

Rare Wildlife Expedition - April 2022

Two guests from Melbourne booked two Rare Wildlife Expeditions after having been out with me to find other harder to find mammals. This time, they booked one 3-nights tour to get Mahogany Glider and Sharman's Rock-wallaby and a second 3-nights tour starting 2 nights after the first one to get us Bennett's Tree-kangaroo and Godman's Rock-wallaby. All main targets were seen and photographed.

Mahogany Glider (*Petaurus gracilis*) found on the first night of the first Rare Wildlife Expedition.



Mahogany Glider female (*Petaurus gracilis*)

Sharman's Rock-wallaby (*Petrogale sharmani*) from around the cabins at Hidden Valley. I will not be doing tours to see this species anymore. Anyone wanting to see this species should stay at Hidden Valley Cabins. There are a couple of individuals which are seen around the cabins at dusk and dawn, but there are more individuals along Running River rock pools accessible from the property.

Bennett's Tree-kangaroo (*Dendrolagus bennettianus*). This is the first individual of **two seen** on the first night of the second Rare Wildlife Expedition Tour. The first individual was found close to the ground and climbed up a vine on which it was photographed. Good views were had by both guests. I forgot to insert my SD card in my camera, so the image was provided by guest C. Lester. A second individual was found when I smelled the presence of a Tree-kangaroo. An individual had been urinating very recently along the track. I was quite sure that there was one individual very close-by. I scanned with my thermal imager to find one sitting high up in a tree amongst branches and leaves. Views of the face and front were had, but no photos were taken.



Bennett's Tree-kangaroo (*Dendrolagus bennettianus*)
Image by guest - C. Lester

Having found the Bennett's Tree-kangaroo on night 1, I decided to use our second night to try and find **Godman's Rock-wallaby (*Petrogale godmani*)**. We failed to find the species that first night, but the search delivered info that I needed to choose a different strategy on our last night. We had long (15-20 min) views of one individual the last night of our tour. Happy guests and guide!

This tour still has me on a 100% tour target rate for Mahogany Glider (missed it 2 times on personal outings), 75% tour target rate for Godman's Rock-wallaby and 66% tour target rate for Bennet's Tree-kangaroo. As mentioned above, I will no longer conduct tours to Sharman's Rock-wallaby.



Godman's Rock-wallaby (*Petrogale godmani*)

Other lifers and good finds included: **Striped Possum** (lifer for one guest), **Red-backed Button-quail** (lifer for one guest), **Eastern Long-eared Bat** (lifer for both guests), **Coastal Sheathtail Bat** (lifer for both guests), Brown Tree-snake (lifer for both guests), Spotted python (lifer for both guests), **Large-footed Myotis** (lifer for one guest), Platypus, Fawn-footed Melomys, Giant White-tailed Rat, Papuan Frogmouth...