



TOOWOOMBA BIRD OBSERVERS INC

To encourage the observation and study of the birds of the Toowoomba area.

No. 364
June 2007

Editorial

By Darren Fielder

The rainfall over the past few weeks was a welcome sight. However, as I flew into Albury-Wodonga three weeks ago, I was able to see the stark reminder of the drought – the Hume Dam at 6% capacity revealed the long hidden oxbows, billabongs and meandering stream that was once the River Murray before impoundment.

I went on a field trip to the restoration and bank protection works on the Murray below the dam. Here, centuries old river redgums with masses of hollows and blossoms were struggling for existence as the banks were continually being eroded from a regulated river system. Millions of dollars were being spent on protecting the remaining iconic trees from toppling into the river and restoring other areas through natural regeneration. It was a costly exercise, but worth the effort. What would the Australian landscape be like without these magnificent trees?

My best sighting for my week long trip was the **Yellow Rosella**. They were predominantly bright yellow on the head, breast and back contrasting with shades of blue on the wing and tail.

One of our members, Heather Booshand (Brown), is seeking a birdwatcher partner. Helen would appreciate anyone giving her a call when they are going birdwatching (home: 46380728 or mobile: 0431700615).

A **White-plumed Honeyeater** is the latest NEW bird for the TBO official list. More details will be provided in the next newsletter.

Please start to record your sightings on the Forum for the *Winter Within (local)* and *Winter Beyond (non-local)* targets.

The *Autumn Within (local)* finished with 140 species and the *Autumn Beyond (non-local)* recorded 219 species. Visit our website for more information.

**2007
Challenge**
201 spp as at 19 June



TOOWOOMBA
BIRD OBSERVERS INC

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COMING EVENTS

23/24 June 2007 – **Annual Raptor Survey**. Each survey is conducted on either the Saturday or the Sunday and involves driving the same route as in previous years. BYO everything. Pat McConnell (Northern Section) Tel: 4631 5573 (wk); Darren Fielder (Western Section) Tel: 4636 0174; Michael Atzeni (Eastern Section) Tel: 4639 2761; Ken Wells (Southern Section) 4661-2547

28 July 2007 – **Helidon region**. Meet at the Helidon Rest area at 7:30am. Contact: Ross Begent 4697 7198

In the waters!

By Michael Wood

In late March, a pilgrimage was undertaken by three avid naturalists, namely Plaxy Barratt, Darren Fielder and myself. The three of us set out from Toowoomba late on the evening of March 29th and headed south along the New England Highway towards the New South Wales border, each of us looking forward to spending some time in an area of the country where neither of us had spent much time. We were on a turtle research expedition, which would see us away from home for three or four days.

The first stop on our journey was Girraween National Park. This was purely a stopover for everyone, the journey considered too much to undertake in a single day. Next morning, before everyone awoke, I was outside the "Barracks" and scrutinising the immediate area for birds. There was nothing very different about the suite of species encountered on this first day (refer 'Two Trips' –February 2007 TBO newsletter), although it is always good to reacquaint oneself with the **White-eared Honeyeater**. There wasn't a great deal of time for such indulgences, however, for Darren cracked the whip and had us on the road in no time.

Crossing the border, we continued south towards Tenterfield and then a little town called Deepwater. And, approximately 14 kilometres south of here we veered off onto the Gwydir Highway and near a spot called Bald Knob took the Glenn Innes-Grafton Road. This is where our adventures began.

We crossed the Mann River a short distance into our travels and further on past Newton Boyd followed the Boyd River through Dalmerton and onto Nymboida, traversing the goat track that passed as a road. At one point the track passed through a tunnel hacked into a cliff-face, providing our senses with even more stimuli, the local **Welcome Swallows** with nest sites and a **Brown Falcon** with a convenient food source. A group of ten **Pretty-faced Wallaby**



Mann River, NSW. Photo: Plaxy Barratt (29/3/07)

captured our interest and imagination in this area too, whilst nine **White-winged Chough**, two **Eastern Rosella**, two **Darter** and a couple of **Bell Miner** colonies were also discovered. The countryside was wonderful the entire way along this road, particularly when it ran parallel to the Boyd River. Never before have I seen such pristine waterways. It

was magical! The surrounds were such that I was distracted at every moment and struggled to keep my eyes on the road, whilst in the back seat all of Plax's previous night's wild imaginings were coming to fruition. To begin with there were the constant car wrecks of her dreams and, if that wasn't enough to realise her worst nightmares, the brief frights of plummeting off the edge of the road and into the valley below would have been.

Pulling into Dorrigo, we then made the long descent down through the tall, wet rainforest to Bellingen - a more delightful town it is hard to imagine. And, south of Bellingen flowed the Kalang River, a spot where we were to spend a good deal of time over the next few days.

On arrival at the Kalang River, and wasting no time, Plaxy and Darren with their wetsuits on were under water, somewhere downstream from Brierfield. Meanwhile, I had other concerns, fishing out keys locked in the vehicle and checking out the local birdlife. Except for the keys, this was the way in which the next few mornings progressed along this stretch of the river and a little further upstream. Many bird species were recorded during the time the two individuals were submerged, some of the more interesting being six **Emerald Dove**, huge numbers of **White-headed Pigeon** and **Topknot Pigeon** (both extremely common in the area), several **Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo** and the sweet sights and sounds of the **Brown Thornbill**. Two **Black-shouldered Kite**, a few **Wonga Pigeon** and the odd **Australian King-Parrot** also put in an appearance through here. (There were many more, too many to record here, but which are documented below.)

Trawling the bottom of the brackish water in this section of the Kalang River, Darren and Plaxy managed to pull up a **Bull Rout**, a quite unusual-looking fish with barbs on its jaw which could apparently give a nasty sting and reaction if anyone is unfortunate enough to be stung by them. **Marbled Eel** were also seen here, as they were in other waterways of the district.



Marbled Eel, Kalang River. Photo: Plaxy Barratt (3/4/07)

On the second morning of our expedition we were given permission by a local landholder to survey a section of his property bordering the Bellinger River. In order to get there we followed 'Waterfall Way' from Bellingen for approximately ten kilometres and pulled into a paddock that adjoined the river -luckily, the incredibly tall-grassed paddocks were not wet, otherwise we were every chance of sliding down the bank ever-close to the river.

Much wider than the Kalang River, this particular section of the Bellinger River was much clearer. As a result the divers were able to move along the river at a much faster rate, although both were still in the water for some time. A distance of approximately 150 metres was swum, whilst I covered a similar distance through the tall grass and sometimes very thick native pine saplings lining the bank. One of the very first avian records to be documented at the above site was that of a **Wedge-tailed Eagle**, followed shortly after by

about five **Red-backed Fairy-wren**, at least four **Yellow Thornbill**, two **Tawny Grassbird** – one an immature – and a **Golden-headed Cisticola**. On the opposite side of the river a few individuals of a **Bell Miner** colony could be heard, whilst on the way out, as we slid up and then back down the river bank, a **Brown Quail** was flushed.



Bellinger River, upstream of Thora. Photo: Plaxy Barratt (3/4/07)

We spent our nights and early mornings at the Bellingen Showgrounds, during which time some excellent bird species were unearthed. A **Tawny Frogmouth** was seen in the headlights as we approached on the first night, whereas a morning's walk accounted for others such as an immature **White-bellied Sea-Eagle**, even more **Topknot Pigeon**, a **Royal Spoonbill**, a male **Satin Bowerbird**, good numbers of **Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo**, five more **Yellow Thornbill** and three **Little Wattlebird** (this latter species caused a little consternation, for it

is suggestive of coastal areas, yet had I taken more notice it would have been realised that we were only a short distance from Coffs Harbour –all the time it felt we were far away from the sea). Another **Black-shouldered Kite** was encountered around Bellingen, likewise four **Little Lorikeet**, eight **Musk Lorikeet** and a **Green Catbird** calling from the small patch of wet rainforest on the northern side of the showgrounds. But by far the best discovery here, and the trip for that matter, was of a **Square-tailed Kite**, a bird that in my short experience seems to be rather keen on the skies over towns than any other natural habitats.

On the final morning we headed further upstream of the Bellinger River, along the road from Thora and out towards Orama and Darkwood. We covered what must have been no less than 15 kilometres and ending up in the vicinity of Oakes State Forest. By this time there were many more of us. We had been joined by other researchers who were prepared to put aside their own ambitions for the moment to look for Darren's target turtle.

Once we arrived, it was a source of embarrassment for me when I watched Plaxy pull on her wetsuit and enter the river like a trouter. Of the dozen or so people there I was the only person that did not enter the water. Unwittingly, I was showed up once again. My title of being Darren's newest, favourite volunteer was well and truly on its last legs, if not dead. The



Michael enjoying the snapping turtles reputation! Photo: Plaxy Barratt (3/4/07)

concern soon abated, though, as I walked along the bank, enjoying the calm. Each time anyone had a mesh bag full of turtles I would then walk down to the bank to meet them and receive their catch. It was whilst walking up and down the track, following the progress of the divers with a wet, heavy bag full of almost 20 turtles slung over my shoulder, that I felt something snap at my backside. One of the "Little Bundles of Joy" had stuck its head out of the bag and taken a mouthful of my backside – and these babies have teeth (snapping turtle is one of their common names). Talk about having a laugh!



Short-necked turtle (*Emydura*) from the Kalang River. Photo: Plaxy Barratt (3/4/07)

Species List

Common Starling, Common Myna, Mistletoebird, Silvereye, Red Browed Firetail, House Sparrow, Welcome Swallow, Tawny Grassbird, Golden-headed Cisticola, White-winged Chough, Torresian Crow, Pied Currawong, Australian Magpie, Pied Butcherbird, Grey Butcherbird, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Satin Bowerbird, Green Catbird, Figbird, Magpie-lark, Willie Wagtail, Grey Fantail, Golden Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Eastern Yellow Robin, Jacky Winter, Eastern Whipbird, Eastern Spinebill, White-naped Honeyeater, Lewin's Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, White-eared Honeyeater, Bell Miner, Noisy Miner, Little Wattlebird, Red Wattlebird, Yellow Thornbill, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Brown Thornbill, Brown Gerygone, White-browed Scrubwren, Spotted Pardalote, Red-backed Fairy-wren, Superb Fairy-wren, White-throated Treecreeper, Laughing Kookaburra, Tawny Frogmouth, Southern Boobook, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Crimson Rosella, Eastern Rosella, Australian King Parrot, Rainbow Lorikeet, Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Little Lorikeet, Musk Lorikeet, Galah, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Crested Pigeon, Wonga Pigeon, Bar-shouldered Dove, Common Bronzewing, Emerald Dove, Brown Cuckoo-dove, White-headed Pigeon, Topknot Pigeon, Spotted Turtle-dove, Nankeen Kestrel, Brown Falcon, Square-tailed Kite, Wedge-tailed Eagle, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Whistling Kite, Brown Goshawk, Black-shouldered Kite, Masked Lapwing, Australian White Ibis, Straw-necked Ibis, Royal Spoonbill, White-faced Heron, White-necked Heron, Cattle Egret, Dusky Moorhen, Australian Wood Duck, Pacific Black Duck, Black Swan, Little Pied Cormorant, Darter, Brown Quail

Mystery bird...

By Neil McKilligan

Pigeon flushed from the grass of riparian forest on the bank of the Paroo River near Eulo, SWQLD on 22 May 2007 by Neil and Helen McKilligan. It was a plain brown and grey bird and bigger than the Diamond Dove or Peaceful Dove that are common in the area.

Your ideas would be welcome.

Clues – maybe a juvenile and maybe out of reported range.



Birdwatching with Helen and Derek Wilson in England

By Esther Townsend

During June and July of 2006, I had a few weeks holiday in England and had the pleasure of spending the first few days and the last few days with Helen and Derek Wilson at their home in Farnham in Surrey. Helen and Derek lived in Toowoomba for ten years and were members of TBO until October 2005 when they returned to live in their native England. We had some good times together watching birds in Australia and I am grateful to them for introducing me to English birds.

A good place for me to get acquainted with the common English birds was in fact the Wilsons' back yard. I spent many happy hours sitting there reading birding magazines (which you can buy at newsagents) and lifting up my binoculars from time to time to get a better view of new arrivals at the bird feeders or at what was hopping about down on the lawn. In Australia, feeding birds is considered to be bad practice but in England it is actively encouraged and many people, and not just bird watchers, have bird feeders in their back yards. If you join the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB – a British bird club with one million members), they will automatically send you a bird feeder to get you started. So came into the Wilsons' back yard a procession of robins, blackbirds, sparrows, dunnocks, magpies (the original ones, different from ours), tits (**Great Tit**, **Blue Tit** and **Coal Tit**) and finches (**Chaffinch**, **Bullfinch**, **Goldfinch** and **Greenfinch**) and flying around above were **Woodpigeons**, **Feral Pigeons** and **Collared Dove** (introduced). No doubt having feeders about encouraged the birds to come in but living next to Farnham Park undoubtedly helped. Farnham Park is a magnificent reserve of 320 acres (approx. 128 hectares) which in mediaeval times was a deer park. After walking through the Wilsons' back gate, you enter a wood of oaks with wrens, **Song Thrush**, jays and woodpeckers and then you come out onto a large grassy area with swallows, martins and swifts flying around, rooks, kestrels, Jackdaws and starlings. In little ponds I saw grebes (**Little Grebe**), coot, moorhens, and mallards and I soon encountered the problem of trying to sort out crows from young **Jackdaws** and **Chiffchaffs** from **Willow Warblers**, all common English birds. As a visitor and on holidays, I did not bother taxing my brain too much in this respect and was happy for Helen and others to tell me what was what however when a **Chiffchaff** gets going, it says "Chiff-chaff chiff-chaff chiff-chaff" until the cows come home and you cannot mistake that.

The Wilsons (especially Derek) and I are great cricket fans and one Saturday afternoon we spent some time watching a cricket match being played down at the other end of Farnham Park. We got talking to a player who was fielding in the outfield near where we were sitting and found out that he was from the visiting London team which was sponsored by the Spencers, Princess Diana's family. Meanwhile in the offing were blackbirds, crows, magpies, **Woodpigeons**, a robin and a **Pied Wagtail**. Seeing the wagtails in England confirmed for me that our **Willie Wagtail** is not a wagtail but a fantail. Perhaps we should rename it Freddie Fantail after a certain hapless former English cricket captain.

Surrey is a beautiful part of England and Helen and Derek took me around to many of their favourite places. I was very impressed by the amount of forest I saw and it seemed to me that there was more forest still in England after 2,000 years than there is here in Australia after 200 years of settlement. We went on many walks through the woods (as they say in England), along towpaths (paths along which horses previously used to plod while pulling

barges along canals) and public footpaths and we had lunch in quaint country pubs. I was bemused on one occasion when we walked through a field of waist high wheat which we were quite entitled to do because that was a designated public footpath and we followed a well trodden route diagonally through the wheat crop. In our travels we came across pheasants, **Long-tailed Tits**, **Grey Wagtails**, **Nuthatch**, **Linnet**, **Goldcrest** and **Reed Warbler**, **Mute Swans**, **Canadian Geese** (introduced), **Greylag Geese**, **Tufted Duck**, **Grey Heron**, **Great Crested Grebe** and **Common Tern**.

One day we went to a place called *The Hawk Conservancy* located at Andover in nearby Hampshire (Shane Warne country; he is still captain of the Hampshire cricket team even though he has retired from cricket in Australia). *The Hawk Conservancy* is a zoo of raptors and owls but also treats and rehabilitates injured raptors and has a captive breeding program for and supports conservation of endangered raptors from around the world. We thought that we would spend an hour or two there but ended up staying all day and we went to every event on the program. I do admit to feeling glum on seeing these magnificent birds in shackles and especially so with birds that I was familiar with e.g. **White-bellied Sea-Eagle**, **Brahminy Kite** and **Peregrine Falcon**, but I was utterly fascinated by the falconry display. They had **Black Kites**, **Barn Owls** and various vultures and eagles flying around and swooping just over our heads, and **Red Kites** and **American Bald Eagles** flew back on cue from way out in the distance where they had been taken and released. *The Hawk Conservancy* is involved in breeding and releasing **Red Kites** which had almost become extinct in Britain but are now seen flying wild in various parts of the country. We saw several wild **Red Kites** flying around and also wild **Buzzards** and a **Honey Buzzard**. I was fascinated to see the Conservancy's collection of four **Oriental White-backed Vultures**, a species whose numbers crashed from an estimated forty million birds to almost becoming extinct over the period of a decade as a result of the use of Diclofenac, a cheap drug which is (hopefully was) used extensively in the Indian Subcontinent to treat lameness and fever in livestock. Vultures that eat the affected carcasses (and eating dead animals is what vultures do) have a high mortality rate from gout and renal failure. We left *The Hawk Conservancy* at closing time and went on a bit further to Stonehenge where I saw my first **Skylark**.

After four days with Helen and Derek, I wandered off to visit other friends and other parts of England but came back to see them again before I left for home. During my last visit there we managed to extract from Farnham Park my last new English bird, the **Stonechat**. Helen also took me to Selborne and to the home of the Rev. Gilbert White which is now a museum, and to St Mary's Church where he preached. Gilbert White (1720-1792) is the author of *The Natural History of Selborne* which is considered to be the first published work on natural history based on modern scientific recording and is even mentioned in Sean Dooley's *The Big Twitch* (page 182). It was Sean's book that so captivated Michael Atzeni that he (Michael) instigated the 250 Challenge for the TBO in 2006. Helen and I walked up to The Hanger (the hill behind town) via the zigzag path made by Gilbert and his brother in the eighteenth century and later we visited St Mary's Church where there is now a magnificent stained glass window of St Francis with a robin perched on his right index finger and with 85 other birds of many species round about him. England not only has forests and birds but also has history and plenty of it. No matter where you go in England you are never very far from somewhere of historical importance.

While I was in England I was fortunate to be able to spend a lot of time watching birds and I ended up seeing 105 species, more than half of them with Helen and Derek. Of these 105 species, I had already seen 23 in Australia, nine as introduced birds here and the

remainder being world birds. Regarding the nine introduced birds (**Common Blackbird, Song Thrush, House Sparrow, Rock Pigeon, Common Starling, Mallard, Goldfinch, Greenfinch and Greylag Goose**), I found it hard to accept that they were actually native birds of England and deserved to be there and were not just introduced pests as they are here in Australia.

I would like to mention a couple of other bird watching experiences that I found very different from what I am used to here in SEQ. Some birding friends took me to Titchwell Marsh (perhaps better called Twitchwell because we saw 66 bird species that day), a famous RSPB nature reserve in Norfolk. We got there early (9:30 am!) and initially had the place almost to ourselves and saw lots of waders, ducks, gulls, terns etc. etc. As the morning wore on many other people arrived and by lunch time there must have been several hundred people there. Nothing wrong with that of course but the odd thing was that they all had binoculars and most of them had spotting scopes (as well as field guides, note books, cameras etc.) i.e. with only one or two exceptions they were all bird watchers. Here in Australia whenever I go bird watching I am always the odd one out and even when I go bird watching in a group we are still the odd ones out. I happened to hear a man at Titchwell say that it is much easier to see birds when there are no leaves on the trees. This I thought very odd until I realized that in England in winter the trees lose their leaves so the birds probably are much easier to see then. Apparently winter is the best time for birds in England because of its balmy climate, well balmy compared with northern Europe especially Scandinavia and Iceland and many birds that breed in the extreme north in summer vacate to Britain in winter. Birds are very important in England and watching birds is big business.

Another odd birding experience for me was when another friend and I went up to the Lake District and we stopped off at Dodd Wood, an RSPB site in Cumbria, where there is a platform set up with a dozen spotting scopes aimed on an **Ospreys'** nest a couple of km away on the other side of the valley. Through the scopes we saw two Osprey nestlings and an adult perched nearby. According to the RSPB brochure, Ospreys have been breeding there since 2001 (after an absence of 150 years) and since 2001 at least 200,000 (yes 200,000) people have gone to Dodd Wood or the nearby Whinlatter Visitor Centre to see them. Now my mother lives at Beachmere (near Bribie Island) and there is an Ospreys' nest only 10 m from Beachmere Road, the main road into Beachmere, and Ospreys have bred there every year for the past few years. They even built a new nest in an adjacent branch of the same dead tree when the branch that their nest was originally on crashed to the ground. I drive down and back along that road at least once a fortnight and I have never seen anyone stop and look at the nesting birds and I wonder if anyone apart from myself and some bird watchers who live in Beachmere even know that it is there. Come to think of it, I have never bothered to stop and look at the Ospreys' nest either.

Early on in my stay in England this same friend took me to the Wildfowl and Wildlife Trust (WWT) site at Arundel. Here there were lots of water birds milling about which I thought would be easy to identify but, as it turned out, most of them were not shown in my field guide. Then I saw a **Black Swan** and the penny dropped – this was another bird zoo with lots of water birds from around the world. So all the English water birds that I was able to identify had to be struck off my list because I had no idea what were captive and what were wild birds. I also had no idea at that time how important the WWT was in the conservation of wetlands and water birds both nationally and internationally.

English people are on first name terms with most of their birds and use more than one word only when they really have to, as I have done above, however in the list below of the birds mentioned in this article I have used the international names and taxonomic sequence given in the *RSPB Handbook of British Birds* by Peter Holden and Tim Cleeves (published by Christopher Helm, London, 2002). Even though I have referred to these birds as English birds, none of them is endemic to England or even to Britain; they are at least European birds and it is interesting to note that many of the birds that I saw in England are the same species as Rosalie Rudduck saw during her trip to southern Sweden in November, 2006 (see TBO Newsletter No. 362, March 2007, pages 3-4).

Little Grebe, Great Crested Grebe, Grey Heron, Mute Swan, Greylag Goose, Canada Goose, Mallard, Tufted Duck, European Honey Buzzard, Red Kite, Common Buzzard, Osprey, Common Kestrel, Common Pheasant, Common Moorhen, Common (Eurasian) Coot, Common Tern, Feral Pigeon, Woodpigeon, Eurasian Collared Dove, Common Swift, Green Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Common Skylark, Barn Swallow, House Martin, Grey Wagtail, White (Pied) Wagtail, Winter Wren, Hedge Accentor (Dunnock), European Robin, Stonechat, Common Blackbird, Song Thrush, Eurasian Reed Warbler, Common Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Goldcrest, Long-tailed Tit, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Coal Tit, Wood Nuthatch, Eurasian Jay, Black-billed Magpie, Eurasian Jackdaw, Rook, Carrion Crow, Common Starling, House Sparrow, Chaffinch, European Goldfinch, European Greenfinch, Common Linnet, Common Bullfinch.

Helen and Derek wish to be remembered to TBO friends. They were able to catch up with some people during their first trip back to Australia in March/April 2007 and Helen was able to take part in the TBO March census, just like old times.

Glossy Black-Cockatoos and other winter birds

By Bill Jolly

Birding around the valley in the last week (beginning 3/06/07) turned up 138 species in the process. The people I was birding with were on their way up to Mt Glorious, so we didn't bother going into any rainforest habitats (e.g. Ravensbourne National Park), which probably inhibited our list by another dozen or so likely species. Mind you, even six consecutive days of fairly solid birding can leave some gaps that you just wouldn't believe possible - **Olive-backed Oriole** for example!

But the gaps were more than made up for by some of those special birds that can't ever be counted on, such as **Glossy Black-Cockatoos** at Gatton, as well as other good birds like **Plum-headed Finches**, **Banded Lapwings**, **Ground Cuckoo-shrikes**, a few strays from further inland including **Western Gerygone** and **Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater** - and a couple of days earlier **Little Eagle** and **White-plumed Honeyeater**, both winter birds here.



Varied Sittella. Photo: Bill Jolly, Abberton.

Varied Sittellas are here every day just now.

They can be fairly predictable as they range through the garden in small groups from tree to tree, and I was able to get ahead of them the other morning and wait for them to catch up. When they arrived, they paid no attention to me, as long as I stood fairly still.

COMING EVENTS

23/24 June 2007 – Annual Raptor Survey. Each survey is conducted on either the Saturday or the Sunday and involves driving the same route as in previous years. BYO everything.

Leaders :-

Pat McConnell (Northern Section) Tel: 4631 5573 (wk); Darren Fielder (Western Section) Tel: 4636 0174; Michael Atzeni (Eastern Section) Tel: 4639 2761; Ken Wells (Southern Section) 4661 2547

28th July 2007 – Helidon region. Meet at the Helidon Rest area at 7:30am. Contact: Ross Begent 4697 7198

26th August 2007 – Warwick area

29/30 September 2007 – Karara/Lake Coolmunda - overnight (optional)

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Deadline for articles for the next Newsletter is 13 July 2007.

Please e-mail or snail- mail your articles to Darren Fielder, our Newsletter Editor.

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