

Common Name/Scientific name: **Pale-headed Rosella/*Platycercus adscitus***

The Pale-headed Rosella is widespread throughout most of Queensland (except the dry western regions), where it occurs in a range of open forests and woodlands, as well as in parks and gardens, and its range also extends into northern New South Wales.



Description: The Pale-headed Rosella is a medium-sized, broad-tailed parrot, with a pale head and all white, or blue and white cheek patches. The underbelly is mainly blue, with red under the tail. The back is yellow with dark flecks. The female is similar, though slightly duller, with an off-white underwing stripe. There is marked geographical variation, with differences in the depth of colour and the facial patch. This is a noisy and conspicuous parrot, except when feeding.

Where seen in the gardens: Pale-headed Rosellas are found in savannah woodlands, lightly timbered woodlands with a grassy understorey, tree-lined watercourses and agricultural lands. In the gardens, they are regularly seen in the more open forest on the upper slopes, in the lightly timbered areas near the developed garden beds, and also on the ground in shaded grassy areas, looking for seeds.

Feeding & Behaviour in the gardens: Pale-headed Rosellas feed mainly on the ground, but also in trees and shrubs. They mainly eat seeds and fruits of grasses, shrubs and trees, as well as flowers, insects and their larvae. They feed more often in shade than in sunlight.

Nesting: Pale-headed Rosellas make their nests in the hollows of either dead or living trees, usually in eucalypts, or hollow stumps and posts. The nest is often near water. The eggs are laid on wood dust. Only the female incubates, though a few days after hatching the male helps with feeding the young.

Similar Species in the gardens: The Pale-headed Rosella is very similar to the Eastern Rosella, *Platycercus eximius*, which has a bright red rather than yellow head. The two species are often found together and may hybridise (breed together, blending characteristics). Eastern Rosellas are rarely seen in the gardens.