



## **REPORT ON OUTING TO BUNGONIA, SATURDAY -SUNDAY 7-8 OCTOBER 2006**

The relatively small COG group who joined me on this joint outing with the Goulburn Field Naturalists Society (GFNS), were more than compensated by the numbers of GFNS members as well as local Bungonia residents. After setting up camp we set off for a survey of the birdlife in the Bungonia Village Park, the adjacent Bungonia Creek, and the nearby TSR. It was a warm though comparatively still afternoon, and bird activity along the creek was particularly good with many species using the pools of water to bathe or drink. This allowed for relatively relaxed birding as we sat or lingered in the shade, letting the birds come to us. In the later part of the afternoon we also examined some of the local sights in this historic village, such as the oldest still functioning Catholic church on the Australian mainland, and the ruins of an old inn and associated buildings such as a bakery and forge. Many GFNS members then joined us for a BBQ on a perfectly still warm moonlit evening, to top off a wonderful afternoon's activity.

By nightfall we had already managed to pick up 47 species, and with some further birding early in the morning managed to increase this to 57. Highlights were good views of both **Yellow Thornbill** and **Clamorous Reed-warbler**, as well as **Shining Bronze-cuckoo**, **Restless Flycatcher**, **Double-barred Finch** and **Grey Butcherbird** either seen or heard. The **Jacky Winter**, so prominent on a recce only 6 weeks earlier, was relatively quiet, perhaps nesting, and a **Sacred Kingfisher** only called a few times and stayed out of view. The lighter sleepers managed to hear the clear calls of the **Southern Boobook** closeby at about 4 am, though almost everyone heard the **Willie Wagtail**, known to have a nest nearby, as it called all night, typical for this species when it's full moon. The local Peacock also called regularly, but the dawn chorus seemed to me to be predominately **Yellow-faced Honeyeater**, which together with the **White-plumed**, were very abundant along the creek line.