



### June 2013 mini outing to the Crows Nest area.

Crows Nest was the base for the mini outing this year. There were ten members able to take the short break. Friday afternoon we visited Crows Nest National Park. The afternoon commenced well with the Rose Robin being our first bird sighted. Eastern Spinebills were also seen. This National Park is predominantly eucalypt forest including the venerable Helidon ironbark in a granite landscape. Numerous wildflowers including acacias and bottlebrush were in bloom. For me a highlight was the greenhood orchids. We did not see the brush-tailed rock-wallabies, however those who returned on Monday had a great encounter with them.



Greenhood, *Pterostylis nutans*



Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby



Crows Nest National Park.



Correa sp.

Saturday was much colder and there was a bitter wind as well. We set off for a full day of exploring. Our first stop was Lake Perseverance; we then travelled on to Lake Cressbrook. Both these lakes are surrounded by grey gum and iron bark timbered mountains. They are two of the three reservoirs constructed to supply water to Toowoomba. Perseverance was completed in 1965 and Cressbrook was completed in 1983. From here we travelled to Ravensbourne National Park. This park preserves the best remaining examples of rainforests that once covered this area of the Great Dividing Range. We walked the Cedar Block circuit then had lunch at Gus

Beutal Lookout. After lunch we returned to the Blackbean day-use area. The Rainforest and Palm Creek circuits were explored. We then returned to Crows Nest.



Along the Cedar Block circuit.



Fungi from Blackbean day-use area.

Sunday dawned sunny and with little wind, so promised a great day ahead. We will travel to Oakey early to visit Benny Alcorn for morning tea. The hospital staff were very accommodating to all our requests. Once we got the air-conditioning working in the recreation room we were all comfortable. After morning tea we had photos taken outside then we walked around the rose garden that is being established in the hospital grounds. We were pleased to see Benny and hope that she enjoyed our visit as well. Returning to Crows Nest we visited Lake Cooby, the Loveday Cove area. This is the third reservoir for Toowoomba's water supply. Cooby is a rock fill dam that was completed in 1941. This dam is an excellent place to see Musk Duck and we were not disappointed. The dam and the surrounding grassland provided us with excellent birding so was a fitting close to a good mini trip away.

Thanks to you all for a great trip away, despite the windy day Saturday.



Benny Alcorn.

Photographs from V.McLean, E Laidlaw, J Hewett



Members with Benny at Oakey

### **Crows Nest National Park**

#### **Birds:**

White-headed Pigeon, Grey Goshawk, Rainbow Lorikeet [H], Laughing Kookaburra, Red-backed Fairy-wren, Variegated Fairy-wren, White-throated Gerygone, Brown Thornbill, Spotted Pardalote, Striated Pardalote, Eastern Spinebill, Lewin's Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Brown Honeyeater, Eastern Whipbird [H], Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Golden Whistler, Grey Shrike Thrush, Australian Magpie, Pied Currawong, Grey Fantail, Willy Wagtail, Torresian Crow, Rose Robin, Eastern Yellow Robin [H], Silvereeye.

Seen on Monday: Wonga Pigeon, White-throated Honeyeater.

#### **Butterflies:**

Large Grass-yellow, Monarch.

Seen on Monday: Grey Ringleet.

#### **Others:**

Seen on Monday: Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby

### **Perseverance Dam.**

#### **Birds:**

Australasian Grebe, Pied Currawong, Little Pied Cormorant, Great Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant, Australian Pelican, Eastern Great Egret, Whistling Kite, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Masked Lapwing, Galah, Laughing Kookaburra, White-throated Treecreeper [H], Red-backed Fairy-wren, Noisy Miner, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Grey Butcherbird, Pied Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Pied Currawong [H], Torresian Crow, Welcome Swallow.

#### **Butterflies:**

Monarch

### **Cressbrook Dam**

#### **Birds:**

Australian Wood Duck, Grey Teal, Hardhead, Australasian Grebe, Australasian Darter, Little Pied Cormorant, Great Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant, Pied Cormorant, Eastern Great Egret, Intermediate Egret, Royal Spoonbill, Eastern Osprey, Whistling Kite, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Dusky Moorhen, Eurasian Coot, Masked Lapwing, Galah, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Azure Kingfisher, Laughing Kookaburra, Lewin's Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Striped Honeyeater, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Grey Shrike-thrush, Australian Magpie, Willy Wagtail, Restless Flycatcher, Magpie-lark.

### **Ravensbourne National Park.**

#### **Birds:**

Australian Brush-turkey, White-headed Pigeon, Brown Cuckoo-dove, Wompoo Pigeon [H], Topknot Pigeon, Rainbow Lorikeet [H], Scaly-breasted Lorikeet [H], Laughing Kookaburra, Yellow-throated Scrubwren, White-browed Scrubwren, Brown Gerygone, Brown Thornbill, Eastern Spinebill [H], Lewin's Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Eastern Whipbird [H], Golden Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Australasian Figbird,

Pied Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Grey Fantail, Eastern Yellow Robin, Silvereeye, Tasmanian Silvereeye, Red-browed Finch.

#### **Butterflies:**

Black Jezebel.

#### **Others:**

Eastern Grey Kangaroo.

### **Cooby Dam.**

#### **Birds:**

Brown Quail, Musk Duck, Black Swan, Australian Wood Duck, Grey Teal, Pacific Black Duck, Hardhead, Australasian Grebe, Great Crested Grebe, Australasian Darter, Little Pied Cormorant, Little Black Cormorant, Pied Cormorant, Pelican, Eastern Great Egret, White-faced Heron, Whistling Kite, Purple Swamphen, Dusky Moorhen, Eurasian Coot, Black-fronted Dotterel, Masked Lapwing, Galah, Rainbow Lorikeet, Laughing Kookaburra, Red-backed Fairy-wren, Variegated Fairy-wren, Superb Fairy-wren, Weebill, White-throated Gerygone, Yellow Thornbill, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Spotted Pardalote, Striated Pardalote, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Noisy Miner, Brown Honeyeater, Brown-headed Honeyeater, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Little Friarbird, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Grey Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Pied Currawong, Grey Fantail, Willy Wagtail, Torresian Crow, Magpie-lark, Silvereeye, Golden-headed Cisticola, Double-barred Finch, .

#### **Butterflies:**

Meadow Argus, Lesser Wanderer, Cabbage White.

#### **Others:**

Red-necked Kangaroo.

### **Crows Nest Birds:**

Australian Wood Duck, Crested Pigeon, Australian White Ibis, Masked Lapwing, Galah, Rainbow Lorikeet, Pale-headed Rosella, Laughing Kookaburra, Noisy Miner, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Grey-crowned Babbler, Apostlebird, Pied Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Pied Currawong, Grey Fantail, Willy Wagtail, Torresian Crow, Magpie-lark, Common Myna.

### **Out and About**

#### **Birds:**

Australian Wood Duck, Crested Pigeon, Black-shouldered Kite, Australian White Ibis, Nankeen Kestrel, Masked Lapwing, Galah, Rainbow Lorikeet, Pale-headed Rosella, Laughing Kookaburra, Noisy Miner, Pied Butcherbird, Australian Magpie, Pied Currawong, Willy Wagtail, Torresian Crow, Magpie-lark, Common Myna.

