



WOORABINDA (COOKBUNDOON) WALK

What a contrast two weeks makes. Just a fortnight earlier when the APS were at Mt Annan, the temperature was in the high twenties; on the Queen's birthday weekend at Cookbundoon, it struggled to reach double digits.

Despite temperatures, the walk at Woorabinda threw up much of interest. The first challenge was to get to the designated site. Locked gates and lost keys didn't deter the intrepid trekkers. With Bob leading the way, the 4WD contingent found a track to the quarry, sometimes even cutting a path in order to get through.

The abandoned quarry site was in a sheltered and heavily wooded valley. As the group prepared the obligatory cuppa before the walk, we were delighted to find we were in the company of a crackle of yellow-tailed black cockatoo.

The walk itself followed the creek line, going up the valley on one side, crossing over to return on the other. The western side of the creek seemed to be dominated by the coarse-barked *Eucalyptus agglomerata* (Blue-leaved stringybark), while the eastern side was more mixed species including *Eucalyptus rubida* (Candlebark), *E. macrorhyncha* (Red stringybark), *E. sieberi* (Silvertop ash), *E. rossii* (Inland scribbly gum), and *E. dives* (Broad-leaved peppermint). Some unknown animal, perhaps the cockatoo, seemed to be quite partial to the juvenile leaves, as bunches of these were found scattered over the ground on the eastern side of the creek.

The understory provided much interest as we found a number of orchids, unfortunately not in flower, including *Acianthus exsertus*—with the unfortunate common name of mosquito orchid—as well as *Chiloglottis*, *Corybas* and *Diplodium* species.

A number of small vines also covered the valley floor including *Billardiera mutabilis* and *B. scandens* (Appleberry) and *Hardenbergia violacea* (False sarsparilla).

One of the few plants in flower was the very prickly-leaved *Acacia genistifolia*. Other Acacias included *A. brownii*, *A.*

buxifolia, *A. dealbata*, *A. falciformis*, *A. gunnii*, *A. parramattensis* and *A. rubida*.

As we returned to the cars there was an opportunity to explore the quarry site and surrounds. The atmospheric ruins of the quarry manager's cottage sparked much interest. The foot wide crumbling walls provided clear evidence of the care that went into the construction of the slate building. The remaining chimney, with wooden beams above, was an evocative insight into the life of those working the mine 150 years ago. Apparently many Welshmen came out the region to quarry the slate. The heavily wooded valley must have seemed the end of the world for these men, so when Towrang station opened, supplying much fruit to the Sydney markets, this must have made a huge difference to the miners.



Not the most common type of photo as seen in this newsletter; nevertheless one of considerable interest, especially to history and heritage buffs

After a further 4WD adventure, we lunched near an old stockyard and sheep dip. This area was more open, covered by *Cassinia arcuata* (Sifton bush) as well as a number of very impressive *Eucalyptus cinerea* (Argyle apple). One tree, demanding closer inspection, stood proudly amongst its peers with the span of its branches being 12 metres or more.

The close proximity of the walk to Goulburn meant that we returned home earlier than usual. It would also mean that a return trip when the orchids and other species are in flower, could be achievable—there was significant interest in the prospect.

(Thanks to Pauline for that story.)

Thanks to Ashlea and Greg - we have a more complete list of the plants seen on the walk (next page).

Acacia brownii - Heath wattle
 Acacia buxifolia - box-leaved wattle
 Acacia dealbata - silver wattle
 Acacia falciformis - Broadleaf
 Acacia genistifolia - Early wattle
 Acacia gunnii - Ploughshare wattle
 Acacia parramattensis - Parramatta green wattle
 Acacia rubida - Red-leaf wattle
 Acianthus exsertus - Mosquito orchid
 Adiantum aethiopicum - Maidenhair fern
 Allocasuarina littoralis - Black she-oak
 Asplenium flabellifolium - Necklace fern
 Banksia spinulosa - Hairpin Banksia
 Billardiera mutabilis -
 Bursaria spinosa - Blackthorn
 Cheilanthes sieberi - Rock fern
 Chiloglottis sp. Clematis aristata - Old man's beard
 Corybas sp. - Helmet orchid
 Dianella revoluta - Flax lily
 Dichondra repens - Kidney weed
 Dipodium sp. -Hyacinth orchid
 Eucalyptus agglomerate - Blue-leaf stringybark
 Eucalyptus amplifolia Cabbage gum
 Eucalyptus cinerea Argyle apple
 Eucalyptus dives - Broadleaf peppermint
 Eucalyptus elata - River peppermint
 Eucalyptus macrorhyncha - Red stringybark
 Eucalyptus rossii - Scribbly gum
 Eucalyptus rubida Candlebark
 Eucalyptus sieberi - Silvertop ash
 Exocarpus strictus - Dwarf cherry
 Exocarpus cupressiformis - Cherry ballart
 Geranium solanderi -Native geranium
 Glycine tabacina - Vanilla Glycine
 Goodenia hederacea - Ivy-leaf Goodenia
 Hakea sericea - Needle bush
 Hardenbergia violacea - False sarsparilla
 Hibbertia obtusifolia - Grey guinea flower
 Hydrocotyle laxiflora - Stinking pennywort
 Indigofera australis - Austral indigo
 Lepidosperma sp. - A sedge
 Leptospermum continentale - Prickly tea-tree
 Leucopogon lanceolatus
 Lissanthe strigosa- Peach heath
 Lomandra filiformis - wattle matrush
 Lomandra longifolia - Spiny-headed matrush

Lomatia ilicifolia - Holly-leaved Lomatia
 Melichrus urceolatus - Urn heath
 Oxalis perennans - Lesser St John's wort
 Persoonia linearis - geebung
 Persoonia mollis - geebung
 Plantago varia - Variable plantain
 Platylobium formosum - Handsome flat pea
 Pomax umbellata -
 Pteridium esculentum - Bracken fern
 Pterostylis sp. - orchid
 Senecio sp - fireweed
 Solenogyne dominii- Smooth Solenogyne
 Stellaria pungens - Prickly starwort
 Stypantra glauca - Nodding blue lily
 Veronica sp.
 Viola betonicifolia -Purple violet
 Viola silicestris -
 Xanthorrhoea concava - Trunkless grass tree

WEBSITE

Recently, Peter, Renate and myself met with a lady who works for the Australian Business Advisory Services (Digital Solutions) where we investigated our APS website with a view to being able to change/add things. It is likely that we will have another session or two (we pay a very reasonable fee) before we become expert. Certainly we will need lots of photos - both to replace some we have and to create photo galleries of what we see on our walks. While, of course, we do some of this already, we will need to up the scale.

FORUM

This of course happens on Saturday. Wednesday July 3 is the final day for registering; on Thursday, an email will go out to all who have registered giving more info.

CALENDAR

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|------------|-----------------------------|
| Sat Jul 6 | Presentation/Forum |
| Sat Aug 3 | Walk - Alison Hone Reserve |
| Sat Sep 7 | Walk - Ettrema Gorge area |
| Sat Sep 19 | Propagation |
| Sun Sep 22 | Propagation |
| Sat Oct 5 | Walk - Dalton Reserves |
| Wed Oct 16 | Wetlands working bee |
| Sun Nov 3 | Riversdale plant stall |
| Sat Nov 16 | Walk - Penrose State Forest |
| Sat Dec 7 | AGM + end of year function |