

# HFNC Excursion to Lower Glenelg National Park 20 July 2013

Rod Bird & Dave Munro

This excursion was arranged and led by Ken Grimes. Members (Ross Simpson, Rod Bird, Diane Luhrs, Karen Simpson, Dave & Lyn Munro) met at Hamilton VIC at 9 am to drive to Jones Lookout, LGNP, meeting Ken & Janeen at the Morgiana Rd-Digby Rd intersection along the way. The day was cold and wet but we were fortunate that there was no heavy rain while we were walking. At lunch time we crammed into Ken & Janeen's Combi Van to avoid the only wet period.

We walked down the steep forestry track from Jones Lookout to the Glenelg River, noting that the pine plantation on the right that had been subject to the fire of last year had been cleaned up and replanted. We also noted the growth of 2 bad weeds along the edge of the bush in the park:

- Arum Lily – scattered plants (some flowering) from the top of the track down to the river.
- *Oxalis purpurea* – along the edge of the track, extending from the top of the hill to near the base

We noted the limestone and sandstone profile as we walked down, observing the occasional large basalt boulder that had been dislodged down the slope from the top of the plateau (Photo 6). On the lower slope and along the river bank we saw 'sink holes' where there had been a subsidence in the limestone (Photo 7). Near the river we found a fast-flowing stream issuing from the base of one such subsidence (Photo 3). The discoloured water gushed a further 20 m into the Glenelg River. At this site the old pines had been cut down and the burned trunks lay across the sink hole (Photo 3). That work was done by PV prior to the fire because the tops of the stumps were charred. A count of the rings indicated an age of about 45 years for 2 of the largest trees, so it seems that these trees were part of the first planting (Photo 4).

Ken explained that there was a cave system running from well above the ridge line down to within about 50 m of the river and that system had been explored in recent years. The section between the cave and the outlet was not navigable and water seeped through in smaller channels.

We looked at 2 of the 4 stream outlets and several of the sink holes before walking back to the lookout. We saw 2 Koalas in the trees by the river. The fire had depleted the crowns of all the trees at any distance from the river (Photo 1) and there was very little foliage available for the animals.

After lunch we drove down the road and turned off onto the Inkpot Track, which had recently been widened and re-surfaced. We stopped about 500 m short of the Inkpot at a T junction (a small triangle there had escaped the fire) and walked up the road to the Inkpot (Photo 2). This waterhole was quite full, a small rivulet flowing into it from the eastern side. There were few birds there, excepting 2 Grey Fantails and several White-throated Treecreepers and Thornbills.

A list of fungi seen at the river and the Inkpot area is provided in the following table by Dave. We did not note many flowering plants.

On our trip down and back along the Digby Rd we saw pairs of Brolga in two paddocks. We arrived back in Hamilton at around 4 pm after a damp but enjoyable outing.



**Photo 1** .Bend in Glenelg River upstream Jones Lookout.



**Photo 2**. HFNC members at the Inkpot

**Fungi List....HFNC Excursion Lower Glenelg NP, 20July2013**

	Common Name	Type	Fungimap Target	Comment
<b><u>Track Nth from Jones lookout</u></b>				
<i>Schizophyllum commune</i>	Split Gill	gilled bracket	yes	Very common on felled and burnt <i>Pinus radiata</i> logs
<i>Pycnoporus coccineus</i>	Scarlet Bracket Fungus	polypore		Many examples on dead and burnt <i>Pinus radiata</i>
<i>Anthroobia muellerii</i>		disc		Small orange discs on burnt ground. Ubiquitous.
<i>Tremella mesenterica</i> gp	Orange Jelly Fungus	jelly	yes	One specimen on dead, burnt sapling.
<i>Mycena</i> sp		gilled		one small group
<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>		gilled		Frequent on burnt ground round dead stumps
<i>Gymnopilus junonius</i>	Giant yellow	gilled	yes	One clump on dead Euc stump
<i>Oudemansiella radicata</i>	Rooting Shank	gilled	yes	Single specimen
<i>Peziza</i> (?) sp		firm gelatinous disc		Small colony of brown/grey discs
<b><u>Inkpot</u></b>				
<i>Gymnopilus ferruginosus</i>		gilled		Single specimen on dead euc log
<i>Schizophyllum commune</i>	Split Gill	gilled bracket	yes	Many specimens on dead burnt log
<i>Laccaria</i> sp				A few colonies on burnt ground

**Photo 3.** Ken at the source of the stream



**Photo 4.** The stream flowing towards the Glenelg River



**Photo 5.** Pines cut down before the fire



**Photo 6.** Basalt floater (above, right)

**Photo 7.** A sinkhole (right) in the pines near the base of the plateau .

