

Rankins Springs Birds of the Bush Festival

2, 3 & 4 October 2009

Guided Bird Tours
Spring Fair and Market Day
Art and Photography Exhibitions and Activities
Special Guests

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A Twitcher's Paradise!

Looking for something different this October long weekend? **Rankins Springs Birds of the Bush Festival** is a fantastic opportunity for families and seasoned 'twitchers' alike to experience the natural wonders of the Australian bush and its people.

The village of Rankins Springs is nestled in the foothills of the Conapaira Range, in central western NSW between West Wyalong and Hay, 562km west of Sydney on the Mid Western Highway. A small farming community, Rankins Springs and the surrounding district are home to an incredible abundance of native flora and fauna, including Kangaroos, Wallabies, Emus, the spectacular Glossy Black Cockatoo, Major Mitchell's Cockatoo, Malleefowl, Gilbert's Whistler, Chestnut Quail Thrush, Shy Hylacola and The Painted Honeyeater.

The Birds of the Bush Festival opens on the Friday night with a traditional Australian 'pub dinner' complete with entertainment and special guests. Award winning bird and nature photographer, David Kleinert, is the festival's featured artist. There will be an exhibition of David's fantastic work on Saturday, when you can also enjoy bird watching tours of the region, the Spring Fair and Market Day with stalls, rides and activities for children and their families and a competitive Art and Photography exhibition with prizes in all sections. Then on Sunday morning following the dawn birdwatching tours, join the locals for a delicious BBQ 'Big Breakfast Out' before touring the nearby Cocoparra National Park. Entry forms and information about the Birds of the Bush Festival Competitive Art and Photography exhibition, prizes and guidelines will be available on the Birds of the Bush Festival website soon.

If you can't make it to Rankins Springs on the long weekend, why not bring yourself or your group to the area for a field trip any time during the year. There are seven designated birdwatching sites in the Rankins Springs area strategically located to optimise your self-guided birdwatching experience. The locals are more than happy to help with anything you might need – from identifying camp sites to organising low cost accommodation and meals packages. All you have to do is ask!

The Midwestern highway runs straight through Rankins Springs, so the village is a great destination for a road trip – access travel details and maps online. Accommodation is available at the Rankins Springs Caravan Park and there are affordable serviced rooms at the Boomerang Motel. There are also numerous camping sites, a general store, Caltex Service Station and the Conapaira Hotel also offers counter meals, a pool table – and lots of local colour!

For more information and regular updates about the Rankins Springs Birds of the Bush Festival go to www.birdsofthebush.com or for Facebook users, check out the group 'Rankins Springs Birds of the Bush Festival' at: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/group.php?gid=42246256968&ref=ts> or email any enquiries to birdsofthebush@yahoo.com.au

~ See you at the Birds of the Bush Festival this October Long Weekend!!

Motels

Rankins Springs Boomerang
Boomerang St
Rankins Springs NSW 2669
Telephone: (02) 6966 1260

Hotels

Conapaira Hotel
Conapaira St
Rankins Springs NSW 2669
Telephone: (02) 6966 1287

Caravan Parks

Rankins Springs Caravan Park
Mid Western Hwy
Rankins Springs NSW 2669
Telephone: (02) 6966 1346

Information for Birdwatchers and Naturalists:

Cocoparra National Park is a significant vegetation remnant made up of a range of hills with a rough rocky character in an otherwise flat terrain surrounded by developed lands. The rocks are sandstones, conglomerates and shales seamed with quartzites that have been warped to form some spectacular scenery. The higher ridges are timbered with Black Cyprus Pine, Dwyers' Mallee Gum, Mallee and Currawang with an understorey of heaths and wattles. Slopes and upper valleys of the range include dry sclerophyll forest (Bimble Box, Mugga Ironbark and Drooping She-oak) with stands of White Cyprus Pine. The wider valleys such as Woolshed Flat and Pleasant Valley support White Cyprus Pine / Bimble Box woodland with an open and grassy understorey. The area also operates as a refuge for the region's fauna and includes significantly high native fauna species diversity. Over 160 species of birds including 15 species of birds listed as threatened or vulnerable have been identified within the area. These include the Major Mitchell's Cockatoo, Glossy Black Cockatoo, Grey Falcon, Barking Owl, Turquoise Parrot, Gilbert's Whistler, Painted Honeyeater, Chestnut Quail-thrush, Shy Heathwren, Hooded Robin, Diamond Firetail, Speckled Warbler, Grey-crowned Babbler, Brown and White-browed Treecreeper. There are a number of sites that offer good birding. Store Creek, Jacks Creek and Woolshed Flats, are three serviced sites on the western side of the National Park and can be accessed via Mt Bingar Road off Myall Park Road from Yenda (see Map) Spring Hill Picnic Area lies on the south eastern corner of the national park and can be accessed via Barry Scenic Drive off the Whitton Stock Route, which crosses the Ardlethan Rd about 3-4 km east of Yenda.

More information can be found at: www.mfn.org.au for details of natural history in the Murrumbidgee Valley and www.griffithgateway.com for more information to make your trip to Rankins Springs more enjoyable

A list of some of the bird species found at Rankins Springs and Cocoparra National Park – a more comprehensive list is available on the Rankins Springs Website www.birdsofthebush.com :



Emu	Major Mitchell's Cockatoo T	Yellow Thornbill
Malleefowl T	Black Swan	Striated Thornbill
Brown Quail	Cockatiel	Southern Whiteface
Australian Wood Duck	Superb Parrot T	Red Wattlebird
Pacific Black Duck	Mallee Ringneck	Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
Grey Teal	Blue Bonnet	Striped Honeyeater
Pink-eared Duck	Red-rumped Parrot	Noisy Friarbird
Australasian Grebe	Mulga Parrot	Little Friarbird
Little Pied Cormorant	Budgerigar	Blue-faced Honeyeater
Little Black Cormorant	Turquoise Parrot T	Noisy Miner
Australian Pelican	Pallid Cuckoo	Yellow-throated Miner
White-faced Heron	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	White-eared Honeyeater
White-necked Heron	Black-eared Cuckoo	Yellow-plumed Honeyeater
Nankeen Night Heron	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	White-plumed Honeyeater
Straw-necked Ibis	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo	Brown-headed Honeyeater
Black-shouldered Kite	Southern Boobook	White-fronted Honeyeater
Whistling Kite	Barn Owl	Painted Honeyeater T
Spotted Harrier	Tawny Frogmouth	Black Honeyeater
Brown Goshawk	Spotted Nightjar	Crimson Chat
Collared Sparrowhawk	Australian Owlet-nightjar	White-fronted Chat
Wedge-tailed Eagle	White-throated Needletail	Jacky Winter
Little Eagle	Laughing Kookaburra	Red-capped Robin
Australian Hobby	Red-backed Kingfisher	Hooded Robin T
Black Falcon	Sacred Kingfisher	Eastern Yellow Robin T
Peregrine Falcon	Rainbow Bee-eater	Grey-crowned Babbler T
Nankeen Kestrel	Dollarbird	White-browed Babbler
Little Button-quail	Brown Treecreeper T	Chestnut Quail-thrush
Red-chested Button-quail	Splendid Fairy-wren	Varied Sittella
Painted Button-quail	Variegated Fairy-wren	Crested Shrike-tit
Black-fronted Dotterel	Spotted Pardalote	Crested Bellbird
Masked Lapwing	Yellow-rumped Pardalote	Gilbert's Whistler T
<i>Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon) I</i>	Striated Pardalote	Golden Whistler
Common Bronzewing	Shy Heathwren T	Rufous Whistler
Crested Pigeon	Speckled Warbler T	Grey Shrike-thrush
Diamond Dove	Weebill	Restless Flycatcher
Peaceful Dove	Western Gerygone	Magpie-lark
Bar-shouldered Dove	Inland Thornbill	Grey Fantail
Glossy Black-Cockatoo T	Chestnut-rumped Thornbill	T = Threatened
Little Corella	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	I = Introduced