

HFNC Excursion to Mt Rosea, Grampians National Park, 23 Aug 2015

Dave Munro

Participants: John & Glenys Cayley, Hilary Turner, Lyn & Dave Munro

After meeting up at the Dunkeld Visitors Centre and consolidating to one car the small group of members travelled north along the Grampians Rd, accompanied by a little drizzle. It was a pleasure to see the odd patch of Acacia and Hakea in bloom as we moved into clearer skies and warmish sunshine. This was certainly the case after we crossed the “divide” and travelled through an avenue of acacia. Several species of wattles were in full flower and, with the sunshine glistening on the eucalypt leaves after a recent shower, made a very pleasing sight.

Near Lake Bellfield we were forced to stop to allow a family of 4 Emus to cross the road. They were clearly in no hurry.

A visit to the Brambuk centre provided us with track notes for our projected walk. We were pleased to see that PV had a full colour brochure of the geology of the Grampians as had been supplied by Ross Cayley several years ago. On previous visits we had only been able to obtain black and white photocopies; a totally unsuitable compromise.

We started our walk up the Mt Rosea track from the car park. Several of us remembered the camp sites and toilet block that used to be situated there but now have been consigned to history. The track was well formed, wide and had seen recent excessive brush-cutter activity, to what end we could not imagine.

Several spectacular colonies of wood recycling fungi were recorded on the lower section of the track but became less common as we climbed. Conversely the flowering plants were rather sparse at the start but were better represented at the higher altitudes. The commonest plants were *Tetratheca ciliata* (Pink Bells) and *Epacris impressa* (Common Heath) until *Grevillea alpina* came in to view. We also saw 3 species of acacias as well as a few *Styphelia adscendens* (Golden Heath) and some *Correa reflexa*. We stopped at a bend in the track to get a good view across the valley to the Bundaleer and, behind us, up to the peak of Mt Rosea.

On the way back to the car park we disturbed a Black Wallaby. It was the only one seen on the trip. After lunch, where we were joined by a family of Superb Fairy Wrens, we decided to find the track to Delley's Dell. We all recalled that it started some 50 metres downhill towards Silverband Falls. We found an unmarked and overgrown track and, with John in the lead headed down into the valley of Dairy Ck. After pushing through overhanging vegetation we decided that, although this was the right track, it was clearly not well used so we turned back. We brushed off the leeches which had been attracted to us on the track.

On driving down the Silverband Rd we saw that the clearing and parking area which marked the downhill section of Delley's Dell was no more. The floods of 2011 had washed away vast amounts of the old road and had created a massive gully blocking off access to what was once a favourite part of the Grampians.

Our party walked down the well formed track to Silverband Falls. The force of the water during the flood was very evident. The floor of the valley has been drastically re shaped and piles of large logs and other debris were still to be seen.



There was a small flow of water in Dairy Ck and over the falls. Shortly after we left the car park we encountered a Red Deer stag crossing the road. He stopped and allowed us a good view of this magnificent, but still unwelcome, beast.

Coffee in Halls Gap ended a relatively uneventful but pleasant day in the Grampians.

Plants in flower

- Tetradlea ciliata* (Pink Bells)
- Epacris impressa* (Common Heath)
- Grevillea alpina* (Alpine Grevillea)
- Acacia myrtifolia* (Myrtle Wattle)
- Acacia oxycedrus* (Spike Wattle)
- Acacia retinodes* (Wirrilda)
- Hakea rostrata* (Beaked Hakea)
- Correa reflexa* (Common Correa)
- Correa aemula* (Hairy Correa)
- Styphelia adscendens* (Golden Heath)
- Hardenbergia violacea* (Sarspiralla)



Sulphur Tuft on log

Fungi identified

- Hypholoma fasciculare* (Sulphur Tufts)
- Stereum illudens* (Purplish Stereum)
- Stereum hirsutum* gp (Hairy Stereum)
- Trametes versicolor* (Turkeytails)
- Fomitopsis lilaceogilva* (Lilac Shelf Fungus)



Turkeytails on dead stump

Birds identified

- Superb Fairy Wren
- Golden Whistler
- White-throated Treecreeper
- Grey Shrike-thrush
- Crimson Rosella
- Sulphur Crested Cockatoo
- Long-billed Corella
- Laughing Kookaburra
- Emu



White Jelly Fungus

Walk to Mt Rosea

