

# 2017 Regent Honeyeater Captive Release & Community Monitoring Project – Update #20

7 Nov. 2017

Hi everyone (Regent Honeyeater email group)  
2017 Captive Release Project & Community Monitoring Project - Update #20 (Day 208 - end of week 30 - post release report)

## Finally (a) fledgling

As Neville Bartlett's great photos demonstrate the season's first fledgling was recorded last week. Neville's photos were taken on day one of fledging.



Yesterday (day five post fledging) it's still going strong - actively flying from tree to tree to take insects from its parents: the wild un-banded male and one of our 2017 release females (Pink/Blue Orange/Metal).



## Regent numbers

We are tremendously grateful for all our volunteers and would like to particularly thank Bill & Lyn Boulton and Janet Chapman & Greg Hardham for coordinating monitoring while only a skeleton roster of staff were on deck over the last couple of weeks.

Regent numbers are down from past updates due in part to birds 'on the move' (see below) and a more recent tendency to lose track of pairs post failed late season breeding attempts (there's been many).

And from this week onwards we will effectively be down to only two birds with working transmitters. One of those is the wild banded male (Green/Metal Blue/Blue) that Dean managed to recapture days after the pre fledge Raven/Currawong chick predation event (refer nestling photo in last update). However, even that bird has not been detected despite searches beyond the park in the last few days.

Nevertheless over the last fortnight since the last update:



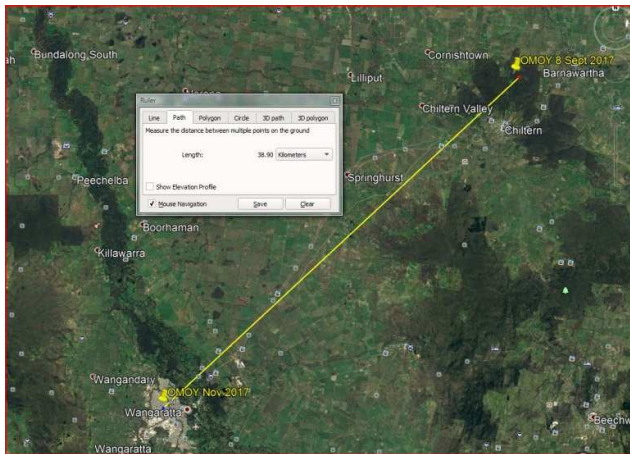
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- **28** individual Regents have been recorded as follows:
  - **25** Regents from the 2017 release
  - **One** Regent from the 2015 release
  - **One** wild banded and **One** wild un-banded Regent

## On the Move

As anticipated, the decline of Mugga and hybrid Ironbark flowering coupled with a seasonal bounty of flowering native plants in parks and gardens throughout the region (including incredible remnant Yellow Box flowering) has resulted in Regents becoming scarce in the Park . . . an enclave that has provided food and shelter for the last seven months.

And despite these birds not wearing transmitter's one larger scale movement has been recorded. We now have a nest building pair in Wangaratta (approx. 40km straight line distance from Chiltern) comprising one of our 2015 release birds (male - White/Mauve Red/Metal) and a 2017 release female (Orange/Metal Orange/Yellow).



These birds were last recorded in Chiltern on 29th and 8th Sept. respectively.

Interestingly this is the third pairing (associated with separate nesting attempts) we've recorded this season for the male, but the first for the female.

## Monitoring - your chance to participate at Chiltern

There are still volunteer monitoring opportunities - 5 days per week (excluding Tuesday & Saturday).

While Liz is away - Please email:

**David Hancock** [hardy\\_hancock@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hardy_hancock@hotmail.co.uk)  
0432 417 047 or

**Glen Johnson** [Glen.Johnson@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:Glen.Johnson@delwp.vic.gov.au)  
0418 501 936 to register your interest

- Please ensure you provide your full name, email address, mobile phone number.
- Essential information including free phone apps (to be downloaded prior to arriving) will be provided. Or spare phones with apps already installed are available.

## Spot a Regent in the meantime?

Now that they are on the move, it's even more likely you'll encounter Regents in flowering native gardens, remnant patches of bush in blossom or dipping into bird baths or farm dams.

Please let us know **ASAP** if you spot any or hear of Regent observations (so we can help follow-up to check for further birds etc.). Remember to check for bands with binoculars and take & forward photos where possible.

Please contact us if you have any queries,  
**Cheers Glen, Dean, Liz, Gem & David**  
**(2017 Regent Honeyeater Community Monitoring Project Coordinating Team)**



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