

HFNC Excursion to Black Range on 24 August 2014

Dave Munro

Present: John & Glenys Cayley, Lyn & Dave Munro, Reto & Yvonne Zollinger, Hilary Turner, George Turner (with Leonard & Albert), Jeremy Chin, John Delplatt (Burnley Campus, Melbourne Uni) with Karin and Adrian.

The day was cool and pleasant, with little wind. We met John D and his two friends at Cherrypool before driving in along the recently upgraded road to Mudadgadgin Campground.

The Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*) was in full flower as were several other wattles and shrubs. Hilary and George were already at the meeting place when the main party arrived. After the mandatory cuppa we stated out on our walk to the main range. We stopped at the Aboriginal shelter to look at the art work. Several of us felt that it had deteriorated since we had last seen it some years ago.

An engaging clump of Dwarf Greenhoods (*Pterostylis nana*) were seen at the foot of the rocks next to the shelter.

We were struck by the number of dead Stringybarks and Cypress-pines as we crossed the boardwalk in the valley. They appeared to be burnt in a fire some 2 to 3 years ago and there was little sign of regeneration. The few eucalypt seedlings that had germinated were widely spaced. The Smokebush (*Conospermum mitchellii*) which used to be profuse in this area was almost non-existent.

Deciding not to take the more adventurous climb up the terraced slope to our right we chose the easier, gradual walk up a flat bedding plane to a point overlooking Cherrypool flats, with the Victoria Range in the distance. We had lunch there. One of the features of the walk was the outstanding flowering of Scented Sundew (*Drosera whittakeri*) on the moss beds which grew along the joints in the sandstone. Also prevalent were the leaves and buds of the Hare Orchid (*Leptoceras menziesii*).

Several of the party explored an overhang and cave below the lunch spot and reported much evidence of the presence of goats. Indeed there was an abundance of goat droppings around our lunch spot.

The party split after lunch with the younger and fitter deciding to climb to the top of the ridge while the others slowly made their way back along the track to the carpark.

Plants in flower (and identified) : Non orchids

<i>Acacia ulcifolia</i>	(Juniper Wattle)
<i>Astroloma constephioides</i>	(Flame Heath)
<i>Astroloma pinifolium</i>	(Pine Heath)
<i>Calytrix alpestris</i>	(Snow Myrtle)
<i>Corea reflexa</i>	(Common Corea)
<i>Craspedia variabilis</i>	(Billy Buttons)
<i>Dillwynia hispida</i>	(Red parrot-pea)
<i>Drosera peltata</i>	(Pale Sundew)
<i>Drosera</i>	(Climbing Sundew)
<i>Grevillea alpina</i>	(Cats Claws)
<i>Hibbertia prostrata</i>	(Bundled Guinea-flower)
<i>Hovea linariaris</i>	(Common Hovea)
<i>Laginifera stipitata</i>	(Common Laginifera)
<i>Leucopogon ericoides</i>	(Pink Beard-heath)
<i>Plantago sp</i>	(Native plantain)
<i>Phyllanthos hirtellus</i>	(Thyme Spurge)



Yellow Bellybuttons and Scented Sundews

Orchids identified

<i>Acianthus pusillus</i>	(Mosquito Orchid) Flower, few
<i>Cyrtostylis reniformis</i>	(Gnat Orchid) Flower, few
<i>Glossodia major</i>	(Waxlip) Leaves, many
<i>Leporella fimbriatus</i>	(Fringed Hare Orchid), Flowers, few
<i>Leptoceras menziesii</i>	(Hare Orchid) Leaves and buds many
<i>Pterostylis nana</i>	(Dwarf grenhood) Flowers, 1 colony

Pterostylis melagramma gp. (Tall Greenhood) Flowers, scattered, widespread.
Pterostylis sanguinea (Banded Greenhood) Flowers, few
Pyrorchis nigricans (Red Beaks) leaves, many

Fungi

Omphalina chromacea (Yellow Bellybuttons)
Sterium illudens (Purplish Stereum)

Birds

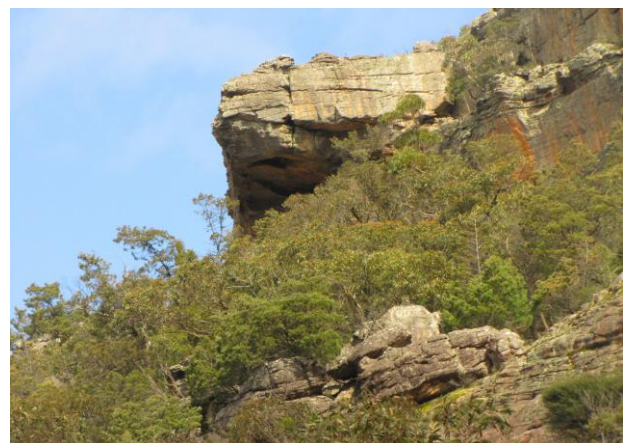
Grey Currawong	White-throated Treecreeper
Grey Shrike-thrush	Sulphur Crested Cockatoo
Crimson Rosella	Red Wattlebird



Lunch spot with a view.



John being an Angler Fish



Black Range cliff