**TBC OUTING - WORCESTER BOTANICAL GARDEN (25 June 2022)**
44 Members arrived at the Worcester Karoo Desert Botanical Gardens, and this time the weather
was lovely!! It was nice to see the vast improvement of the plants after the severe drought of a few
years back.
Many aloes as well as tree aloes were in flower. Southern Double-Collared and Malachite Sunbirds
were plentiful. Everybody had good views of Streaky-headed Seedeaters. The surrounding
mountains were clear and one could see far into the distance. The cherry on top was to see QUIVER
TREES in full flower!! Out timing was spot-on!
Next the majority of the group started hiking the Shale Trail. It climbs up and around a koppie. Karoo
Scrub-Robin, Familiar Chat and Layard’s Warbler were seen well. The second half of the trail, is steep
downhill. We suggested some Members’ might want to turn back. Starting down the steep hill with
the kind help of Rodney, Keith and Gert – looking back – a large group of Members’ hiked the full
trail. It was exciting, and fun – but eyes had to be kept on the rocks and trail, to not tumble!
The morning was ended with great views of a Fairy Flycatcher, in a tree at the parking area. It was
photographed by many, from all angles!! Tea and a picnic brought an end, to a very nice winter’s
outing in this semi-desert landscape.
Brigid Crewe