

**Brian Everingham
Trip Report
SW NSW
October 2024
Part 2: Narrandera**



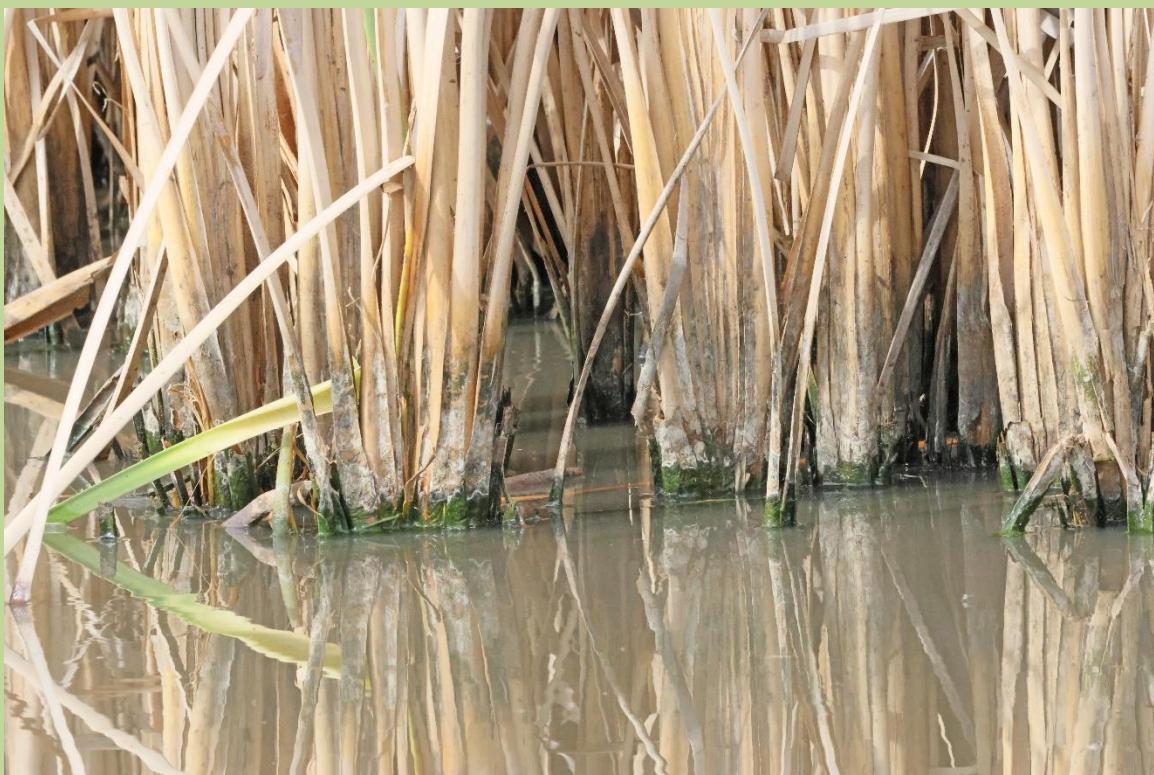
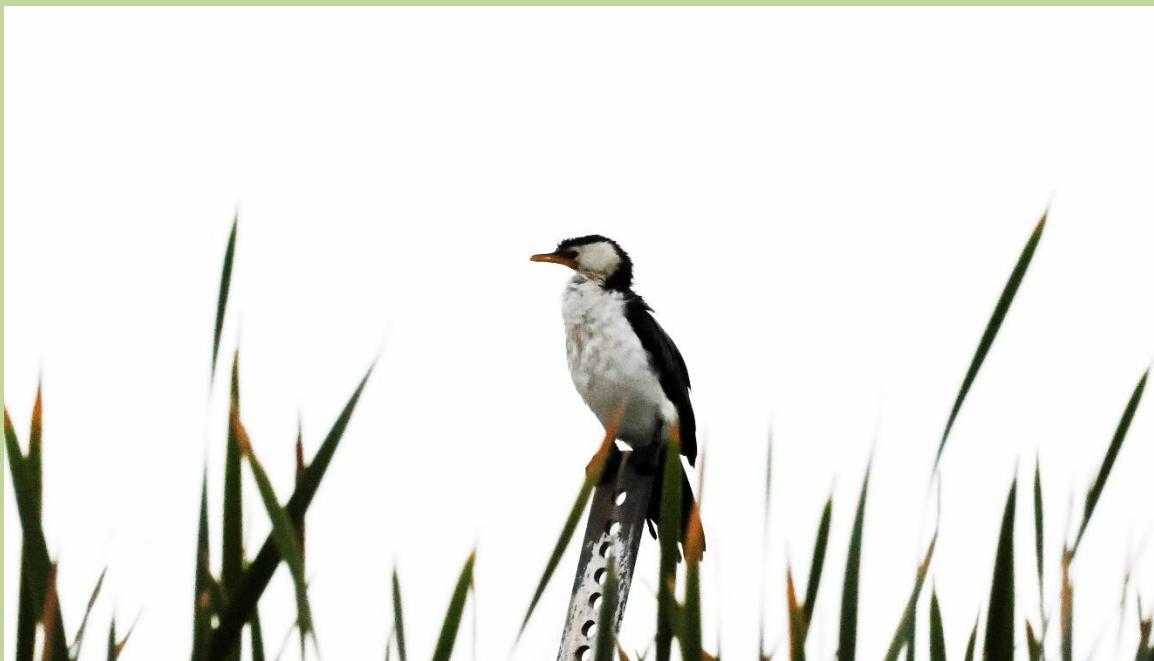
Bird List – SW NSW
Including Temora, Jerilderie, Balranald and Narrandera and surrounds
With the odd sighting on travels to and from

1. Emu	43. Spotted Harrier
2. Australian Pelican	44. Swamp Harrier
3. Darter	45. Australian Hobby
4. Pied Cormorant	46. Brown Falcon
5. Little Pied Cormorant	47. Nankeen Kestrel
6. Great Cormorant	48. Spotted Turtle-Dove (e)
7. Little Black Cormorant	49. Peaceful Dove
8. Australasian Grebe	50. Bar-shouldered Dove
9. Magpie Goose	51. Common Bronzewing
10. Black Swan	52. Brush Bronzewing
11. Australian Shelduck	53. Crested Pigeon
12. Pacific Black Duck	54. Galah
13. Mallard (e)	55. Long-billed Corella
14. Grey Teal	56. Little Corella
15. Chestnut Teal	57. Pink Cockatoo
16. Australasian Shoveler	58. Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
17. Australian Wood Duck	59. Rainbow Lorikeet
18. Australian Spotted Crake	60. Australian King Parrot
19. Spotless Crake	61. Superb Parrot
20. Black-tailed Native Hen	62. Cockatiel
21. Dusky Moorhen	63. Crimson Rosella (Crimson and Yellow Race)
22. Purple Swamphen	64. Eastern Rosella
23. Eurasian Coot	65. Australian Ringneck
24. White-necked Heron	66. Blue Bonnet
25. White-faced Heron	67. Fantail Cuckoo
26. Cattle Egret	68. Black-eared Cuckoo
27. Great Egret	69. Southern Boobook
28. Little Egret	70. Laughing Kookaburra
29. Glossy Ibis	71. Sacred Kingfisher
30. Australian White Ibis	72. Rainbow Bee-eater
31. Straw-necked Ibis	73. White-throated Treecreeper
32. Yellow-billed Spoonbill	74. Brown Treecreeper
33. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	75. Superb Fairy-wren
34. Masked Lapwing	76. Splendid Fairey-wren
35. Red-kneed Dotterel	77. Variegated Fairy-wren
36. Black-winged Stilt	78. Spotted Pardalote
37. Silver Gull	79. Striated Pardalote
38. Black-shouldered Kite	80. Western Gerygone
39. Square-tailed Kite	81. Chestnut-rumped Thornbill
40. Black Kite	82. Yellow Thornbill
41. Whistling Kite	83. Buff-rumped Thornbill
42. Wedge-tailed Eagle	

84. Yellow-rumped Thornbill	111.	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
85. Southern Whiteface	112.	White-breasted Woodswallow
86. Red Wattlebird	113.	Dusky Woodswallow
87. Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	114.	Grey Butcherbird
88. Noisy Friarbird	115.	Pied Butcherbird
89. Little Friarbird	116.	Australian Magpie
90. Blue-faced Honeyeater	117.	Pied Currawong
91. Noisy Miner	118.	Australian Raven
92. Yellow-throated Miner	119.	Little Raven
93. Yellow-faced Honeyeater	120.	Little Crow
94. Singing Honeyeater	121.	White-winged Chough
95. White-eared Honeyeater	122.	Apostlebird
96. Fuscous Honeyeater	123.	Welcome Swallow
97. White-plumed Honeyeater	124.	Tree Martin
98. Chestnut-crowned Babbler	125.	Fairy Martin
99. Red-capped Robin	126.	Australian Pipit
100. Hooded Robin	127.	Brown Songlark
101. Eastern Yellow Robin	128.	Australian Reed-warbler
102. Jacky Winter	129.	Golden-headed Cisticola
103. Grey Shrike-thrush	130.	Little Grassbird
104. Rufous Whistler	131.	House Sparrow (e)
105. Grey Fantail	132.	Zebra Finch
106. Willie Wagtail	133.	Red-browed Finch
107. Restless Flycatcher	134.	Silvereye
108. Magpie-Lark	135.	Common Starling (e)
109. Olive-backed Oriole	136.	Common Myna (e)
110. Satin Bowerbird		

Friday 11th October 2024

Faye and I visited Fivebough Swamp today!



Hidden in there, gone from camera range, is a Spotless Crake



In the background is a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper



Red-kneed Dotterel

We actually added 12-13 species to the trip list today! My favourites were Little Grassbird and Brown Songlark but I am more than happy to have seen the Marsh Harrier and, an old favourite, the Golden-headed Cisticola.



Panic set in when a Marsh Harrier flew overhead



Black-tailed Native Hens amidst Purple Swamphens and Grey Teal





Bird (s) on the wire



Magpie Geese and Grey Teal





Singing Honeyeater





Blue-faced Honeyeater

We returned home mid-afternoon, just before Jean and Bob booked in, and after they settled in, they came up, sat on our balcony, had afternoon nibbles and a glass of wine (except Bob who does not drink!). Good to catch up with them!!!! We head off tomorrow into the field!

Saturday 12th October 2024

We set off at 8.00am and drove straight to Bundigerie Hill where, in September 2020, we had numerous orchids! We missed them. There were many signs of orchids that had come and gone but the beauty of this site was not for us!





Goodenia sp





Whalenbergia sp



We next stopped by the TSR adjacent to the very dry Lake Coolah. Here the grasses were high and I saw no Swainsonia but there were some other interests.





Casuarina cristata – Belah

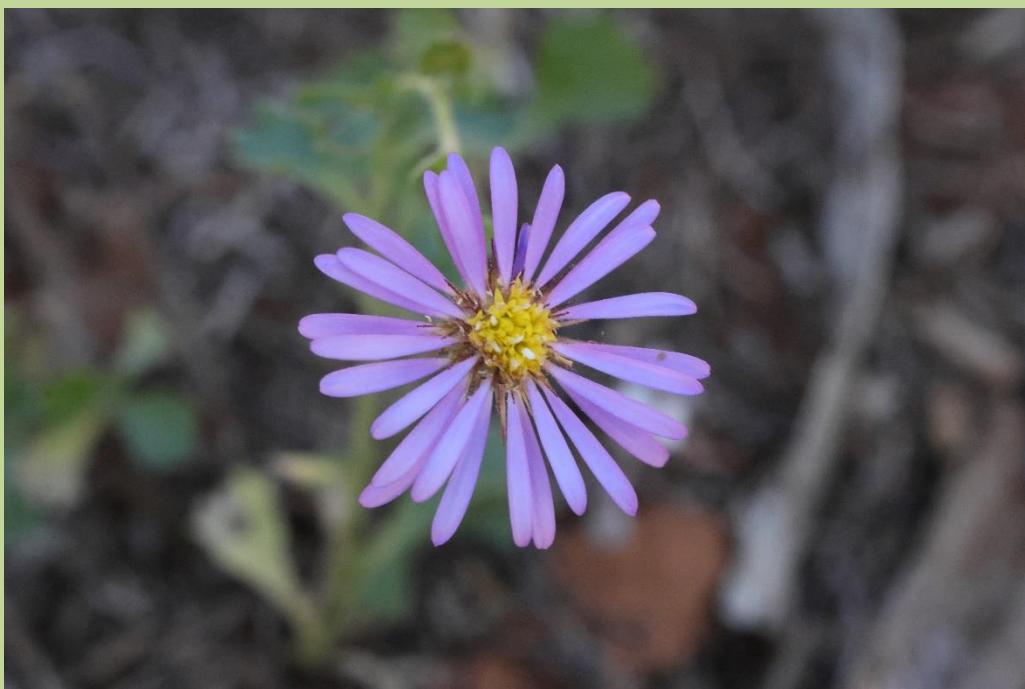


Eucalyptus populnea – Bimble Box



Lake Coolah

And from there we drove to Mejum State Forest where we had morning tea (and, in a second location, lunch) and got “lost” while exploring the countryside and its maze of animal tracks and old roads! I suspect we walked about 4.5km in a meandering loop before we found the car. That’s what happens when following bird calls and looking for orchids.



Purple Burr-Daisies



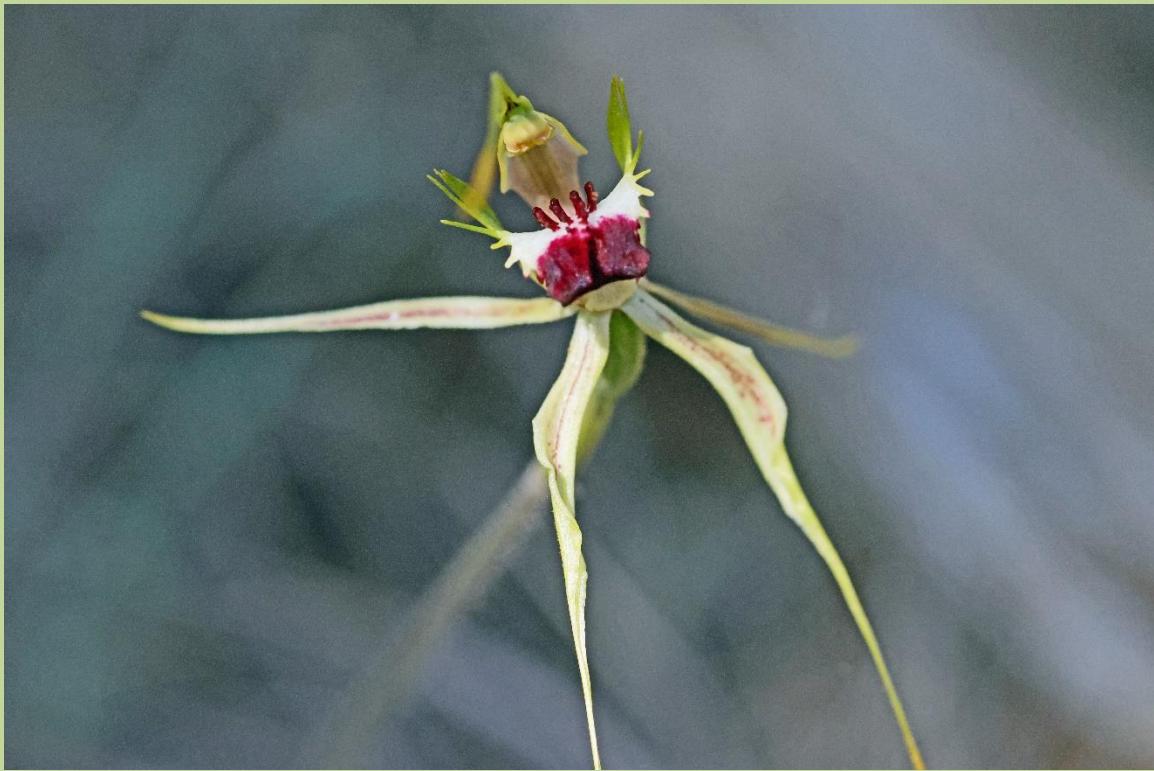
These tiny daisies truly distracted us!



At last! – *Caladenia atrovespa* (or a similar one. This is yet to be “described”. As Lachlan Copeland reports, “An undescribed species similar to atrovespa. Occurs further inland, is smaller, has firmer tepals and a different pollinator.”



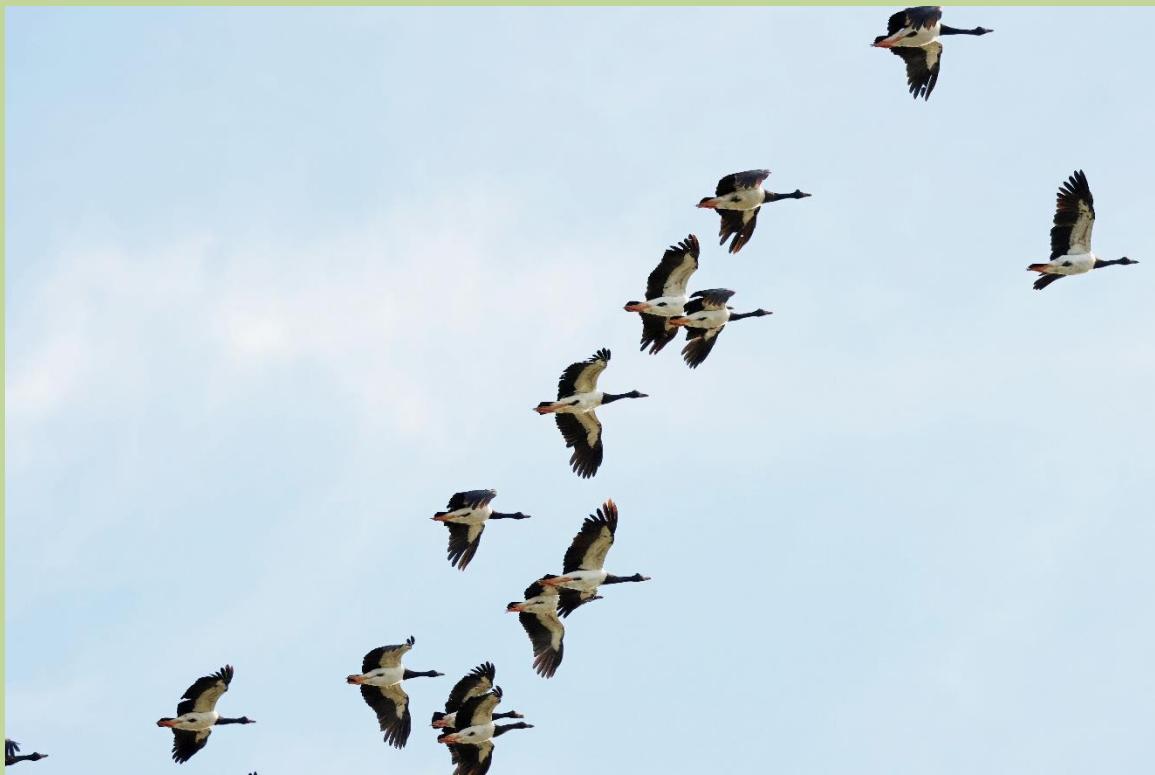




By now the afternoon heat had arrived and it was time to head home. We had added to the bird list once more (Fuscous and White-eared Honeyeaters and Zebra Finch and had even spotted three Silver Gulls over Lake Talbot!

Sunday 13th October 2024

We visited Fivebough Swamp again today and Faye and I added Glossy Ibis, White-necked Heron, Australasian Shoveler and Australian Spotted Crake to our bird tally!









Glossy Ibis have arrived!



Magpie Geese and Straw-necked Ibis in flight



Red-kneed Dotterel



Australasian Shoveler



Australian Shelducks



We also dropped into one of the sites for the Murrumbidgee Valley National Park!



Eastern Brown Snake





And then home for lunch before exploring the town!







Monday 14th October 2024

As we look down over Lake Talbot, the Murrumbidgee River and the woodland beyond, and as the sun slowly peaks itself over the horizon, we are blessed with the most melodious bird chorus; at least until the Sulphur-crested Cockatoos wake up. We should be thankful for the Grey Shrike-thrush and the Peaceful Dove!

Speaking of birds, I did not expect much of today in terms of adding to our tally for the trip but as it happened, we have added six new species: Cockatiel, Common Bronzewing, Bar-shouldered Dove, Black-eared Cuckoo, Western Gerygone and Eastern Yellow Robin. Our trip total is a healthy 132 species!

Our first stop in Cocoparra National Park was at the top of Mount Bingar and its telecommunication towers!



The view to the north







This is Upper Devonian conglomerate, aged about 450 million years ago in a deep marine trough before being uplifted. It is tough, rocky country and there is a diversity of plants amidst the rocks!



Common Everlasting – *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*



Rusty Spider-flower – *Grevillea floribunda*



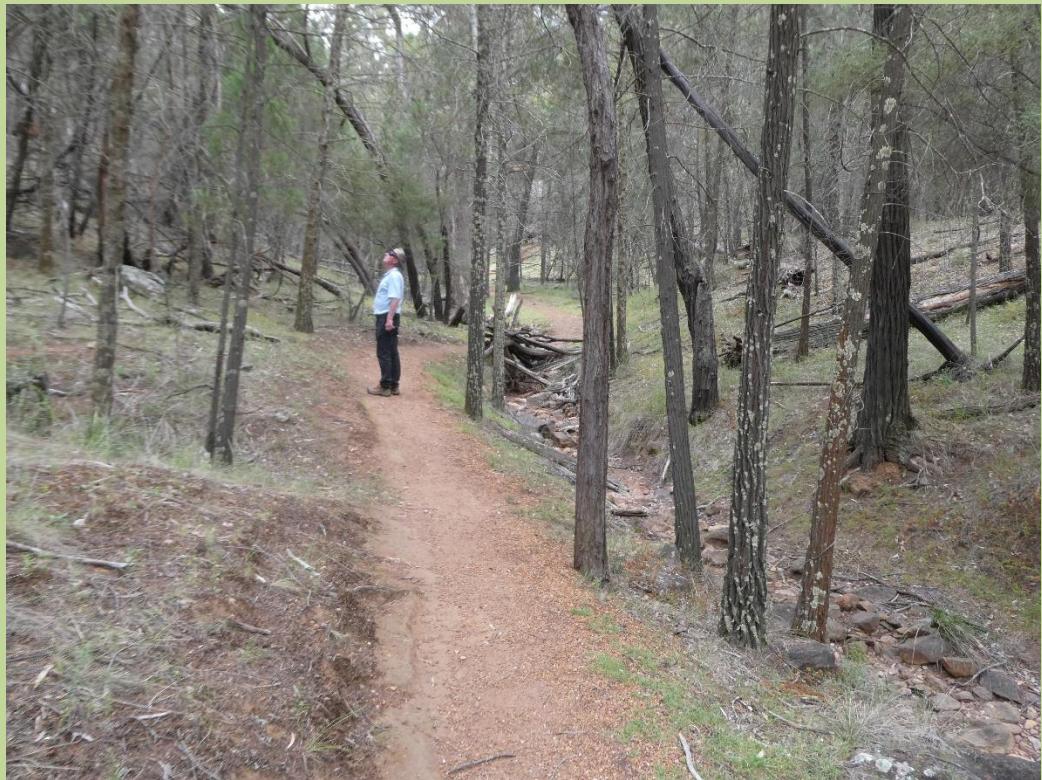
Pterostylis lingua – Large-lipped Rustyhood

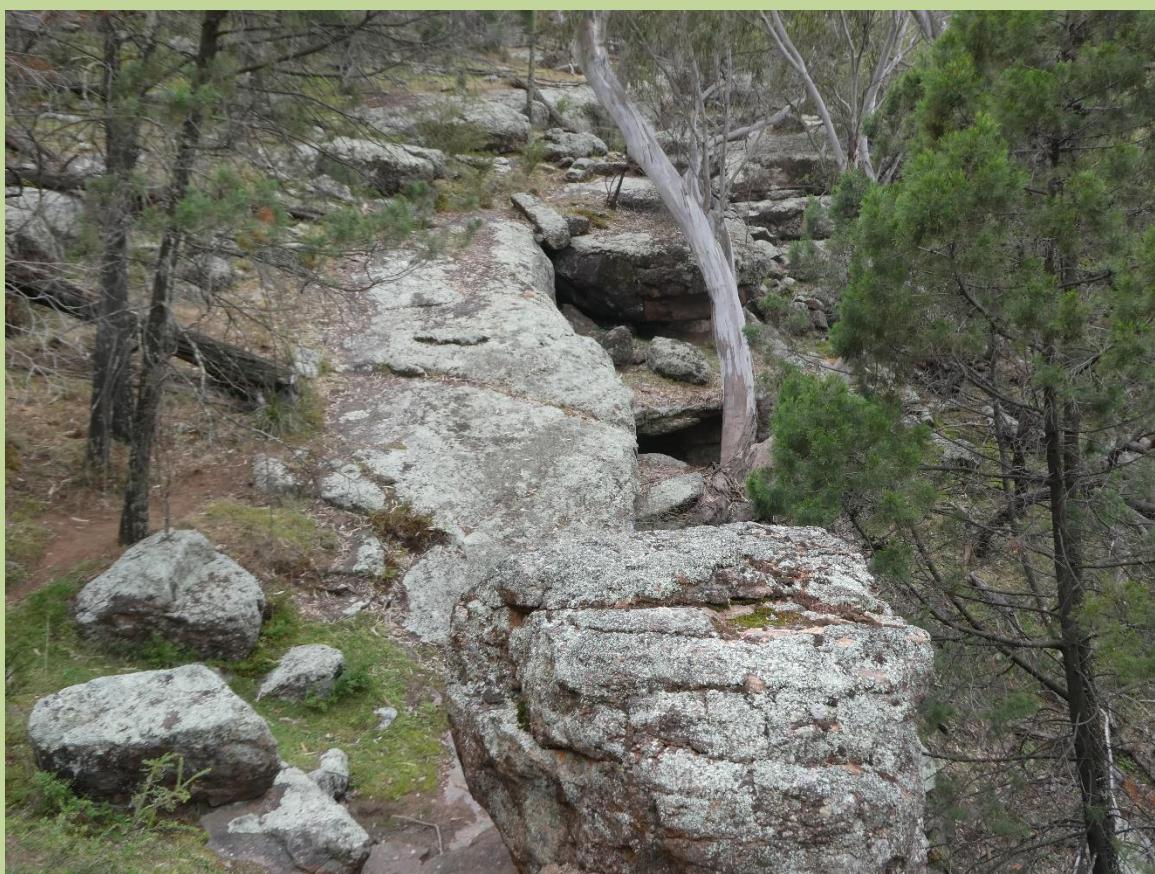


The find of the day!

We then drove into the Woolshed waterfall picnic area and short track! It was a delightful corner of the world!

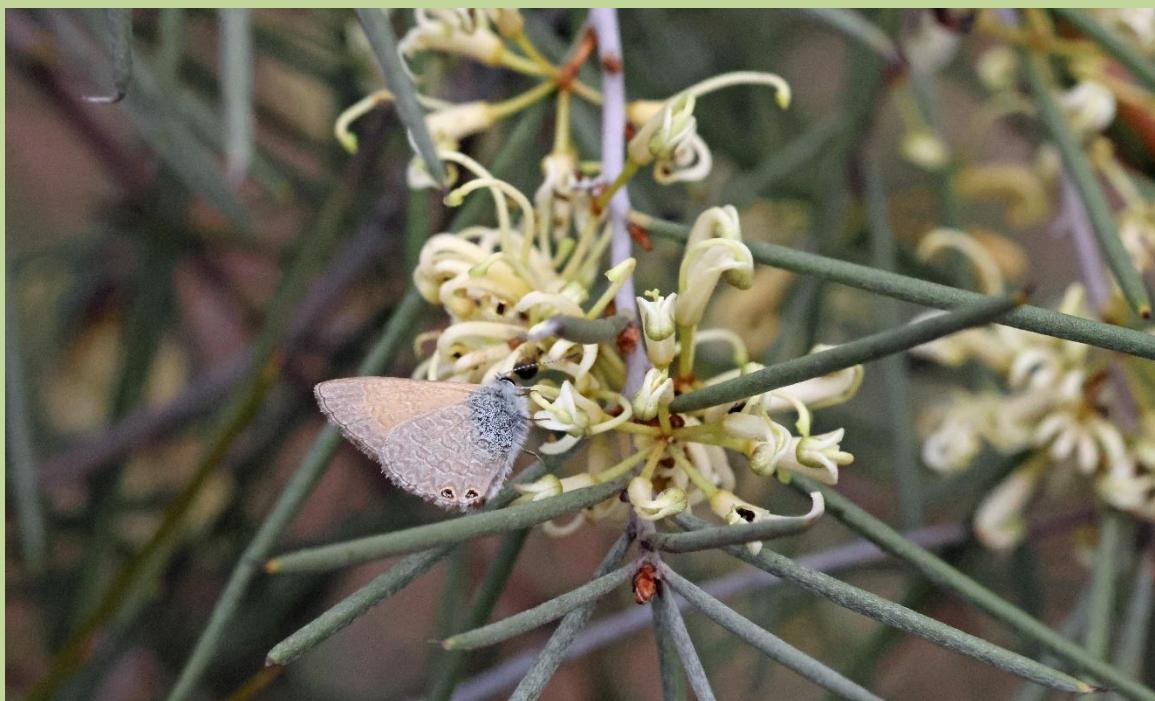








Hakea tephrosperma – Hooked Needlewood





Possibly Deane's Wattle – *Acacia deanei*



And a confiding Grey Shrike-thrush (actually, it argued with its reflection)

Tuesday 15th October 2024

While Jean and Bob did their own thing, Faye and I visited three different locations today. We began at the Narrandera Wetlands, just as Jean and Bob were leaving! That's where Faye added bird 133 to our list; a Red-Browed Finch. It's where I was dive-bombed, four times, by an Australian Magpie!



The offending aggressor



Callistemon sieberi





Acacia stenophylla



Faye at bird hide.



We then visited the Gillenbah TSR site off Old Morundah Road!

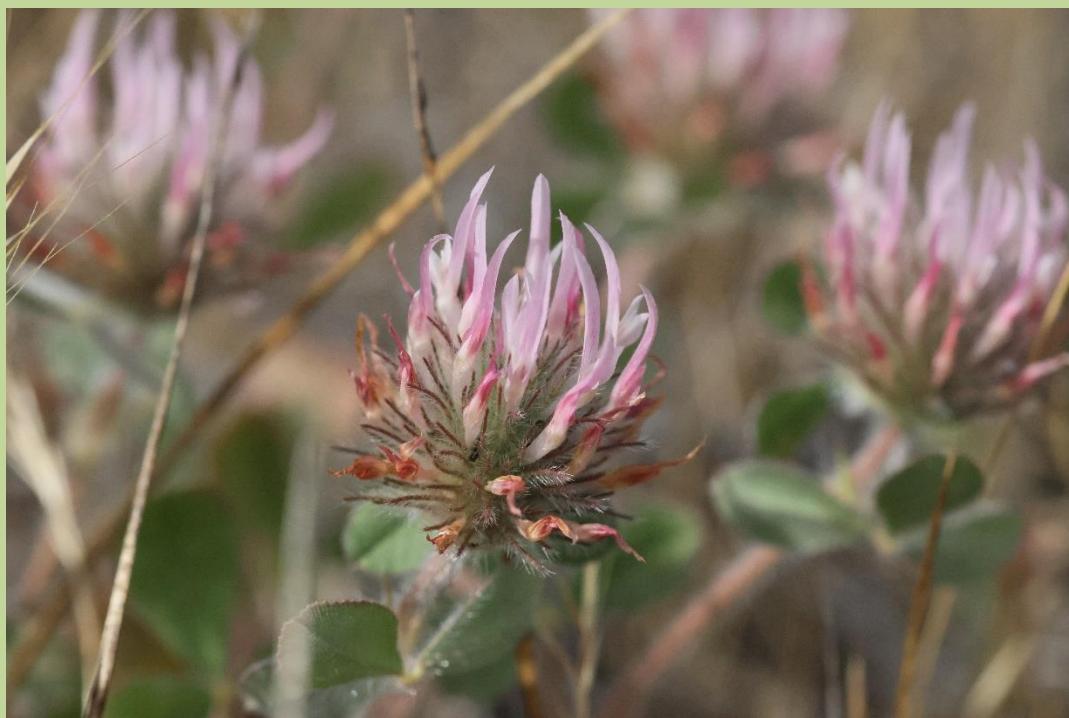


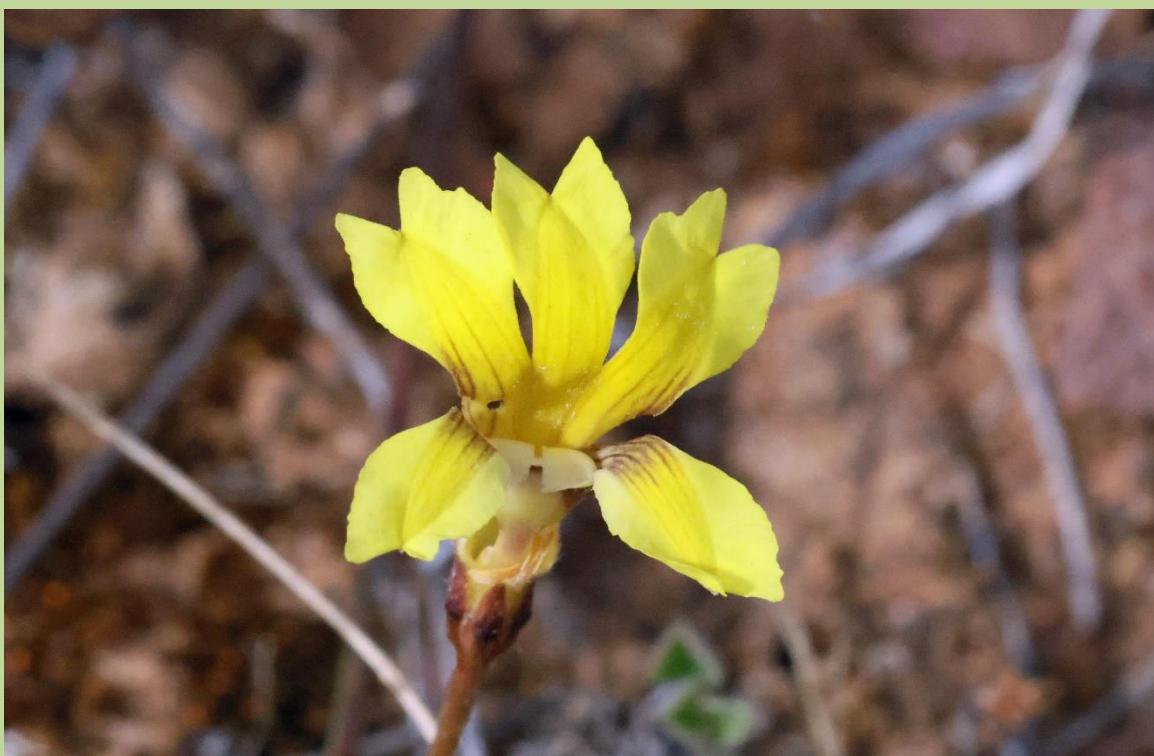
It looks barren but down amidst the grasses there were jewels!



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Maireana humilima - Bluebush





Goodenia sp



Dichopogon fimbriatus – Nodding Chocolate Lily



Linum marginale or Native Flax3



After we returned to our cabin and after morning tea, we set out walking from here, along the Bundigerie Walking Track along the northern shoreline of Lake Talbot.

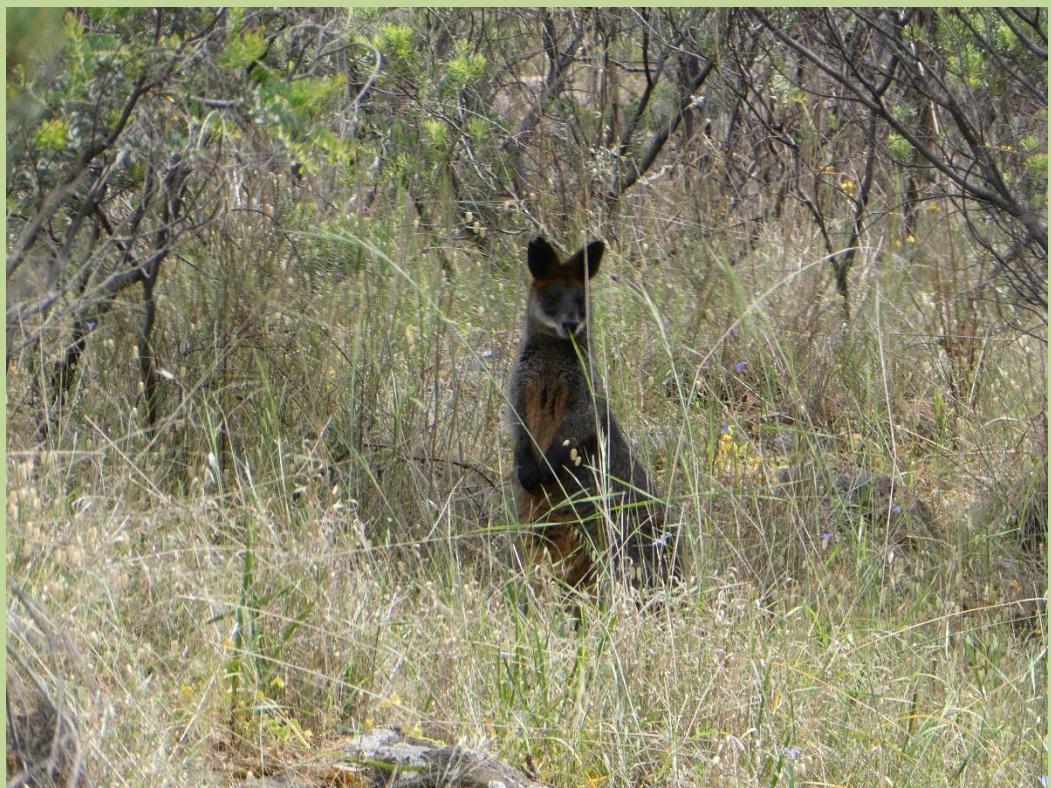


The walk was awash with Bluebells (Wahlenbergia species) and paper daisies!





Bulbine bulbosa – Bulbine Lily



Swamp Wallaby



Wednesday 16th October 2024

Even before we arrived at Fivebough today we had quite a treat! On the side of the road!



A cluster of male Superb Parrots!!!!!!

Fivebough was quiet this morning and it was cold and windy but we persisted and while Faye and I didn't see anything much new, it was still pleasant birding.





Red-kneed Dotterels are always worth the effort!



The Marsh Harrier made itself be found!

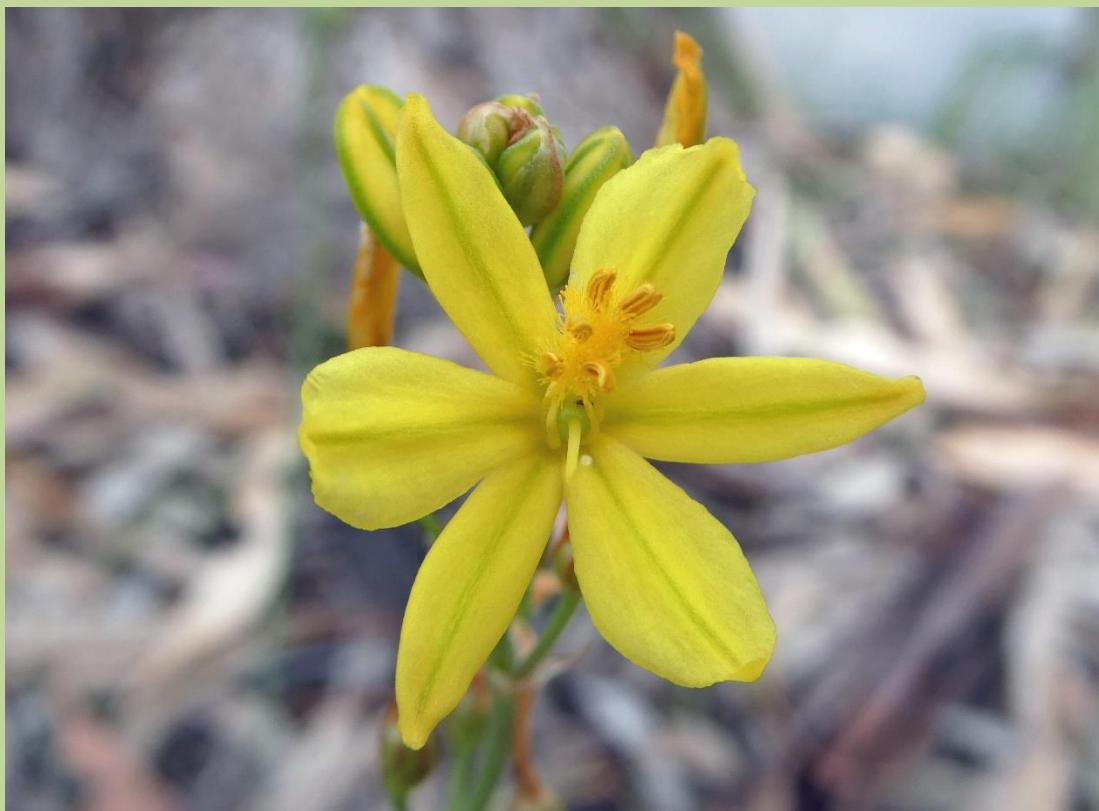


Black-shouldered Kite in comfort!





Before we retried home for lunch, we also completed the “River Drive” through the Murrumbidgee Valley National Park.

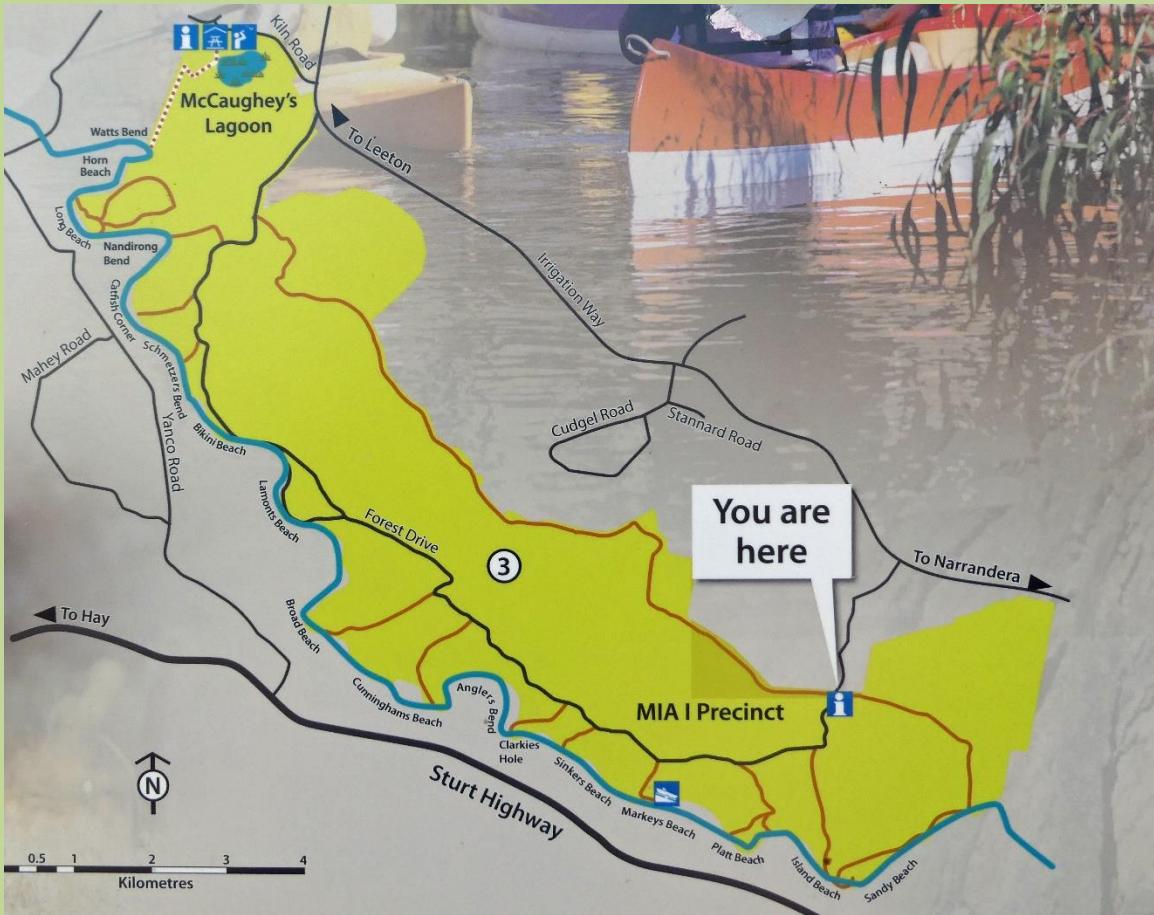


Bulbine Lily





A park resident!





And our final treat this morning!



After lunch we all went down to check out Gillenbah State Forest. It's 10km south on the Newell Highway and it is basically a *Callitris* forest but there were patches of Grey Box or Yellow Box. Under the *Callitris* there was an acacia shrub layer. It is also a forest that is being used for timber extraction (*Callitris*).



It was underneath the Callitris that we found possibly two species of Diuris!



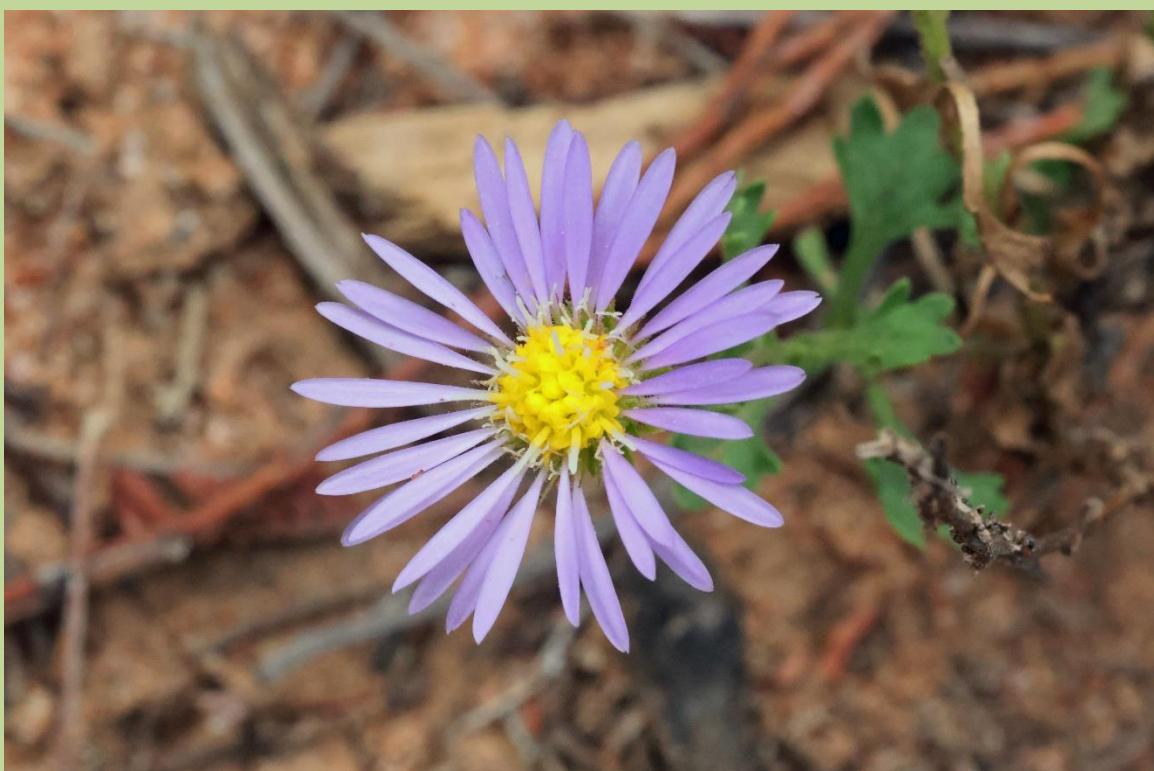


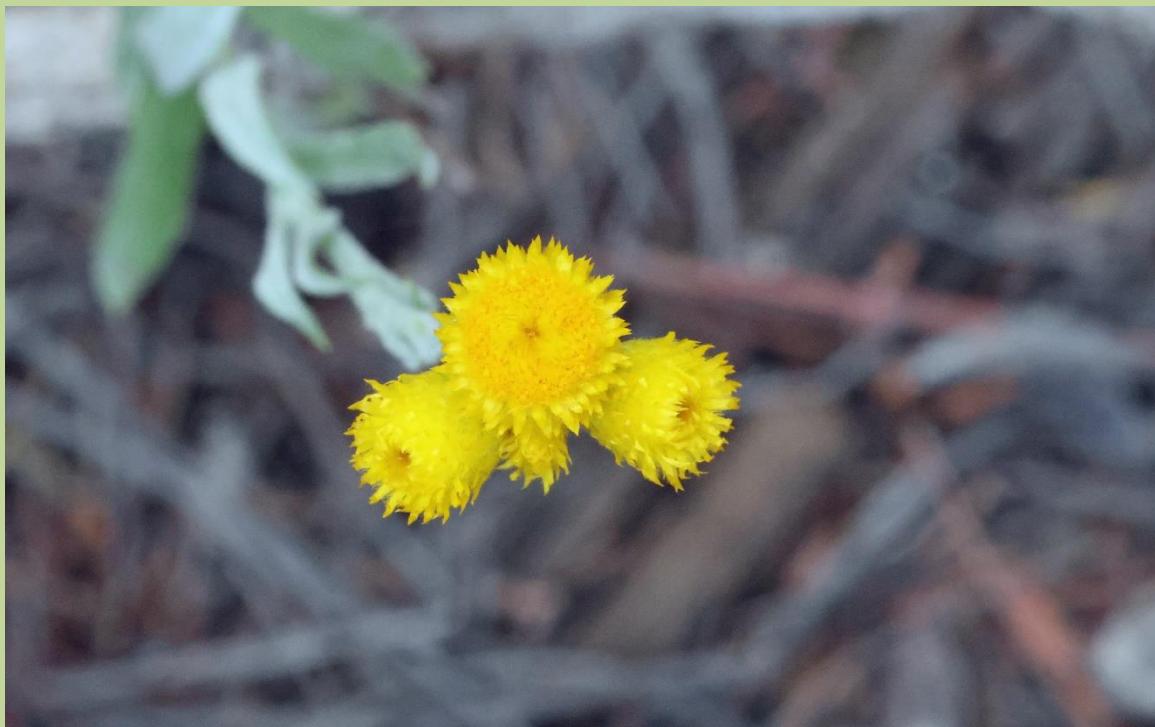


Diuris tricolour



Tiny, right!!!!







And this Dodonaea

That brought us back to our cabins to shower and prepare prior to our farewell dinner!

But a word! Gary phoned Faye this morning. Maree has been in hospital for the past six weeks and still has a fever. We'll be changing our plans, going via Wagga tomorrow, seeing Gary and then seeing Maree in hospital, before driving home.

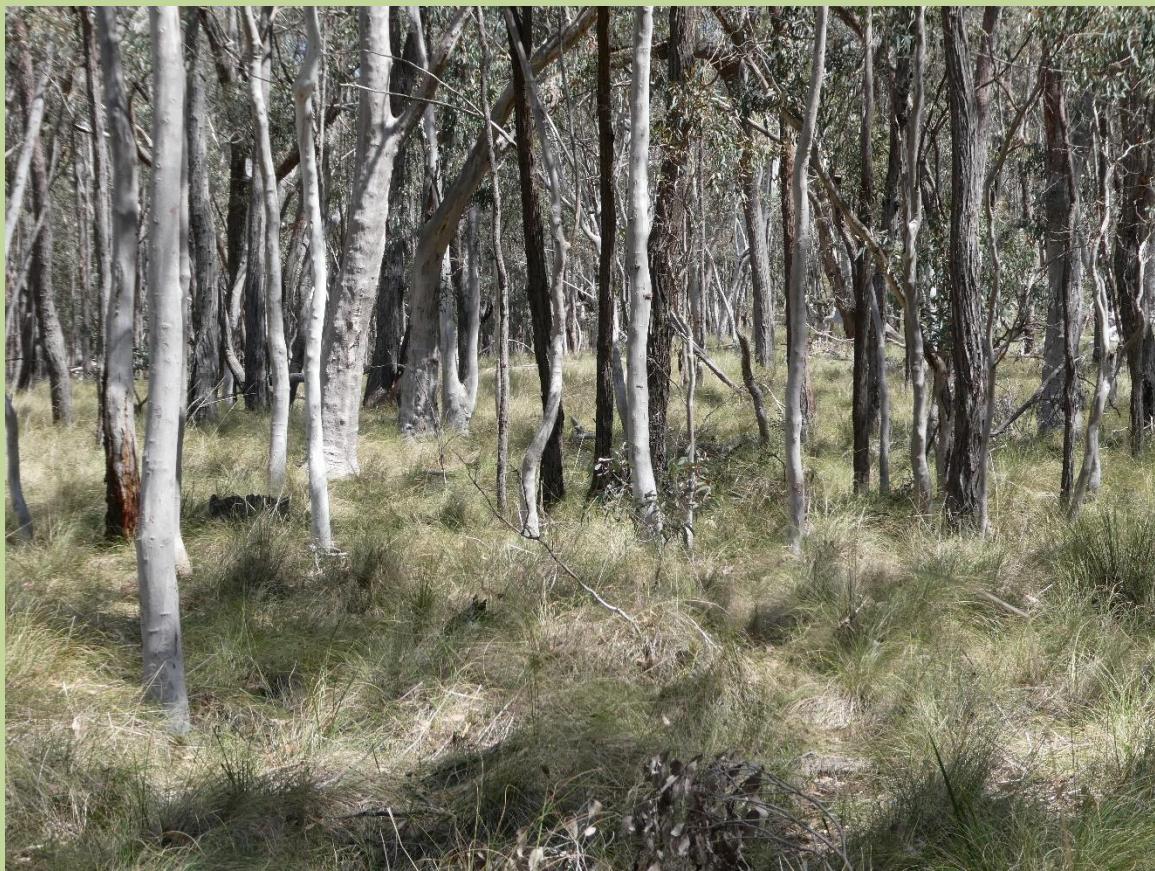
Thursday 17th October 2024

And so, to home!

Our drive home took us for morning tea to Bookham and a new roof on the old church! It was impressively bright but the coffee was, well, average at best!

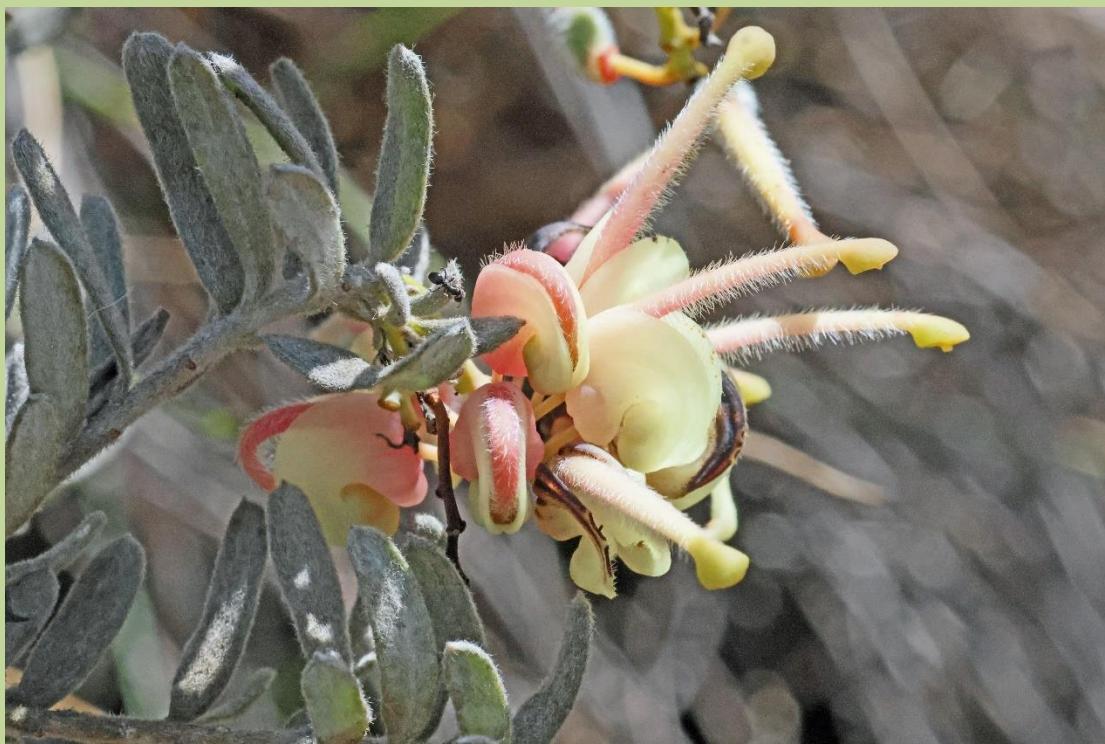


We then drove on without incident until we reached Mundoonen Nature Reserve. I would still like to get into the patch on the eastern side of the freeway but there was more than enough to excite where we parked the car.





Stypandra glauca - Nodding Blue Lily¹



Grevillea species

¹ *Stypandra*; From Greek, stype, tow and waste flax and andra, male, referring to the appearance of the beaded stamens.
glauca; From Greek, glaukos bluish, referring to the foliage.

But the star of the day!



Thelymitra carnea!





After a hearty lunch at Roses Café in Goulburn we headed home! That section was bedevilled by fast, aggressive driving and I was glad to arrive back in Engadine safely!

