

## Mt Zero-Stapylton area excursion 19<sup>th</sup> August 2012

Diane Luhrs

A party of Ken and Janeen Grimes, Ross Simpson, John and Glenys Cayley, Jane Hayes, Rod Bird and Diane Luhrs departed Hamilton at 9 am along the Henty Highway (crossing the swollen Wannon River at Cavendish) and turned east on the Wonwondah-Laharum Rd and then found our way to the Mt Zero picnic ground which was bathed in sunshine.

After a refreshing cup of tea we made our way through to the Mt Stapylton walk – heading up a long sloping sandstone path across vibrant green moss beds interlaced with sundews. Most of us took a leisurely pace enjoying the bird activity, including the White-eared Honeyeater and the White-browed Scrubwren.

The striking red rock wall (Taipan) on the north face of Mt Stapylton was being investigated by climbers. We watched from across the basin as they made tentative progress up the vertical face.

After lunch, Ross completed the full walk and the rest of us returned to do a short walk part way up Mt Zero from the car park. Spring flowers were in bud or bloom with good shows of *Thryptomene* and various acacias. Orchid leaves were plentiful and a few Tall Greenhoods stood under the taller bushes.

Following our walk we enjoyed afternoon tea at the Mt Zero Cafe before driving home.

Photos below of Tall Greenhood and views to the Taipan rock wall on Mt Stapylton by Rod.

