

### **Mid-week walk in Worimi land at Fern Bay on 3<sup>rd</sup> September**

Sixteen people attended the Tuesday walk on 3<sup>rd</sup> September in the Worimi lands at Fern Bay (Vardon Rd. entrance), some for the first time. The walk was shortened somewhat because of extensive controlled burning last summer by National Parks which cleaned out a significant amount of scrub. This was the first Tuesday walk for spring and on a sparkling spring day we managed to see or hear 38 species. This was a marked improvement from my recent visits to the area. No doubt the previous week's rain has freshened things up but quantities of individual birds remains low. There is limited blossom – some remnant swamp mahogany blossom is about all at the moment. The banksias, which do well here, are about to get going as evidenced by a recently arrived New Holland Honeyeater. A surefire harbinger of spring is the appearance of the White-throated Gerygones who visit this area in numbers and have nested here. Also right on time was the Rufous Whistler who is right at home in this habitat. We saw a female Rose Robin which is the first time I've seen one here. Also present was a Spangled Drongo who should be heading off on holiday soon. Some regular spring visitors to the area have been noticeably absent in the last year or so and this is probably because of the controlled burns by NPWS. The aroma of last summer's fire appears to have abated so it might be a good nesting season coming up particularly if we get some more spring rain. Although there is no permanent water on the site, the adjacent golf course sprinkler systems would seem to fill the bill, so to speak. This is a pleasant and rewarding walk close to the city and near enough to the sand spit to be included in that itinerary

We finished off with a visit to the Spit where Tom Clarke had been busy counting the birds. No new arrivals to speak of yet but Tom noticed a couple of extra Grey-tailed Tattlers had joined the eight regulars.