

Some notes on the HFNC Excursion to Bear Sate Forest on Sat 6 Nov 2010

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The excursion to Bear was well-attended and the weather was fine and sunny. We saw lots of orchids not far from the entry off Hallams Rd, on the left hand side of the track into the long-unburned patch of Stringybark forest. I had planned a morning tea stop at the little creek crossing but we weren't even there by lunch because there was so much to see.

Reto also drove us through a section of woodland on the western side that is on the list for a burn. What can be done about that?

We made a detour into the Gemstone fossicking area, where members found a few pieces of smokey quartz in the workings, and talked to one of the diggers who was working a pit.

We finally made it to the Lookout area with quite a few Blue Pincushion plants in flower but still more in bud. It looked good with the blue in the foreground, then white Heath Tea-tree flowers, then a layer through green trees over the green pastures to the distant blue ranges of the Grampians.

The one blimp was seeing a number of African Weed Orchids in the tea-tree of this area – so we spent some time digging them up – 50-100 plants.

David made a list of plants for us for our records. And then I was overcome by hay-fever – the first for many years – eyes streaming, skin itchy (must have been the rye-grass in paddocks near-by).

