

Spring Camp and Tour 2019

The camp & tour for spring is in two parts ... do either or both !

Part A. September 27-29 Deniliquin ... Plains Wanderer with excellent guide Phil Maher.

Part B. September 29 - October 4th Griffith, Leeton, Lake Cargellico tag-along tour.

Part A ... September 27-29 ... Deniliquin NSW.

Our 2017 trip with Phil, was so successful we are doing it again!

Spaces are limited for this Part A.

This is a guided Plains Wanderer weekend at Deniliquin in southern NSW. Our guide will be Phil Maher of Australian Ornithological Services. Phil is a very experienced and respected guide. More info here: <http://www.philipmaher.com/aboutguide.htm>.

The Plains Wanderer is listed as critically endangered in Australia and is a bird that is extremely difficult to find on your own.

- The itinerary for the weekend will depend on a number of factors such as the amount of rainfall they have had in the area but typically Phil sees between 120 to 140 species over the weekend.
- Other hopeful sightings include: Superb Parrot, Western Gerygone, Rufous Songlark, Gilbert's Whistler, Australasian Bittern, Ground Cuckoo-shrike, White-winged Fairywren, Banded Lapwing, Southern Whiteface and Australian Pratincole.
- We will go spotlighting for Plains-wanderer at nightfall and also look for Little Buttonquail, Stubble Quail, Inland Dotterel, Barn Owl and Southern Boobook. On average the day/evening finishes at around 1.00am.
- The start time for birding on the second (half) day will depend on the finish time the previous evening. The spotlighting can take anything from 15 minutes to 3 hours.

Outline of Camp Schedule

- Thursday – Possible travel to Deniliquin. 670 Kms or 7 Hours plus breaks.
- Friday – Travel, or if arrived Thursday, walk with Illawarra Birders or own activity.
- Saturday – Day and evening guided walks and spotlighting with Phil Maher, with break at lunch / early afternoon. BYO, dinner.
Tea, coffee, cool drinks and cake and transport provided
- Sunday – Morning guided walk with Phil Maher and return to camp approx. 1PM.

Guiding Fee

The guiding fee is \$360 per person which includes a day/evening's guiding on Saturday 28th September and another half day on Sunday 29th. There will be a **6.30am start on the Saturday** and approximately a 1pm finish on the Sunday. As we will be going onto land with no public access, transport will be provided by our guide. You should provide your own food and drink.

How to Book a Place

The number of places on this Part A of trip is limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. A minimum of 7 people is required for the trip to go ahead.

If you would like to go on the trip you will need to do the following:

1. Contact Ralph Stadius to register interest.
2. Pay a deposit of **\$60 by 27th March 2019.**

Account Name: AOS
BSB: 062 533
Account: 10037648

Mark your payment: Sep27 Last name

3. Book your accommodation at Deniliquin Riverside Caravan Park. You may prefer to do this once it has been confirmed that the trip is going ahead.

Accommodation

Accommodation should be booked and paid for separately. IB will be staying at:

Riverside Caravan Park
20-24 Davidson St (Cobb Hwy) Deniliquin, NSW,
Ph: 03 5881 1284.

The park has motel style units, cabins, motor home, caravan and camping areas with a good camp kitchen.

[Http://www.deniliquinriversidecaravanpark.com.au/](http://www.deniliquinriversidecaravanpark.com.au/).

Please note that pick up and drop off for the guiding will be from here only.

Part B ... September 29 to October 4, Griffith & Lake Cargellico

This second part is a casual tag-along tour. We will share contact details as we set off so people can stay in touch. This is an optional extension to Deniliquin or just join us for this part if you prefer.

This tour is unguided and will rely on member contributions each evening over a drink and nibbles to plan the following day. Considerations will be weather, recent sightings and member preferences.

This area produces some exciting birds, the excitement stemming from them not being available to us in the Illawarra. We will visit two excellent wetlands, Fiveborough Swamp at Leeton and the Lake Cargellico Wastewater Ponds. In addition we will visit a number of bush sites with differing habitat.

To get an idea of species, visit the eBird Hotspots below. You will see some lists from past IB trips. Then browse around for other spots.

Griffith, Leeton and Cocoparra National Park

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2555540>

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L933518>

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2288252>

Lake Cargellico and Round Hill

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1192677>

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2535983>

Outline of camp schedule.

Sunday 29	Drive from Deniliquin, or home, to arrive in Griffith. If from Deniliquin, we will bird on the way at Darlington Point. About 2.5 Hours from Deniliquin or 6 hours from Wollongong <u>PLUS</u> breaks.
Monday 30	An early start to visit Five Bourough Swamp at Leeton. Other bush spots on the way back to Griffith. Griffith to Leeton is a 45mins drive.
Tuesday 1	Binya State Forest and Cocoparra NP. Both are within 15-30mins drive of camp.
Wednesday 2	Drive to Lake Cargellico which is 1.5hrs <u>PLUS</u> stops. Afternoon birding at Water Treatment Works Ponds.
Thursday 3	Day trip to Round Hill area with multiple stops.
Friday 4	Head for home which 6 hrs <u>PLUS</u> stops to Wollongong.

Camp sites.

Griffith.

If you have not been to Griffith, it is a large prosperous regional town with multiple supermarkets, restaurants, motels and a couple of excellent clubs for anyone not wishing to cook dinner. We will be staying at:

Griffith Caravan Village. Ph: 02 6962 3785

<http://www.griffithcaravanvillage.com.au/index-2.html>

This smallish camp ground offers, cabins, powered and unpowered sites, a camp kitchen and a large clean amenities block. It is about 5mins from central Griffith on Burley Griffith Way, but set back a useful distance.

Lake Cargellico.

If you have not been here before, it is the opposite of Griffith. With just one pub and a basic supermarket, its basic but comfortable. There is just one campground, bigger than Griffith with all the same facilities.

Lakeview Caravan Park. Ph: 02 6898 1077

8 Naradhan St, Lake Cargellico NSW 2672 ... No website!

Costs and catering.

This Part B is a tag-along self catering extension. You need to make your own bookings at the campgrounds for whichever days you choose.

You are welcome to join the group for all or part of this trip, please yourself.

It is self catered and certainly you will need to cater breakfast, snacks and lunch. Dinner can be self catered or purchased in town. Lake Cargellico dining options are basic but wholesome.

How to book on Part B

1. Register your interest with Ralph Stadius.
2. Book your own accommodation directly.

If you would like more information please contact Ralph Stadius:

Mobile: 041 2244 121

email rstadius@icloud.com