

Nielsen Park Report 2023

Rob Brodribb

The successive good wet seasons has resulted in significant changes in Nielsen Park. On a positive sign extensive Trema (*Trema tomentosum*) growth particularly in the northern section has produced a habitat that has allowed painted buttonquails (*Turnix varius*) to visit. There has also been a noticeable increase in the eastern whipbird numbers (*Psophodes olivaceus*). Have also sighted a Rose Robin (*Petroica rosea*) this winter along with multiple auditory recordings of the Eastern Yellow Robin (*Eopsaltria australis*)

With the help of ARocha members there have been four further bird surveys performed. The format for the last year has been 3 monthly surveys in both the northern and southern sections. 4 x 20minute 2 hectare surveys are performed in each sector at different times of the day. Species count for this year was

The park was designated a Land for Wildlife this year. Native passionfruit (*Pasiflora aurantia* var. *aurantia*) has dramatically increased in numbers. Unfortunately, I have had no success propagating plants from seed. The increased vegetation growth has also made it harder for kids to go off path and make new bike tracks.

On a negative side the weed species have also done well especially the lantana¹ (*Lantana camara*) . Also found a small but significant patch of Cat's Claw Creeper² (*Macfadyena unguis-cati*). This is only the second finding in the last 10 years. No major changes planned for the coming year. Continue to weed, place some more nesting boxes and continue to monitor. I would like to do a cool burn through the southern section as it hasn't burnt for 30 years.

The group is averaging 4 (3-6) and working twice a month.

Volunteering: Please call Rob 0407 124 863.

1. *Lantana camara* is a heavily branched shrub that can grow in compact clumps, dense thickets or as a climbing vine. It forms dense thickets that can smother and destroy native vegetation and are impenetrable to animals, people and vehicles. Currently, lantana covers more than 5 million ha of subcoastal New South Wales to Far North Queensland.
2. Cat's Claw creeper is a large woody vine that climbs and creeps aggressively. It smothers native vegetation, including growing up over trees and changes soil chemistry.