

HFNC Excursion to Dundas Range Flora Reserve, 21 Aug 1993

Rod Bird

These notes relate mainly to this visit, but also include some observations made on a visit by the Cayleys and me on 24 April 1993. At 1.30 pm the HFNC group (8 members) and Wannan Conservation Society (4 members) commenced the walk from the NW corner, about 300 m south of the Masons Rd/Lyons Rd intersection near the Shooting Range. We walked through fairly dense stringbark and heath, about 500 m, to gain the top of the northern-most part of the range. Vegetation seen on this part of the walk included:

Northern slopes leading to ridge top

Acacia mearnsii – Black Wattle (also seen near cliffs)
Acacia myrtifolia – Myrtle Wattle
Acacia gunnii – Ploughshare Wattle (not recorded by A.C.Beaglehole - SW2, area 30A list)
Astroloma conostephioides – Flame Heath (also common later)
Brachyloma daphnoides – Daphne Heath
Brachyloma ciliatum – Fringed Brachyloma (also common further on)
Chaemiscilla corymbosa - Blue Stars (not in flower)
Correa aemula – Hairy Correa (commonplace amongst rocks and on cliffs)
Eucalyptus baxteri – Brown Stringybark
Epacris impressa – Common Heath
Davesia brevifolia – Leafless Bitter-pea (not in flower)
Dianella laevis – Pale Fax-lily (not recorded by ACB)
Dianella revoluta – Black-anther Flax-lily (also common on cliffs)
Dillwynia hispida – Red Parrot-pea (not in flower; uncommon)
Drosera auriculata – Tall Sundew
Hovea heterophylla – Common Hovea (not recorded by ACB)
Isopogon ceratophyllus – Horny Cone-bush (also on walk out)
Juncus pallidus – Pale Rush
Leucopogon virgatus – Common Beard-heath (also common further on)
Leucopogon ericoides – Pink Beard-heath (also common further on)
Leptospermum myrsinoides – Heath Tea-tree (uncommon)
Platylobium obtusangulum – Common Flat-pea (not recorded by ACB)
Pteridium austral – Austral bracken (common throughout)
Pultenea humilis ? – (not in flower; uncommon)
Stellaria pungens ? – Prickly Starwort (not in flower)
Styphelia adscendens – Golden Heath (quite common)
Wurmbia dioica – Early Nancy
Xanthorrhoea minor – Small grass-tree (uncommon)

Vegetation seen around the cliffs included:

Bursaria spinosa – Sweet Bursaria (common near and on cliffs)
Callitris rhomboidea – Oyster Bay Pine (common)
Carpobrotus modestus – Inland Pigface (a few on cliffs)
Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia – Rock Fern
Dodoneaea cuneata – Wedge-leaf Hop-bush (cliffs)
Exocarpos cupressiformis – Cherry Ballart
Helichrysum obcordatum – Grey Everlasting
Ixodia achillioides – Ixodia (some in flower)
Leptospermum scoparium – Manuka
Lomandra filiformis – Wattle Mat-rush
Pelagonium australe – Austral Pelagonium
Pterostylus nana – Dwarf Greenhood (in moss on cliff top)
Stypantra glauca – Nodding Blue-lily (very common amongst rocks)

High point on the ridge – we stopped for a rest here about 1 km along the ridge. Vegetation seen for the first time today on this section included:

Adiantum aethiopicum – Common Maiden-hair
Asplenium flabellifolium – Neckless Frn (a few in crevices)
Astroloma humifusum – Cranberry Heath (also in saddles)
Acacia melanoxylon – Blackwood (a few in gullies only)
Brunonia australis – Blue Pincushion (prolific in places)

Eucalyptus aromaphloia – Scent-bark (on and around cliffs)
Eucalyptus viminalis – Manna Gum (possibly together with Scent-bark on cliffs)
Pultenea scabra – Rough Bush-pea (around cliffs only)
Senecio odoratus – Scented Groundsel (blue-leafed plant - numerous)
Senecio squarrosus – Fireweed (not recorded by ACB)
Stylidium sp. – Trigger Plant (top of cliffs)

Ridge line – we continued to walk along the ridge line towards Mt Dundas. No evidence of fire here for a long time – a lot of dead wood and tall *Callitris* around.

Allocasuarina verticillata – Drooping Sheoak (a few on one ridge top)
Calytrix tetragona ? – Common Fringe-myrtle (a few only; not in flower)
Geranium solanderi – Austral Cranes-bill
Hibertia stricta – Erect Guinea-flower
Indigophora australis – Australian Indigo (prolific in one place; a few further on)
Kennedia prostrata – Running Postman (a single plant)
Olearia ramulosa – Twiggy Daisy-bush (on rocks, many heavily browsed)
Pelagonium rodneyanum – Magenta Storks-bill (flowering)
Spyridium parvifolium – Australian Dusty Miller (a few large bushes)
Tetratheca ciliata – Pink bells (only a few plants here and on walk out)

Saddle along the ridge - from the 2nd last peak before Mt Dundas we descended into saddle through deep bracken on the slope which gave way to almost bare ground beneath stringybarks and climbed next peak. We saw several grey kangaroos in the saddle. Vegetation seen on this section for the first time today included:

Acacia aculeatissima – Thin-leaf Wattle (on open Stringybark saddle only)
Banksia marginata – Silver Banksia (a few flowering on top of peak nearest Mt Dundas)
Grevillea aquifolium – Variable prickly grevillea (only on east side of cliff)
Micromyrtus ciliatum – Heath-myrtle (a few bushes; not recorded by ACB)
Spyridium vexilliferum – Winged Syridium (not recorded by ACB)
Senecio pinnatifolius – Variable Groundsel
Xerochrysum bracteatum – Golden Everlasting (big head, narrow leaves - many near cliff)

Walk to the boundary to the west – we walked out to the boundary approximately 1 km distant to the west, using kangaroo trails through the dense bracken and heath, and a winter water-course. Vegetation seen on this section for the first time today included:

Acacia longifolia – Sallow Wattle (a few only)
Acacia verticillata – Prickly Moses (not common)
Acacia mucronata – Narrow-leaf Wattle (many in an outwash area; not recorded by ACB)
Acaena anserinifolium – Sheeps Burr
Acianthus caudatus ? – May-fly Orchid (leaves only, not in flower)
Burchardia umbellata – Milkmaids
Corea reflexa – Common Correa
Corybas sp. – Helmet orchid (not in flower)
Conospermum mitchellii – Victorian Smokebush (not common)
Dillwynnia glaberrima – Smooth Parrot-pea (not in flower; uncommon)
Eucalyptus ovata – Swamp Gum (outwash slope)
Hakea rostrata – Beaked Hakea (not common)
Juncus pauciflora – Loose flower-rush
Leptospermum continentale – Prickly Tea-tree (uncommon on lower, wetter area)
Pyrorchis nigricans ? – Red-beaks (leaves only, not in flower)

At 4.0 pm we walked back along a faint track on the edge of the bush to the cars – arriving at 5.0 pm. We saw Eastern Grey Kangaroos, 2 Red-necked Wallabies and a Southern Boobook. ‘New’ species there:

Acacia paradoxa – Hedge Wattle
Arthropodium fimbriatus – Vanilla lily (one specimen)
Eucalyptus camaldulensis – River Rd Gum (flats)
Ptilotus macrocephalus – Feather-heads (one specimen)

The distance for the round walk was about 8 km, taking about 4 hours, with a little rain. Of the 84 flora species many were not yet in flower. No effort was made to record a complete list, rather the interest was in how the species changed from north to south along the way (as shown above) and **prominent species not recorded by ACB**. The bush was quite fresh now compared with the dry conditions in April.