

HFNC Excursion to Wannon Scenic Reserve and Wannon Flora Reserve 22 July 2017

Dave Munro

Lyn and Dave Munro met Roger Thompson at the Visitors Centre in Hamilton at 10 am and they made their way to the Thomas Clarke Lookout at the Wannon. There they met Janeen Samuel, Hilary Turner, Daryl Delahoy and Peter Hocking.

The weather was cool to cold, particularly in the breeze, but quite pleasant amongst the trees. A decision was made to get out of the wind and to take the track down to the lower viewing platform at the Wannon Falls. We were disappointed to see that some informal vehicle tracks had been created since our last visit, probably by illegal firewood collectors.

Peter came armed with a bucket and long screwdriver to deal with any African Weed Orchids (AWO) encountered. The bucket became useful for collecting rubbish along the track, while only a solitary AWO was dug.

The walk became a mini fungi foray, not because there were a great number of individual fruiting bodies but because of the variety of species distributed along our path. Under an *Acacia mearnsii* we found several eaten and aged specimens of *Leucopaxillus eucalptorum* with the gill surface relatively undamaged. Next a splendid, single apricot coloured Waxy-gill (*Hygrocybe* sp.), close to a circle of an orange coloured Coral Fungus (most likely *Ramaria anzania*). Then several different bracket polypores. So it continued to the end of the track.

The falls were only about half the usual volume for this time of the year, which was to be expected after the recent dry period.



We visited the rotunda and read, once more, Ken Grime's geological explanation of the area, as well as the associated information boards. We all agreed that, overall they tell a good story.

We made our way back to the cars via the edge of the cricket oval, noting any fungi on the way. Surprisingly no orchid flowers were seen. A few sun orchid leaves were seen but no greenhood rosettes.

Lunch was taken in a wind-free spot in the Flora Reserve (previously known as the 18 Acre Reserve). We pushed through thickets of *Acacia paradoxa* to some suitable logs. The *A. paradoxa* is now the dominant shrub and looks like taking over the reserve. This prickly pest has made a once pleasant walk through a heathy woodland into a near continual battle. Fire is probably not a treatment that could control this native species since it would cause many thousands of seeds to germinate. Manual removal seems to be the only real option – maybe the club could apply for funding and employ others to do it.

The only evidence of orchids recorded were leaves of sun orchids, helmet and gnats. The only plants in flower were a group of tall *Banksia marginata* and some *Acacia longifolia*.

A highlight of the walk came near the end when Lyn discovered 3 brilliant red colonies of the plasmodium stage of the slime mould *Dictydiaethelium plumbeum* growing on a log. We rarely encounter slime moulds on our excursions so this was the case for some celebration. Several people took the opportunity of looking at the scarlet globules under magnification.

Fungi seen and identified

Scientific name	Common name/comment
<i>Amauroderma rude</i>	Red-staining Polypore
<i>Amanita</i> sp.	dark grey cap
<i>Cortinarius clelandii</i>	
<i>Discinella terrestris</i>	Yellow Earth Buttons
<i>Entoloma incarnum?</i>	
<i>Entoloma moongum</i>	
<i>Hygrocybe</i> sp.	Waxy-gill
<i>Lactarius eucalypti</i>	
<i>Leucopaxillus eucalyptorum</i>	
<i>Lichenomphalina chromacea</i>	Yellow Belly Buttons
<i>Lycoperdon</i> sp.	
<i>Postia</i> sp.	
<i>Pycnoporus coccineus</i>	Scarlet Bracket Fungus
<i>Ramaria anziana</i>	
<i>Rhodocollybia butyracea</i>	
<i>Schizophyllum commune</i>	Split Gill
<i>Trametes lilaceogilva</i>	
<i>Trametes versicolor</i>	
<i>Xerula (Oudmansiiella) australis</i>	Rooting Shank



Hygrocybe sp. (Waxy-gill)



Leucopaxillus eucalyptorum

Slime Mould

Dictydiaethelium plumbeum



Dictydiaethelium plumbeum



Ramaria anziana

Birds identified

Crimson Rosella
New Holland Honeyeater
White-throated Treecreeper
Superb Fairy-wren
Grey Fantail
Grey Shrike-thrush
Laughing Kookaburra

Mammals identified

One Black Wallaby but much evidence of other macropods, probably Eastern Grey Kangaroos, and in the Flora Reserve much evidence of rabbits.