

THE FIELD NATURALIST

NEWSLETTER NO. 162: AUGUST 2026

ALBURY-WODONGA FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB INC.

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

\$15.00

By direct transfer (see Page 2)



GD



NB

Wood Cockroach

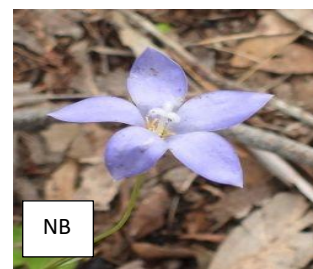
Panesthia p. (Blaberidae)



BD

Purple Burr Daisy

Calotis cuneifolia



NB

Sprawling Bluebell

Wahlenbergia gracilis

Some of the diverse range of flora, lichen, mosses and fungi on the floor of Kentucky Forest after good winter rains

EDITOR'S REQUEST

A reminder to the leader of each outing. Following the outing I would be grateful if your report could be emailed to me at

gdatson@bigpond.net.au in **Word**

format so that it can be easily edited for inclusion in the newsletter. Photos are also gratefully received but need to be provided separately in a suitable file size (approximately 300KB -1MB each), as a jpeg, either via email or on a USB memory stick. Please ring 0428 401 090 if you have any questions.



AUGUST ISSUE 2026

Outing Report:

Kentucky Forest	p2-4
Member observations/ contributions	p5
Aug Bird Observations	p6

NEXT OUTING

Sunday September 13
Chiltern-Mt. Pilot NP -
Wildflowers. 10am Chiltern
Swimming Pool Carpark.
Ldr: Neil Blair 0428 235 964
Please note all outings are
subject to weather conditions.

Please register with the leader
ahead of the outing so you can
be contacted if there is a change
in arrangements. Registering also
means that the leader is better
able to plan activities.

Details for membership payment (\$15).

Direct Transfer details for electronic subscription payments -

Payments to the club can be made via Internet banking using the details below.

BSB: 803 070 **Account No.** 100002355

Account Name: ALB WOD FIELD NATURALISTS INC

(The account name should be written in its abbreviated form as shown, and don't forget to include **your** name)

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## AUGUST REPORT

### KENTUCKY FOREST

Glenda Datson

After having to cancel the late July and early August outings to Baranduda and Wonga Wetlands because of rain many members were looking forward to immersing themselves once more in our usual "field nat" activities. 13 of us thoroughly enjoyed getting back to Kentucky Forest after what seemed like such a long time.

Jenny and Jan turned up early and had already tuned into the many birds which greeted us. The highlights were Hooded, Red-capped and Flame Robins along with both Grey and Pied Butcherbirds as well as an early Western Gerygone. Several opera singers of the bush, Rufous Whistlers, were trying to outdo each other.

During our ramble we came across many late winter-spring wildflowers in bud. Good rain at the right time had enabled thousands of Dwarf Greenhoods *Pterostylis nana* to emerge which were now flowering en masse. Clumps of Thick-fruited Buttercup *Ranunculus pachycarpus* with their brightly "enamelled" yellow petals drew our attention now and then, along with numerous Early Nancy *Wurmbea dioica* and here and there the odd Austral Bear's Ear *Cymbonotus preissianus*, Tiny Star *Paurida glabella* (syn. *Hypoxis*) and Pink Fingers *Caladenia carnea*. Golden Wattle *Acacia pycnantha* was also part of this suite of plants currently flowering.

In a few weeks the Bulbine Lilies *Bulbine bulbosa* will open to cheer everyone up, followed later by Chocolate Lilies *Arthropodium strictum* which fill the air on a warm day with their rich chocolate perfume.

I was drawn by a strong perfume which led to a single specimen of Grey Mulga *Acacia brachybotrya*. We have never come across this species at Kentucky before and only happened across it because it was noticeably in full flower during this visit. So, is it a remnant or has it germinated from seed dropped by a parrot, pigeon or perhaps a bronzewing? It is close to its known occurrence at Coreen so either scenario is possible.

It appeared to be a reasonable age and fortunately for us, on the day was covered in masses of flowers.



Grey Mulga is a dense, spreading, rounded shrub growing from 1 to 3m tall. The phyllodes are grey-green and flat with a length of about 3.5cm and width of 1.5cm. It blooms in winter and spring between July and November. The flowers are produced in clusters of two to five spherical bright yellow flower-heads from the leaf axils. The seed pods are dark brown, straight to slightly curved, about 7cm long and 6 mm wide. The seeds are dark brown to black and are around 7 mm long and 4mm wide.

It grows in a variety of soils and is often found in mallee habitat. It attracts seed-eating and insect-eating birds.



Phillip found a Wood Cockroach upturned in a hole, battling to right itself. So it was assisted in its return to a more comfortable posture (see front page) and politely waited for Neil to return from a trip to his car to change his camera battery (see photo front page). Neil then spotted a Ragged Snake-eyed Skink sunning itself on a log.



**Ragged Snake-eyed Skink**  
*Cryptoblepharus pannosus*



Photos: Neil Blair



**Mauve Burr Daisy *Calotis cuneifolia***

Note the seeds which inevitably stick in our socks as we walk through the area later in the season.

On another note, it was alarming to find our space being shared by trail bike riders. For well over 30 years our group, along with many others, has been visiting the reserve, delighting in its floristic attributes and wildlife habitats.

At least 15 fauna species listed under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* have been recorded within this 162 hectare patch of state forest. This includes several bird species, such as the brown treecreeper, diamond firetail, flame robin, grey-crowned babbler, hooded robin, scarlet robin, speckled warbler, swift parrot, turquoise parrot and varied sitella. Ref: Wikipedia

Austral pillwort *Pilularia novae hollandiae*, listed as endangered in New South Wales, has been recorded here. *Pilularia* or pillworts is a genus of unusual ferns of family Marsileaceae distributed in North Temperate regions, Ethiopian mountains, and the southern hemisphere in Australia, New Zealand, and western South America. Ref: Wikipedia

The critically endangered Sand-hill Spider Orchid *Caladenia arenaria* and Berrigan Spider Orchid *Caladenia callitrophylla* also occur in this reserve.

Whilst the quarry within the site has recently been fenced, the Critically Endangered Sandhill Pine Woodland of Kentucky Forest (see our Spring 2025 Newsletter No.155) is poorly fenced, ungated and without signage to alert users of its ecological importance. One can only ponder its future now.

## MEMBER OBSERVATIONS/CONTRIBUTIONS

### Notes from the Datson's garden:

Sadly, our garden has been overtaken by Noisy Miners. In the past the Red Wattlebird has bullied smaller birds like the nesting Striated Pardalotes and pushed the resident New Holland Honeyeaters, Spinebills and Blue Wrens from the back garden to the front.

Now the Noisy Miners sit in the top of the Ironbarks in the reserve, waiting for any bird to appear in our garden or the reserve, then fly out in all directions like squadrons of fighter planes, to banish any unsuspecting bird which happens to appear. They pushed our Magpie-larks out, pushed the Wattlebird from the back garden to the front, and now the Wattlebird has pushed the New Holland Honeyeater and Spinebills across the road and the Blue Wrens to goodness knows where. The larger Bowerbirds, Crimson and Eastern Rosellas, King Parrots and Blue-faced Honeyeaters can hold their own fortunately.

When the Miners first appeared here we were able to clap our hands at them and they would fly off but now they largely ignore us. The only good thing I can say about them is that they drive off the Common Mynas.

The other point of interest is that a family of Kookaburras has been determined to take over one or another of our possum boxes. The poor old brushy is being given a hard time during the day as one Kooka in particular keeps sticking its head into the box and flies at the box, driving its beak against the wood making such a loud bang that I can hear it inside.

Our Pardalotes have recently arrived back for the nesting season so it will be interesting to see whether they can be allowed to set up once more in their box on our chimney.

**ALBURY-WODONGA FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB APRIL BIRD OBSERVATIONS August 2026**

|                                         |  |
|-----------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Kentucky Forest 22nd August 2026</b> |  |
| Babbler White-browed                    |  |
| Butcherbird Grey                        |  |
| Butcherbird Pied                        |  |
| Chough White-winged                     |  |
| Cockatoo Sulphur-crested                |  |
| Currawong Pied                          |  |
| Fantail Grey                            |  |
| Galah                                   |  |
| Gerygone Western                        |  |
| Honeyeater White-plumed                 |  |
| Kite Whistling                          |  |
| Kookaburra Laughing                     |  |
| Magpie Australian                       |  |
| Magpie-lark                             |  |
| Miner Noisy                             |  |
| Pardalote Striated                      |  |
| Raven Australian                        |  |
| Robin Flame                             |  |
| Robin Hooded                            |  |
| Robin Red-capped                        |  |
| Rosella Crimson                         |  |
| Rosella Eastern                         |  |
| Shrike-thrush Grey                      |  |
| Yellow-billed Spoonbill                 |  |
| Thornbill Chestnut-rumped               |  |
| Thornbill Yellow-rumped                 |  |
| Treecreeper Brown                       |  |
| Wagtail Willie                          |  |
| Wattlebird Red                          |  |
| Whistler Rufous                         |  |
| Winter Jacky                            |  |
| Woodswallow Dusky                       |  |
| <b>Total 32</b>                         |  |