

WPSQ end of year meeting and AGM held at Gilbert's Lookout 26.10.19

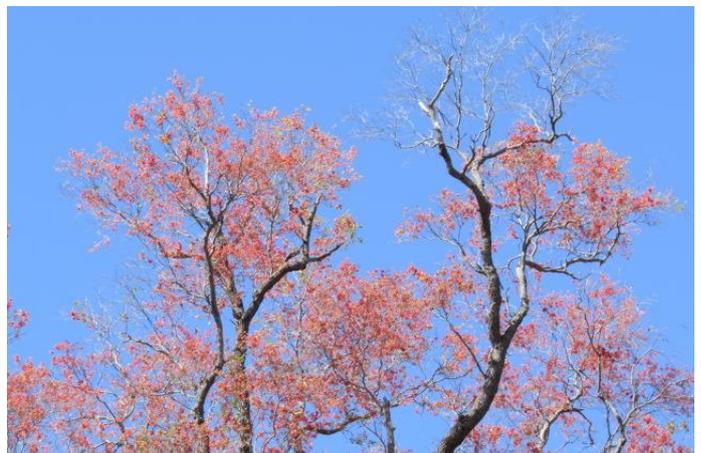
Our well attended meeting of almost twenty (plus many apologies) gave us time to reflect on the year's events and achievements, praise the wonders of nature's flowering trees and welcome Jason Kerlin as our new Project Officer. It was a relaxed morning under the shade of the bottle trees at Gilbert's Lookout in Taroom and also a time to give Adam and Dot Clark our best wishes for their new life in Toowoomba. After more than thirty years as our very able Project Officer Adam's legacy of caring for the environment and working with industry to achieve the best possible outcomes has been admirable and widely respected. For many years Dot was the capable Treasurer of our Upper Dawson Branch. We thank them both for their passion and years of dedication to wildlife, water quality and resources, vegetation, the environment and their friendship.



Farewelling Adam and Dot Clark on Gilbert's Lookout.



A large flock of emu on stubble flats north of Taroom



Ooline trees in magnificent bloom

We ended our last gathering for the year around our lunch with friendly chatting and look forward to our first 2020 outing 15th February at Mountain View with Doug Stewart. We wish everyone a fire-free and wet Christmas.

Following on from the meeting it was later decided to offer a Nature Ramble for anyone interested – something ideal for adults and children. We meet 7am one week later in Theodore to ramble along the Castle Creek pathway. It was alive with birdsong, noisy miners busy chasing smaller birds from their patch, lorikeets screeching overhead and the olive-backed oriole nesting in her suspended nest. The introduced bougainvillea were a splendid splash of colour while native trees were also at their flowering best. Even the barks of the trees drew our attention to help identify and distinguish certain species, as did the nuts on flowering eucalypt trees – often the only way to positively identify similar species.



Reported sightings of platypus had us with a keen eye turned towards the water. Frequent expanding ripples indicated a lot of under surface activity despite the low level of water in the creek. Black ducks and a white faced heron enhanced the life supported by the creek.



Further on several choughs played happily and red-backed wrens flitted between dense vegetation. We finished our ramble by walking



upstream of the Dawson from Junction Park. Behind the Retirement Village a large colony of the little red fruit bat have been present for many weeks but will disperse when their food source of nectar is depleted. Their nocturnal feeding habit takes them on 20-30km flights each night in search of food while along the way they are acting

as beneficial pollinators and dispersing native seeds – so healthy for the bush environment. We welcome all to join us on our next ramble on Saturday 23rd November along Lonesome Creek,



meeting 7am at the junction of the Boulevard and the Leichhardt Highway.