



AUGUST WALK

This walk took place on a cool but pleasant day and we welcomed a bigger group than usual. It was good to catch up again with a few members who have not been able to join us for some time; we also welcomed recent new member, Ian McFaul, from the Crookwell area. The last walk we had to this reserve was many years ago most likely before the time of the majority of the current membership.

Another bit of history first

*In 1981 a Stock Reserve near Goulburn was gazetted as a Reserve for Public Recreation and the Preservation of Native Flora and Fauna. A rare ORCHID, Calochilus imberbis had been discovered there, a first record for N. S. W. The discoverer was Mrs. Alison Hone, a member of our Society, who unfortunately died later. After a good deal of effort, we managed to have it gazetted, and at the moment our members make up all but one of the committee of Trustees. The Reserve was named The Alison Hone Reserve.*

AN INTRODUCTION to the NATURAL HISTORY of the GOULBURN DISTRICT 4<sup>TH</sup> ED. 1992.

The orchid, regarded as a form of *C. robertsonii*, has been only rarely seen since then and certainly not for many years.

The reserve is largely timbered, thinning out to woodland in some places. A piece of ground on the opposite side of the road has also been reserved but is not officially part of the Alison Hone Reserve. Our walk started on this new reserve with some of it following an old road. Weed infestations here were high initially with serrated tussock and African love grass being principal offenders. Apple box, *E. bridgesiana* was among the dominant trees. Towards the northern end of this section, the weeds became fewer and different flora began to be seen.

We then crossed the road and began our walk in the reserve proper. The understory was somewhat sparse but a number of species were seen that we have not encountered elsewhere. Following is a partial list of what was seen. Ashlea and Greg have a more complete list compiled from some previous visits.

Acacia brownii  
Acacia dealbata - Silver wattle  
Acacia decurrens - Early black wattle  
Acacia genistifolia - Early wattle  
Acacia gunnii - Ploughshare wattle

Acacia lanigera - Woolly wattle  
Acaena novae-zelandii - Bidgee-widgee  
Aristida ramosa - Purple wire grass  
Asperula conferta  
Brachyloma daphnoides - Daphne heath  
Cassinia aculeata - Dolly bush  
Cassinia arcuata - Sifton bush  
Cheilanthes sieberi - Rock fern  
Daviesia genistifolia - a Bitter pea  
Daviesia leptophylla - Slender bitter pea  
Dianella revoluta - Black-anthered flax lily  
Dillwynia phyllicoides - Small-leaf parrot pea  
Dillwynia sericea - Showy parrot pea  
Eucalyptus bridgesiana - apple box  
Eucalyptus dives - broadleaf peppermint  
Eucalyptus macrorhyncha - red stringybark  
Eucalyptus mannifera - brittle gum  
Eucalyptus melliodora - yellow box  
Eucalyptus polyanthemus - red box  
Eucalyptus rossii - scribbly gum  
Eucalyptus rubida - candlebark  
Exocarpos cupressiformis - Cherry ballart  
Gonocarpus tetragynus - common Raspwort  
Goodenia hederacea - Ivy-leaf goodenia  
Hakea laevipes -  
Hardenbergia violaceae - False sarsparilla  
Hibbertia obtusifolia - Grey guinea flower  
Leucopogon fletcheri -  
Leucopogon virgatus -  
Leucopogon muticus - Native cranberry  
Lissanthe strigosa -  
Lomandra filiformis - wattle matrush  
Lomandra longifolia - spiny-headed matrush

We crossed a few gullies in the course of the walk. *Dillwynia phyllicoides* grew in the vicinity of one of the gullies and is far less common locally than *D. sericea*. The woolly wattle (*A. lanigera*) again is not particularly common. It has sharp phyllodes and it grows to about 0.5 metres. *A. brownii* is another 'prickly' wattle; it tends to spread a bit reaching little more than 0.3 metre. Red box, *E. polyanthemus* is a eucalypt we do not see very often. It relatively easy to distinguish from the other local eucalypts.

Common eucalypts like brittle and scribbly gums have leaves which are a good deal longer than wide. Now those of the red box are about as wide as long and are grey-green in colour. These features as well as the crooked trunk even when growing with straight-trunked trees make it easy to notice.

The Field Nats have a special interest in this reserve and have taken on some responsibility for its care. A few walkers on the day had bags to collect rubbish that has tended to make its way in. Hopefully, these efforts will be successful and will not be needed for very long.

## APS GET-TOGETHER

Recently, Bob and Celia along with Jen attended the state get-together in Newcastle. We thank them for attending on our behalf, Jen and Celia's account follows:

### Newcastle NSW APS Get Together Weekend

Friday Night was the Presidents dinner held at the main pub in Mayfield West in a room reflecting the 1926 building. Heather Miles (Secretary) gave a comprehensive report on the happenings, especially with regard to 2021 ANPSA Conference which NSW is hosting at Kiama, and any help or input would be gratefully received by the committee. Rhonda, (the e-mail newsletter co-ordinator) then told us how it was going and asked for any articles or information regarding local events so that she can add to the newsletter.

This was followed by groups reporting on how they were going. (*This will be summarised in a future newsletter - ed.*)

Saturday morning we all met at the Hunter Region Botanical Gardens, firstly to listen to a talk by Dr. Stephen Bell, Uni of Newcastle, in relation to the 100 species addressed in 'Endemic Flora of the Hunter Region', the title of a magnificent book that has just been released. It addresses the endemic tree and shrub species with information on one page and opposite incredible biological drawing done by students of the Natural History Illustration course run by the Uni.

Stephen's knowledge and enthusiasm inspired us all for the next couple of days of plant observation in the wild.



Grevillea guthreana

Following this was an opportunity to investigate the Gardens, which are mainly native plants with many wattles, grevilleas and hakeas in flower. There is a total of 105 hectares of natural bushland as well as the 30 hectares of themed gardens. The photos tell the story better.

It is important to note that this place is run on an entirely voluntary basis and they deserve recognition for their efforts.



Pic showing the woody fruit and section of the grevillea-like flower in Hakea bakeriana. I have seen this species myself many years ago on a Central Coast headland (ed.)

The Saturday afternoon walk was to Morna Point, close to the Tomaree National Park near Port Stephens, where we were guided by 2 local members. This was an easy walk along a path initially through quite dense wet sclerophyll forest moving into coastal heath the closer we got to the sea. Here there were many flowering

plants along the sandy path; among them was the ground cover *Kennedia prostrata* (Running postman), and the low *Euomyrtus ramosissima* and *Tetralochea thymifolia*. Along the main path we saw a *Caladenia quadrifaria*; however the star of the walk was the *Caladenia hillmanii* (not named after the car but George Hillman). To get to this little orchid we broke into 2 groups and walked in a single line down an offshoot off the main path. Here one by one we got to photograph the lovely orchid. (Our photo did not work out but you can see a great photo of it on nelsonbaynativeplants.net.) Further down towards the sea there were masses of *Correa reflexa*. The path ended in a large rocky plateau with some deep chasms and great coastal views.

Sunday morning took us south of Newcastle to the 6.2ha native garden at the Glenrock Scout camp. Many may have seen this garden featured on the ABC Gardening Australia program when John Le Messurier, the main driver and creator of the garden, won the 2018 award for Gardener of the Year. This beautiful garden started off as an old colliery site and its creation has involved 40 years of hard work, all by volunteers. Mr Messurier was our host for the morning and talked of having to clear the area of invasive weeds of lantana, blackberry and bitou bush, to carrying loads of soil and sand to improve the coal dumps on the sloping land. All work and procurement of plants was done

on a meagre budget and there are now 27 native gardens. It was very inspiring so see what can be achieved and that Mr Messurier is still working hard at 79.

The second walk we did was at Awabakal Nature Reserve, out to Dudley Bluff.

Here there was an enormous amount in flower including Tall Leak, *Prasophyllum elatum*, *Pterostylis curta*, (Blunt Greenhood) and other orchids and Wonga Wonga vine, *Pandorea pandorana*. Hours could have been spent identifying the wide variety of plants and enjoying the views.

From there we went to the Hunter Valley Wetlands for lunch, following which we left to get through Sydney before the mad Sunday evening rush.



Greenhood orchid - *Pterostylis curta*

## PLANT RESCUE

Recently, it came to Pauline's attention that a local area in which the developers were about to start clearing had a valuable colony of the lemon beauty heads or *Calocephalus citreus*.



*Calocephalus citreus*

Happily to report, a small rescue effort was organised and these nice plants will live to see another day. The photo shows plants in flower; at this time of the year, however, they are like many herbaceous members of the Asteraceae family and show little life. Pauline outlines where the plants are headed:

'Ten plants were relocated directly into the Woodlands garden at the Wetlands. One tray will be used for stock for the second stage of Wetlands planting which is now getting underway, as the understorey plants are propagated. Another tray is to be added to our propagation stock for promoting native plant use to locals through our market activities. And a few plants will be added to members' gardens, providing further stock sources if required, and adding a welcome touch of their lemon beauty. A productive start to spring.'

## CALENDAR

Sat Sep 7	Morton NP - Ettrema
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

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