



ACN 002 680 408

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2020

JULY WALK

The destination for this outing was really carried over from February when we were unable to go out. With the air of uncertainty in which we live and the FROGS group AGM, it was not surprising that it was a smaller than usual group that took part. Interestingly, however, we had two 'new' members who had not been with us on an outing before. Anne lives on the coast but has a property near Braidwood; Judith is a local and was involved with one of the schools we donated plants to. It was a pleasure to have them and trust they enjoyed it.

The eastern part of Belanglo State Forest is a pine plantation and is in regular use. The western portion is native vegetation and includes woodland/forest on deeper soils and heathy type vegetation on shallow rocky sites. The predominant geological strata at the surface include Hawkesbury sandstone which underlies the highly-prized vegetation of areas to the northeast of our district. The forest is open to the public; there are designated camping areas; motorbikes can be encountered on the tracks. There is a quarry that is associated with a local brickworks and the Bowral Pistol Club has a firing range near the quarry. Access to the part where the shooting range is located is discouraged and flags on the nearby tracks indicate if the range is in use. Unfortunately, it was in use when we went and we had to forego access to an interesting gully nearby.

We parked initially near a camping ground and followed a level fire trail to the main track through the area. A common tree in this area is the smooth-barked grey gum with its distinctive pinkish patches on the bark: We have seen this in the past in locations not too far away - Bangadilly and Joadja to name a couple. In fact Bangadilly NP (western portion) is really only a few kilometres to the north-west. Another very common tree here is silvertop ash, *E. sieberi*. The full list of what was seen follows.

Acacia buxifolia
Acacia hamiltoniana
Acacia longifolia
Acacia suaveolens
Acacia terminalis
Allocasuarina diminuta

Amperea xiphioclada var. *papillata*
Banksia serrata
Banksia spinulosa
Bossiaea heterophylla
Bossiaea rhombifolia
Cassinia arcuata
Cassinia laevis
Caustis flexuosa
Cheilanthes sieberi
Dampiera purpurea
Daviesia mimosoides
Daviesia ulicifolia
Dianella sp.
Dodonaea multijuga
Eucalyptus globoidea
Eucalyptus punctata
Eucalyptus rossii
Eucalyptus sieberi
Exocarpus strictus
Goodenia hederaceae
Hakea dactyloides
Hakea laevipes
Hakea sericea
Isopogon anethifolius
Leptospermum polygalifolium
Leptospermum trinervium
Leucopogon ericoides
Leucopogon lanceolatus
Leucopogon setiger
Lomandra obliqua
Lomatia ilicifolia
Olearia viscidula
Oxylobium ilicifolium
Persoonia levis
Persoonia linearis
Persoonia mollis ssp. *leiogyna*
Petrophile pedunculata
Platysace lanceolata
Pomaderris lanigerum
Xanthorrhoea sp.

Thanks to Peter for being the scribe on the day - in truth, though, he didn't actually write a single species name down. In lieu of using a pen he set up his phone so that when the name was spoken into it, it was recorded as an audio file which he later emailed to me as well as deciphering himself at home later on. There were several audio files that he could not decipher- whether it was the unusual names or the speaker's accent has not been determined!!!

The Sydney Golden Wattle, *A. longifolia* had its buds ready to open. The sunshine wattle, *A. terminalis* was in flower. It flowers down our own direction a bit later.

A. hamiltoniana is one we have seen once before in one of our Morton NP trips - shrubby wattle to about 2m - not yet in flower. The scented wattle, *A. suaveolens*, had its large buds ready to open. The buds in this species are surrounded by bracts (protective leaf-like structures) - a feature not present in other wattles

Amperea xiphoclada is an obscure plant; it is small often with only a single stem with tiny leaves and similar flowers. We did see it once before on a Cookbundoon end-of-year walk. The family it belongs to has hardly any genera we are familiar with.

Banksia serrata was seen on the last part of our walk. This was in a rocky area where we had lunch. It was easy to find a place to sit although being in the sun and out of the wind was more of a challenge. As Bob pointed out, the outcrop we lunched on was used for grinding stones by the Aborigines in times past.

Allocasuarina diminuta is new to us but there is a certain sameness about all the members of this group. It is a shrub with a number of varieties. *Cheilanthes sieberi* is a dry rock fern and is common in the Goulburn area; despite its name, it received a great boost from the February rain.

Hakes dactyloides and *H. laevipes* are very similar - but are easily distinguished as the former is single-trunked and the latter multi-trunked. *H. dactyloides* usually grows to about 2 or 3 metres at maturity.

Leptospermum trinervium is a common tea-tree in the highlands and tablelands areas. It can grow to a small tree, is generally found in moister/sheltered locations and does not retain its seed capsules for very long. It is also recognisable through its very flaky bark.

Persoonia levis is that shrubby geebung with its striking large green leaves and easily distinguished from our own common species, *P. linearis*, which we also saw.

As we walked along and looked at collected specimens, there was a query about how specimens can be identified. If there are flowers or seed capsules present, the task is made much easier as it is the reproductive features which are the key factors to look for. If, however, none of these are present, then all that can be done is to examine closely the specimen collected. Sometimes a single clue can identify the genus. With tea trees, for example, looking at the leaves against the light should reveal the presence of oil glands. As we did on the day, looking at the woolly hairs in the flowers of *Leucopogon ericoides*, identified it as a *Leucopogon*.

With our brief excursion into the area, there is plenty of more ground that can be covered. There are a few creeks running through the area and there are other cliff tops and gullies that could be visited. A little bit of off-track walking might be required.

REVEGETATION

In the previous newsletter, it was reported that a request had been sent out for assistance in doing remedial work to address some of the vegetation losses experienced in the Bundanoon area during the bushfires earlier in the year. While no meeting has occurred yet, the involvement of the Menai APS and Souther Highlands groups

and some support from Wingecarribee Council are in the offing. A meeting will be called when the threat of the Corona virus has receded. Bob and I hope to attend this meeting and in preparation, we have looked over lists of the native vegetation in the Bundanoon region.

EASY PROPAGATION?

A few times over the last few months or so, Peter has mentioned a method of propagation that bypasses the methods we usually use: no need for potting mix, hormone etc in these instances. I suggested to him that his method could well be publicised to the rest of the group. Here is his account of what he does.

If you're lucky enough to have a good stock of some native plants that are encroaching on a path or covering a feature rock as in my



Eremophila glabra prostrate yellow

case and require a good prune, try this method.

I will state that I've only done this in winter as the soil doesn't dry out as much although keep an eye on windy days. I tried this since I literally stuck some rosemary cutting plants on my rock shale ledge and they took off.

Why not natives? All the cuttings have been approx. 100mm in length with the lower half stripped of foliage. Those that have taken fully and thriving are: *Myoporum parvifolium* (small leaf), *Eremophila glabra* (prostrate yellow), *Eremophila subteritifolia* and *Rhagodia spinescens* (I've also noticed a new classification: *Chenopodium spinescens*)

So if you have some trimming to do, get your screwdriver out and stab the ground and slip in what would be tossed into the compost! Nothing to lose.

CALENDAR

Sat/Sun Aug 1-2	cancelled
Sat Sep 5	Walk in Bango Nature Reserve
Thu Sep 17	Propagation
Sun Sep 20	Propagation
Sat Oct 3	Dalton Reserves
Sat Oct 10	Wetlands Working Bee/ Goulburn Connects
Sun Nov 8	Rare plant sale Riversdale tbc
Sat Nov 21	Bundanoon area walk
Sat Dec 5	AGM and end-of-year lunch