

Brian Everingham
Trip Report
Temora to Jerilderie and on to Hay
2024
October

Friday 4th October 2024

We are now in Temora at the basic Aromet Motel, 500m from the centre of town. We arrived a little before 4.00pm, having left Engadine at 8.30am, having endured heavy traffic until about Mittagong and having then had a relatively smooth run.

Apart from a morning tea stop in Marulan (on the railway station platform) and lunch in a park in Murrumbateman, our only other stop was at Jindalee National Park.

Jindalee NP is about 50km east of Temora and approximately 10 km north of the township of Cootamundra. It occupies an area of 1,076 ha, which is divided into 2 portions by Berthong Road. The larger western portion is located south of Burley Griffin Way and west of Berthong Road, while the smaller eastern portion is located east of Berthong Road. We explored the larger portion.

The park was declared a forest reserve in 1877 and was reclassified as a state forest in August 1918. It was then reserved as a national park under the National Park Estate (South-Western Cypress Reservations) Act 2010 which commenced on 1 January 2011 to protect remnants of native woodland vegetation across the highly modified South Western Slopes bioregion.¹



¹ jindalee-national-park-draft-plan-of-management-240282.pdf

It contains box – gum woodland, a critically endangered ecological community listed under the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 but has previously been used for mining, forestry and grazing, and has a long history of recreational use by local communities. The evidence is obvious!





Caladenia carnea



Caladenia carnea



Stunning Hibbertia

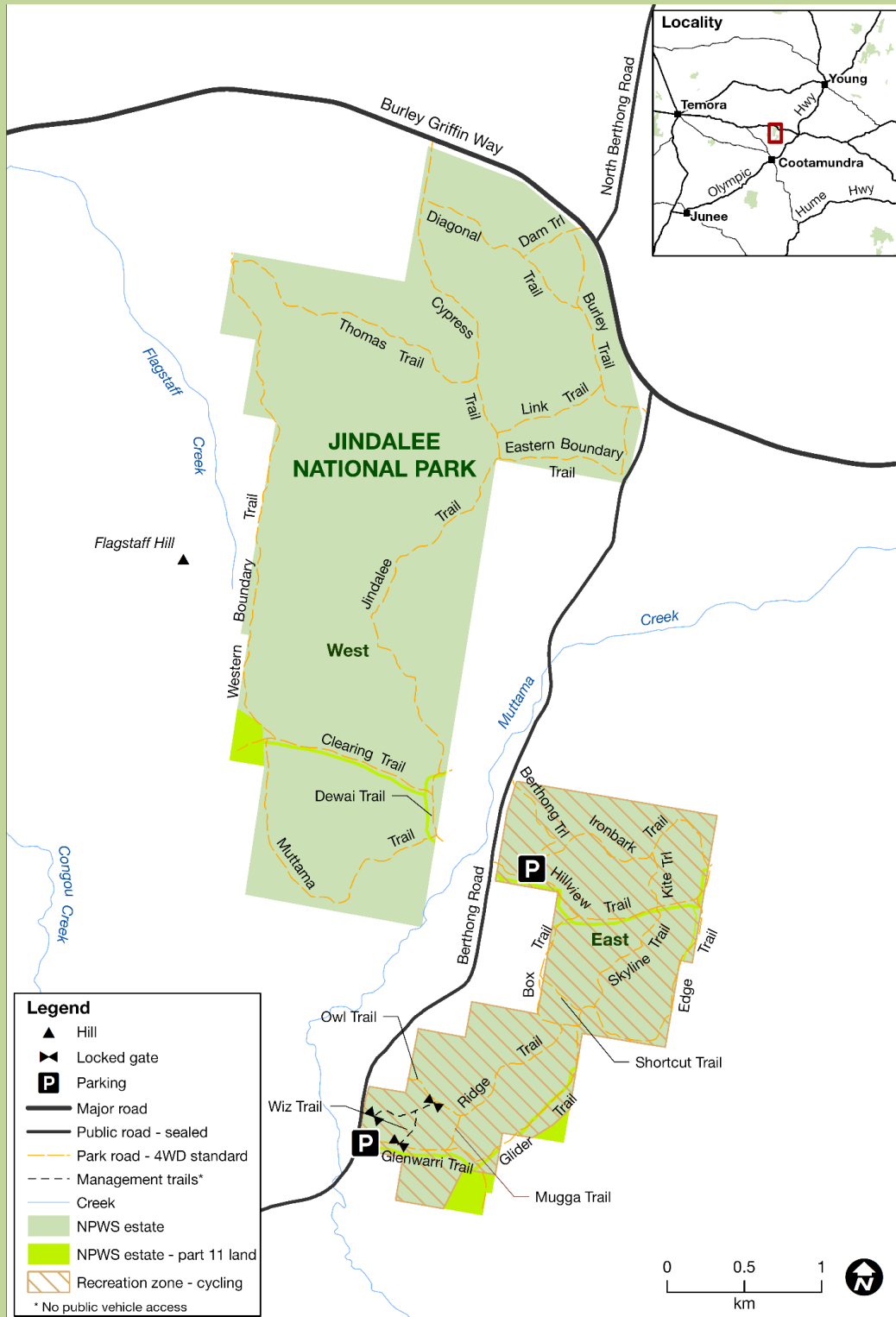
One of the many taxa included in the *Hibbertia obtusifolia* complex



Daviesia latifolia



The eastern portion that we did not visit appears to have been set aside as a recreational section for mountain biking. I am glad we missed it!



We dined at the Terminus Hotel amidst lots of people here in town for a hot rod festival!!!!!!

Saturday 5th October 2024

Last night, as we left the Terminus Hotel, we were met my showers. Thankfully, they stayed light while we walked the 700m back to the motel and what moisture that accrued to our bodies and clothes soon dissipated.

The showers were attached to a wave of storms that swept through the central west in a long band and during the night they became increasingly ferocious, dropping considerable rain outside and providing us with a percussive performance of some note.

Yesterday, in a more lyrical wave, while we had morning tea at Marulan, another wave swept overhead. Flocks of Yellow-faced honeyeaters, chirped across the sky, leaving me quite nostalgic for our old residence at Sirius Place.

The storms had ceased in the early morning but by then their sounds were replaced by the warbling of Eurasian Blackbirds, and by 5.00 they were being joined by Magpies, Magpie-larks, Blue-faced Honeyeaters and Red Wattlebirds. It was soon time to get up.

And then to Ingalba Nature Reserve²!



² Griffin Way, and was gazetted in three stages. On the 17th July 1970, 3,440.5 ha. of the former Temora State Forest was gazetted, and further additions followed: the dedication on the 1st October 1976 (16.19 ha) of the former Trigonometrical Reserve at Wharrun Trig, and on the 7th January 1983 (556.8 ha) following the acquisition of private land.

Ingalba Nature Reserve is intersected by and excludes the Burley Griffin Way (Griffith– Temora Road) and an easement through the southern part of the reserve east from Kellows Lane.

Most of what we visited today consisted of tall woodland vegetation, dominated by mugga ironbark (*Eucalyptus sideroxylon*) and western grey box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*). It also supported a considerable amount of white cypress pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*) on lower slopes, with black cypress pine (*Callitris endlicheri*) common on upper slopes and ridges. Shrubs include quandong (*Santalum acuminatum*), native cherry (*Exocarpus cupressiformis*), rough wattle (*Acacia aspera*), bent-leaf wattle (*A. genistifolia*), hakea wattle (*A. hakeoides*), and wedge-leaf hopbush (*Dodonaea cuneata*). The shrub layer where we walked was considerably denser than that in Jindalee NP on our visit yesterday.



Prostanthera sp



Exocarpus cupressiformis







We then drove down to Wagga Wagga, met up with Gary and Maree and all dined for lunch at the Blamey Tavern.

From the tavern Faye and I then drove via Lockhart and Urana to Jerilderie!



Mount Galore



Senna sp

And we are now in the Jerilderie Motor Inn, a step up on last night. It is a larger room, better fitted out and more comfortable. It is right in the end of whatever is called a main shopping centre in this tiny (but potentially) tourist town.



It lives off Ned Kelly!





We walked the entire circuit of this “lake”



Sunday 6th October 2024

That was a very comfortable motel room and we left Jerilderie feeling very relaxed. We headed straight for Deniliquin. Coming towards us, in waves, were hundreds of utes and other vehicles, in varying configurations. We had come across the parting hordes from the Deni Ute Muster (4th and 5th October!). By the time we reached the camping grounds, we noted that there were many more to depart. This is a country hoedown and methinks it is not our scene at all. Country music, car competitions, lots of beer drinking. Thankfully, we were able to cut across a side row to avoid the traffic jam and head north to Moulamein.

But between Jerilderie and Deni we spent about an hour exploring a TSR along the road.





Our FOG friends would be impressed with us!



Goodenia sp





We arrived at Yanga National Park at about 12.30pm and had lunch under a shelter shed near the shearing sheds by the side of the Murrumbidgee River. We were distracted by lots of birds too and by the end of the day, day 3 of this trip, our recognised bird list had reached 79 species!











Blue-spotted Painted Lady



We then booked into our cabin; cabin 17: facing the river red gums and in a nice location but of course the rooms are small and there is little room around the beds. Nor is there any Wi-Fi.

And the IGA was shut so we had dinner in the club; average Chinese food but better than what was on offer at the pub!

Monday 7th October 2024

We have a pair of nesting magpies near our cabin!



Changeover time!



And our cabin is close to the river!



With noisy neighbours



And caring White-winged Choughs!



And the odd weed!



It is also a short distance to the IGA!





Not sure what this suggests about life out amongst the grain



And old bank designed by Sulman!



After the shopping and morning tea we then headed to the Yanga Homestead precinct where we had the place to ourselves!



And Caper Whites



Lots of Fairy Martins



And a proud Welcome Swallow and children

Actually, there were lots of birds, including a flock of Rainbow Bee-eaters and lots of Singing Honeyeaters. And many pelicans!







The lake is brimful









We also drove into Regatta Point!



Bizarre behaviour



Whistling Kite





NPWS has gone out of its way to make this a pleasant picnic location. We had it to ourselves!

Home, mid-afternoon, and our main meal Time for a nap before a late afternoon walk amongst the red gums!





And another delightful day.

Tuesday 8th October 2024

We visited the Willandra Lakes World Heritage area today, with the focus being the delightful Mungo National Park. It's a long drive and quite a bit was on dirt but the drive is worth it. It has been at least 40 years since I was here and much has changed. For the better! Access to sites has been formalised and that protects while displaying the special features. Signage is informative without being too wordy or too didactic and there is a great mix of natural and cultural heritage information. They deserve a big tick!





From the lookout!



And the lookout is formal, controlling movement subtly!



The new visitor centre



The old shearing shed





Black and Pearl saltbush!





Pink Cockatoos!





Rosewood – *Alectryon oleifolius*



Walls of China!







Sand Monitor



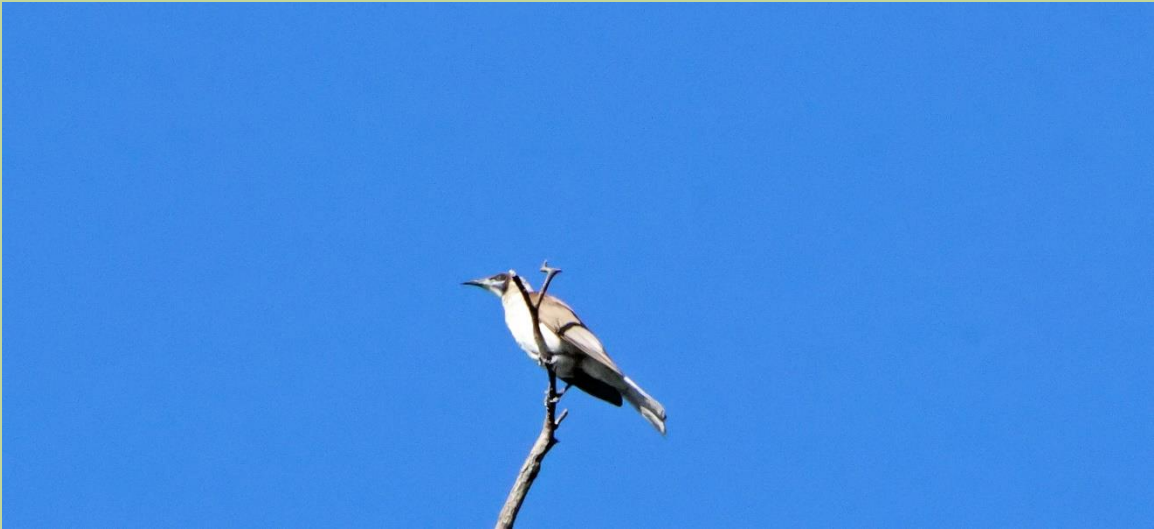
Having completed a 5km walk, we also drove the entire loop around the park before heading home. By 5.00pm, we were home, inside, getting warm and ready for another day.

Wednesday 9th October 2024

After the long drive yesterday, we split the morning into two parts. The first part took us to a Bird Trail off the Balranald – Ivanhoe Road. It abuts the Murrumbidgee and crosses the (now-dry) channels that make up the immediate flood plain. We added Australian Hobby and Spotted Harrier to our bird list but really both of those were either enroute or being harassed above our heads. Down amongst the River red Gums and the lignum, the birds were not so prominent. Mind you, the vegetation was of interest.



Our next stop was “the Willows” in Yanga National Park.



Little friarbird

Actually, the most common bird here was the Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater and my favourite sighting was a flock of Chestnut-crowned Babblers!









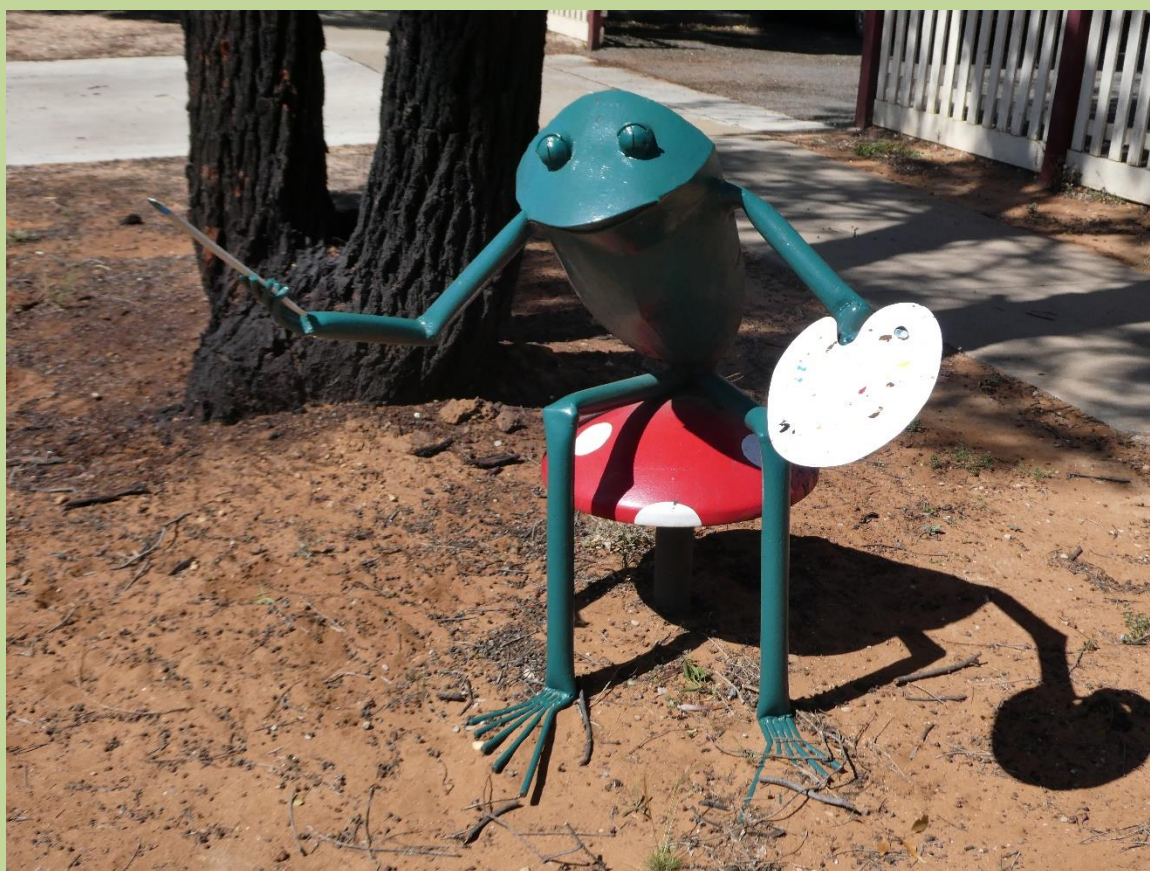
We returned to base, had our main meal in the middle of the day – a habit developed from my childhood on the farm – rested and then walked around Balranald.

That included dropping in to the local Art Gallery (and space for art classes) where there were some interesting exhibitions by locals and an enthusiastic lady who showed us some of the works in storage as well as the stuff on display. She also told us that the Council had been under administration for several years and only now, after the local elections, was a new Council being formed.

In addition, she explained that the Ben Scott after whom the bird trail was named (and the footbridge over the river) was a young, enthusiastic tourism officer who initiated these projects but who also was killed in a road accident.



And the frogs around town was a community decision to highlight something special about this community. They decided on the Southern Bell Frog, a rare species but common in the mud flats along this part of the river.





The Sulman-designed building.

Thursday 10th October 2024

Well, I thought we were in 11th today and that we had finished our four nights in Balranald. We had. But I had booked for 5. By the time I texted Jean to say “see you tonight” we had left Hay and were heading for Darlington Point. I had not made any booking errors but my brain had skipped a day.

Clearly it was silly to turn around. I phoned Lake Talbot, managed to get an additional night in our cabin this evening, contacted Balranald and we have credit for a night there if we use it in the next year and then explored the Murrumbidgee River Regional Park.



That site is actually downstream of the Regional Park and a huge noisy pump was sucking out river water into a canal!





The Murrumbidgee River Regional Park at Darlington Point





And the view from our balcony in our apartment in Lake Talbot Caravan Park.

Spacious and comfortable but the internet is hopeless