



# DUBBO FIELD NATURALIST & CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC.

*Fostering interest, knowledge and enjoyment in natural history and conservation since 1977*

[www.dubbofieldnats.org.au](http://www.dubbofieldnats.org.au)

## FIELD NOTES

May 2010

### ACTIVITIES INFORMATION:

#### DFNCS MAY SOCIAL MEETING:

**Tuesday 18 May 7.30pm**, Western Plains Cultural Centre, Wingewarra Street.

Speaker: Janis and Tim Hosking '***Birds in Backyards***'

Please bring a plate to share for supper. All participants welcome.

*Meeting Contact: Kerry Palmer 0427 480 440*

#### DFNCS MAY FIELD TRIP:

##### **Yeoval & Buckinbah Creek: Sun 23 May**

Meet at Western Plains Cultural Centre (Gipps St side) 8:30am and travel by convoy to Yeoval via Obley Road.

Walk along Buckinbah Creek, Yeoval, possible tree planting and BBQ. Visitors welcome. RSVP: *Kerry Palmer 0427 480 440.*

*Trip leader: Alf Cantrell 6846 4190*

#### NEXT 'BIRDS AND BOTANY' FIELD TRIP: EARLY JUNE

11<sup>th</sup> June trip to the 'Biodiversity Garden' at Elizabeth Park. Meet at the Park at 9am with morning tea. We will have a wander and see what we can see and then have a cuppa! *Trip Contact: Janis Hosking 6887 2692*

**VISITORS WELCOME!**

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#### **AIMS OF OUR SOCIETY**

- *To foster interest, knowledge and enjoyment in natural history, particularly in the Dubbo Region*
- *To speak out on environmental and conservation issues, particularly those affecting our area*
- *To achieve these aims by meetings with lectures, discussions and field trips.*

## CONTACTS:

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## OFFICE BEARERS:

### PATRON

Terry Korn PSM

### PRESIDENT

Kerry Palmer  
0427 480 440

### VICE PRESIDENT

Rob Taylor

### CORRESPONDENCE

#### SECRETARY

Janis Hosking

### MINUTES

#### SECRETARY

Joan Rheinberger

### TREASURER

Gisela Wallace

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Tim Hosking

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Dick McFarlane

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### We welcome new members!

Hagan family; Karen, Sean Kate & Sam who have already made a significant contribution to the society by establishing our participation in the Waterwatch program with monitoring sites on the river at both Butlers Falls & Wylandra Crossing. Laura McKinley from CW-CMA has shared her skills to facilitate and provided a water quality testing kit. Congratulations also to Kate who has initiated a new column in the Mailbox Shopper titled **Into Nature**. Young Sam has proven to be a keen eye with birdspotting skills; having recently sighted an Azure Kingfisher on one of our recent Birds & Botany field trip along the Macquarie River. Well done!

Adele who has recently relocated from the Blue Mountains & is also a member of Cumberland Bird Observers. Neroli & Steve who have relocated to Dubbo from Brisbane and are keen bushwalkers. Anne from Ballimore who has a penchant for native plants, and the Clipperton family including Robbie & Steve who attended our March social meeting. Steve who works as a conservation officer with Industry and Investment NSW, with a specialty in Fisheries. A warm welcome to you all.

### Lobbying Activities:

DFNCS submitted a letter in response to advice from Dubbo City Council in relation to the removal of five mature native trees on the Newell Highway west of Dubbo. Evidently suffering from poor health, these trees were removed in the first week of May. Despite our request for advice from Council, it is unknown what Council proposes to do to offset the loss of these trees.

Meanwhile we have still not received any direct information about the Council 'Bird Box Project' – despite requests to Council & some of our members reporting fallen nest boxes along the Tracker Riley Walkway.

*Kerry Palmer, DFNCS President*

## FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the May Dubbo Field Nats newsletter! The Club activities have really 'kicked in' for the year—with an excellent ANZAC day Camp to Burrendong and the committee moving into planning for the September Environmental Forum, a key event for us later in the year.

Note the calls for additional committee members and particularly an 'Activities Officer' on the last page. We are really trying to spread the load between committee members and would love to hear from anyone who wants to have a greater level of involvement in their Club. The Activities Officer is to have someone focus on planning and facilitating field trips—to make sure we can offer the most interesting and appealing activities possible. They'd have the full support of the committee in this role.

Lastly, you'll see later in the newsletter some advice of success in obtaining two separate grants. This is great to see and will continue to be a continued focus of committee members—more resources means we can offer greater value to Club members and tackle some of the projects we have in planning.

Get amongst it!

*Tim Hosking DFNCS Newsletter Editor*

## FIELD TRIP REPORT

### **ANZAC Weekend Campout, Burrendong Dam, April 24 & 25.**

Anne McAlpine

I and a few other Field Nats travelled to the Burrendong Arboretum on Saturday 24th April for a workshop organised by Marrian Jarrett. The workshop was about *Myoporum* & *Eremophila* plants. Pat Gilmore (& hubby) from Cumnock gave us a wonderful rundown on the intricacies of these hardy, adaptable natives and how to propagate them at home.

Following a scrumptious morning tea we drove down to view these growing at the Arboretum.

The Field Nat members then did some "weeding" - remembering that a weed is a plant in the wrong place. I definitely had trouble with removing these "weeds".

After a walk in the lush Fern walk the members present (Janice, Tim & Kim & 2 beautiful little girls, Gisela & Len, Kerry & Jack and I) travelled to the "Lakeside"(!!) Cabins for the night.

We then had a yummy BBQ tea and watched the rain roll in followed by a brainstorming session about some aspects of DFNCS for the future.

Sunday morning remained rainy, so members made their own decisions on whether to stay or leave for home. A good time was had by all.



Field Nats hard at work at the Arboretum  
(Photo: A. McAlpine)

## SPEAKER REPORT: APRIL SOCIAL MEETING

### **FLIGHT OVER THE PAROO**

Janis and Tim Hosking

As stand-in speakers we reported on our flight out to, and over, the flooding occurring in western NSW—including the Paroo, Warrego, Cuttaburra Basin and Darling River.

Organised and guided by Terry Korn, we flew over the last unregulated river in the Murray-Darling Basin. It was truly an awesome sight.

While we were a bit too high to see waterbirds, the full lakes, inundated floodplains and areas of flooded lignum means this area will boom in the months to come.

It was also interesting to note the flooding on the new National Park 'Toorale' and the wetlands and water structures present on the property.



The Paroo in flood (Photo: J. Hosking)

## GRANT SUCCESS!

The committee reports success in two grant applications in recent months. These are:

- *Dubbo City Council Community Organisation Grant*: \$750 towards the Environmental Forum; and
- *Dubbo RSL Club* 'in support of purchasing promotional and marketing displays' \$100 general donation.

Support of this kind is always welcomed!

## CURRENT DFN&CS PROJECTS : BIRDS IN BACKYARDS

Those unlucky enough to receive a water notice in the mail recently will note an interesting addition—the Dubbo *Birds in Backyards* flier.

We have printed 30,000 copies of the final flier and delivered copies to the Council for the mailout, with additional copies for the Central West CMA, Mailbox Shopper and others.

If you wish to distribute any, please see Tim Hosking for copies. Tim thanks all contributors and reviewers for their assistance in the production of this flier.

We have seen coverage on ABC radio and the Photo News plus in the Liberal report written by the intrepid environmental reporter, Kate Hagan. Keep an eye out for her regular column!



The Hagan and Poyser kids with Tim Hosking (Photo: K. Hagan)

## MEMBER'S CONTRIBUTION

### BIRDS IN MY BACKYARD

by Ida Riach.



Photo: Grey-crowned Babbler  
(J. Garden)

“I now have two flocks of Grey-crowned Babblers visiting the garden.

There were three of the original flock for a few months and then one was found dead, with injuries to the back of its head for which we blamed the Pied Butcherbirds.

The other flock of seven arrived about three months ago. One day there were six birds in the bird bath while the seventh was digging in one spot nearby.

The two flocks visit the garden separately.

## WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY: DFNCS STALL, 5 JUNE

In partnership with RiverSmart, DFNCS will be manning a stall at the 5 June Dubbo Farmer's Markets.

The aim is to continue to raise the profile of the Field Nats and RiverSmart in the Dubbo community, and to celebrate World Environment Day during this, the '*International Year of Biodiversity*' (2010).

Any assistance will be welcomed—please contact Kerry Palmer.



**WED2010**  
WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY . 5 JUNE  
MANY SPECIES ONE PLANET ONE FUTURE

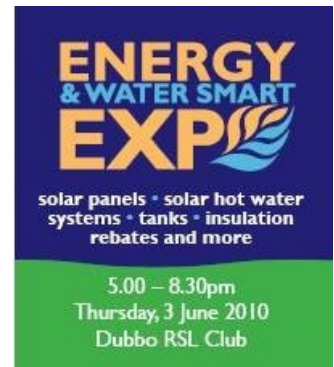
## A FEW EVENTS

### **Dubbo Energy and Water Smart Expo Thursday 3 June 5pm-8:30pm**

This event aims to provide information to Dubbo residents that will improve our environment and help ease our residents increasing costs of living.

The expo will feature businesses displaying information on environmental, energy, fuel and water efficient products and services. Government Departments, schools and community groups may also be attending.

Held at the Dubbo RSL Club Auditorium. Free entry. Contact Dubbo City Council if you require any further information.



### **Dubbo Green Drinks Thursday 3 June 7.00 - 8.00pm**

The next Dubbo Green Drinks event will be held in conjunction with the Dubbo City Council *Energy and Water Smart Expo*.

This event is purely an informal social gathering – it is non-profit, non-political and organised by individuals who work in the environmental industry.

Held at the front bar of the *Dubbo RSL Club* from 7pm to 8pm. Pay for your own drinks.

Contact: Tim Hosking [tim.hosking@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tim.hosking@environment.nsw.gov.au) or 6883 5329

### **Joseph Banks and the Flora of the East Coast Exhibition, Dubbo Regional Gallery, 24 April to 25 July**

This exhibition features coloured engravings of Sydney Parkinson's original drawings which recorded the coastal plants collected by Sir Joseph Banks and Dr. Daniel Carl Solander on Capt. James Cook's first voyage around the world 1768-1771. An excellent exhibition will worth a look for all interested in natural history.



## MEMBER'S CONTRIBUTION

### **BIRDS AND ART—MARCUS COATES AND MICHAEL SMYTHE**

By Jack Randell

British artist Marcus Coates and his collaborator Michael Smythe (who grew up in Dubbo), gave a talk on some of their work in the international arts arena at the Western Plains Cultural Centre on Wednesday 28th of April.

Coates is known for his relational aesthetics, the creation of circumstances that cause us to re-assess our relationships with others and the world. The most striking work discussed and partly displayed was a piece called "Dawn Chorus". The artist and an ornithologist recorded 14 separate bird songs in an English wood at dawn, and then slowed the recordings down by 20 times. The slowed down individual bird samples were taken to professional singers who learnt the slowed sound sample and then sang it back for the artist who filmed and recorded this new slowed human song. Coates then sped up the song by 20 times and found that the new tune is surprisingly true to the twitter of the species originally recorded. The final symphony of 14 songs were sequenced to be displayed on individual monitors with spacing and overlapping consistent with the time at dawn of the original recordings. The accelerated human singers sounding convincingly like birds but also taking on a highly animated birdlike character.

Marcus Coates has work included in *THE BEAUTY OF DISTANCE: Songs of Survival in a Precarious Age*, 17th Biennale of Sydney 12 May - 1 August 2010 at Artspace, Woolloomooloo.

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**May 18 Social Meeting:** Speaker: Janis & Tim Hosking, *Birds in Dubbo Backyards*

**May 23 Field Trip: Yeoval and Buckinbah Creek.**

Walk, working bee and BBQ along Buckinbah Creek, Yeoval.

**May 27 Committee Meeting:** 7:30pm Contact Kerry M: 0427 480 440



**June 5** World Environment Day—DFNCS stall at the Farmer's Market.

**June 15** Social Meeting: Speaker: Erlina Compton, *Biodiversity Programs in Western NSW*

**June 20** Field Trip : Mount Arthur Reserve Walking Trail/s

**September 11** (Saturday) DFNCS Environmental Forum, Western Plains Cultural Centre

**September 26** celebrating World Rivers Day, Macquarie Blue event

**More detail on above events will follow in future Field Notes Newsletters... If you want to find out more about what's going on, or get involved - join now!**

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## NOTES FOR MEMBERS

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS SOUGHT**

Interest is sought from the membership for additional Committee Members and in particular, an 'Activities Officer'. This is a proposed new position to focus on field trip organization and planning. Please contact and committee member to discuss.

### **Guest Speakers & Field Trip Leaders Wanted**

If you know of someone, somewhere, doing something extraordinary, contact them and ask if they would like to present their story or host a field trip. Contact the committee with any ideas.

### **Digital Newsletters**

If you would prefer to get your newsletter as a PDF file by email then please send an email to [contact@dubbofieldnats.org.au](mailto:contact@dubbofieldnats.org.au) This way you not only save the Society the cost of paper & postage but you also get the newsletter in full and glorious colour!

### **Field Notes Contributions**

If you have any articles, photographs, comments, letters or suggestions you would like to make, then send them in! Submission deadline is last Thursday of each month.

Please remember that the newsletter is edited by the efforts & time permitting of dedicated volunteers!

The Editor, PO Box 1171, Dubbo, NSW 2830 or Email : [contact@dubbofieldnats.org.au](mailto:contact@dubbofieldnats.org.au)

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### **MEMBERS DFNCS SOCIAL MEETINGS:**

THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH @ 7.30PM

Venue: Kurrajong Room, 1st Floor Community Arts Building

Western Plains Cultural Centre, cnr Gipps & Wingewarra Streets, Dubbo

### **MONTHLY DFNCS FIELD TRIPS:**

Usually the SUNDAY FOLLOWING SOCIAL MEETINGS.

Occasionally DFN&CS hold special events & field trips, of which further details are advised in our the members' newsletter, "Field Notes".

### **'BIRDS AND BOTANY FIELD TRIPS:**

EVERY SECOND FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH

Pending interest at the monthly social meeting or field trip.

