

## HFNC EXCURSION TO DUNDAS RANGES - 21 AUGUST 1993

Rod Bird

These notes relate mainly to this visit, but also include some observations made on a visit by the Cayleys and myself on 24 April 1993. At 1.30 pm the HFNC group (8 members) and Wannan Conservation Society (4 members) commenced the walk, from 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, a distance of about 500 m, to gain the top of the northern most part of the range. Vegetation seen on this part of the walk, in order of sighting, included:

### Northern slopes leading to ridge top

*E. baxteri* - Brown stringybark  
*Juncus pallidus* - Pale rush  
*A. mearnsii* - Black wattle (also seen near cliffs)  
*A. myrtifolia* - Myrtle wattle  
***A. gunnii*** - Ploughshare wattle (not recorded by A.C.Beauglehole - SW2, area 30A list)  
*Leucopogon virgatus* - Common beard-heath (also common further on)  
*L. ericoides* - Pink beard-heath (also common further on)  
*Brachyloma daphnoides* - Daphne heath  
*B. ciliatum* - Fringed brachyloma (also common further on)  
*Astroloma conostephioides* - Flame heath (also common later)  
*Epacris impressa* - Common heath  
*Dianella revoluta* - Black-anther flax-lily (also common on cliffs)  
***D. laevis*** - Pale flax-lily (not recorded by ACB)  
*Styphelia adscendens* - Golden heath (quite common)  
***Hovea heterophylla*** - Common hovea (not recorded by ACB)  
*Drosera auriculata* - Tall sundew  
*Dillwynia hispida* - Red parrot-pea (not in flower; uncommon)  
*Pultenea* sp. (possibly *P. humilus* - not in flower; uncommon)  
*Davesia brevifolia* - Leafless bitter-pea (not in flower)  
*Leptospermum myrsinoides* - Heath tea-tree (uncommon)  
*Wurmbia dioica* - Early Nancy  
*Persoonia juniperina* ?? - Prickly geebung (not in flower, doubtful record; not recorded by ACB)  
*Correa aemula* - Hairy correa (commonplace amongst rocks and on cliffs)  
*Pteridium austral* - Austral bracken (common throughout)  
*Xanthorrhoea minor* - Small grass-tree (uncommon)  
*Chaemiscilla corymbosa* - Blue stars (not in flower)  
*Isopogon ceratophyllus* - Horny cone-bush (also on walk out)  
***Platylobium obtusangulum*** - Common flat-pea (not recorded by ACB)

### Vegetation seen around the cliffs included:

*Callitris rhomboidea* - Oyster Bay pine (common)  
*L. scoparium* - Manuka  
*Lomandra filiformis* - Wattle mat-rush  
*Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia* - Rock fern  
*Stypantra glauca* - Nodding blue-lily (very common amongst rocks)  
*Bursaria spinosa* - Sweet bursaria (common near and on cliffs)  
*Helichrysum obcordatum* - Grey everlasting  
*Ixodia achillioides* - Ixodia (some in flower)  
*Exocarpos cupressiformis* - Cherry ballart  
*Pelagonium australe* - Austral pelagonium  
*Dodoneaea cuneata* - Wedge-leaf hop-bush (cliffs)  
*Carpobrotus modestus* - Inland pigface (a few on cliffs)  
*Pterostylus nana* - Blunt greenhood (moss on cliff top)

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:

*Senecio odoratus* - Scented groundsel (blue-leafed plant - numerous)  
***S. squarrosus*** - fireweed (not recorded by ACB)  
*Adiantum aethiopicum* - Common maiden-hair  
*Pultenea scabra* - Rough bush-pea (around cliffs only)  
*Stylidium* sp. - Trigger plant (top of cliffs)  
*A. melanoxydon* - Blackwood (a few in gullies only)  
*E. aromaphloia* - Scent-bark (on and around cliffs)

*E. viminalis* - Manna gum (possibly together with Scent-bark on cliffs)  
*Asplenium flabellifolium* - Neckless fern (a few in crevices)  
*Brunonia australis* - Blue pincushion (prolific in places)  
*Astroloma humifusum* - Cranberry heath (also in saddles)

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.

*Pelagonium rodneyanum* - Magenta storksbill (flowering)  
*Kennedia prostrata* - Running postman (a single plant)  
*Olearia ramulosa* - Twiggy daisy-bush (on rocks, many heavily browsed)  
*Spyridium parvifolium* - Australian dusty miller (a few large bushes)  
*Allocasuarina verticillata* - Drooping she-oak (a few on one ridge top)  
*Hibertia stricta* - Erect guinea flower  
*Geranium solanderi* - Austral cranes-bill  
*Tetralochea ciliata* - Pink bells (only a few plants here and on walk out)  
*Indigophora australis* - Australian indigo (prolific in one place,; a few further on)  
*Calytrix (tetragona?)* - Fringe-myrtle (a few only; not in flower)

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* (on open stringybark saddle only)  
*Banksia marginata* - Silver banksia (a few flowering on top of peak nearest Mt Dundas)  
***Spyridium vexilliferum*** - Winged spyridium (not recorded by ACB)  
***Micromyrtus ciliatum*** - Heath-myrtle (a few bushes; not recorded by ACB)  
*Senecio pinnatifolius* - Variable groundsel  
*Helichrysum bracteatum* - Golden everlasting (big head, narrow leaves - many near cliff)  
*Grevillea aquifolium* - Variable prickly grevillea (only on east side of 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:

*Corea reflexa* - Common correa  
*Conospermum mitchelli* - Smokebush (not common)  
*A. longifolia* - Sallow wattle (a few only)  
*Hakea rostrata* - Beaked hakea (not common)  
*Dillwynnia glaberrima* - Smooth parrot-pea (not in flower; uncommon)  
*A. verticillata* - Prickly mooses (not common)  
***A. mucronata*** - Narrow-leaf wattle (many in an outwash area; not recorded by ACB)  
*Acaena anserinifolium* - Sheeps burr  
*Burchardia umbellata* - Milk maids  
*Juncus pauciflora* - Loose flower-rush  
*Leptospermum continentale* - Prickly tea-tree (uncommon on lower, wetter area)  
*E. ovata* - Swamp gum (outwash slope)

We also saw leaves of various orchids - probably helmet orchid, mosquito orchid and red beaks orchid.

At 4.0 pm walked back along a faint track on the edge of the bush to the cars - arrived at 5.0 pm. Saw kangaroos, 2 red-necked wallabies and a boobook owl. Vegetation seen for first time on this section included:

*A. paradoxa* - Hedge wattle  
*E. camaldulensis* - River red gum (flats)  
*Ptilotus macrocephalus* - Featherheads (one specimen)  
*Arthropodium fimbriatus* - Vanilla lily (one specimen)

The total distance for the round walk was probably about 8 km, taking about 4 hours. The day was perfect for walking, but with a little rain. **Plants listed above number about 84** - there were many 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.