

INSIGHT #2 - New Growth

November 2011

Hullo Everyone!

I'm writing this from the cozy loungeroom of my new house in Mt Helena. Yes, after 20 years in Parkerville I've finally flapped my 2 metre wingspan and, unlike a newly-fledged wedge-tail which would move at least 50 km, flown a mere 8 km to establish my own territory. I've found that 2011 has been the year of Fast Forward, as every time I've thought about writing another newsletter, a month passes! The year for me has been one of recharging, saving, building for the future (mostly a video-footage library!) and working towards making a new start. Oh, there has also been plenty of adventures in their too ;-). In many ways I've felt frustrated that I haven't got some of the projects done that I've wanted to, but as a very wise friend told me, like a beautiful flowering tree, we must all take the time to recharge and rebuild before growing new flowers to blossom in the future.

The most exciting recent news is that **BIRD WALKS** are beginning! With the help of the fabulous staff at DEC's Nearer to Nature in Mundaring, I'm going to be conducting guided bird tours near Mundaring Weir from now into the future. The first walk is on Sunday 11th December, so if you're keen to come, check this link for info:
http://www.simoncherriman.com/Simon_Cherriman/Whats_On.html

If you miss out on this one, don't worry, there will be plenty of options for the future.

The other thing I've done this year is started a **BLOG!** - www.simoncherriman.com/Simon_Cherriman/News/News.html. I'll try to put the main events in these newsletters, but feel free to browse anytime to see updates on my adventures, and little anecdotes on wildlife observations around the Perth region. Some of the items of interest in the last few months include nesting Red-capped Parrots (with a sad ending), Urban Eagles nesting on a power pylon, a roadside Kestrel nest, and some reminders of our impacts to wildlife through pools and aluminium cans. Oh - I mentioned blooming flowers earlier. Well, another

little highlight of the year came when Gill and I travelled 2500kms through WA's north and interior on a wildflower trip. Dusty roads, carpets of everlasting flowers, the brilliant red flash of male Crimson Chats and the dull red ooze of blood from my foot after a nasty splinter were just some of the stand-outs. (The splinter was a result of my over-friendly encounter with a dead branch after chasing a lizard through the scrub!).

The best selection of photos are available here:

http://www.simoncherriman.com/Simon_Cherriman/Photo_Gallery/Pages/Wildflower_Trip_2011.html

On the **A Wedged Tale** front, the DVD release is getting closer but the progress on the 'making of' docco has been quite slow. At this stage, I'm aiming for around February, but as soon as it's ready, I will let you know (if you live within a 20 km radius you may even hear the screams of relief when I get it done!). I'm aiming to have the DVDs done to coincide with another **screening of AWT in Margaret River**. This is in it's early stages of planning at the moment, but the plan is for me to screen the film (30 minutes) and for the amazing musician **Dave Mann** (www.davemann.com.au) to provide the night's entertainment with his band, the Dave Mann Collective. Keep you eyes on my website for details!

On other news, I'm returning to the fabulous **Kimberley Region** in April-May with the Australian Geographic Society as part of their **2012 Scientific Expedition**. If you are keen to come along, you can get information about how to register at the Aus Geo website (www.australiangeographic.com.au). The Expedition will involve lots of hands-on outdoor exploration of El Questro Station, a vast million acres of wilderness. If you fancy something to whet your appetite, my photos of the 2011 trip are available here: http://www.simoncherriman.com/Simon_Cherriman/Photo_Gallery/Pages/EL_Questro.html. I've also cut a short video of some of the wildlife I filmed which can be viewed on the 'News' page of my website.

Ok friends, that's it for now! Tomorrow I'm about to leave on my last field trip for 2012 and I still haven't packed - better run.

I hope you are all well and are managing to wind down for a relaxing break over the festive season.

Good Luck, Kind Thoughts and Best Wishes from

Simon

 **Save a tree, please don't print this e-mail unless necessary**

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