

**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

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|------------------------------|---|
| 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 Fairy-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 | |

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|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 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.”



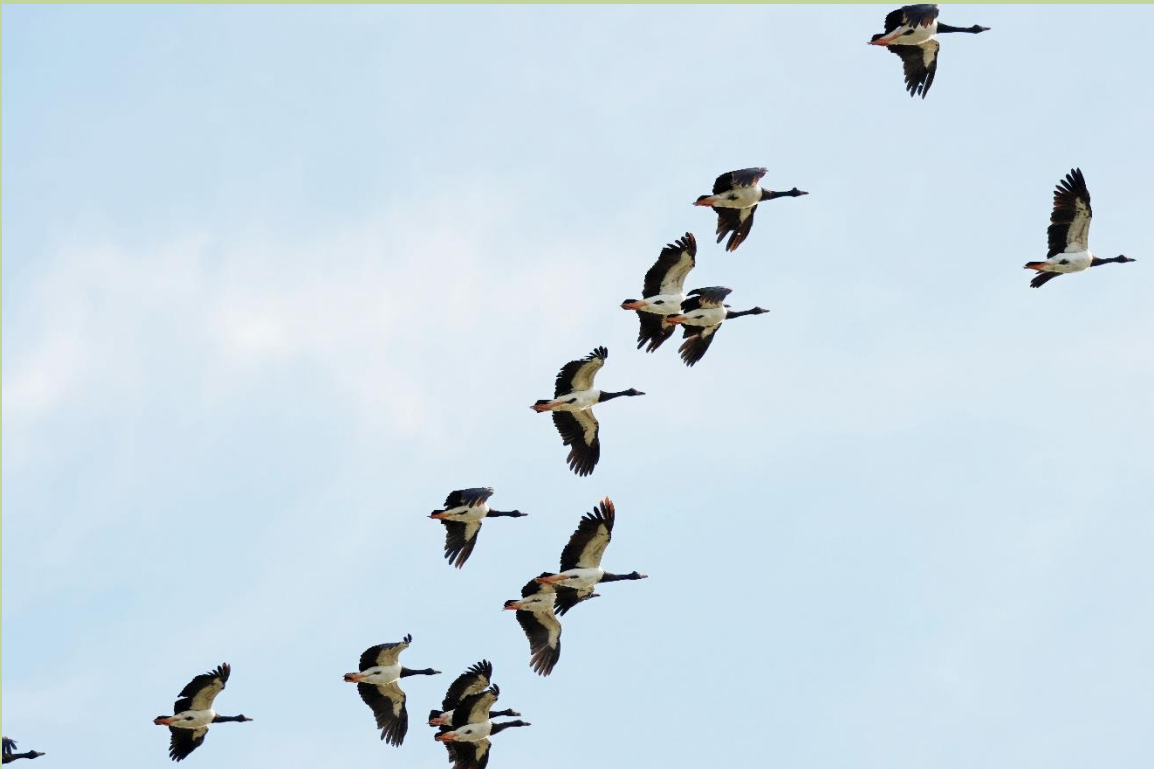




By now the afternoon heat had arrived and it was time to head home. We had added to the bird list once more (Fuscous and White-eared Honeyeaters and Zebra Finch and had even spotted three Silver Gulls over Lake Talbot!

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!

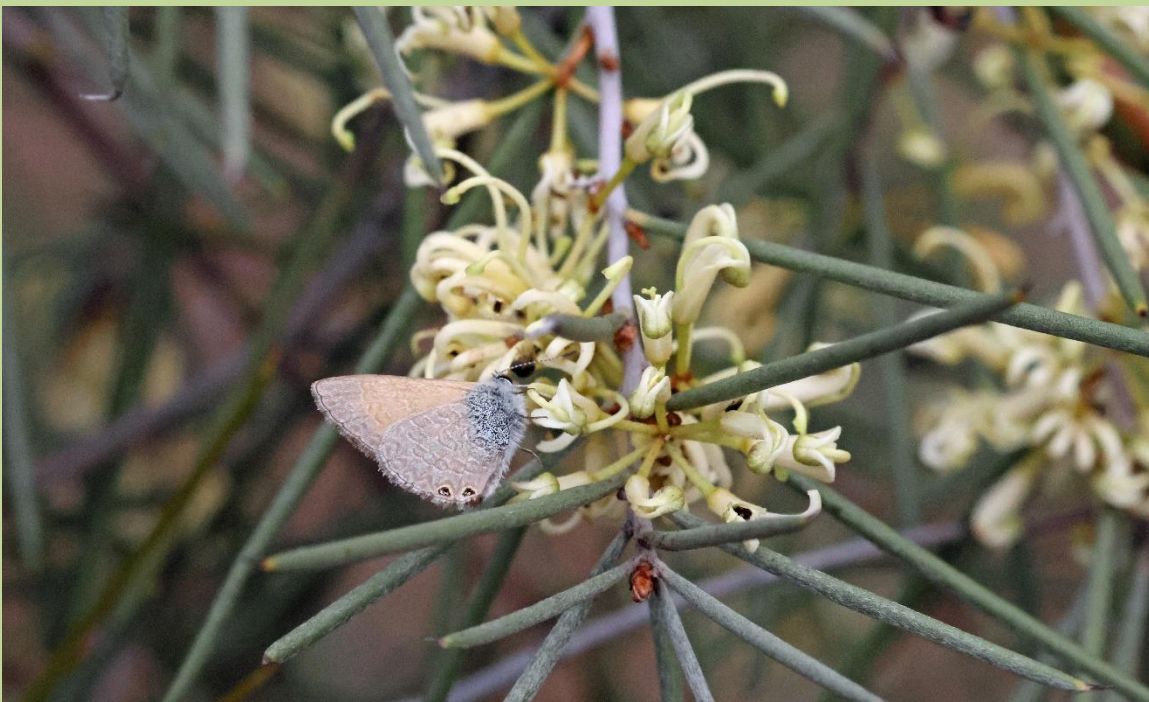








Hakea tephrosperma – Hooked Needlewood





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.

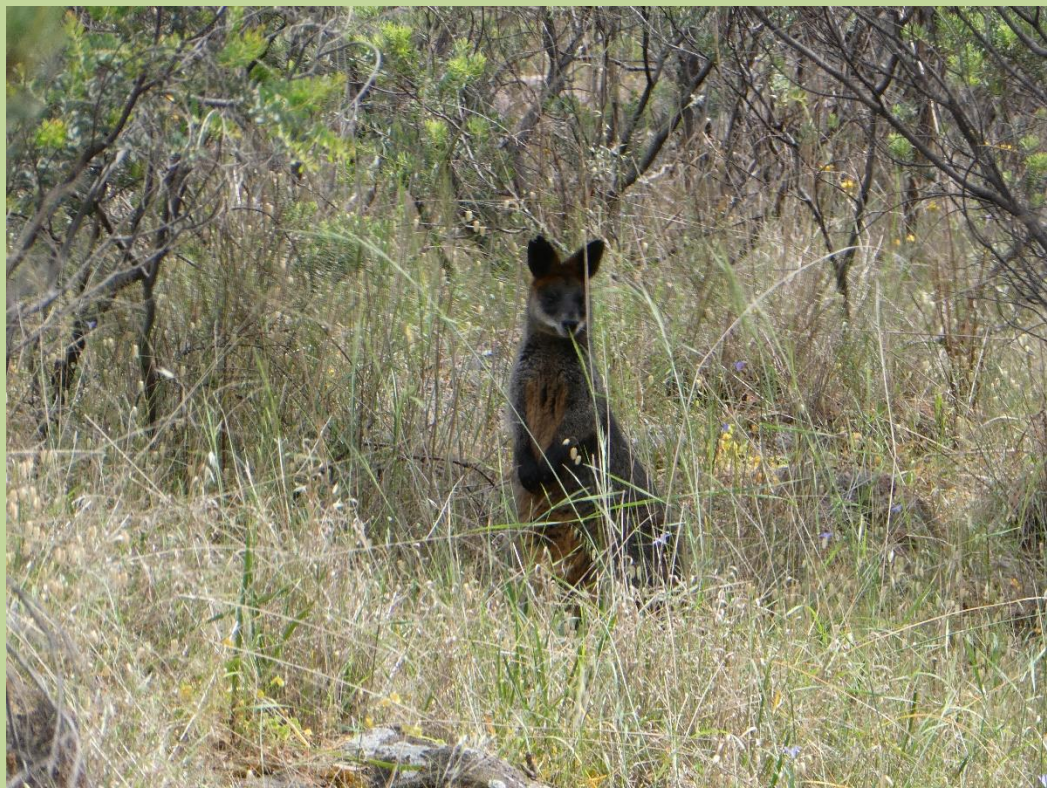


The walk was awash with Bluebells (*Wahlenbergia* species) and paper daisies!





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.

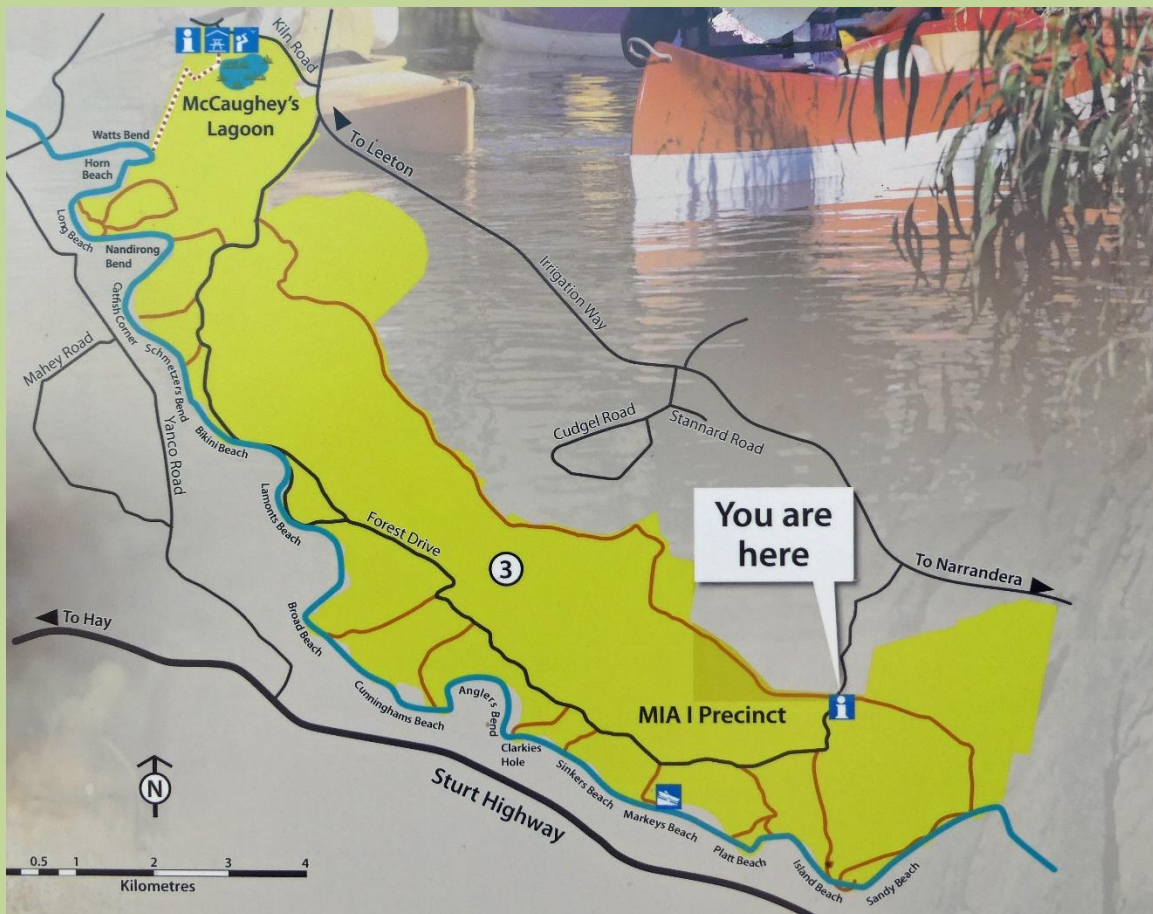


Bulbine Lily





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 is 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!

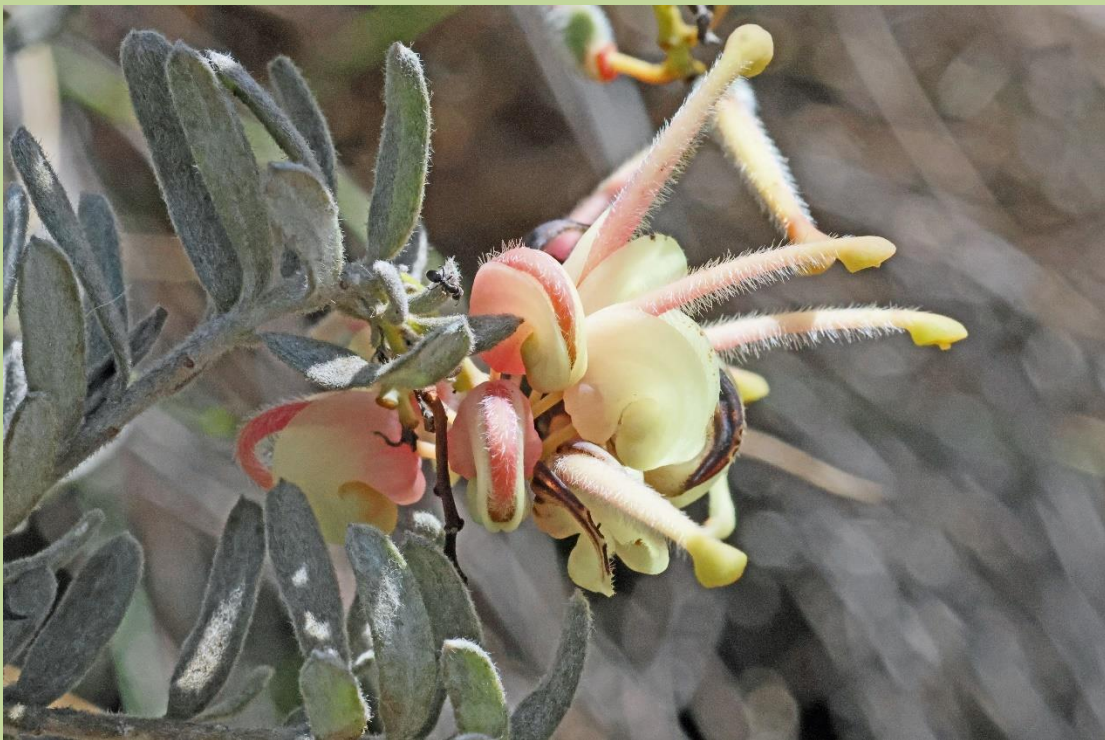


We then drove on without incident until we reached Mundoonen Nature Reserve. I would still like to get into the patch on the eastern side of the freeway but there was more than enough to excite where we parked the car.





Stypanandra glauca - Nodding Blue Lily¹



Grevillea species

¹ Stypanandra; 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!

