocky areas that we will explore. Little River Landcare held a fungi foray there in May. The diversity of fungi species was greater than in Mt Canobolas SCA.



Fungi Foray participants at Curumbenya. Photo Rosemary Stapleton.

The route is through Cumnock and Baldry and onto the Renshaw McGirr Way. Total distance is about 100kms to the start of a fire trail. We'll park just off the road and explore the forest. 4WD is not needed.

Bring morning tea and lunch. Wear sturdy footwear and long pants as there will be some uneven ground. We will aim to leave the site by 3.00 pm. People can return by the same route or travel on to Parkes and return via the Bumberry Section of Goobang to see if any orchids are out and then to Manildra and Orange.

You will be responsible for the Covid safety of yourself and others who come along. Please do not attend if feeling sick or if you have been a

close contact in the week beforehand. It is up to the driver and passengers to agree on carpooling and whether masks need to be worn.

Last Talk: Birds, plants, and passion for nature in Conimbla and Gooloogong .

Speakers – Jayden Gunn, Central NSW Woodland Birds Project Coordinator for BirdLife Australia and Tracee Burke, Farmer, Mid-Lachlan Landcare Coordinator and Landcare Volunteer.

Text Rosemary Stapleton.

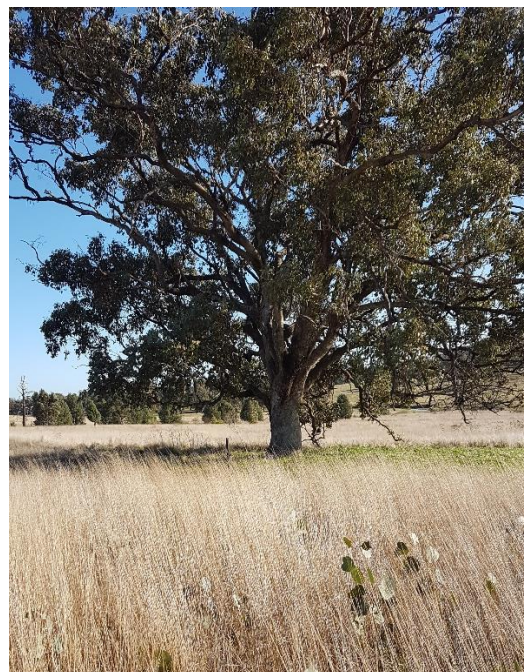
Tracee and Jayden’s enthusiasm and passion for nature was obvious and inspiring. Field Nats members were very lucky to have them travel to Orange to talk to us.

Perhaps a little nervously Tracee started by assuring us that Gooloogong was the centre of the universe and not Orange! She and her husband moved from the Illawarra to Goolie to follow their dream to be farmers and to have land to care for. In 2011 they started at ‘Burkesway’ and were introduced to Kangaroooby Catchment Landcare. This property is near the river and has rocky outcrops of Callitris. Dry years in 2013/14 were bad and their dams dried up. They were managing the land as it had been managed for 100 years and realised they had to work out a way of doing things differently. With the help of mentors their farming practices changed.



Tracee (in pink) and Ruth (left) with Landcare locals enjoying the ‘centre of the universe’ at Gooloogong. Photo Mikla Lewis.

Eucalypt regrowth and paddock trees were fenced, and internal fencing allows paddocks to be grazed strategically. Tracee showed examples of the huge changes that have resulted, and not just in the fenced off areas. The plants responded from the seedbank in the soil with fringe and chocolate lilies, *Microtis* orchids and different grass species appearing. *Glycine* is spreading out of the fenced areas and *Teucrium daucooides* has been found as well as a threatened Pink Tailed Worm Lizard.



Paddock tree and regrowth on better managed Burkesway. Photo Tracee Burke.

Even though Tracee and Phil seemed to have enough on their hands they wanted to run cattle, so they bought the 1,000-acre property ‘Abercorn’. And just for an extra challenge they took on the grazing lease of a nearby bush area because of its biodiversity. These areas are in a valley with Conimbla National Park almost next door. ‘Abercorn’ was quite rundown with 2 badly eroded creeks, lots of blackberries and many feral species (such as goats, deer, pigs, foxes) and even trespassers and shooters. The improvements started by taking out over 400 feral goats and fencing and planting 1.5 kms of creek frontage.

Along with managing these farms Tracee shared with us some of the work she does as a Landcare volunteer with her good friend Ruth Workman. They started as seed collectors with the old CMA and collect seed for the Weddin Community Nursery. This now includes *Allocasuarina* seeds for the Glossy Black Cockatoo project with the aim of planting these food trees in the ranges. They are identifying and documenting plants and on seeing photos of some of the special plants in their area, Dick helped out with extra information on species including *Prostanthera*, *Hakea*, *Grevillea* and *Boronia*. Their orchid passion started when Mikla pointed out a tiny flower of *Genoplesium* sp. Their mission is to find all the orchid species in the area and showcase them on the Mid-Lachlan Landcare site. I’ll be keeping my eye out for their sightings of the Small Duck Orchid, *Caleana minor*, and try to go and see it.

(Editor's note - I wonder what an orchid 'twitch' is called?)



Small Duck Orchid. Photo Tracee Burke.

Tracee has made a promise to improve biodiversity on their farms. Her presentation demonstrated she is well on the way to achieving this. And who wouldn't be passionate about nature and the simple life at Gooloogong when you can have a family of Grey-crowned Babblers at your bathroom window like Tracee has?

Jayden then gave a brief overview of his work as Birdlife Australia's Central NSW Woodland Bird Project Coordinator. The target species of the project are Hooded Robin, Turquoise Parrot, and Brown Treecreeper. Jayden has set up 55 2-hectare sites on private and public land and is busy doing quarterly surveys on them. With landholders he is undertaking re-ageing works to improve habitat for woodland birds in an effort to bring back healthy ecosystems. His focus areas are around Conimbla and Nangar National Parks. Another aspect is to manage over abundant populations of the hyper aggressive Noisy Miner, which are a key threatening process, especially for these target species. When asked Jayden said this was done by shooting. He has noticed that the density of woodland birds improves when the Miner numbers drop below a threshold however it doesn't take long for them to return. The education component of the project is to improve public awareness of woodland birds and their demise and promote the protection and enhancement of their habitat.

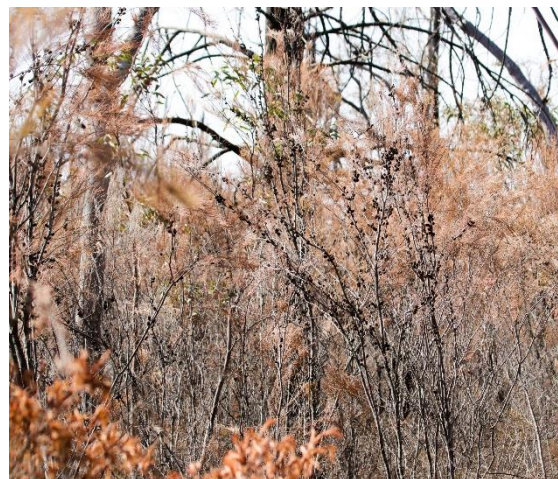
Jayden said he was part of [Intrepid Landcare](#), that is about providing a common space to inspire, connect and empower young people to do stuff that matters. It certainly seems a good connection for Jayden as he then talked about his passion for Glossy Black Cockatoos. This started when he first saw some Glossies in

Conimbla National Park. He was so fascinated he felt he had to go and get binoculars and a camera to see and record them. An amazing experience was seeing up to 100 birds in an area in Conimbla in 2013.



Glossy Black Cockatoo. Photo Jayden Gunn.

Jayden shared his knowledge of Glossies with us including ID pointers, feeding, watering, and breeding behaviour. The Glossies are specialist feeders, almost exclusively on She-oak species, more particularly *Allocasuarina* varieties. They have specific individual feed trees, and their long digestive tracks helps maximize their protein and oil intake from the seeds.



Allocasuarina feed trees that died in the drought in Conimbla NP. Photo Jayden Gunn.

He talked of the impact of the recent drought on the population in Conimbla. It was thought to have been 200-300 breeding birds but due to the loss of feed trees he thought the number had declined to 150-200 birds. They were so desperate he observed Glossies feeding on species they don't generally feed on, such as Black Cypress. This led to the birds losing the glossiness of their feathers. Other than drought the threats to the birds include bushfire, poaching, land clearing, habitat fragmentation, a small gene pool, infectious disease, and predation from over abundant native and

introduced predators. Let's hope this species survives the difficult times ahead so Jayden and all of us can enjoy such a beautiful species.



Jayden overlooking the gorge in his favourite Conimbla National Park.

Thank you, Tracee and Jayden, for sharing your passion and enthusiasm for nature with us. As a gesture of appreciation and support OFNCS donated \$50 to Mid-Lachlan Landcare to support the rehabilitation work.

Last Excursion: Sunday 14th August
Crown Land, Healeys Road, Gooloogong.

Report by R Stapleton, with help from all there.

Wow...what a wonderful new location to explore. Thanks to Tracee for suggesting it and to Jayden for guiding us on the day. It was an excellent follow-up to their talks.

We met Jayden at Gooloogong and he led us south down Kangaroo Road towards Conimbla National Park. Fifteen minutes later we turned into Healeys Road and after crossing a small creek pulled off the dirt road where the Crown Land starts. The locals' strategy to discourage intruders was to put up different signs and we gathered under one of them for the group photo. Dick kindly agreed to compile a plant list for the area for the local Kangaroo Landcare Group.

Our first walk was along the road beside Hunters Creek as it wound through Hunters Gorge. The sun was out and there was no wind however the birds were quiet. We quickly spread out with the birders ahead and those of us interested in plants wandering along behind. The wet season meant there were mosses, liverworts, and small ferns everywhere. Just beyond another creek crossing Eastern Yellow Robins held the photographer's attention. Walking back, I became confused by the persistent call of several Spotted Pardalotes until I realised that one was Jayden's call

encouraging one of these tiny birds in so we could have a closer look.

Some of us had a relaxed lunch beside the creek while Jayden and Nigel explored the slope to the south that was covered in open Callitris woodland. They were rewarded with sightings of a Speckled Warbler and a female Scarlet Robin. Jayden said that he hadn't seen this species here before.



Speckled Warbler. Photo Nigel Hobden.

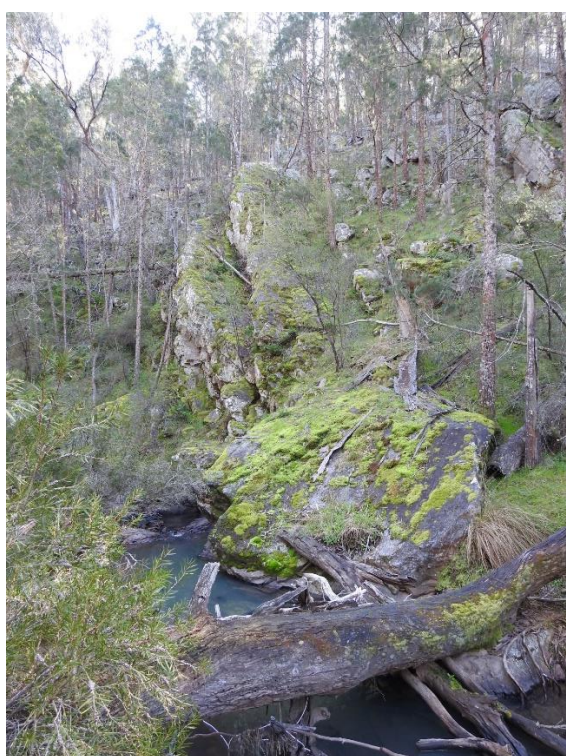
After lunch, with encouragement from Nigel, we all walked up the slope to look at clumps of flowering *Acianthus collinus*, the Hooded Mosquito Orchid, and *Diplodium clavigerum*, the Dwarf Greenhood (formerly *Pterostylis nana*). Their leaves and rosettes were abundant and scattered everywhere. Hai enjoyed seeing so many in flower. John commented that his lesson for the day was 'how to spot an inconspicuous orchid'. I think getting a good photo on his phone was another matter. The Mosquito Orchids prompted debate as some of the leaves were quite small and we wondered if they might be another species. Dick later confirmed they were just part of the natural variation in *A. collinus*. While looking so carefully at the ground, we found four distinct types of coral fungi. Few plants were in flower although a tiny purple *Hovea heterophylla* was found near the fungi and later the white



flowering *Melichrus urceolatus*.

Tiny spots of colour - Coral Fungus and Hovea heterophylla. Photos Rosemary Stapleton.

At the end of the excursion Jayden was heading to Conimbla National Park to look for Glossy Black Cockatoos and he was happy for Nigel to tag along. The rest of us packed up and drove home. Jenny summed the excursion up as ‘a most enjoyable day out - great company & so nice to be able to just meander through the bush. It was pleasing to see such diversity on a piece of Crown land and as always thanks to Dick for his patience with plant IDs. I appreciated Jayden’s input on many aspects of the outing.’ Alison ‘just enjoyed how peaceful it was and the fact that it was just us there. When Jayden and Nigel left in their cars that was the first vehicle noise I’d heard since we arrived....and what fantastic slabs of rock covered in moss on the other side of the creek’.



*Moss and fern covered rocks in Hunters Gorge.
Photo Rosemary Stapleton.*

It was obvious from the well-rotted logs and the age of the trees that the area had not been burnt for a very long time. Dick wondered about the history of the site. It was an open woodland with a diversity of seedling shrubs regenerating post drought, but no large dead skeletons or living shrubs of the same species. He thought it was indicative of heavy grazing in the recent past but didn’t think it was done by macropods alone. Maybe it was the goats that Tracee suggested.

Dick later described some of the vegetation. He said ‘along the creek there was mostly Blakely’s Red Gum and also Red Box near where we parked. The really big tree on the corner of the

road may have been River Red Gum but I couldn’t find any buds or fruits. Up the slope the vegetation became quite different with Black Cypress, Red Stringybark, Red Box and White Box and Tumbledown Gum on the rocky ridges. There was also Bundy, *Eucalyptus goniocalyx*, along the gully and creek lines. The unusual stand out for me was the Forest Germander, *Teucrium corymbosum*. It may have once been common in the landscape but that was only the second time I’d ever seen it. Otherwise, most species pretty normal for the remnant. The overall combination of trees is a bit different with White and Red Box, and Red Stringybark. You don’t often see such large trees of Red Box anymore – and I was impressed by the good condition of the woodland, other than for weeds along the alluvial areas.’

‘We really need to explore more of the area to make sense of it – we didn’t really traverse very far so our snapshot may have been atypical’ was Dick’s conclusion. ‘We need to go back to catch up with the flowers, especially the Forest Germander and the Greenhood rosettes’. Or even visit just to enjoy the wonderful and tranquil setting.

Dick compared his plant list to that from a spatial search of the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) (18th July 2022) for a 5 km radius centred on Healeys Road Crown Land Reserve at the Hunter Creek crossing. His plant list for the day was 79 species, and he added 19 dicotyledons, 3 monocots and 2 ferns and allies to the ALA list. I am sure many more could be added, especially grasses as few were flowering and could not be identified. A bryophyte expert would have added even more species.

Twenty bird species were seen: half by the group and half by Jayden, with some help from Nigel.

Healeys Road Bird List	
White-throated Treecreeper	White-browed Scrubwren
Eastern Yellow Robin	Female Scarlet Robin
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Black-chinned Honeyeater
Red-browed Finch	Yellow Thornbill
White-naped Honeyeater	Buff-rumped Thornbill
Spotted Pardalote	Weebill
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Speckled Warbler
Mistletoebird	Superb Fairywren
Peaceful Dove	Australian Magpie

Tracee couldn't be with us, however she said, 'It has been awesome for the Field Nats, Landcare, and Jayden with his many hats to have a chance to spend some time together. I have already learnt so many new things about our beautiful little patch'. Check out the 'Building Connections for Biodiversity in the Central Tablelands' Facebook group.

Visit to Glossy Black Feeding Sites.

Text and photos Nigel Hobden.

Sincere thanks to Jayden for allowing me to tag along and inspect the Glossy Black feeding sites in Conimbla NP.



Male Glossy Black Cockatoo feeding his 'lady friend' in Conimbla National Park.

The vegetation was quite dense, and we zigged and zagged our way through it. Unfortunately, the light was not in our favour; it was quite overcast with the sun not really showing itself and getting lower to the horizon. It was fascinating to get quite close to these birds, hear them chewing into *Allocasuarina* cones, hear a chick calling from a nest hollow and see a male bird feeding a hen on a stag. We watched as he brought up food from his crop to feed his lady friend. I just missed photographing a full bird as he flew directly overhead after being harassed by friarbirds. Jayden said we found/heard about 10-15 all up and we even saw an active nest site.

OFNCS Committee News

OFNCS made a submission on the Orange Destination Management Plan that focused on

our objection to the suggested further development on Mt Canobolas. Thanks to those members who also wrote a submission.

Did you catch the article and first nature quiz in [Orange City Life](#) (July 21-27 edition page 7)? Sandra Chrystall, a new OFNCS member, had developed quizzes for use at the ECCO stall at the Farmers Markets and thought they could be used in this free magazine. Sandra's aim is to share information on local nature and educate the community. One reader has already joined OFNCS after reading the first article and quiz.... we welcome Helen Croke.

Mt Canobolas Update

Text by Rosemary Stapleton.

Orange City Councillors have voted to support an application for the dual naming of Gaanhabela, Mt Canobolas. This will recognise the Wiradjuri name for the mountain that is in the Dreaming Story of Elders such as Uncle Neil Ingram. The process is a lengthy one so it may be some time before it is officially accepted by the NSW Geographical Names Board.

The NSW Scientific Committee has called for comment on increasing the threat status of *Eucalyptus canobolensis* from Vulnerable to Endangered. Comments can be made until 1st October. Details are on the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment [website](#). This will align the status in Commonwealth and State listings.

The summit redevelopment continues, and access will remain closed until mid-December. It has been delayed by snow falls and wet weather. Due to continued unauthorised access to the summit the Spring Glade, Summits, Nature and Snowgum walking tracks are closed.

FALCONCAM

Report from Cilla Kinross.

Our peregrine falcon pair residing in the water tower at CSU, is busy preparing for the breeding season with several pair-bonding sessions (visible through the box cam) and mating (via the tower cam) several times a day. Until this year, mating has only been able to be recorded by direct observation, so having the new tower cam provides a whole new perspective. We now know that they start mating as early as June and the frequency ramps up during July. We will have to wait and see what August brings but expect eggs in the latter half of August. There is a new website with a portal to all four

webcams: <https://science-health.csu.edu.au/falconcam>

Spring Creek Reservoir Survey, 30 July.

Report by Rosemary Stapleton.

With the water level in the reservoir still being fairly high I wondered if all the waterbirds were still out west enjoying the results of all the recent rain. I joined Cilla, Nick, and Nigel for the quarterly survey. Even though it was 9am the frost was still heavy on the ground, and we had to be careful walking to the water's edge near the entrance.

The survey started well with 4 Australian Shovelers and a mixed raft of about 30 Hoary-headed and Australasian Grebes on the far side of the reservoir. The birding continued to improve with a male Golden Whistler, a highlight, speeding past and 3 Yellow Thornbills and a Brown Thornbill staying still long enough to be identified.



Yellow Thornbill. Photo Nigel Hobden.

Every 100 metres we saw a few Musk Ducks and then our ID skills were challenged when some similar but different ducks were seen. Were they female Musk Ducks or Blue-billed Ducks? The phone app came out and the differences in bill shape helped us identify them as Blue-billed Ducks. Spotting at least four male Blue-bills with their chestnut backs and blue bills was even better confirmation. This is their breeding plumage. Nick offered the wise advice that the key pointer to differentiate these species was *'that the Musk Ducks have a bolshi attitude whereas the Blue-bills are more refined'*. And we saw this was true as we continued to watch them.

There were few land birds other than the regular Superb Fairy Wrens and White-browed Scrubwrens and no honeyeaters at all. Alarm calls from magpies and later a raven made us look skyward to see what was concerning them. A group of five magpies chased a small raptor

Across the water and fortunately it took refuge in a bare willow. The scope helped us see that it was probably a Brown Goshawk. When we stopped at the reservoir wall the raven call was because of a juvenile White-bellied Sea-eagle. What a stunning bird! It disappeared to the south and then Nick's call of *'here it comes'* made us look up. The Sea-eagle slowly flew towards us and circled as if catching a thermal. It was soon joined by the much smaller Brown Goshawk, and they flew in circles together as if in a friendly dance. We all agreed this had to be the highlight of the survey.



White-bellied Sea Eagle. Photo Cilla Kinross.

The total number of species was 37, with 14 Musk Ducks and 15 Blue-billed Ducks, a threatened species. Let's hope these good numbers mean that these ducks stay at the reservoir and breed.

Canobolas Conservation Alliance Update

Report by Jenny Medd.

The CCA's latest Newsletter (#4) was distributed to members in early July; it should be available on the website if you missed it.



As fore-shadowed in last month's update, the focus in recent weeks has targeted the draft Orange Region Destination Management Plan 2022-2066. Thank you to all individuals who took time to send in a personal submission and to our local groups, including OFNCS, who likewise made objections known. We'll be watching for the release of the final plan and will be interested to read both the submissions and comment from the three Councils.

Rosemary and Andrew continue with their involvement in the Gaanha-bula Action Group and support of Wiradjuri Elders and community. Recently they gave a talk on their artefact finds to Orange Daybreak Rotary.

The Committee did not meet formally over the last month, although email contact occurs regularly. Final decisions regarding a public

forum should be made soon and OFNCS members also duly notified.

State of the Environment Report.

Report by Cilla Kinross.

A breath of fresh air is emanating from Canberra with Tanya Plibersek as the new Minister for the Environment (and Water). There is a recognition that the environment is actually important to our well-being and needs attention (as opposed to the previous administration that considered caring for the environment a minor irritation, pursued by idealogues and extreme greens). The new State of the Environment report clearly disabuses this notion. It recognises not only the ecosystem services provided by a healthy environment (e.g., clean air, water, pollination etc.) but also the intrinsic value of nature. The report highlights the rapid pace of deterioration, including 202 animal and plant species being identified as nationally threatened with extinction or worse and 19 ecosystems showing signs of collapse. The main drivers are well known to environmentalists: land clearing, invasive species, and climate change being predominant.

Noises from Canberra point to the creation of a new Environmental Protection Agency with clear environmental standards and targets AND powers to enforce these. Plibersek is also intending to reform the federal environmental legislation. However, in my opinion, the environment will continue to deteriorate unless the federal government can influence or coerce the states to reduce clearing of native vegetation hectares to lower than that of restoration; provide a 'climate trigger' (to block developments detrimental to meeting our carbon emissions targets); and transition away from a futile pursuit of economic growth at all costs. Without these basics, many species and ecosystems will continue to slide from common to declining to threatened and we will have Buckley's chance of reach an emissions target of 43% in eight years to boot! The report and recent webinars on the chapters is available at <https://soe.dcccew.gov.au/>

Dates for your Diary

2022 Cowra Woodland Bird Surveys,

Dates for 2022 are 15/16 October. Contact Julian Reid on **0405 922 505** or at julianr@home.com.au.

2022-2023 dates for Snipe counts are September 24, November 26, and January 14.

2022 Aussie Backyard Bird Count

17-23 October. You can do 20-minute bird surveys to 'make every bird count'.

2022 NCC Annual Conference

Saturday 5th November. Sydney and maybe online.

Part 2 of the Listening to the Lachlan Conference will be in a future newsletter.

Sightings around Orange

If you see anything interesting, please email orangefieldnats@gmail.com or post it on Facebook.

Flora

***Acacia gunnii* or *A. pravifolia*?**

Comments by Jenny Medd.

Back in September 2020 our excursion was to the Bumberry section of Goobang N.P., led by Rosemary and subsequently reported in the October newsletter. One of the plants found on that trip was identified as *Acacia gunnii*, however, I have since received a comment that suggested *A. gunnii* does not occur in Goobang N.P. and that my photographs (below) showed it to be *A. pravifolia*.



I must admit I was not familiar with that latter species, so have subsequently double-checked and find that, indeed, the PlantNet species listing for Goobang includes *A. pravifolia*, but not *A. gunnii*. To be convinced I checked the descriptions for both species and sure enough, *A. pravifolia* has phyllodes with 2-4 longitudinal veins along with bright yellow

flowers and very twisted / coiled seed pods (*A. gunnii* has only a single prominent vein, cream to pale yellow flowers and straight pods). While I didn't get photos of the seed pods, the phyllodes and inflorescence is convincing. A species to watch out for again!

I'd posted photos on a Facebook group site called 'Making sense of Australian Botanical Names' back in 2020. The address is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/236265956982321>

Coincidentally Hai saw *A. gunnii* at the Falls, Mullion Range on 16th July.

'Things with Wings'

Local bird surveys. Cilla reported on a CSU survey - We had a lovely bird walk this morning. Not much on the dam, but the windbreak was full of honeyeaters, finches, parrot and thornbills AND a pair of grey fantails...it seems they were either very late stayers or very early arrivals....or perhaps didn't leave Orange at all. Oh, and a huge bull, that we rather gingerly stepped around!

Creature of the Month

Greater Glider (*Petauroides Volans*)

Text by Nigel Hobden.

Greater Glider has recently had its classification elevated from Vulnerable to Endangered by the Australian Government (Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act). The change in status is in response to the massive impact of the Black Summer Bushfires in the southern and central areas of the gliders range where up to 30% of its habitat was lost. Populations have declined by 80% in just 20 years. Land clearing for agriculture and urbanization and logging continue to play a part in the loss of habitat. Note that under the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act this Glider has no listing.

Greater Gliders are Australia's largest gliding mammal and can glide up to 100 metres. They have thick, dark grey-brown fur on their back and a creamy white fur on their under-side. They can be found in different colour morphs. These gliders have a body length of between 350 – 450mm and a furry prehensile tail 450-600mm in length, similar in size to a domestic cat. They have distinctive large furry ears.



*Pair of dark Greater Gliders on Mt Canobolas.
Photo Nigel Hobden.*



*Pale morph Greater Glider on Mt Canobolas.
Photo Abbey Dean.*

Greater Gliders are found along the east coast of Australia from Central Queensland to Central Victoria. These Gliders are forest dependent and prefer older tree age classes in most forest types. They use hollow bearing trees for shelter and breeding, using multiple dens within its home range. They mainly eat young eucalypt leaves with a preference for species.

They are predated upon and are thought to be a favourite of Powerful Owls. Both Greater Gliders and Powerful Owls occur within Mt Canobolas SCA. Recent survey work has been undertaken upon Mt Canobolas to determine the presence and extent of the population. Members of the Orange Field Nats will have the opportunity later in the year to learn survey techniques used by the recent visit by scientists. This will allow Citizen Science volunteers to record field data using consistent and repetitive survey techniques into the future. Source:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-07-06/greater-glider-listed-as-endangered-climate-change-logging/101212272>

<https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/conserving-threatened-species/threatened-species-factsheets/greater-glider>



Healeys Road Excursion, left to right: Alison Ford, Dick Medd, Jenny Medd (in red), Hai Wu, John Zimmer, Nigel Hobden, Jayden Gunn. Photo Rosemary Stapleton.



Feisty male Blue-billed Ducks arguing over a female at Spring Creek Reservoir. Photos Nigel Hobden.

To join please send your cheque or money order made out to "OFNCS" to the Hon. Treasurer, Dr Dick Medd, OFNCS, PO Box 369 Orange NSW 2800.

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Orange Field Naturalist & Conservation Society acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land, including the people of the Wiradjuri Nation, and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

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