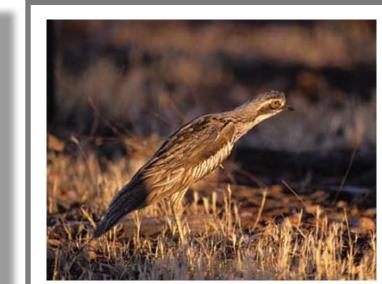


Carpet Python

Southern Bell Frog Stronghold

The Wakool, Cadell and Murrakool Wildlife Surveys highlighted the great importance of the western part of the catchment for the threatened Southern Bell Frog, which relies on both ephemeral and pernanent wetlands.



The Buckingbong State Forest has immense regional significance for wildlife,

supporting dozens of rare woodland bird and reptile species. It is the largest re-

maining patch of Grassy Box Woodland in the entire NSW Murray Catchment.

Buckingbong Biodiversity Hotspot

Bush Stone-curlew

Our best results for the muchloved Bush Stone-curlew have come from the Jimaringle/ Cockran Creek system. Here they were found at 20% (6/30) of sites. Other areas where multiple pairs have been found include the Barham, Denimein and Walla Walla regions.



Community

In the NSW Murray Catchment

Wildlife

Surveys

Australasian Bittern - The Wetland Bunyip Boomer The threatened Australasian Bittern has been one of the most severely affected species by the recent drought. The past 7 years of community wildlife surveys have yielded few records as most of the favoured Cumbungi/Phragmites Reedbeds, Canegrass wetlands and rice paddies have been dry.



Billabong Creek -**Squirrel Glider High-**

The threatened Squirrel Glider was found at most Billabong Creek trapping/spotlighting sites in the Eastern Billabong, and during the Central Riverina Wildlife Survey they were found on the Billabong in between Urana and Rand, much further west on this creek than previously thought.



Morgan's Ridge – Beating Heart of the Holbrook Landcare Area

A private land jewel in the landscape and biodiversity hotspot of enormous value, the approximately 2500 hectare Morgan's Ridge patch yielded rarities like the Turquoise Parrot and White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike.

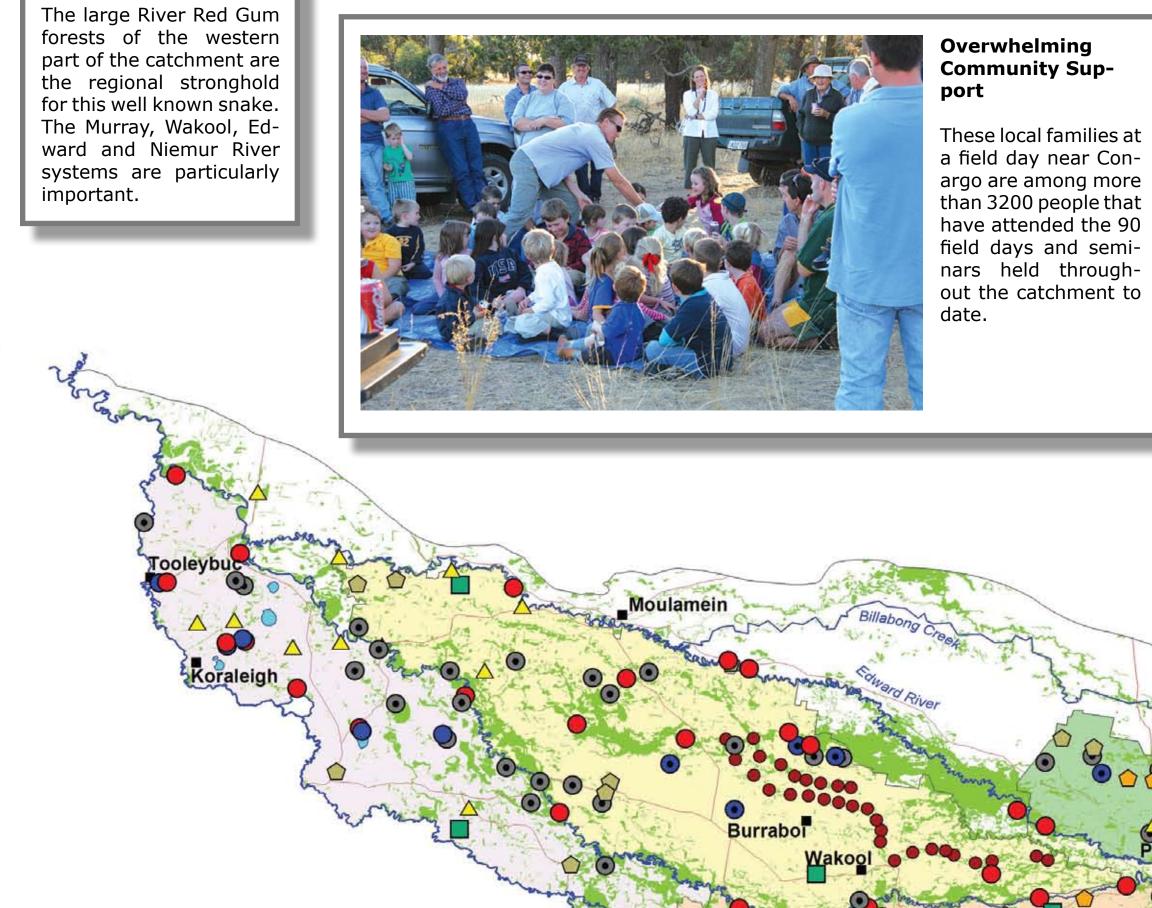


A major highlight of the Murrakool Wildlife Survey was the discovery of a Feathertail Glider population near the junction of the Wakool and Murray Rivers north of Good-

> The response we have recorded from small woodland birds to the revegetated areas on people's farms has been phenomenal, especially at large sites (>5 hectares) that are adjacent to large remnants.



Revegetation - It works!



Platypus – Edward River

The Edward River was a constant source of significant wildlife records during the Murray LWMP Wildlife Surey. One highlight was the Platypus, which was found east of Moulamein.



known from the catchment prior to these community wildlife surveys. It appears to be restricted to a high quality 80-hectare Sandhill/Mallee Woodland block in the Koraleigh area that also proved to be a hotspot for reptile diversity overall.



Red Gum and Cherry - Gilbert's **Whistler Central**

Few woodland birds have declined within the catchment more than the threatened Gilbert's Whistler. Their stronghold is now along the Murray and Wakool Rivers in areas with a dense Dwarf Cherry understorey, a semi-parasitic shrub that has proliferated in recent decades.



Australia's Most Threatened Waterbird - Painted Snipe

This stunning shorebird is now only recorded at about ten sites per year across the entire country. The two birds found at Tally's Lake during the Murrakool Wildlife Survey were associated with typical breeding habitat: ephemeral, shallow wetland areas with mudflats and patchy, low waterplant cover.



Boree Woodland - Painted Hon-

catchment that any stand is significant. One threatened species that we found that does particularly well in Boree is the Painted Honeyeater, providing there is Grey Mistletoe.



Brolga - Canegrass/ **Spike-rush Wetlands**

Vegetation Type (403 sites) Townships Chenopod Shrubland (9 sites) Dry Foothill Forest (21 sites)

Berriquin MLWMP Wildlife Survey

Denimein MLWMP Wildlife Survey

Eastern Billabong "Heartlands" Wildlife Survey

Riparian/Floodplain focused study sites (Tuppal Creek and Jimaringle/Cockran Creek Wildlife Surveys)

Main roads

Tree cover (> 5%)

Rivers

Wakool MLWMP Wildlife Survey

West Corurgan Wildlife Survey Central Riverina Wildlife Survey

Murrakool Wildlife Survey

Grassy Box Woodland (66 sites) ∧ Sandhill Woodland (32 sites) Boree Woodland (18 sites)

Black Box Woodland (50 sites) River Red Gum Forest (106 sites) Constructed Wetland (8 sites)

Revegetation (26 sites) Other Sites (60 sites)

Open Wetland (7 sites)



Yellow-footed Antechinus

After 36 600 Elliot trap-nights across the catchment the Yellow-footed Antechinus was found to have essentially disappeared from heavily fragmented landscapes where less than 5% tree cover remains. The core areas in the catchment are now the large River Red Gum forests surrounding major waterways in the west, and the Red Box-Red Stringybark country around Holbrook. The retention of fallen timber and large, old trees will benefit these endearing little critters.



Tullakool - Shorebird Capital of the Catchment

The evaporation ponds at Tullakool, where ground water is being extracted to reduce the impact of salinity, support thousands of migratory shorebirds every Summer, from the rare Black-tailed Godwit to the relatively common Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.



The Mighty Murray - Powerful Owls

The discovery of a pair of Powerful Owls along the Murray River near Barooga was an excellent find in the West Corurgan area. They are Australia's largest owl species at over 60 cm in height and feed on possums and gliders. They have disappeared from most of the fragmented inland woodlands of NSW and Victoria.



Gathered around a harp trap used to catch bats, the attendees of this field day near Berrigan learn about the benefits of flooding wetlands.



Constructed Wetlands – Biodiversity Potential on a Grand Scale

Our large, well managed constructed wetland sites that had extensive shallows and waterplant communities have been outstanding for wildlife. One site near Jerilderie supported over 50 waterbird species including the Australian Painted Snipe, Australasian Bittern, Brolga and ten migratory shorebird species.



Hooded Robin

Always a good find, the threatened Hooded Robin is closely associated with the largest patches of woodland remaining. They were recorded at 2-9% of sites for each project except the Jimaringle/Cockran Creek study where a staggering 17% (5/30) of sites revealed their presence.

In 2001, the Eastern Billabong Wildlife Survey marked the beginning of an era of community wildlife surveys across the New South Wales Murray Catchment. To date (April 2008), 403 study sites have been established, covering all the available Broad Vegetation Types and incorporating 300 farms. A great deal of useful information on wildlife has been generated. There has been immense support from local communities over the past seven years.

2001-2002 Eastern Billabong 2003-2004 Murrakool 2005-2006 Murray Land & Water Management Plan

2006-2007 West Corurgan & Central Riverina 2007-2008 Jimaringle/Cockran Creek 2007-2008 Tuppal Creek

Denimein

These projects have had the following broad aims:

1 - To assess the distribution, habitat and local status o wildlife (birds, mammals, reptiles and frogs) to determine key areas for conservation and direct future man-**2** - To engage local communities, raise awareness about

wildlife ecology and promote conservation of the remain-

ing species. A minimum of between 3 and 6 20-minute bird surveys have been conducted at each site across three different seasons. At a third of the sites spotlighting, elliot traps, harp traps and reptile searches were undertaken. Additional techniques like arboreal cage traps for gliders, pitfall traps for reptiles and call playback for nocturnal birds have been used opportunistically. A total of 328 species

David Webb: Southern Bell Frog, Beaded Gecko, Carpet Python, Australasian Bittern, Painted Snipe, Tullakool shorebirds, Painted Honeyeater. Peter Merritt: Bush Stone-curlew, Squirrel Glider, Brolga, Yellow-footed Antechinus. Matt Herring: Buckingbong SF, Morgan's Ridge, River Red Gum/ have been recorded including 235 birds, 44 reptiles, 38 Cherry, Murray River red gum, Boree Woodland, Constructed Wetland, mammals and 11 frogs. As part of these projects 90 field Revegetation. Murray Irrigation Ltd: Berrigan and Conargo Field Days. Dadays and seminars have been held across the catchment mian Kelly: Hooded Robin. Pete Morris: Powerful Owl. Martin Willis/ANTand nine wildlife booklets and two posters have been Photo.com: Feathertail Glider. Hugh McGregor: Gilbert's Whistler nest.

tion cannot be overstated.

These community wildlife surveys have only been possible because a large

number of people and organisations have been involved and they've sup-

ported so the projects so well. It is because of you all that we have had

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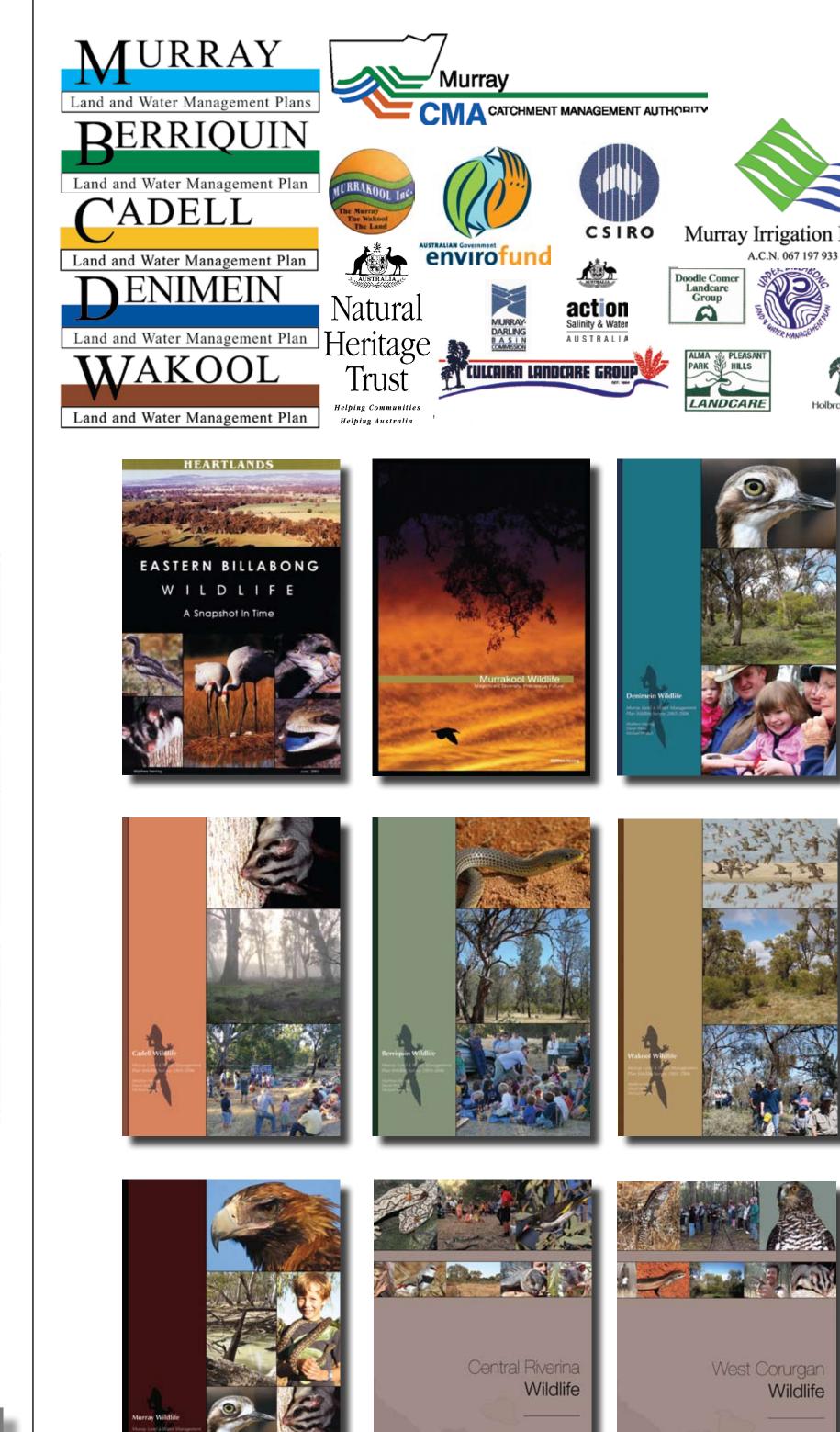
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