

Brian Everingham

Trip Report

August 2024

Volume 6

Jurien Bay



Tuesday 20th August 2024

And so we are now in Jurien Bay, having left our abode in Hexham at 7.00am, stopping at the Stromatolites at Hamelin Pool and driven for much of the remainder of the day. We arrived here at 4.00pm.



The stromatolites were in some ways a disappointment. The boardwalk to view the site is closed after storm damage and has yet to be repaired. Distant views hardly helped in understanding the phenomenon. But, to compensate, we did see a Pallid Cuckoo and, best of all, we finally saw a Chiming Wedgebill rather than just revel in its call. No, we did not get a photo!



Rufous Songlark



Pallid Cuckoo



I drove the first shift. We used the Billabong Roadhouse for a morning tea break, then stopped at a campground near the Galena Nature Reserve to look at flowers.







And eventually also found “smelly socks”, the grevillea, in bud. Even that had a pungent odour.



We ended up stopping for lunch in a park in Northampton. It was a small park but it had a toilet, a seat at which we could dine together and the opportunity to see an old town that is still the shire headquarters but which has the chance to remake itself as a historic stopover.



Meanwhile Geraldton is growing bigger and bigger and it did provide us with cheap diesel but it was a town through which we travelled as quickly as possible.



South of Geraldton we returned to broad scale agriculture, green fields and coastal, rural 'bliss'. Until, at last, we were on the journey into Jurien Bay.

Wednesday 21st August 2024

We woke to a bright red sky: a fiery red.



And the view west picked up the light on the houses across the street.



After the washing went on the line (a feature of our journey) we headed south, to Cervantes, stopped at the Lobster Shack, and then drove to Nambung National Park and the Pinnacles. We were met by a Singing Honeyeater.



Pacific Gull



The Singing Honeyeater awaits us

We then set out to walk the 6km loop through this magnificent landscape. There were Leucopogons and Dryandra everywhere.





Parrotbush known as *Dryandra sessilis* until 2007. Now *Banksia sessilis*

And, of course, the landscape itself.









Once we were back at the Centre, I then found a delightful fruiting quandong (*Santalum acuminatum*),



And a lovely *Clematis linearifolia*.



Our next stop was Lake Thetis.¹



It is also in Nambung National Park but is behind the coastal dunes. It has thrombolites, cousins of stromatolites. We walked the loop track.



¹ Thetis is a figure from Greek mythology with varying mythological roles. She mainly appears as a sea nymph, a goddess of water, and one of the 50 Nereids, daughters of the ancient sea god Nereus.





And then visited Hansen Bay Lookout. The waters off this coast are part of the marine protected area.



Our final stop today took us to Molah Hill Lookout. And more flowers, including a lovely pea.



Thursday 22nd August 2024

Our final walk this trip took us to Lesueur National Park and into a delightful loop walk with an extension to the top of Mount Lesueur and back. We were hit by scudding showers, strong wind and, finally, torrential rain. We were saturated. Even those who wore capes and raincoats were not spared. My hat is beyond wet and my shoes may not be dry by the time we depart for the airport tomorrow.

Despite that, we all thoroughly enjoyed the walk. At least the first half remained dry and we revelled in two species of greenhoods, one cowslip orchid and three or four species of *Caladenia*/ *Glossodia*.



Cyanicula sp. 'Eneabba' (Early China Orchid)





Caladenia flava

We also saw one of the nine types of *Lambertia* found in the SW (we have just one species) and another version of *Astroloma* (*ciliatum*).



But there was much else to see too, including several species of Hakea.









Xanthorrhoea kingii

Once home, it was all stations go. Boots, packs and clothes were taken out into the wind (and sun) while we kept a careful eye on weather changes.

Friday 23rd August 2024

We packed up the car, cleaned the house, checked the gas and water, locked up, waved goodbye to the man across the road who was weeding his front lawn - and had been doing so for the past two days - and headed south, along the coast, through Cervantes (off the highway), passing Yanchep and on, via the various freeways (no toll roads here) into the outskirts of Perth and on to Terminal 4.

Apart from the coastal heath, the big highlight this morning was coming across a flock of close to twenty Carnaby's Black Cockatoos. What a thrill! It took the bird total for the trip to a species list of 105.

From 10.30am we faced heavy rain but it eased during the final stages and when we arrived, we were able to get our bags out, change drivers and enter the terminal in the dry.

The others got the car filled, returned it easily and all three were able to get an earlier flight home. They'll be home long before us. Mind you, we don't have a daughter to see (Winnie) and as she had made us a huge lunch pack, who are we to protest!

Our plane was about 30 minutes delayed. Its earlier trip to Perth from Sydney had been held up by strong headwinds. Our benefit was that on our journey we had strong tailwinds. What took 5 hours to come to Perth was reduced to 3 hours 30 on the way back!

As we were in row 13, we were obliged to help in the event of an emergency. That had me thinking! How often are staff obliged to follow training programs. The answer is every year, at least once, for emergency landings, or if one changes the type of plane one works on, at that changeover. Of course, there are communications and first aid courses as well!

We touched down, not too far off our scheduled arrival, collected baggage (another trip completed without bags going astray), caught a taxi home and settled in to making the house look like we lived here! Trip done and dusted and with a huge thank you to Lydia for organising, Winnie for her culinary expertise, Suk Kwan for taking on quite a bit of the driving and Joanne for being our meticulous accountant! You guys were great company.

Bird list Western Australia August 2024

1. Emu
2. Brown Quail
3. Australian Pelican
4. Darter
5. Pied Cormorant
6. Little Pied Cormorant
7. Great Cormorant
8. Little Black Cormorant
9. Australasian Grebe
10. Black Swan
11. Australian Shelduck
12. Pacific Black Duck
13. Hardhead
14. Australian Wood Duck
15. Dusky Moorhen
16. Purple Swamphen
17. Eurasian Coot
18. White-necked Heron
19. Great Egret
20. Eastern Reef Egret
21. Striated Heron
22. Australian White Ibis
23. Common Sandpiper
24. Bar-tailed Godwit
25. Red-necked Stint
26. Pied Oystercatcher
27. Sooty Oystercatcher
28. Red-capped Plover
29. Black-winged Stilt
30. Silver Gull
31. Pacific Gull
32. Caspian Tern
33. Crested Tern
34. Fairy Tern
35. Black-shouldered Kite
36. Osprey
37. Black Kite
38. Square-tailed Kite
39. Whistling Kite
40. White-bellied Sea Eagle
41. Wedge-tailed Eagle
42. Little Eagle
43. Brown Falcon
44. Nankeen Kestrel
45. Rock Dove
46. Peaceful Dove
47. Laughing Turtle-Dove
48. Common Bronzewing
49. Crested Pigeon
50. Red-tailed Black Cockatoo
51. Carnaby's Black Cockatoo
52. Galah
53. Little Corella
54. Purple-crowned Lorikeet
55. Budgerigar
56. Australian Ringneck (28)
57. Pallid Cuckoo
58. Fantail Cuckoo
59. Laughing Kookaburra
60. Striated Pardalote
61. White-winged Fairywren
62. Thick-billed Grasswren
63. Western Gerygone
64. Mangrove Gerygone
65. Inland Thornbill
66. Western Thornbill
67. Yellow-rumped Thornbill
68. Red Wattlebird
69. Little (Western) Wattlebird
70. Yellow-throated Miner
71. Singing Honeyeater
72. White-plumed Honeyeater
73. White-naped Honeyeater
74. White-cheeked Honeyeater
75. New Holland Honeyeater
76. Brown Honeyeater
77. Western Spinebill
78. Chiming Wedgebill
79. White-browed Babbler
80. Hooded Robin
81. Crested Bellbird
82. Golden Whistler
83. Grey Fantail
84. Mangrove Grey Fantail
85. Willie Wagtail
86. Magpie-lark
87. Western Bowerbird
88. Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike

89. White-breasted Woodswallow
90. Grey Butcherbird
91. Pied Butcherbird
92. Australian Magpie
93. Australian Raven
94. Little Crow
95. Torresian Crow
96. Welcome Swallow
97. Tree Martin
98. Fairy Martin
99. Australian Pipit
100. Rufous Songlark
101. Australian Reed-warbler
102. Zebra Finch
103. Red-eared Firetail
104. Mistletoebird
105. Yellow White-eye