



## NEWSLETTER

MAY 2018

### APRIL 2018 WALK BUSH BOTTOMS

The name "Bush Bottoms" gives one no inkling of what to expect when visiting the Tarlo National Park. To my mind, it is a complete misnomer.

Geology is a key determinant of the local ecology—influencing the flora as well as the striking rock formations which were the goal of the walk. (Tim may quibble about this, as no doubt the search for *Boronia* was the goal of his walk ... however I'm getting ahead of myself.)

Access to the Tarlo National Park is restricted with the group requiring permission to travel over a private road from the Greenwich Park end.

The first part of the walk was easy going through open woodland communities of stringy barks. The understorey was fairly open due to the cool, dry climate, surface rock and previous fire. Common shrubs included *Lissanthe strigosa* (peach heath), *Leucopogon lanceolatus* (lance beard heath), *Hakea dactyloides* (finger hakea) and *Acacia obtusifolia*.

While the forest itself was dominated by some friends from the previous walk—*Eucalyptus macrorhyncha* and *E. punctata*, there were also some acquaintances we have not seen for a while, *E. agglomerata* and *E. sieberi* (silver top ash).

As the group approached the stunning rock formations which were the destination, there was a clear change underfoot as well as in the plant communities. Scribbly gum woodland dominated the lower ridges and slopes with denser shrubs including *Exocarpus strictus*.

At this point we had to start picking a route around and between massive chunks of conglomerate rock. These formations of Permian sediment were much older than where we had walked earlier in the morning—they date back 500 million years. The intense pressure which caused the collection of pebbles to be fused into a solid mass is mind boggling and was the focus of much discussion.

However as we went deeper, and these structures reared up all around, one gained a sense of being in the presence of

something truly ancient, almost timeless. In much more recent times, though still very ancient in human terms, one sensed that this spot would have held huge significance for the Gandangara people. The marvellous shapes, which had been honed by the elements over millennia created a sense of awe and contemplation.

An understanding of the mystery of this place may be garnered by the connection a number of the group made to the landscape in *Picnic at Hanging Rock*. Readers who were not present may feel I'm being fanciful—those who were will realise I'm struggling to convey a sense of the power and significance of this landscape.

Lunching amongst these sculptures gave a chance to absorb this wonder. After the break we trekked along the ridge line as Tim searched for the ever elusive *Boronia*. Few trees grew here due to the surface rock. There were small areas of shrub and herb communities. A rare acacia, *A. subtilinervis* is found in this area.

Other finds included *Phebalium squamulosum* (forest phebalium), *Podolobium ilicifolium* (prickly shaggy pea), *Acacia genistifolia* (spreading wattle) and *Zieria cytisoides*.

A stiff wind picked up as we explored and then decided to make our way back to the cars. Interestingly, there was no sign of this wind back on the lower levels amongst the forest.

I refer anyone interested in learning more about the fascinating geology of the Tarlo National Park to "Tarlo River National Park Plan of Management" by the NSW NP&WS, which I discovered while researching this article.



Treading carefully on the rocks

Thanks

again to Pauline for the account of the April walk and I won't quibble with anything! I don't have an explanation for the name of the place but if we were to walk around the base of the outcrops, you have to go through fairly tall trees and in places, quite a lot of ferns. Whether this had anything to do with the name - I'm not sure but certainly it is the outcrops that form the main attraction. One other remark on what Pauline mentioned - her looking up the NPWS plan of management for the park. The organisation has one of these for each park and nature reserve and I usually peruse these plans to get a general idea of what to expect in a new place. Worth reading.

Finally, those boronias (*B. anemonifolia*) will be found! Had we gone round to where we have previously ascended the outcrops, we would have seen *B. algida*.

#### APRIL 19 PROPAGATION

Again, there was a good attendance at this session. Potting up was the main activity with recent germinations and cuttings being used. Peter hovered about in his role of ensuring that new pots were correctly named. With the many hands, I think all the work was done by morning tea time. Thanks to those who could come.

#### AUGUST WALK

It was indicated in the April newsletter that the destination for the August walk was to be changed. It will now be to the Bullio Tunnel Trail. This is between Mittagong and the Wombeyan Caves. The tunnel is actually a short section where the road has been drilled through the sandstone. For those who have been to the Joadja NR, it is just past that and the track goes over the top of the tunnel.

#### SURVEY RESULTS

Our membership officer, Sandra, has been busy collating the results of the survey and they give a picture of those who responded - although not necessarily of the entire membership.

It can be said that the 'average' member has a strong interest in propagation and the bush walks we undertake. They have learned about native plants from a wide variety of books - too numerous to list here - with the list going to two pages. What has also emerged is that there is an interest in knowing more about soils and the relationships between soils and plants. The desire for this type of input surfaced also at the AGM last December and will receive attention in the July forum. In addition, the list of species grown successfully is very extensive. Here I will list the grevilleas that made the list along with flower colour: *G. longifolia* (dark red), *confertifolia* (pink/mauve), *crithmifolia* (white/pale pink), *iaspicula* (pink/cream), *Austraflora* 'Fanfare' (red), *barklyana* pink/red, Poorinda 'Royal Mantle'(red), 'White Knight' (white).

The survey results will be looked at by the committee in due course. The full set of results can be made available to any member who would like to see them.

#### MORE NAMES

In the March newsletter I put in a list of common plant species words which are used to allocate a name to the species based on some leaf characteristic. There are a few more here.

*amplifolia* - from ample/large - an example is cabbage gum - *E. amplifolia*

*teretifolia* - from terete which means circular in cross section - some leaves of course are flat but some are rolled into a circular shape and some have a solid cross section. Things have terete leaves may also be quite prickly. An example is *Hakea teretifolia*

*serrata* - an easy one - we are familiar with serrated edges of various kinds. This applies to leaves whose margins are not smooth but may have small projections or a saw-edge like structure about them. *Banksia serrata* is a prime example.

*integrifolia* - from integral/full etc - opposite to the serrata - refers to leaves which have a smooth margin with no sharp projections big or small. An example is *Banksia integrifolia* - Coast banksia.

#### PROGRAM

Fri - Sun May 4 - 6	Walks - Nature Reserves near Griffith
Sat Jun 2	McCormack property (Crookwell) and Laggan Nature Reserve
Sat July 7	Forum/presentation: Soil Improvement/ Plant Selection - speakers tba
Sat Aug 4	<b>Bullio Tunnel Trail</b>
Sat Sept 1	Walk - Nattai National Park
Thu Sept 13	Propagation
Sun Sept 16	Propagation
Sat Oct 6	Walk - Nadgigomar West Nature Reserve
Wed Oct 24	Wetlands Garden Maintenance
Sun - Tue Nov 11 - 13	Walks - Nature Reserves near Mudgee

Still on the names of plants. Any eagle-eyed person who peruses the list of plants on the next page and has done so for the Bangadilly list may notice that in the Bangadilly list I have *Phebalium squamulosum ssp squamulosum* while in the list below there is no subspecies. The botanists have squashed several subspecies into just one species but they have also split the genus into two - *Phebalium* and *Leionema*.

Finally, best wishes for a safe and interesting trip to those heading for the Griffith region this weekend. We look forward to hearing their about their experiences.

#### PLANT LIST FOR BUSH BOTTOM APRIL 2018

*Acacia buxifolia* - box-leaved wattle

Acacia decurrens - Early black wattle  
 Acacia genistifolia - early wattle  
 Acacia gunnii - Ploughshare wattle  
 Acacia obtusifolia - Blunt-leaved wattle  
 Acacia subtilinervis - Wattle  
 Acacia terminalis - Sunshine wattle  
 Allocasuarina littoralis - Black she-oak  
 Aotus ericoides -  
 Banksia spinulosa - Hairpin Banksia  
 Billardiera scandens - Apple berry  
 Brachyloma daphnoides - Daphne heath  
 Calytrix tetragona - Common fringe myrtle  
 Cooperookia barbata -  
 Daviesia genistifolia - Broom bitter pea  
 Daviesia leptophylla - Narrow-leaved bitter pea  
 Dendrobium striolatum - Streaked rock orchid  
 Dianella sp. - Blue flax lily  
 Dillwynia sericea - Showy parrot pea  
 Eucalyptus agglomerata - Blue-leaved stringybark  
 Eucalyptus cinerea - Argyle apple  
 Eucalyptus dives - Broad-leaved peppermint  
 Eucalyptus mannifera - Brittle gum  
 Eucalyptus punctata - Grey gum  
 Eucalyptus sieberi - Silvertop ash  
 Eucalyptus stricta - Blue Mountains mallee  
 Eucalyptus blaxlandii - Blaxland's stringybark  
 Eucalyptus globoidea - White stringybark  
 Exocarpus cupressiformis - Cherry ballart  
 Exocarpus strictus - Pale ballart  
 Gompholobium virgatum ssp aspalathoides - Wedge pea  
 Gonocarpus tetragynus - Raspwort  
 Gonocarpus teucroides -  
 Goodenia hederacea - Ivy-leaved Goodenia  
 Hakea dactyloides - Broad-leaved Hakea  
 Hakea sericea - Needle bush  
 Hardenbergia violaceae - Purple twining pea  
 Hibbertia diffusa - a guinea flower  
 Hibbertia obtusifolia - Grey guinea flower  
 Isotoma axillaris - Rock isotome  
 Kunzea cambagei - Cambage's Kunzea  
 Lepidosperma sp - sword sedge

Leptospermum multicaule - Hill tea tree  
 Leptospermum trinervium - Tea tree  
 Leucopogon lanceolatus - Lance-leaved beard heath  
 Lissanthe strigosa - Peach heath  
 Lomandra filiformis - Wattle matrush  
 Lomandra obliqua - Fishbone matrush  
 Lomatia silaifolia - Crinkle bush  
 Ozothamnus diosmifolius - Ball everlasting  
 Persoonia linearis - Narrow-leaved geebung  
 Phebalium squamulosum -  
 Platysace lanceolata - Lance-leaved Platysace  
 Podolobium ilicifolium - Prickly shaggy pea  
 Pomaderris sp. (no mature specimen seen)  
 Pomax umbellata - Pomax  
 Xanthorrhoea australis - Grass tree  
 Zieria cytisoides - Downy Zieria



One of the few lily flowers seen on the walk



It must have been tiny but it generated some interest