Rankins Springs Birds of the Bush Festival
2, 3 & 4 October 2009

Guided Bird Tours                Enquiries: Jenny (02) 6965 3384
Spring Fair and Market Day                            www.birdsofthebush.com
Art and Photography Exhibitions and Activities                     birdsofthebush@yahoo.com.au
Special Guests

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 Cypress Pine, Dwyers' Mallee Gum, Maile 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 Cypress 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
Malleefowl T
Brown Quail
Australian Wood Duck
Pacific Black Duck
Grey Teal
Pink-eared Duck
Australasian Grebe
Little Pied Comorant
Little Black Comorant
Australian Pelican
White-faced Heron
White-necked Heron
Nankeen Night Heron
Straw-necked Ibis
Black-shouldered Kite
Whistling Kite
Spotted Harrier
Brown Goshawk
Collared Sparrowhawk
Wedge-tailed Eagle
Little Eagle
Australian Hobby
Black Falcon
Peregrine Falcon
Nankeen Kestrel
Little Button-quail
Red-chested Button-quail
Painted Button-quail
Black-fronted Dotterel
Masked Lapwing
Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)
Common Bronzewing
Crested Pigeon
Diamond Dove
Peaceful Dove
Bar-shouldered Dove
Glossy Black-Cockatoo T
Little Corella

Major Mitchell's Cockatoo T
Black Swan
Cockatiel
Superb Parrot T
Mallee Ringneck
Blue Bonnet
Red-rumped Parrot
Mulga Parrot
Buldergar
Turquoise Parrot T
Palid Cuckoo
Fan-tailed Cuckoo
Black-eared Cuckoo
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo
Southern Boobook
Bim Owl
Tawny Frogmouth
Spotted Nightjar
Australian Owlet-nightjar
White-throated Needletail
Laughing Kookaburra
Red-backed Kingfisher
Sacred Kingfisher
Rainbow Bee-eater
Dollarbird
Brown Treecreeper T
Splendid Fairy-wren
Variegated Fairy-wren
Spotted Pardalote
Yellow-rumped Pardalote
Striated Pardalote
Shy Heathwren T
Speckled Warbler T
Weebill
Western Greygoney
Inland Thrushbill
Chesnut-rumped Thrushbill
Yellow-rumped Thrushbill

Yellow Thornbill
Striated Thornbill
Southern Whiteface
Red Wattlebird
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
Striped Honeyeater
Noisy Friebird
Little Friebird
Blue-faced Honeyeater
Noisy Miner
Yellow-throated Miner
White-eared Honeyeater
Yellow-plumed Honeyeater
White-plumed Honeyeater
Brown-headed Honeyeater
White-fronted Honeyeater
Painted Honeyeater T
Black Honeyeater
Crimson Chat
White-fronted Chat
Jacky Winter
Red-capped Robin
Hooded Robin T
Eastern Yellow Robin T
Grey-crowned Babbler T
White-browed Babbler
Chesnut Quail-thrush
Varied Sittella
Crested Shrike-tit
Crested Bellbird
Gilbert's Whistler T
Golden Whistler
Rufous Whistler
Grey Shrike-thrush
Restless Flycatcher
Magpie-lark
Grey Fantail

T = Threatened
I = Introduced