

2017 Regent Honeyeater Captive Release & Community Monitoring Project – Update #23

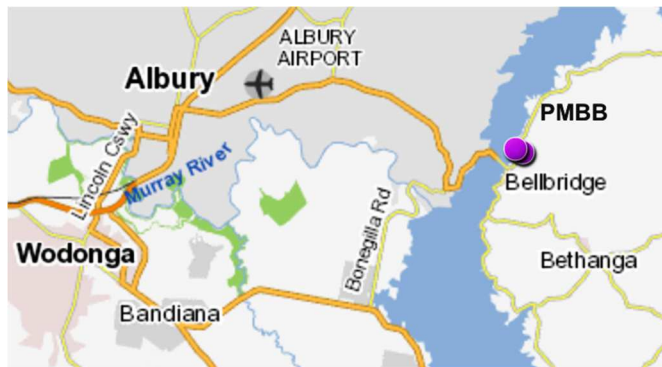
18 Dec. 2017

Hi everyone (Regent Honeyeater email group)
2017 Captive Release & Community Monitoring Project - Update #23 (Day 250 - end of week 36 - post release report)

Persistence Pays

As mentioned in recent updates, one of the two remaining Regents wearing working transmitters has been 'missing in action' for over a month. The banded wild male (Green/Metal, Blue/Blue) was last seen in Chiltern on 30 Oct.

Ever since, whenever driving to other jobs (north south east & west of Chiltern, Wang, & Alb/Wod), the annoyingly scratching sound of the scanning receiver (with an omni directional roof mounted antennae) has been a constant companion. Fortunately, on a recent trip back from the Upper Murray, the receiver commenced beeping.



Many will be familiar with the steel truss Bethanga Bridge (approx. 40km from Chiltern) that provides Murray River Rd access to Bellbridge & the Upper Murray.



Planted (and wild recruiting) Silky Oak are relatively abundant on the Lake Hume foreshore in this area.



At the time, Silky Oaks were in peak flowering and its blossom appeared to provide the primary nectar source for this solo Regent.

After 'disappearing' again for more than a week, the Regent was recently detected a further **10km** north east and is currently on private land in Talgarno with the landholders keeping a daily eye on its activities.

... and sometimes Persistence just doesn't seem to Pay!

Unfortunately, the (last for 2017?) nesting pair in Wangaratta failed last week - just several days prior to chick fledging date. For the male (one of our returning birds from the 2015 release (White/Mauve, Red/Metal) this marked its fifth (ultimately unsuccessful) nest attempt for the season. 😞

Spot a Regent in the meantime?

Please let us know **ASAP** if you spot any or hear of Regent observations (so we can 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,

Merry Xmas & Happy New Year

Cheers Glen, Dean, & Liz

(2017 Regent Honeyeater Community Monitoring Project Coordinating Team)

