

Rare Wildlife Expedition - December 2021

Two guests booked a Rare Wildlife Expedition Tour to target Mahogany Glider and Sharman's Rock-wallaby. One of the guests had been out with me on nocturnal tours before. The other guest was new, but not new to mammal watching.

A male **Mahogany Glider (*Petaurus gracilis*)** was found the first night of our two-night tour. While spotlighting, I suddenly heard a thud. Having heard gliders land on a tree multiple times, I immediately realised it was a glider. I scanned in the direction I heard the thud from and found the male glider on a tree. The glider climbed up the tree very quickly, to then make short glides. I found it again and we had great prolonged views.



Mahogany Glider male (Petaurus gracilis)

With spirits and hopes high, we made our way to Kilclooney Stn the next day to ask for permission to enter the property to find and see the Sharma's Rock-wallaby. Although the owners/managers had been very friendly and welcoming on previous visits (personal and tour visits), I was not allowed to go on the property this time. When asked for reasons, none were given. Operations and a little land clearing seemed to have happened. Not wanting to trespass, I left in shock, disappointed and with a lot of questions. Although my guests were very understanding, I felt I had failed them.

Other species of interest seen on this two-night expedition: Krefft's Glider, Striped Possum, Spotted Python, Papuan Frogmouth, ...