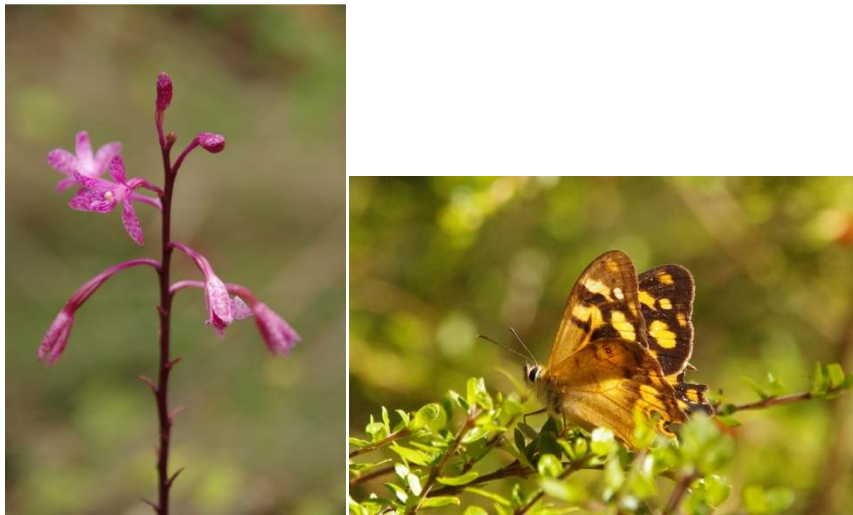


RFNC Mansfield Campout – March 22-24, 2013

Leaders: David & Eeva Hewitt

The campout was attended by 25 members, most staying at the High Country Holiday Park. We first met at the Information Centre on Friday afternoon for a short walk along the Mansfield Mullum Wetlands where we saw about 25 water and bush birds – highlighted by a flock of about a dozen yellow-rumped thornbills. This was the first of three days of almost perfect autumn weather.

On Saturday morning we headed towards Mt Buller and spent a bit more than an hour on the Plain Creek Walk which was particularly noted for large numbers of silver-eyes feeding on the Mountain Correa (*Correa lawrenciana*) and prickly currant (*Coprosma quadrifida*) and a group of Satin Bowerbirds. After morning tea we moved to Fry's Flat in the Howqua Historic Area and walked part-way along the track towards Sheeppark Flat. The clear highlight was a pair of tawny frogmouths in a eucalypt beside the kiln. After lunch we drove to Sheeppark Flat and some of us did the remaining section of the Fry's Flat-Sheeppark Flat walk. We were very fortunate to get a good sighting of a Wonga Pigeon and to find the only orchid of the weekend – a rosy hyacinth orchid. We finished the day's excursion with an inspection of the tunnel at Tunnel Bend – some were actually brave enough to enter the tunnel. We saw a total of 20 birds at Plain Creek and 31 in the Howqua Historic Area. The day finished with a relaxing BBQ in the Holiday Park.



Sunday morning was spent in the Mt Samaria State Park. We were somewhat concerned by reports (from a group of Pajero drivers in the Holiday Park) that the road had been severely damaged by heavy flooding rain on the Thursday before we arrived in Mansfield. We all travelled in 4WDs as a precaution, but the road was in fact in very good condition and provided us with no problems (maybe the Pajero people spent most time on 'blacktop'!). We had morning tea in the Blue Range Picnic Area before heading into the Park where we visited the Rocky Point Lookout, Back Creek Falls and the Kiln Ruin. Again we had a

reasonable bird count (25), but unfortunately did not see any lyrebirds. There were, however, many butterflies (Meadow Argus, Common Brown, Banks Brown, Shouldered Brown and Cabbage White) as well as some interesting moths (during the weekend we saw *Spilosoma glatignyi* (deceased), *Chrysolarentia vicissata*, *Chrysolarentia subrectaria*, and *Oenosandra boisduvalii*).



The weekend finished with lunch at the Kiln, followed by a short walk towards the tram track. All of us, except the Smiths, drove back towards Mansfield where many stayed in the Picnic ground for more bird observing. Lynn and Neal reported by text that they had seen a lyrebird as they drove northwards in the Park.

Mansfield Campout – March 22-24, 2013 – Bird Lists

Mansfield-Mullum Wetland	Plain Creek	Howqua Historic Area	Mt Samaria State Park
Blackbird	Brown Thornbill	Australian Raven	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Black-faced Cuckoo	Crimson Rosella	Blackbird	Brown Thornbill
Shrike	Eastern Spinebill	Brown Thornbill	Brown Tree Creeper
Brown Thornbill	Golden Whistler (M, F)	Crimson Rosella	Buff-rumped Thornbill
Eurasian Coot	Grey Currawong	Galah	Crimson Rosella
Grey Fantail	Grey Fantail	Grey Fantail	Eastern Spinebill
Kestrel	King Parrot (F)	Grey Shrike Thrush	Fuscous Whistler
Little Grebe	Magpie	King Parrot	Gang Gang Cockatoo
Little Pied Cormorant	Pied Currawong	Kite	Golden Whistler (M, F)
Magpie	Rufous Whistler	Kookaburra	Grebe
Pacific Black Duck	Saturn Bowerbird (M, F)	Little Pied Cormorant	Grey Fantail
Pied Currawong	Sitella	Nankeen Night Heron	Grey Shrike-thrush
Purple Swamphen	Silver-eye	Pacific Black Duck	Kookaburra
Raven	White-browed Scrub-wren	Spotted Pardalot	Red-browed Finch
Red-browed Finch	White-naped	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Scarlet Robin
Red-rumped Parrot	Honeyeater	Yellow Robin	Silver-eye
Red Wattlebird	White-throated Tree Creeper	Red-browed Finch	Spotted Pardalot
Straw-necked Ibis	Wood Duck	Red Wattlebird	Striated Pardalot
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Yellow-faced	Sacred Ibis	White-browed Scrubwren
Superb Fairy Wren		Satin Bowerbird	White-naped
Welcome Swallow		Scarlet Robin	

White-faced Heron White Ibis White-throated Tree Creeper Willy Wagtail Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Honeyeater Yellow-rumped Thornbill Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	Superb Fairy Wren Tawny Frogmouth Wedge-tail Eagle Welcome Swallow White-browed Scrub-wren White-faced Honeyeater White-throated Tree Creeper Willy Wagtail Wonga Pigeon Wood Duck	Honeyeater White-throated Tree Creeper White-winged Chough Willy Wagtail Yellow-faced Honeyeater Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo
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Moths	Butterflies
<i>Spilosoma glatignyi</i> (deceased) <i>Chrysolarentia vicissata</i> <i>Chrysolarentia subrectaria</i> <i>Oenosandra boisduvalii</i> Grapevine Moth - <i>Phalaenoides tristifica</i>	Meadow Argus Common Brown Banks Brown Shouldered Brown Cabbage White