



## A Classroom in the Paddock!

Nineteen participants travelled the Mt Tabor Road recently to attend South West NRM's field day at *Wetlands*, Augathella. Seated in a unique outdoor classroom (see below), the audience were able to learn from pasture and grazing expert, Col Paton about land condition and how to get that balance between trees and grass to optimise productivity. Richard Johnson of Boobook Ecologists, Roma presented valuable information about practical ways to achieve biodiversity outcomes while managing land and livestock.

The most common comment at the end of the day was how beneficial it is to have experts like these in our local area.



Above: Attendees at the *Wetlands* field day listening intently to Col Paton of EcoRich Grazing.

## Did you know?

- Mistletoe has a reputation for burdening trees - however it is the main food source for the vulnerable-listed Painted Honeyeater (*Grantiella picta*), plus many other native birds.
- The movements and breeding of the rare Painted Honeyeater are influenced by the timing of the Mistletoe's berry production.
- For more information about the Painted honeyeater [CLICK HERE](#).
- Mistletoe only relies on the tree for moisture - contrary to popular belief, while still considered parasites, they rarely kill their host tree. These plants produce their own food, and have evolved with their host trees over many years.



Above: A Painted honeyeater feeding on Mistletoe berries. Photo by Jeremy Ringma. Source: [Queensland Department of Science, Information Technology & Innovation](#).

Thanks to Col and Richard from the *Wetlands* field day for helping to expel some Mistletoe myths this Festive Season!

