

**Report of excursion to Wannon River on 10 October 2010**  
**Hewitt Park at Four Posts, Crown frontage (F2) and west bank Crown Frontage upstream (F4)**

Rod Bird

This excursion was planned to go from Four Posts to Nigretta, following the north bank, but high water made it impossible to cross the river at Nigretta. We altered the route, going upstream on the north bank (F2 in the Wannon River Flora 1975-2009) to the Crown Frontage upstream of Hewitt Park (F4).

The weather was perfect as our party of 4 set out at 9.30 am from the Four Posts (several members were either on vacation or otherwise unable to attend). Spring this year was “late” (perhaps 3 weeks) due to the wet, cold winter, but there were many flowers. Sacred Kingfishers were calling and one was observed. Around 80 species of native plants were seen, among those 22 that had not been seen on F2 and 16 on F4 (i.e. not listed in the Wannon Flora report). Those species are in bold type in the list of plants seen, presented below:

1. *Acacia mearnsii*
2. *A. melanoxylon*
3. *A. paradoxa*
4. *A. verticillata*
5. *Acaena echinata*
6. *Acaena novae-zelandia*
7. ***Acianthus pusillus*** (Small Mosquito Orchid) F2
8. *Alocasuarina verticillata*
9. *Arthropodium strictum* (buds only)
10. *Astroloma conostephiodes*
11. *Astroloma humifusum*
12. *Austrostipa* sp.
13. *Banksia marginata*
14. ***Bossiaea riparia*** (River Bossiaea) F2
15. *Brunonia australis*
16. ***Bulbine bulbosa*** (Bulbine Lily) F2
17. ***Bursaria spinosa*** (Sweet Bursaria) F2
18. ***Caladenia carnea*** (Pink Fingers) F2, F4
19. ***Caladenia tentaculata*** (Greencomb Spider) F4
20. ***Caladenia prolata?*** (Fertile Caladenia) F4
21. *Cassytha pubescens*
22. ***Chaemaescilla corymbosa*** (Blue Stars) F4
23. *Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia*
24. ***Chorizandra enodis*** (Black Bristle-rush) F2, F4
25. ***Comesperma volubile*** (Love Creeper) F4
26. ***Dianella brevicaulis*** (Flax-lily) F2
27. *D. admixta* (revoluta)
28. *D. tasmanica* aff.
29. ***Diuris chryseopsis*** (Golden Moth Orchid) F2, F4
30. ***Diuris orientis*** (Wallflower Orchid) F2
31. *Drosera peltata*
32. *Exocarpos cupressiformis*
33. *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*
34. *E. viminalis*
35. ***Galium gaudichaudiana*** (Rough Bedstraw) F2, F4
36. ***Glossodia major*** (Wax-lip Orchid) F2
37. *Gonocarpus tetragynus*
38. *Goodenia geniculata*
39. ***Hibbertia riparia*** (Erect Guinea-flower) F2, F4
40. ***Hydrocotyle laxiflora*** (Stinking Parrywort) F2, F4
41. *Hypoxis glabella*
42. ***Hypoxis glabella* v. *glabella*** (Tiny Star) F2, F4
43. ***Juncus bufonius*** (Toad Rush) F2, F4
44. *Kennedia prostratum*
45. *Lepidosperma carphoides*
46. *Leptospermum continentale*
47. *L. myrsinoides*
48. *L. obovatum*
49. *Leucopogon virgatus*
50. *Lomandra longifolia*
51. *L. filiforme*
52. ***Microlaena stipoides*** (Weeping Grass) F2, F4
53. ***Microseris* sp.** (Yam Daisy) F2
54. *Millotia tenuifolia* ?
55. *Oxalis perennans*
56. *Ozothamnus ferrugineus*
57. *Pelargonium rodneyanum* (leaves only)
58. *Phragmites australis*
59. ***Poa labillardierei*** (Common Tussock Grass) F4
60. ***Pterostylis nana*** (Dwarf Greenhood) F2
61. ***Pterostylis nutans*** (Nodding Greenhood) F2, F4
62. ***Pterostylis pedunculata*** (Maroon-hood) F2
63. *Pteridium esculentum*
64. *Rutidosis multiflora* ?
65. *Senecio glomeratus*
66. *Stuartina cudweed* ?
67. *Thelymitra antennifera*
68. *T. pauciflora* (buds)
69. *T. rubra* (buds)
70. *Themeda triandra*
71. ***Thysanotus patersonii*** (Twining Fringe-lily) F4
72. *Triglochin procerum*
73. *Villarsia umbricola*
74. ***Viola sieberiana*** (Tiny Violet) F2
75. ***Wurmbea dioica*** (Early Nancy) F2
76. *Xanthorrhoea minor*

Significant botanical observations:

- *Bossiaea riparia* (River Bossiaea), one tall shrub (1.8 m) in full flower (see photo) on lower bank, some 300 m upstream from Four Posts. Two specimens of this species had been seen downstream from Four Posts some 20 years ago but are no longer there. The present record is the only known plant on the Wannon Frontages or Wannon Falls Reserves.
- *Caladenia* sp. (2 plants seen, presumed to be *C. prolata*, a first for this area)
- *Comesperma volubile* (Love Creeper) – dozens of plants seen on F2 (flowering).
- Weed sp. ? – plant 20-30 cm tall with blue flowers similar to a tiny snap-dragon, a few dozen plants among rocks on the slope to the river at downstream end of F4.
- Slopes to the river were mostly free of weed and intact, except for intrusion by the Field Archery Club installations and tracks



Other observations:

We noted the large number of wool bales filled with plastic that appear to serve as target backstops for the Field Archery Club, that has set up a course in Hewitt Park. The target and shooting areas are mostly along the lower bank and appear to be in the Crown Frontage; that is not desirable. There is also a plethora of tracks through Hewitt Park, despite the request on the notice board to refrain from driving off the designated track. There is also a rough Archery Club building on the site.

The higher bank of Hewitt Park was stripped of gravel some 40 years ago and the flora has yet to recover. The topsoil was not replaced and there was a failure to contour deep-rip the clay to trap top-soil and seed and reduce erosion.

We noted also a recent, major water pump installation on the eastern bank opposite the upstream end of Hewitt Park. A road has been constructed down the bank and an area bulldozed near the waters edge.

4WD vehicles have been driving 300 m along the boundary of F4 to a tangle of *A. paradoxa* and creating a considerable amount of bare ground. Some wood cutting was also seen. That track should be closed, since it damages an otherwise near-pristine native vegetation on this very scenic section of the Wannon.

**BIRD LIST (compiled by Jane Hayes):**

Collared Sparrowhawk/Brown Goshawk  
Common Bronzewing  
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo  
Crimson Rosella  
Laughing Kookaburra  
Sacred Kingfisher  
White-throated Treecreeper  
Superb Fairy-wren  
White-browed Scrubwren  
Striated Thornbill  
Brown Thornbill  
Spotted Pardalote

Striated Pardalote  
Yellow-faced Honeyeater  
White-eared Honeyeater  
Red Wattlebird  
New Holland Honeyeater  
White-naped Honeyeater  
Grey Shrike-thrush  
Australian Magpie  
Grey Fantail  
Forest Raven