

HFNC Excursion to Pallisters Reserve at Orford on 21 August 1994

Rod Bird

Participants: Rod Bird, Dave & Lyn Munro, John & Glenys Cayley, Ken & Janeen Grimes, Elizabeth Arthur, Bob Korlowski, Bertil Goeree, Hilary Turner, Rae Dempster, Roger Thompson & Trudy – .

Background: In 1993 the Victorian Conservation Trust requested support for purchase of bushland/swamp at Pallister's farm near Orford. HFNC had agreed to assist and in March 1994 gave \$600 towards the purchase of the 254 ha Pallister's block. The bush had been left largely untouched by Mr Pallister to support wildlife, when all around was being cleared. It amounted to about half of his farm. HFNC was keen to see what Pallisters Reserve actually offered for conservation.

The excursion: We left the Hamilton Visitor Centre at 11.30 am and proceeded to Orford on the Pt Fairy Rd. Near the sign to Orford, we took the right fork off the highway and, after about 200 m, turned west onto Masons Rd for 5.4 km, finding the entrance to Pallisters Reserve on the left.

We had lunch at the parking area and then started our walk. We had rubber boots and needed them because the swamps all had some degree of water cover. We found also that leeches were active!

At this time there were no Bluegum plantations in the paddocks surrounding Pallisters block.



The trees in the uncleared areas appeared to be predominantly Manna Gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*), Swamp Gum (*E. ovata*), Peppermint Gum (*E. willisii*) and Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*), with Silver Banksia (*Banksia marginata*), Cherry Ballart (*Exocarpos cupressiformis*), Prickly Tea-tree (*Leptospermum continentale*) and Woolly Tea-tree (*L. lanigerum*). No records of the understorey plants was made but there is a list of 33 bird species we saw or heard on the property.

Birdlist for Pallisters Reserve on 21 August 1994

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| 1. Australian Magpie | 12. Jacky Winter | 23. Swamp Harrier |
| 2. Black Swan | 13. Laughing Kookaburra | 24. Varied Sittella |
| 3. Black-shouldered Kite | 14. Long-billed Corella | 25. Welcome Swallow |
| 4. Brolga | 15. Masked Lapwing | 26. White-browed Scrubwren |
| 5. Crimson Rosella | 16. Noisy Miner | 27. White-eared Honeyeater |
| 6. Fairy Martin | 17. Pacific Black Duck | 28. White-faced Heron |
| 7. Golden Whistler | 18. Red Wattlebird | 29. White-fronted Chat |
| 8. Golden-headed Cisticola | 19. Restless Flycatcher | 30. White-naped Honeyeater |
| 9. Grey Currawong | 20. Royal Spoonbill | 31. Yellow-billed Spoonbill |
| 10. Grey Fantail | 21. Striated Pardalote | 32. Yellow-faced Honeyeater |
| 11. Grey Shrike-thrush | 22. Superb Fairy-wren | 33. Yellow-rumped Thornbill |