



The Clematis

The Quarterly Newsletter of the
Bairnsdale & District Field Naturalists Club Inc. A0006074C
P.O. Box 563, Bairnsdale Victoria 3875 www.bairnsdalefieldnaturalists.com.au

Issue No. 118

Summer 2018/19

Executive 2018/19

President

Pat McPherson (03)5152 2614
patricia.mcpherson@bigpond.com

Vice President

Jen Wilkinson 040 854 5648
wilkinson@eastvic.net

Secretary

Pat McPherson (03)5152 2614

Treasurer

Margaret Regan (03)5156 2541

Ordinary members and

Coordinators

Botanic Group

James Turner (03)5155 1258
jturner.kw@gmail.com

Bushwalking Group

Noel Williamson (03)5152 1737
nwilliamson_7@hotmail.com

Junior Field Naturalists Group

Vicki Fraser 0417 586 856
vickifraser@netspace.net.au

Newsletter Editor

Pauline Stewart (03)5152 1606
happycats@eastvic.net

Website Administrator

Jen Wilkinson 040 854 5648



Brown Beaks *Lyperanthus suaveolens*

Photo by Dianne Weir

CONTENTS

Programme January to June 2019	3
Annual Report	4-7
Bushwalk to Seven Mile Road	8
Excursion to Mt Raymond	9-12
Metallic Sun-orchid Count	13-15
Excursion to Mullundung Forest & Jack Smith Lake	16-18
Bushwalk to German Gully	19
Timbarra and Green Hills	20-23



CORRESPONDENCE TO: The Secretary, P.O. Box 563, Bairnsdale 3875

www.bairnsdalefieldnaturalists.com.au

The Clematis is printed and supported by the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning

MEETINGS

General meetings take place at:

The Noweyung Centre,
84 Goold Street, Bairnsdale
as per program at 7.30pm *sharp*
Committee meetings take place at:
members homes as per
program at 4.00pm

THE CLEMATIS

Responsibility for the accuracy of information and opinions expressed in this newsletter rests with the author of the article.

All articles for Summer Clematis must be sent to the Newsletter Editor by 1st March 2019.

SUBSCRIPTION FEES 2017/18

Single membership	\$30
Family membership	\$45
Mid-year fee (new members only)	\$15

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- To further the awareness and study of all branches of natural history within the East Gippsland community through field excursions, regular surveys, specialist guest speakers and publications.
- To observe and strengthen the laws for the preservation and protection of indigenous flora, fauna, habitat and important geological features.
- To promote the formation and preservation of National and State Parks and Reserves.
- To collaborate with other groups and agencies with similar environmental interest.

LIBRARY INFORMATION - ask a committee member

If you would like to borrow a book.

- Books are generally borrowed for one month - however you can write on the sign-out sheet if you wish to have it longer.
- Should any library materials need maintenance, please make a committee member aware of same.
- If you wish to recommend a book, this can be done by writing a short recommendation for the Clematis. This information could be from our library books or from other books that you believe our library could look at purchasing.

FIELD TRIPS

It is your responsibility to contact the coordinator of each field trip to notify them of intention to participate.

The coordinator will notify you if the trip has to be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances.

Please take note of safety procedures in your Bairnsdale & District Field Naturalists Club Inc. 'RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY' booklet. This can be downloaded from our web site.

RULES TO OBSERVE DURING FIELD TRIPS

- Excursions are cancelled on days of TOTAL FIRE BAN.
- Participants to keep a visual on the car in front and behind.
- When making a turn, give signal, and stay at intersection until following car has also turned.
- If separated from other cars, stop, and stay with your car. Other members will return to find you.
- The Car Pooling Cost Calculator is used to assist drivers and car pool passengers to share fuel costs.

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY FOR BUSH WALKS

Walks vary in distance from 8 to 14 km.

Easy: Flat, good firm track.

Moderately easy: Mostly flat, track in good to fair condition.

Moderate: May be undulating, track in good to fair condition.

Moderately Difficult: May be some steep sections, track may be rough in places.

Difficult: May have long steep sections, track may be non-existent at times.

Contact the leader of the walk for a rating if it's not included in the program.

CONTACTS for Field Trips

James Turner:	5155 1258 m. 0427 290838
Noel Williamson	5152 1737
Vicki Fraser:	m. 0417 586856
Margaret Regan:	5156 2541
Pauline Stewart:	5152 1606 m. 0419 522137

PROGRAMME January to June 2019

Date	Activity	Time	Meeting Place	Destination	Subject/Rated	Leader/Speaker
JANUARY						
Sun 20th	Excursion	TBA	TBA	Nunniong/Timbarra & Blue Shirt Creek		James Turner
FEBRUARY						
Sun 3rd	Junior excursion	TBA	TBA	TBA		Vicki Fraser
Thurs 7 th	Comm. Meeting	4.00pm	Pat McPherson's home			
Frid 15 th	General meeting	7.30pm	Noweyung Centre	TBA	TBA	
Sun 17th	Excursion	9.00am	Bridge Club	Dargo to Spring Hill & Grant		James Turner
Sun 24th	Bushwalk	8.30am 9.30am	Bridge Club Orbost Visitors Centre	Cape Conran Coastal Park	Moderate	Noel Williams
MARCH						
Sun 3rd	Junior excursion	TBA	TBA	TBA		
Thurs 7th	Comm. meeting	4.00pm	Pauline Stewart's home			
Frid 15th	General meeting	7.30pm	Noweyung Centre		Development of Eastwood	Ray Hack
Sun 17th	Excursion	9.00am 9.45am	Bridge Club Nowa Nowa	Cape Conran		Margaret Regan
Sun 24th	Bushwalk	9.00am 9.30am	Bridge Club Paynesville Ferry	Raymond Island	Easy	Noel Williamson
APRIL						
Thurs 11 th	Comm. Meeting (if required)	4.00pm	Margaret Regan's home			
Sun 14 th	Excursion	9.00am 9.30am	Bridge Club Bruthen	Upper Little River, Ensay North		James Turner
Sun 28 th	Bushwalk	9.00am 9.30am	Bridge Club Forest Tech	Mississippi Creek to the quarry	Easy	Noel Williamson
MAY						
Sun 5 th	Junior Group	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	Vicki Fraser
Thurs 9 th	Comm. meeting	4.00pm	Noel Williamson's home			
Frid 17 th	General meeting	7.30pm	Noweyung Centre		Pelican monitoring on the Gippsland Lakes	Deb Sullivan – Birdlife East Gippsland
Sat 25 th	Fungimap Talk		Time and place yet to be arranged			
Sun 26 th	Fungi walk/workshop	9.00am	TBA	Fairy Dell		
JUNE						
Sun 2 nd	Junior Excursion	TBA	TBA	TBA		Vicki Fraser
Thurs 13 th	Comm. Meeting (if required)	4.00pm	Jen Wilkinson's home			
Sun 23 rd	Excursion	9.00am	Bridge Club	Bullumwaal area +	historical walk and talk by Phil Large	Pauline Stewart
Sun 30 th	Bushwalk	9.00am	Bridge Club	Fairy Dell area	Moderate	Noel Williamson

BAIRNSDALE & DISTRICT FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB INC

Reg. No. A0006074C

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ending 30th June 2018

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Bairnsdale & District Field Naturalists Club for the financial year 2017-18. The year has been defined by the drought. James Turner describes it as one of the most serious of our lifetime in East Gippsland. Banksias and Eucalypts are dying off throughout the area. Very little vegetation is flowering apart from a few wattles; fungi were mainly non-existent this autumn and the ubiquitous Greenhood Orchids (the staple find on our excursions) are few and far between.

In addition, grazing of vegetation, mainly by deer, is wide spread, leaving in its wake smashed ferns and shrubs and broken landscapes.

On top of that we are now facing the threat of severe bushfires over summer.

Now for the business of the year.

Field Guides

We have been working on a second edition of our landmark publication Orchids of East Gippsland. But first I want to pay tribute to Pauline Stewart who, starting from scratch and without any prior knowledge put together a marketing strategy that saw the 1000 copies of the first edition sold and or placed in public libraries. It was a masterly effort. The review and revision was undertaken by its authors James Turner, Jennifer Wilkinson and Andrew Bould and the second edition is ready for publication.

Work is continuing on our next Field Guide –Wild flowers of East Gippsland.

Jennifer and James are listing the species and descriptions of plant families beginning with A and gradually working their way through to L and when that is completed the process will be reviewed to decide whether that is enough for one book. That being the case we would be looking at publishing 2 books the second one for plant families beginning with M.

The Club was approached by a former member to ascertain if we would publish a Field Guide to Frogs on East Gippsland which she is putting together as part of her research studies at Churchill University. The committee accepted that this is a worth while thing to do and that we have the capacity to do it. Thus far we have drafted a legal agreement covering B&DFNC responsibilities and funding and are negotiating content, design, printing, marketing with the researcher and have recommended three experts to check for authenticity and accuracy.

Acquisitions

For the first time in many years the Club is solvent, thanks to income from the sale of our Field Guide to the Orchids of East Gippsland. Decisions were made to spend some of that money, first by the creation of 2 stunning Club banners which were designed by the very gifted Jennifer Wilkinson and printed by Egee Printers. They were unveiled at our September meeting and now add an attractive backdrop to all our meetings.

Second, Andrew Bould researched and sourced an up-to-date replacement for our aging projector. We have invested in a BenQ M704 Projector which has a digital light, the new HDMI for video connectivity, built in speakers and a high quality image. It will meet the technical needs of and enhance the presentations of our guest speakers as well as our own gifted photographers.

Working with Children Act 2005

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse made several recommendations aimed at strengthening the protection children receive through amendments to the Act, in particular Working with Children Checks (WWCC). Because we now have a junior group we investigated these recommendations and ascertained that volunteers in leadership groups (in our case Committee of Management) as well as the Co-ordinator of the junior group are required to have a WWCC and we have met this requirement. The Club took the opportunity to review and revise its Junior group policy on Membership and Management to accommodate this change to the Act.

Aboriginal bones

The Club was asked by an anthropologist from Aboriginal Victoria if we knew anything about Aboriginal bones found on Sperm Whale Head supposedly by a field naturalist in 1962-63. They had been handed into the historical museum and the anthropologist wanted to re-inter them in their original site if suitable.

Investigations led to the amazing life and times of Fred Barton who was born and lived on a property *Banksia* on Sperm Whale Head which was founded by his grandfather in the 1880's. Fred who farmed the area, was also a field naturalist and an honorary ranger for Lakes National Park. Contact with Fred's son confirmed that there was no family record of such a find but there is a record of his grandfather using aboriginal labour on the property in the early 1890s. Whilst the search came to naught, the history of the Bartons of *Banksia* is a fascinating story that revealed the extraordinary way of life of people living on the isolated islands and headlands in the Gippsland lakes.

MEMBERSHIP

The number of members is normally a one line entry in an annual report but this year I'm changing tack because we have an ongoing problem trying to calculate the number of paid up members of the Club.

Many members forget to renew their membership whilst still participating in Club activities; some choose to cease membership but don't let us know; some drop off our communication network because they change their email address. As a consequence we have to send renewal reminders, sometimes two, which isn't a very pleasant task and if there is no response eventually remove them from the members register and member's email list. This creates more work to reinstate them on these lists if and when they renew further down the track.

Because of all of the above, our Treasurer had to spend an inordinate amount of time trying to calculate the membership number for this report and has come up with the total of 152 – 39 juniors and 113 adults which includes the parents of junior members.

Please take this is a reminder that membership is per calendar year and the renewal date is January 2019.

At this meeting Pat McPherson was made a Life Member of the Club.

COMMITTEE/CO-ORDINATORS

The Committee of four members and six ordinary members was elected and allocated portfolios at the AGM on 20th October 2017.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| • President | Pat McPherson |
| • Vice President | Jennifer Wilkinson |
| • Secretary (Under the Act) | Pat McPherson |
| • Treasurer | Margaret Regan |
| • Botanic Group Co-ordinator | James Turner |
| • Bushwalking Group Co-ordinator | Noel Williamson |
| • Junior Group Co-ordinator | Vicki Fraser |
| • Newsletter Editor | Pauline Stewart |
| • Website Co-ordinator | Jennifer Wilkinson |
| • Clerical Support/Club Enquiries | Fran Bright |

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

There was no winter recess for the Committee this year. The work of the Club required it to meet throughout winter and also in December – a total of 10 meetings for the year.

GENERAL MEETINGS

Six general meetings that were held during the year were preceded by a presentation by a guest speaker. It is the diversity of our guest speakers that contributes to one of our purposes 'to further the awareness and study of natural history within the East Gippsland community'.

The average attendance was 24 members and visitors who heard the following presentations:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Brett Mills (Trust for Nature) | Fox control in Blond Bay area to protect waterbirds |
| Hagan Brightman and Madeline Watts | Bio-diversity at Strathfieldsaye |
| Marc Freestone | Gippsland Rainforests |
| Max Campbell (President VFNC) | Invertebrate bio-diversity |
| Mitch Smith | Pollinators in Nature (for junior group) |
| | Orchid pollination/Pollinators (Adults) |
| Roger Bilney | Feral pig invasion in East Gippsland – an environmental disaster. |

A big thank you to Andrew Bould for the informative articles and photographs he prepared for *The News* to promote our guest speakers.

CLUB ACTIVITIES**Field excursions (seniors)**

Monthly field excursions were once again ably planned and led by James Turner with a little help from friends.

We went to Colquhoun and Kenny Forests in July 2017 and to the Glenmaggie Flora Reserve and the Avon Channels in August.

Kath Tisdale, our member from the LaTrobe Valley, took us to McLaughlin's Beach and Mullundung Forest in South Gippsland in September.

October found us in Fernbank and Saplings Morass.

In November Hagan Brightman and Madeline Watts followed up their talk at the preceding general meeting by leading the excursion to Strathfieldsaye.

Excursions in 2018 kicked off in January with a search for Bonnets and Tongues on the Marlo Plains. This was followed in February by a trip to the Nunniong area.

The March excursion to Pettman's beach had to be cancelled because of the weather.

The April excursion was in the Buchan area and the Snowy River.

May saw us at Glenaladale and the Mitchell River National Park and the June excursion also had to be cancelled because of the weather.

The botanical and avian findings on these excursions are documented in great detail in Margaret Regan's scholarly reports in the Clematis. Thank you Margaret and thank you James for another wonderful year of discovery.

Thank you too Andrew and Kath for your contributions.

Camp out

In November a very successful 4 day camp out was held in the comfortable accommodation at Karoonda Park at Gelantipy and took in Black Mountain, Suggan Buggan, Tom Cat Creek, Willis on the Snowy River, Seldom Seen, Little River Falls and Gorge, McKillops Bridge, First Emu Flat and Rocky Plains Creek Falls. Those who attended voted it one of the best camp outs the Club has ever had and thanked James for leading them to all these wonderful environments and for being able to identify all the plants found and birds seen. Well done James.

Field excursions (Junior group)

In addition to the natural history focus, the junior group excursions always include other experiences and activities such as microscope work, walks, swims, picnics and they often end with a camp fire or BBQ.

They were carefully planned and ably led by Vicki Fraser who was supported by junior's parents and assisted by members of the senior group.

The excursions this year covered a range of locations in East Gippsland and the average attendance was 25.

They began with a visit to the Wilkinson property at Dargo where the focus was on the art and science of water testing.

The highlights of a walk at Log Crossing in the Colquhoun Forest were the discovery of a bower bird bower and a Glider food tree.

Eagle Point Flora and Fauna Reserve found the juniors looking at antlions and enthusiastically dissecting Powerful Owl pellets.

In November it was a beach top walk and beach combing at Lake Tyers.

The year ended with a repeat of the very popular limestone fossil dig at Hospital Creek. (33 turned up at this one).

2018 started off with a day out at Blue Pools, Briagolong.

Three residents guided the group around Wattle and Waddy Points in March and explained the local fire regime.

The juniors spent the day exploring Nunniong in May where the particular focus was sphagnum moss bogs, sub alpine plants and Glider food trees.

The juniors joined the Nungurner Landcare Group in June to plant rainforest species at Hansen's Bay which the group is rehabilitating.

Camp outs

The BDFNC juniors joined the Victorian Field Naturalists Club (VFNC) junior group's camp out at Mt Baw Baw in October. It was a great success and 30 adults and juniors attended, a third of which were from our Club.

An Easter camp was a joint effort between B&DFNC juniors and the VFNC junior group from Melbourne and was held at Clive Disher Park at Perry Bridge.

55 juniors and family members attended – 20 from our group and 35 from Melbourne. There were excursions to the Den of Nargun; to the Eagle Point Flora and Fauna Reserve and a tour of Strathfieldsaye Estate. Talks were given on Beware Reef, on Snake bite emergency treatment and on bird banding followed by a bird walk. The camp was a huge success and ended with an Easter Bilby hunt and a camp fire concert.

Bush walks

A big thank you to Noel Williamson and Pauline Stewart for a great programme of bush walks, the focus of which this year was the Mottle Range area. Initially to the Range itself and then two walks along the Hospital Creek Road, the first from the Mottle Range intersection and the third from the Buchan Road end. We also enjoyed walks in Tabberabbera, Lake Tyers and Deptford areas.

Camp out

Our bush walking group held a 4 day camp in May walking in the Mallacoota area.

Metallic Sun Orchid count

The Club has been monitoring these rare orchids which were discovered by James Turner at the Blond Bay Wildlife Reserve in 1990. James reported a poor response this year - 13 leaves and 26 flower spikes were counted all of which were small and suffering greatly from the drought.

THANKS

I close this annual report by recording my thanks to the management of Noweyung for the continued use of their building for our general meetings.

I thank our members for your continuing support and contribution to the activities of the Club.

I thank the Committee for the heavy workload they have carried this year which has been one of high output and for stepping up for me when I had to take 3 months out for personal reasons.

I end by again expressing my deepest appreciation to the Co-ordinators who, year after year, keep us in business and keep our field work and activities relevant.

Pat McPherson

President

LIFE MEMBERSHIP PRESENTED TO JENNIFER WILKINSON - 19TH OCTOBER 2018

Jennifer Wilkinson joined the Club for a year in 1996, rejoining again in 2000 and has been an active member ever since and Vice President for the past 2 years.

Active is the key word here as Jen functions on many levels.

Over the years she has built up a comprehensive knowledge of the varied environments of East Gippsland and their botanical treasures.

As a gifted photographer; she has captured fine images of these environments which have enhanced promotional material that she has produced for the Club.

Jen is technically gifted as well, having taken over our fledgling website, overseeing a major revamp and now managing it.

Jen is a researcher, in that she contributed to the botanical content of our original orchid book as well as updates to the nomenclature and new additions to the second edition and is currently identifying and compiling a content list of species for our next field guide.

Best of all Jen is a desk top publisher; she created our stunning field guide, *Orchids of East Gippsland*.

So, everywhere you look you see evidence of Jen's creativity and contribution - on the web; the Club brochures; the banners and the orchid books.

I can honestly say that *Orchids of East Gippsland* lifted the profile of our Club both locally and State wide from the perception that we are just a group of aging introverts head down tail up in the bush, to one that can make a scholarly contribution to orchid lovers everywhere and to state and national libraries and archives.

Jennifer Wilkinson brings great credit to herself, to the Bairnsdale & District Field Naturalist Club and to East Gippsland which we all love and is a worthy recipient of Life Membership.

Pat McPherson

President

BUSHWALK - SEVEN MILE ROAD - 30TH AUGUST 2018

By Pauline Stewart

After turning east off the Buchan Road and onto the Nowa Nowa Road we drove about 3km until we came to the turn-off to Seven Mile Road. The bushland around this area had been laid bare by clear felling operations and after driving a kilometre or two we parked the cars at the edge of the clearing. At the start of the bushwalk we headed north and soon left the devastation behind and came into beautiful intact bushland. While walking, members had time to stop and marvel at and discuss the species of plants that were flowering.

Even though the bush track was undulating and a little steep at times it made for pleasant walking. Although heading in the direction of the Tara Tower which was a possible destination, we decided about 6 km along that it was just a bit too far for us to get there so turned around to find a convenient log to have lunch after which we headed back to the vehicles having achieved 12 satisfying kilometres for the day.

Thank you to our leader, Noel.

Plants

Acacia brownii Juniper Wattle

Acacia dealbata Silver Wattle

Amperea xiphioclada Broom Spurge

Bedfordia arborescens Blanket-Leaf

Caladenia carnea Pink Fingers

Casuarina littoralis Black She-oak

Clematis glycinoides Forest Clematis

Coronidium elatum Tall Everlasting

Dampiera stricta Blue Dampiera

Daviesia leptophylla Slender Bitter-pea

Daviesia mimosoides Narrow-leaf Bitter-pea

Elaeocarpus reticulatus Blue Olive-berry

Epacris impressa Common Heath

Exocarpos cupressiformis Cherry Ballart

Glycine clandestina Twining Glycine

Goodia lotifolia Golden-tip

Goodenia ovata Hop Goodenia

Hakea sericea Bushy Needlewood

Hibbertia fasciculata Bundled Guinea-flower

Hibbertia obtusifolia Grey Guinea-flower

Indigofera australis Austral Indigo

Pandorea pandorana Wonga Vine

Pimelea axiflora Bootlace Bush

Polyscias sambucifolia Elderberry Panax

Pomaderris aurea Golden Pomaderris

Prostanthera denticulata Rough Mintbush

Pterostylis melagramma Tall Greenhood

Pultenaea daphnoides Large-leaf Bush-pea

Stypantra glauca Nodding Blue-lily

Viola betonicifolia Showy Violet

Ferns

Cheilanthes tenuifolia Rock Fern

Calcitra dubia Common Ground Fern

Gleichenia microphylla Scrambling Coral Fern

Sticherus lobatus Spreading Fan Fern

Birds

Eastern Spinebill

Eastern Whipbird

Grey Fantail

Grey Shrike-thrush

Horsefield's Bronze-cuckoo

Laughing Kookaburra

Pallid Cuckoo

Pied Currawong

Red Wattlebird

Spotted Quail-thrush

Striated Thornbill

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

Superb Fairy-wren

Superb Lyrebird

White-eared Honeyeater

Yellow-faced Honeyeater

Butterflies

Imperial White Butterfly



Tall Everlasting *Coronidium elatum*

Photo by Pauline Stewart

MT RAYMOND - 23 September 2018

By Margaret Regan

It was an inauspicious day for an excursion. It was very cold and windy, and it rained on the drive to Orbost, but fortunately desisted for the rest of the day. Of course the area was in drought, as was most of East Gippsland, and we didn't expect to find many plants in flower.

To reach our first site on the south west slopes of Mt Raymond, we left the Princes Hwy at Sand Flat Rd, and later on to Webb Rd. At this site on the west side of the track we were in Mt Raymond Regional Park and on the east side it is State Forest. The area had been control burnt in the autumn of 2017. Where there was still ash from larger logs, this was being colonised by Bonfire Moss (*Funaria hygrometrica*). This cosmopolitan (grows all over the world) moss grows especially on recently burnt areas. It appears to like the high potash concentration in such soils. It has yellowish-green shoots and leaves and brown mature capsules. There were an amazing number of species flowering, although numbers of each were few. Overstorey trees included Red Ironbark (*Eucalyptus tricarpa*) which has deeply fissured black bark and large fruits in 3s; Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) with hard fissured bark and dark green phyllodes; and Black Sheoak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*) with similar bark and cylindrical cones on female trees. There was a magnificent huge old Red Ironbark with pink flowers. The other wattle was the small prickly shrub Spreading Wattle (*A. genistifolia*) with needle-like phyllodes and 2-4 globular flower heads in their axils.

The Caladenia orchids were White Fingers (*Caladenia catenata*) with a burgundy column and an orange tip to the labellum; Pink Fingers (*C. carnea*) whose labellum has red stripes; and Peisley's or Heath Spider-orchid (*C. peisleyi*) including one with a red flower. Other orchids were mauve and white Waxlip (*Glossodia major*); yellow with brown spots Leopard Orchid (*Diuris pardina*); Brown Beaks (*Lyperanthus suaveolens*) with up to 8 brown to green flowers with a yellow-tipped labellum and a hooded dorsal sepal; and the very rare Slender Ruddyhood (*Pterostylis aciculiformis*) in bud.



Peisley's or Heath Spider-orchid *Caladenia peisleyi*

Photo by 9 yo junior member Colin Stewart

Peas were the creeper Purple Coral-pea (*Hardenbergia violacea*) with ovate pointed leaves; the small pink shrub Austral Indigo (*Indigofera australis*); the small yellow and red shrub Mountain Flat-pea (*Platylobium parviflorum*) with opposite pointed dark green leaves and flowers 1-3 in the axils of the leaves; and the small yellow and red shrub Smooth Parrot-pea (*Dillwynia glaberrima*) with linear leaves and terminal clusters of flowers. Daisies were the tufted perennial mauve Spoon Daisy (*Brachyscome spathulata*); and white Snowy Daisy-bush (*Olearia lirata*). A pretty climber was pink Wonga-vine (*Pandorea pandorana*) with pinnate leaves with 3-9 leaflets and tubular flowers, hairy inside and with frilled edges. A large shrub was white Tall Baeckea (*Sannantha virgata*). It was one of the few plants that looked quite healthy. It has opposite leaves and flowers in umbels of 3-9 on long stalks. Three small shrubs were a deep pink Common Heath (*Epacris impressa*); white Common Rice-flower (*Pimelea humilis*) with hairy stems and flowers which are held in a terminal inflorescence with 4 or 6 bracts below; and yellow Rough Guinea-flower (*Hibbertia aspera*) with young hairy obovate leaves and stamens held to one side of the carpels. The tiny carnivorous plant Tall Sundew (*Drosera peltata*) was in bud; and there were a few tiny plants of the fern Common Maidenhair (*Adiantum aethiopicum*). Birds seen, or mostly heard, were Spotted Pardalote (rarely seen, as they are tiny, and usually way up in the

tops of eucalypts), Grey Fantail, female Golden Whistler and Olive-backed Oriole. Excitingly the feather of a Glossy Black-cockatoo was found. They feed on sheoaks, which were part of the overstorey.

We then drove up to the tower on the summit of Mt Raymond, for a very brief stop. The summit in the Mt Raymond Regional Park is 300m above sea level. The view is spectacular, looking across to Lakes Curlip and Corringale and the Snowy River wetlands. Lake Curlip is on the Brodribb River just before it enters the lower reaches from the east of the Snowy River. Lake Corringale is on the western side of the Snowy and opens to the Snowy at almost the same point as the entry of the Brodribb River. Near the tower we found Austral Indigo; the yellow shrub Hop Goodenia (*Goodenia ovata*) which has large serrate edged leaves; and Nodding Blue Lily (*Stypantra glauca*) in flower. We did not tarry in this hostile environment!!!

Below the summit we stopped in a slashed area below power lines. With the short vegetation, it is easier to find interesting plants in flower. Two surrounding trees were tall Silvertop Ash (*Eucalyptus sieberi*), whose long straight trunk with dark fissured bark, contrasts with the smooth white branches of the small crown; and Black Sheoak. Peas were the erect shrubs, the small yellow and brown Halo Bush-pea (*Pultenaea linophylla*) with wedge-shaped leaves and dense terminal inflorescences; and the larger almost yellow shrub Mountain Flat-pea. Prostrate peas were the small red Running Postman (*Kennedia prostrata*); the small yellow Creeping Bossiaea (*Bossiaea prostrata*) with rounded leaves; and the rare



Creamy Candles *Stackhousia monogyna*

Photo by Pauline Stewart



Variable Fingers – *Caladenia aff. catenata*

Photo by Dianne Weir

xiphioclada) with tiny flowers in clusters along the upright stems. Other small plants were Hairy Pink-bells (*Tetratea pilosa*); Blue Dampiera (*Dampiera stricta*); Creamy Candles (*Stackhousia monogyna*); and the very pretty mauve Twining Fringe Lily (*Thysanotus patersonii*) with its gorgeous fringed petals. There was a Leopard Orchid whose flowers were totally yellow with

Creeping Wedge-pea (*Gompholobium inconspicuum*) whose flower has a yellow and grey keel. We found this pea here in 2009, but it had previously only been found in far East Gippsland. The only wattle here was the small shrub Myrtle Wattle (*Acacia myrtifolia*) whose leaves have a distinctive raised margin. A scrambling tangled shrub was pink Wiry Bauera (*Bauera rubioides*). Another low shrub was yellow Grey Guinea-flower (*Hibbertia obtusifolia*), named for the obtuse leaves – they are wider at the outer end. A very erect leafless shrub was cream Broom Spurge (*Amperea*

no brown blotches. A final plant was the tiny clubmoss Swamp selaginella (*Selaginella uliginosa*). "Uligin" means "moisture" in Latin.

A tiny bit further east, along Alexander Creek Road, we again searched beneath the power lines. [Were we getting zapped by microwaves??] We heard a Pied Currawong carolling. The only orchid seen was Waxlip. A new wattle was Prickly Moses (*Acacia verticillata*), a nasty specimen, with tiny very pointed phyllodes in whorls of 6 and flowers in cylindrical spikes. Other shrubs we don't see often were the Large-leaf Hop-bush (*Dodonaea triquetra*) (to 3m) with thin leaves and capsules with 3 wings; and white Slender Rice-flower (*Pimelea linifolia*) with narrow leaves and terminal clusters of flowers. There was also the often seen red and green Common Correa (*Correa reflexa*) which has hairy leaves and tubular flowers. A ground cover sedge, we also see often, was Thatch Saw-sedge (*Gahnia radula*) with dark brown inflorescences, drooping to one side. A new fern was tiny Screw fern (*Lindsaea linearis*).

Just a little further south on Alexander Creek Road was an area also burnt in autumn 2017. Orchids here were White Fingers, Leopard Orchid and yellow and brown Wallflower Orchid (*Diuris orientis*). The brown markings on the flowers of the Leopard Orchid are discrete spots and blotches, whilst the colouring of the slightly larger Wallflower flowers is more suffused. A new small shrub was pale pink Peach Heath (*Lissanthe strigosa*) which is much-branched and prickly with dense clusters of scented

tubular flowers. Twining over shrubs was the delicate pretty blue Love Creeper (*Comesperma volubile*). Where did the common name arise? Is it the clinging habit? There was tiny White Marianth (*Rhytidosporum procumbens*); and one flower on a Purple-flag (*Patersonia* sp.). Along with the Thatch Saw-sedge as ground cover was a very pretty small twisted Tussock-grass (*Poa* sp.) Even though the environment was so dry, we did manage to find two species of tough bracket fungi, Scarlet Bracket (*Pycnoporus coccineus*) which is more orange than scarlet; and the thinner Rainbow Fungus (*Trametes versicolor*), quietly digesting some fallen logs. Rainbow Fungus has concentric rings of different colours across its upper surface, whilst the lower spore-bearing



Mountain Greenhood *Pterostylis alpina*
Photo by Dianne Weir

surface is cream. It is found throughout the world and in some countries it is called Turkey Tail because of its resemblance to the tail of that bird!!

On the way to the previous stop we had crossed an interesting looking gully around a small creek, so we checked it out on the way back to the highway. Our eyes were first attracted to the large Austral king-fern (*Todea barbara*), which we don't see very often, although it doesn't appear to be rare. It has a short massive black fibrous trunk, sometimes with several crowns. The large shiny bipinnate fronds can grow to 2m. The large sporangia on the undersurface of the fronds are not grouped into sori or protected with a cover. Another plant in this damper environment were the tall shrub, cream Scented Paperbark (*Melaleuca squarrosa*) with decussate leaves (opposite, with each pair at right angles to the pairs above and below), giving the branch a squarish appearance. Another damp-adapted plant was the large Red-fruit Saw-sedge (*Gahnia sieberiana*) which can grow to 2.5m. Climbing over some of the vegetation was Forest Clematis or Headache Vine (*Clematis glycinoides*) whose glossy thin adult leaflets have entire margins and are 3-7-nerved from their bases. [This species gained one of its common names from a folk use as a supposed remedy for headaches. The aroma from the crushed leaves is inhaled. The uncomfortable sensation of breathing in the ammonia-like fumes is so unpleasant that the headache is forgotten!!] All Clematis are dioecious, with the male and female flowers on different plants. Despite the climatic conditions of the day and the drought, we still managed to see a large number of interesting plants. Thank you, James.

Plants:

Acacia genistifolia Spreading Wattle
A. melanoxylon Blackwood
A. myrtifolia Myrtle Wattle
A. verticillata Prickly Moses
Adiantum aethiopicum Common Maidenhair Fern
Allocasuarina littoralis Black Sheoak
Amperea xiphocladia Broom Spurge
Bauera rubioides Wiry Bauera
Bossiaea prostrata Creeping Bossiaea
Brachyscome spathulata Spoon Daisy
Caladenia carnea Pink Fingers
C. catenata White Fingers
C. peisleyi Peisley's or Heath Spider-orchid
Clematis glycinoides Forest Clematis
Comesperma volubile Love Creeper
Correa reflexa Common Correa
Dampiera stricta Blue Dampiera
Dillwynia glaberrima Smooth Parrot-pea
Diuris orientis Wallflower Orchid
D. pardina Leopard Orchid
Dodonaea triquetra Large-leaf Hop-bush
Drosera peltata Tall Sundew
Epacris impressa Common Heath
Eucalyptus sieberi Silvertop Ash
E. tricarpa Red Ironbark
Funaria hygrometrica Bonfire Moss
Gahnia radula Thatch Saw-sedge
G. sieberiana Red-fruit Saw-sedge
Glossodia major Waxlip
Gompholobium inconspicuum Creeping Wedge-pea
Goodenia ovata Hop Goodenia
Hardenbergia violacea Purple Coral-pea
Hibbertia aspera Rough Guinea-flower
H. obtusifolia Grey Guinea-flower
Indigofera australis Austral Indigo
Kennedia prostrata Running Postman
Lindsaea linearis Screw fern
Lissanthe strigosa Peach Heath
Lyperanthus suaveolens Brown Beaks
Melaleuca squarrosa Scented Paperbark



Moth - *Dichromodes confluaris* Photo by Dianne Weir

Olearia lirata Snowy Daisy-bush
Pandorea pandorana Wonga-vine
Patersonia sp. a purple-flag
Pimelea humilis Common Rice-flower
P. linifolia Slender Rice-flower
Platylobium parviflorum Mountain Flat-pea
Poa sp. a tussock-grass
Pterostylis aciculiformis Slender Ruddyhood
Pultenaea linophylla Halo Bush-pea
Rhytidisporum procumbens White Marianth
Sannantha virgata Tall Baeckea
Selaginella uliginosa Swamp selaginella
Stackhousia monogyna Creamy Candles
Stypandra glauca Nodding Blue Lily
Tetratheca pilosa Hairy Pink-bells
Thysanotus patersonii Twining Fringe Lily
Todea barbara Austral king-fern

Birds (seen, heard or feather):

Glossy Black-cockatoo
 Golden Whistler (female)
 Grey Fantail
 Olive-backed Oriole
 Pied Currawong
 Spotted Pardalote

Fungi:

Pycnopus coccineus Scarlet Bracket
Trametes versicolor Rainbow Fungus



Cup Moth Caterpillar

Photo by 10 yo junior member Henry Stewart

METALLIC SUN-ORCHID COUNT AT BLOND BAY

26 September 2018

By Margaret Regan

For the first time on our annual visit to Blond Bay Wildlife Reserve (??), some members of the group were visited by those nasty little critters, ticks. [Blond Bay is actually a Game Reserve, where instead of culling pest deer, they are “managed” for hunters, who must enter a ballot to hunt, and the season is restricted. Any hunters killing out of season, or the ballot, are prosecuted!!]

The Metallic Sun-orchid (*Thelymitra epipactoides*) was discovered at Blond Bay by James Turner in 1990. It is one of the largest orchids in Victoria. It has one long strappy fleshy bluish-green leaf. The flowering stalk can be to 50cm, with up to 20 flowers. The flowers, up to 40mm across, can be bronze, pink, greenish or reddish with a metallic lustre. Flowering is enhanced by summer fires. The orchid is extinct in NSW, and endangered in Victoria and South Australia. It mostly grows in coastal areas with a few inland mallee sites. Much of its habitat has been destroyed for agriculture, and it is threatened by weeds, and the grazing of pest and native animals.

In 1997 a securely fenced enclosure was built around the greatest concentration of the orchids. A larger enclosure was added in 2005, but it was not well built and has been repeatedly breached, allowing grazing. To reduce competition from other plants the enclosed areas have been burnt in 1996, 1997, 2000, 2004, 2013 and autumn 2017.

Our counts have been 2005 - 261, 2006 - 17, 2007 - 136, 2008 - 20, 2009 - 23, 2011 - 35, 2012 - 60, 2014 - 99, 2015 - 82, 2016 - 46 and 2017 - 14. With the serious drought conditions we are now in, we didn't expect to find any of the orchid plants. We found 26 flowering spikes and 13 leaves.

Other plants inside the enclosures were two tree banksias, Saw Banksia (*Banksia serrata*) whose leaves have serrated margins; and Silver Banksia (*B. marginata*) where the leaves have a blunt end and their margins are entire.

Some of the banksias were dead. Banksias don't seem to cope with drought easily, and we often see dead plants on excursions during dry times. The two most common ground cover plants were Spiny-headed Mat-rush (*Lomandra longifolia*) which has long strappy leaves, and male and female inflorescences on different plants; and Coarse Twine-rush (*Apodasmia brownii*)

whose leaves are reduced to stem-sheathing brown scales and there are separate male and female flower spikelets. Beneath these two were tiny plants: the red pea creeper Running Postman (*Kennedia prostrata*); Yellow Wood-sorrel (*Oxalis corniculata*); and cream Common Riceflower (*Pimelea humilis*). In past years we have found plants of Metallic Sun-orchid outside and to the east of the enclosures. Now the area is almost completely overgrown with two members of the family Myrtaceae, the dense green shrub, white Burgan (*Kunzea ericoides*); and cream Swamp Paperbark (*Melaleuca ericifolia*) with pale papery bark and flowers in short spikes. Burgan is becoming a serious weed in many places. We did however see some other orchids. These were the pretty mauve and white Waxlip (*Glossodia major*); White Fingers



Metallic Sun-orchid *Thelymitra epipactoides*
Photo by Dianne Weir



Waxlip Orchid *Glossodia major*

Photo by Dianne Weir

(*Caladenia catenata*) whose column is dark red and the labellum has an orange tip; and white to pink Dusky Fingers (*C. fuscata*) whose single flower's labellum has transverse red stripes, yellow calli and the sides have forward-pointing triangular extensions. There were also finished greenhood leaves. The only two birds we noticed were Grey Fantail and Grey Shrike-thrush.

The Metallic Sun-orchid enclosures are accessed by Fiddians Swamp Track. On the other side of the track is Fiddians Swamp where we have previously searched for the orchid. It is now so overgrown, we didn't bother! We had also looked there for the endangered Dwarf Kerrawang (*Commersonia prostrata*), so we were fortunate to find some growing beside the track. It is a tiny prostrate mat-forming shrub whose ovate leaves have margins with rounded teeth.

Further along the track we came to an area with Gippsland Lakes Peppermint (*Eucalyptus arenicola*) which has fibrous bark, glossy leaves and buds in clusters of more than 7; and the iconic Austral Grass-tree (*Xanthorrhoea australis*). These grass-trees can be huge, with a sometimes branching trunk to 3m. At the top of the trunk are many very long thin tough arching leaves forming a shimmering skirt. The inflorescence can also be 3m, with hundreds of nectar-producing flowers, much loved by birds, insects and probably possums. There were many small shrubs. Heaths were Pink Beard-heath (*Leucopogon ericoides*) whose flowers have hairy petals like all beard-heaths, its buds are pink, and its leaves are recurved; white Common Beard-heath (*L. virgatus*) which has flat leaves; and white Common Heath (*Epacris impressa*). A wattle was the well-named Spike Wattle (*Acacia oxycedrus*) with pointed leaves and bright yellow spikes of flower heads. There were two guinea-flowers – Bundled Guinea-flower (*Hibbertia fasciculata*) whose leaves are arranged in clusters; and Twiggy Guinea-flower (*H. virgata*) whose stems and narrow leaves have crinkly hairs. A pea was yellow and red Showy Bossiaea (*Bossiaea cinerea*), a shrub to 1.5m with arrow-shaped pointed leaves. Other small shrubs were Hairy Pink-bells (*Tetralochea pilosa*) whose hanging flowers have 4 petals and 8 stamens forming a tube around the carpel; Rosy Baeckea (*Euryomyrtus ramosissima* subsp. *prostrata*) with narrow leathery leaves; and the rare cream Oval-leaved Pseudanthus (*Pseudanthus ovalifolius*) is yet another plant with separate male and female flowers. There was also the pretty bright green Thick Twig-rush (*Caustis pentandra*). The specific name refers to the 5 stamens in the flower. The orchids were Dusky Fingers, a finished Midge-orchid (*Corunastylis* sp.) and tiny pink Fairy Fingers (*Caladenia alata*) (to 15mm) whose labellum is darker pink striped with an orange tip.

On Storm Point Firebreak Track we searched unsuccessfully for Red Beaks, which we have found in this area before. They need a recent fire to flower, so they may need one now. We found the tiny erect neat Trim Greenhood (*Pterostylis concinna*); Large Mosquito-orchid (*Acianthus exsertus*); and the tiny leaves of Austral adder's-tongue (*Ophioglossum lusitanicum*). This plant is in a primitive family of ferns. The single stem bears a fleshy undivided vegetative frond and a long-stalked fertile spike with pairs of embedded spore-bearing sporangia. The total height of a plant is up to 15mm! One of the trees was Black Sheoak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*). A new guinea-flower was Silky Guinea-flower (*Hibbertia sericea*) where the lower surface of the leaves is covered with silky hairs. Here we heard the call of Superb Fairy-wren. A little further north on this track we saw the tiny pea Creeping Bossiaea (*Bossiaea prostrata*) with round leaves; and an Early Nancy (*Wurmbea dioica*) lily with only male flowers. A plant of Early Nancy can have only female flowers, male flowers or bisexual flowers. Its white tepals have a purple nectary band about one third up from the base.

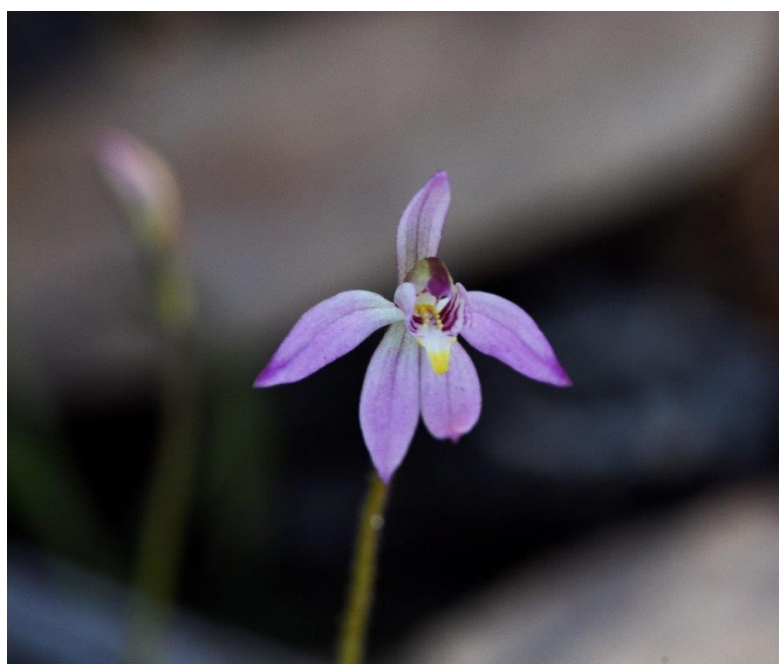
Fairy Fingers *Caladenia alata*

Photo by Dianne Weir

Thank you, once again, to James.

Plants:

Acacia oxycedrus Spike Wattle
Acianthus exsertus Large Mosquito-orchid
Allocasuarina littoralis Black Sheoak
Apodasmia brownii Coarse Twine-rush
Banksia marginata Silver Banksia
B. serrata Saw Banksia
Bossiaea cinerea Showy Bossiaea
B. prostrata Creeping Bossiaea
Caladenia alata Fairy Fingers
C. catenata White Fingers
C. fuscata Dusky Fingers
Caustis pentandra Thick Twig-rush
Commersonia prostrata Dwarf Kerrawang
Corunastylis sp. a Midge-orchid
Epacris impressa Common Heath
Eucalyptus arenicola Gippsland Lakes Peppermint
Euryomyrtus ramosissima subsp. *prostrata* Rosy Baeckea
Glossodia major Waxlip
Hibbertia fasciculata Bundled Guinea-flower
H.sericea Silky Guinea-flower

H. virgata Twiggy Guinea-flower
Kennedia prostrata Running Postman
Kunzea ericoides Burgan
Leucopogon ericoides Pink Beard-heath
L. virgatus Common Beard-heath
Lomandra longifolia Spiny-headed Mat-rush
Melaleuca ericifolia Swamp Paperbark
Ophioglossum lusitanicum Austral adder's-tongue
Oxalis corniculata Yellow Wood-sorrel
Pimelea humilis Common Riceflower
Pseudanthus ovalifolius Oval-leaved Pseudanthus
Pterostylis concinna Trim Greenhood
Tetratheca pilosa Hairy pink-bells
Thelymitra epipactoides Metallic Sun-orchid
Wurmbea dioica Early Nancy
Xanthorrhoea australis Austral Grass-tree

Birds:

Grey Fantail
 Grey Shrike-thrush
 Superb Fairy-wren



Grey Fantail

Photo by Ken Russell, Birdlife East Gippsland

MULLUNDUNG FOREST & JACK SMITH LAKE

21 October 2018

By Margaret Regan

After an early start we met our guide Kath at the corner of the South Gippsland Highway and Boundary Rd leading into the Mullundung State Forest. While here we heard Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Yellow-faced Honey eater and way up in the trees, the tiny Striated Pardalote. We then drove north along Boundary Road into the Mullundung Flora and Fauna Reserve. The major overhead tree was Yellow Stringybark (*Eucalyptus muellerana*), a fibrous-barked tree with a straight trunk and well-developed crown. Its timber is hard, strong and durable, so it was cut from this forest for sleepers, jetties and street paving. In 1910, a mill was set up and a tramline to transport the timber to Port Albert. The township of Goodwood grew up around the mill. However the mill closed in 1920, and the township buildings were transported to other nearby towns. The only large shrub was Hedge Wattle (*Acacia paradoxa*) which has small wavy-edged phyllodes, interspersed with nasty fine thorns. The flowers are in large solitary round flower heads on long stalks. Major ground cover plants were Spiny-headed Mat-rush (*Lomandra longifolia*); and a sedge (*Lepidosperma* sp.). Small Grass-tree (*Xanthorrhoea minor*) was just sending up its young green flowering spike. Small lilies were white Milkmaids (*Burchardia umbellata*) whose flowers have a red ovary; and the pretty mauve Twining Fringe-lily (*Thysanotus patersonii*) climbing over other plants. Another small climber was blue Love Creeper (*Comesperma volubile*) with its pea-like flowers.

There was also cream Common Rice-flower (*Pimelea humilis*) with hairy stems and flowers with orange anthers on long filaments; Creamy Candles (*Stackhousia monogyna*); mauve and white Ivy-leaved Violet (*Viola hederacea*); the tiny native Yellow Wood-sorrel (*Oxalis corniculata*) which we probably all recognize as it resembles our garden weedy sorrels; the small pale lavender Trailing Speedwell (*Veronica plebeia*) with triangular toothed leaves; and white Small Poranthera (*Poranthera microphylla*). Poranthera is named for the male anthers which open by terminal pores instead of slits. The only orchids in flower were species of the genus *Caladenia*, although there were sun-orchids in bud. There were the fingers, white Musky Caladenia (*Caladenia moschata*) whose flowers' tepals have pinkish or bronze tips and exude a strong musky scent; and White Fingers (*C. catenata*) with a deep red column and an orange tip to the labellum; and Brown-clubbed Green-comb Spider-orchid (*C. parva*). There were some of the very tiny fruiting bodies of the orange fungus Golden Jelly-bells (*Heterotextus miltinus*), whose unseen mycelium was quietly digesting the fallen branch on which they were found. Pauline beat a hasty retreat after spotting a large unidentified black snake sunning itself.

We then turned into Massey Road where we again saw White Fingers, which were both white and pink! A new orchid was Eastern Bronze Caladenia (*Caladenia transitoria*) which is rather rare in East Gippsland. Its cream to bronzish flower has a reddish fringed labellum. Further along this road were a few more Eastern Bronze Caladenia and Musky Caladenia, but also mauve and white Waxlip (*Glossodia major*); pink Spotted Sun-orchid (*Thelymitra ixioides*) which is usually blue; and a few mosquito-orchid (*Acianthus* sp.) heart-shaped flat leaves which are green above and purple underneath. New small shrubby heaths were white Common Heath (*Epacris impressa*); pinkish prickly Peach Heath (*Lissanthe strigosa*) whose tubular flowers are strongly scented; and white Common Beard-heath (*Leucopogon virgatus*) where the inside of the tubular flower is very hairy (bearded!). Other new small shrubs were red and green Common Correa (*Correa reflexa*); Erect Guinea-flower (*Hibbertia riparia*) whose narrow leaves have turned down margins; and yellow and red Notched Bush-pea (*Pultenaea retusa*) where the linear leaves have blunt ends and the stems are hairy. A climber was cream Forest Clematis (*Clematis glycinoides*) whose adult shiny leaflets have entire margins. There was also the tiny Screw fern (*Lindsaea linearis*). The diggings of Short-beaked Echidna were seen. Ants and termites form the diet of an echidna. The animal uses its strong clawed fore paws to break open nests, then inserts its snout and long tongue. The insects adhere to the copious sticky saliva which covers the tongue. The tongue is then withdrawn into the mouth, where the insects are masticated between horny plates on the back of the tongue and the palate above. The diggings can often be identified by the poke hole at the bottom of the digging made by the snout.

About 500m further were more Eastern Bronze Caladenia, White Fingers and Spotted Sun-orchid (this one a blue bud). New small shrubs were Rough Guinea-flower (*Hibbertia aspera*) with hairy obovate leaves; and Dusty Miller (*Spyridium parvifolium*) whose leaves have strongly impressed veins and the tiny flower clusters have several whitish floral leaves, giving a floury appearance, hence the common name.

We then drove on to Big Tower Road, where we lunched in the shadow of the now unused Big Tower. This wooden structure was erected in 1941, one of five in the Yarram district. They were used for fire spotting, following the disastrous 1939 bushfires. This tower was used every summer until 1960. It is over 29m high and its pylons were jammed 3.5m into sandstone. No lifting equipment was used in the construction. It would have been very interesting to view the work. In this area we again found the Eastern Bronze Caladenia, but also Brown Beaks (*Lyperanthus suaveolens*). This orchid has a single long narrow pointed leaf and a flowering stalk with up to 8 flowers. The flowers are yellowish to dark brown, and the curved under labellum is dark red grading to yellow at the tip. The flowers have a strong vanilla perfume. Other new plants seen here were the shrub Snowy Daisy-bush (*Olearia lirata*) which has large light green leaves and has flower heads in almost terminal clusters; and a bluebell (*Wahlenbergia* sp.).

We then moved south to the coast to Jack Smith Lake State Game Reserve. Jack Smith Lake was the first State Game Reserve declared in Victoria. It is immediately adjacent, over sand dunes, to the Ninety Mile Beach. It protects extensive coastal lagoons, salt marshes, coastal woodlands and native grasslands. The large shallow lake is dominated by species adapted to periodic inundation. The rich waters of the lake support the visits of over 100 bird species. It was also visited by the local Kurnai aboriginal people for thousands of years. They harvested birds, eggs and shellfish. They were displaced by incoming Europeans, and violent clashes occurred. A party of white settlers, organised by Angus Macmillan, massacred up to 150 aboriginals at nearby Warrigal Creek in the 1840s.

We walked along a track from the lake to the beach. The larger shrubs or small trees were white Common Boobialla (*Myoporum insulare*) which has fleshy leaves and flowers which are hairy inside with purple spots; Coast Banksia (*Banksia integrifolia*) which can grow to 25m, and its leaf margins are normally entire; yellow Coast Wattle (*Acacia sophorae*) with broad rounded phyllodes and flowers in robust spikes; and white Coast Teatree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*) which has grey-green rounded leaves. Ground covers were the pink and white trailing succulent Karkalla or Pigface (*Carpobrotus rossii*); and white or pink Creeping Brookweed (*Samolus repens*). A Hog Deer was seen on the track leading into our walk, and another Echidna was about. A find from the ocean beach was the shell of a Violet Sea Snail. This tiny snail is found all around the world in tropical and subtropical waters. As snails can't swim, this creature creates its own raft. It excretes mucous from a gland on its foot, and agitates the water around it to create bubbles that are trapped in the mucous. It spends its entire life in the ocean surface drifting in its raft of bubbles. It is a carnivore and feeds on other floating organisms such as jellyfish; but is itself predated by birds, turtles, fish and other molluscs. In one place in the dunes the track to the beach was cut through an aboriginal shell midden.

Many thanks to Kath for leading us into this interesting and new territory, and to Pauline for the bird and animal list.



Bird boxes in Jack Smith Lake

Photo by Pauline Stewart

Plants:

Acacia paradoxa Hedge Wattle
A. sophorae Coast Wattle
Acianthus sp. a mosquito-orchid
Banksia integrifolia Coast Banksia
Burchardia umbellata Milkmaids
Caladenia catenata White Fingers
C. moschata Musky Caladenia
C. parva Brown-clubbed Green-comb Spider-orchid
C. transitoria Eastern Bronze Caladenia
Carpobrotus rossii Karkalla or Pigface
Clematis glycinoides Forest Clematis
Comesperma volubile Love Creeper
Correa reflexa Common Correa
Epacris impressa Common Heath
Eucalyptus muellerana Yellow Stringybark
Glossodia major Waxlip
Hibbertia aspera Rough Guinea-flower
H. riparia Erect Guinea-flower
Lepidosperma sp. a sedge
Leptospermum laevigatum Coast Teatree
Leucopogon virgatus Common Beard-heath
Lindsaea linearis Screw fern
Lissanthe strigosa Peach Heath
Lomandra longifolia Spiny-headed Mat-rush
Lyperanthus suaveolens Brown Beaks
Myoporum insulare Common Boobialla
Olearia lirata Snowy Daisy-bush
Oxalis corniculata Yellow Wood-sorrel
Pimelea humilis Common Rice-flower
Poranthera microphylla Small Poranthera
Pultenaea retusa Notched Bush-pea
Samolus repens Creeping Brookweed
Spyridium parvifolium Dusty Miller
Stackhousia monogyna Creamy Candles
Thysanotus patersonii Twining Fringe-lily
Veronica plebeia Trailing Speedwell
Viola hederacea Ivy-leaved Violet
Wahlenbergia sp. a bluebell
Xanthorrhoea minor Small Grass-tree



Short-beaked Echidna Photo by Pauline Stewart

Fungi:

Heterotextus miltinus Golden Jelly-bells

Birds:**Mullundung Reserve**

Crimson Rosella
 Grey Fantail
 Grey Shrike-thrush
 Rufous Whistler
 Spotted Pardalote
 Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
 White-eared Honeyeater
 White-winged Chough
 Yellow-faced Honeyeater

Massey Road

Brush Cuckoo
 Fan-tailed Cuckoo
 Grey Shrike-thrush
 Grey Currawong
 Pallid Cuckoo
 White-throated Treecreeper

Big Tower Road

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
 Laughing Kookaburra

Gifford Road

Australian Wood Duck

Jack Smith Lake State Game Reserve

Australian Shelduck
 Caspian Tern
 Great Cormorant
 Grey Shrike-thrush
 Grey Fantail
 Masked Lapwing
 Silvereye
 Striated Thornbill
 Superb Fairy-wren
 *Common Blackbird

Animals:

Eastern Grey Kangaroo
 Short-beaked Echidna
 Violet Sea Snail
 *Hog Deer

*Introduced

BUSHWALK TO GERMAN GULLY - 28TH October 2018

By Pauline Stewart

Five members and one visitor lead by Noel Williamson drove up the Deptford Road, through Clifton Creek and onto Mills Road heading for the former goldfield of German Gully on Store Creek. Although having been on a bushwalk to German Gully in former years we found it still a bit tricky to find the correct road leading to it. Needless to say, we did take a track too soon and after walking several kilometres found it to be the wrong one, but we decided to continue on anyway as it was still going to lead us to Store Creek. The walk was downhill most of the way and we strode along enjoying the vegetation and melodious birds as we went. Even though conditions were still extremely dry we saw many plants in bloom. Store Creek only had pools of water in it, but it was still an attractive spot for lunch. The return trip was mostly uphill, but we took our time and ended up walking 14 km.

Thank you to Noel for a lovely day in the bush.

Plants:

Austral Indigo *Indigofera australis*
 Blue Gum *Eucalyptus globulus* ssp. *pseudoglobulus*
 Bootlace Bush *Pimelea axiflora*
 Cherry Ballart *Exocarpos cupressiformis*
 Forest Clematis *Clematis glycinoides*

 Hop Goodenia *Goodenia ovata*
 Ivy-leaf Violet *Viola hederacea*
 Long-leaf (River) Lomatia *Lomatia myricoides*
 Love Creeper *Comesperma volubile*
 Narrow-leaf Bitter-pea *Daviesia mimosoides*
 Nodding Blue-lily *Stypandra glauca*
 Red ironbark *Eucalyptus sideroxylon*
 Shrubby Velvet-Bush *Lasiopetalum macrophyllum*

Ferns:

Common ground-fern *Calochlaena dubia*
 Common maidenhair fern *Adiantum aethiopicum*
 Fishbone water-fern *Blechnum nudum*
 Rock Fern *Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia*

Birds:

Eastern Whipbird
 Fan-tail Cuckoo
 Golden Whistler
 Grey Fantail
 Grey Shrike-thrush
 Laughing Kookaburra
 Olive-backed Oriole
 Red Wattlebird
 Rufous Whistler
 Spotted Pardalote
 Striated Pardalote
 White-throated Treecreeper
 Yellow-faced Honeyeater



Lunch on a log with feet in a dry Store Creek

Photo by Noel Williamson

TIMBARRA & GREENHILLS

18 November 2018

From Buchan South, our first stop along Timbarra Road was at Dinner Hill Gap. This was within the area burnt in the Timbarra-Sunny Point bushfire in 2017. This fire was ignited on September 23 by a private burn-off that escaped into State Forest. This fire grew to 8,120ha before it was controlled. We drove through areas where the eucalypts were re-sprouting through their epicormic shoots along the trunks. They were like enormous blue-green and green leafy columns with leaves down to their bases.

A major tree at Dinner Hill Gap was Gippsland Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus pseudoglobulus*) whose ovate juvenile leaves are almost blue. Sharp eyes discovered the mud nest of White-winged Choughs near the top of one of the Blue Gums, with parents flying in and out, presumably feeding babies. Beneath the trees was the small prickly shrub white Peach Heath (*Lissanthe strigosa*) with tubular scented flowers. Other smaller plants were lilac Slender Speedwell (*Veronica gracilis*) with linear leaves and 4-petalled flowers; and the very similar blue Native Flax (*Linum marginale*) whose flowers have 5 petals. A small pea climber was deep blue Twining Glycine (*Glycine clandestina*). A lily we saw all day was pink Pale Vanilla-lily (*Arthropodium milleflorum*), which unfortunately was always in bud. The filaments of the stamens are beautifully fringed. Common too was the pale pink Soft Crane's-bill (*Geranium potentilloides*) with dissected leaves with recurved hairs. A native grass was Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*) whose inflorescence stalks is often red. There was the lovely perfumed white Sweet Hound's-tongue (*Cynoglossum suaveolens*) with basal leaves and stem leaves decreasing in size up the stem; the well-named white Prickly Starwort (*Stellaria pungens*) which has sharp pointed leaves and flowers whose petals are so divided that there appears to be 10, not 5; purple Showy Violet (*Viola betonicifolia*); and usually yellow Curved Riceflower (*Pimelea curviflora* subsp. *curviflora*). Its tubular flowers can be bisexual or female and are hairy on the inside. We saw some uncommon plants with red flowers. Its fruit are curved.

Driving to our next stop was very frustrating. From the cars, we could see many interesting plants flowering, but the road was narrow, and busy with fishermen and hunters, so there was no place to park our vehicles with safety. We were finally able to stop, still within the fired area, just past Timbarra Central. We were now able to indulge ourselves in a wealth of flowering plants. The recovering trees with their low down cloaks of dense leaves meant the birds were forced to feed lower down than usual, and therefore easier to see and identify. Here there were a few orchids. These were the finger caladenias - pink Black-tongue Caladenia (*Caladenia congesta*) with its prominent black labellum; and white and pink Musky Caladenia (*Caladenia moschata*) whose white tepals (petals and sepals) are pink at their tips. There was also yellow and brown Tiger Orchid (*Diuris sulphurea*); the burgundy shoots of a hyacinth-orchid (*Dipodium* sp.) poking up through the soil; and greenish to brownish Short-lip Leek-orchid (*Prasophyllum brevifolium*) in several places. Short-lip Leek-orchid has a white sharply folded labellum. Other plants included the daisies – mauve Coarse Daisy (*Brachyscome spathulata*) with basal leaves with round toothed margins; yellow and white Button Everlasting (*Coronidium scorpioides*) with single flowers and grey green leaves; tiny Blue Bottle-daisy (*Lagenophora stipitata*) with a basal rosette of hairy leaves; and a yellow fireweed (*Senecio* sp.).

Lilies were yellow Bulbine Lily (*Bulbine bulbosa*) which has many flowers on the flowering stalk, but few open at the same time; blue Paroo Lily (*Dianella caerulea*) with leaves to 30cm and whose yellow anthers are much longer than their filaments; and Milkmaids (*Burchardia umbellata*) where its flowers have red ovaries. Two of the grasses were a very pretty blue green tussock-grass (*Poa* sp.); and Forest Hedgehog Grass (*Echinopogon ovatus*) which has a rough flowering stalk and a dense ovoid inflorescence. There were two strappy-leaved mat-rushes – the very common cream Spiny-headed Mat-rush (*Lomandra longifolia*) with nasty spines beneath the flower clusters; and the much smaller yellow Wattle Mat-rush (*L. filiformis*). The pliant leaves of Spiny-headed Mat-rush are still used by aborigines for basket work. The new riceflower here was the small cream Common Riceflower (*Pimelea humilis*), although Curved Riceflower was also here. Shrubs were white Manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*) with sharp pointed rounded leaves; Heath Pink-bells (*Tetratheca bauerifolia*) which has leaves in whorls of 4-6; and bright yellow Grey Guinea-flower (*Hibbertia obtusifolia*). Tiny shrubs or herbs were a bluebell (*Wahlenbergia* sp.); green to red Germander Raspwort (*Gonocarpus teucrioides*) with opposite ovate bristly leaves and tiny flowers (to 3mm); orange Small St John's Wort (*Hypericum gramineum*) which has wavy-edged stem-clasping leaves; white Small Poranthera (*Poranthera microphylla*) with terminal flowers in small clusters; and purple Austral Bugle (*Ajuga australis*), in the lavender family Lamiaceae, with square stems and flowers up the stems, in the axils of the decussate leaves. A new starwort with a trailing habit was white Forest Starwort (*Stellaria flaccida*) whose leaves are not prickly. Another violet here was mauve and white Ivy-leaved Violet (*Viola hederacea*).

Along the road to Green Hills, some of the banks were covered with swathes of the yellow daisy Clustered Everlasting (*Chrysocephalum semipapposum*) with grey green foliage and flower heads in terminal groups. Our destination was Green Hills Nature Conservation Reserve, which was purchased by the State Government in 2000-2 to protect native montane grasslands and associated montane grassy woodland and forest, in an area of contiguous native forest. It was previously private property and grazed by cattle, although not cultivated or fertilised. The montane grassland occurs on basalt caps. The grassland is significant for the high diversity of native grasses and herbs. One of the threatened species at Green Hills which we saw was the very unassuming white Austral Toad-flax (*Thesium australe*) with lax greenish-yellow stems and minute flowers. It is semi-parasitic on the roots of a range of grasses, notably Kangaroo Grass. The other was the Maroon Leek-orchid (*Prasophyllum frenchii*). Leek-orchids have a single erect cylindrical leaf. The Maroon Leek-orchid can be 60cm tall with up to 60 scented upside-down flowers in an open spike. The flowers vary in colour from greenish to maroon, the tepals are striped, short and broad, and the labellum is pinkish with a green callus. Yawning Leek-orchid (*P. chasmogamum*) is also on the threatened list here, but we didn't see any in flower. Another significant species protected here was mauve Dwarf Milkwort (*Polygala japonica*), a tiny wiry shrub (to 25cm) whose stems have tiny looping hairs.



Bindweed *Convolvulus graminetinus*
Photo by Jennifer Wilkinson

The view from the open grassland was spectacular. Many of the small plants we had seen before were represented in the grassland. There was a grouping of bright yellow Common Buttercup (*Ranunculus lappaceus*) which has hairy leaves and 5-petalled flowers. Two daisies were yellow Scaly Buttons (*Leptorhynchos squamatus*) which has leafy cottony stems; and pale blue Tufted Daisy (*Brachyscome scapigera*) with a rosette of simple leaves and single flowers. A shrub was white Heath (*Epacris gunnii*) with crowded stem-clasping sharp pointed leaves and crowded flowers near the tops of the stems. Two small herbs in the same family Rubiaceae were a woodruff (*Asperula* sp.) with rough stems; and a bedstraw (*Galium* sp.). All plants in the Rubiaceae have opposite simple entire leaves, tubular regular flowers and an inferior ovary. Apparently in Europe, the dried matted foliage of some bedstraws was used for stuffing mattresses. A nearby tree was Snow Gum (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*) whose leaves have several main parallel veins. The sound of cicadas from the trees was somewhat deafening. An Emu dropping was noted.



Thyme-leaved Speedwell *Veronica serpyllifolia*
Photo by Jennifer Wilkinson

Further into the reserve we found quite a few more Maroon Leek-orchids. We also saw Austral Toad-flax here. There were several patches of the very pretty, very prostrate rare pink bindweed (*Convolvulus graminetinus*). It is a perennial with trailing and twining branches and funnel-shaped flowers on stalks to 45mm. There was also the tiny mauve Dwarf Skullcap (*Scutellaria humilis*) whose flower is 2-lipped; and the tiny Thyme-leaved Speedwell (*Veronica serpyllifolia*) which had been much deformed by the attack of a fungal rust. The swollen leaves were embedded with brown fruiting bodies, which on magnification could be seen to have a central hole spilling out brown spores. There are over

7000 species of rust worldwide, and some are a significant problem for crops. Among the lovely buttercups here, two of the flowers had multiple petals, so they look like a small version of a pom pom dahlia. The most common bluebell was Tufted Bluebell (*Wahlenbergia granitica*) with several stems from its base.

What a brilliant day, thank you James.

Plants:

Ajuga australis Austral Bugle
Arthropodium milleflorum Pale Vanilla-lily
Asperula sp. a woodruff
Brachyscome scapigera Tufted Daisy
B. spathulata Coarse Daisy
Bulbine bulbosa Bulbine Lily
Burchardia umbellata Milkmaids
Caladenia congesta Black-tongue Caladenia
C. moschata Musky Caladenia
Chrysocephalum semipapposum Clustered Everlasting
Convolvulus graminetinus a bindweed
Coronidium scorpioides Button Everlasting
Cynoglossum suaveolens Sweet Hound's-tongue
Dianella caerulea Paroo Lily
Dipodium sp. a hyacinth-orchid
Diuris sulphurea Tiger Orchid
Echinopogon ovatus Forest Hedgehog Grass
Epacris gunnii Heath
Eucalyptus pauciflora Snow Gum
E. pseudoglobulus Gippsland Blue Gum
Galium sp. a bedstraw
Geranium potentilloides Soft Crane's-bill
Glycine clandestina Twining Glycine
Gonocarpus teucrioides Germander Raspwort
Hibbertia obtusifolia Grey Guinea-flower
Hypericum gramineum Small St John's Wort
Lagenophora stipitata Blue Bottle-daisy
Leptorhynchus squamatus Scaly Buttons
Leptospermum scoparium Manuka
Linum marginale Native Flax
Lissanthe strigosa Peach Heath
Lomandra filiformis Wattle Mat-rush
L. longifolia Spiny-headed Mat-rush
Pimelea curviflora subsp. *curviflora* Curved Riceflower
P. humilis Common Riceflower
Poa sp. a tussock-grass
Polygala japonica Dwarf Milkwort
Poranthera microphylla Small Poranthera
Prasophyllum brevilabre Short-lip Leek-orchid
P. frenchii Maroon Leek-orchid
Ranunculus lappaceus Common Buttercup
Scutellaria humilis Dwarf Skullcap

Senecio sp. a fireweed
Stellaria flaccida Forest Starwort
S. pungens Prickly Starwort
Tetratheca bauerifolia Heath Pink-bells
Themeda triandra Kangaroo Grass
Thesium australe Austral Toad-flax
Veronica gracilis Slender Speedwell
V. serpyllifolia Thyme-leaved Speedwell
Viola betonicifolia Showy Violet
V. hederacea Ivy-leaved Violet
Wahlenbergia granitica Tufted Bluebell



Maroon Leek-orchid *Prasophyllum frenchii*

Photo by Dianne Weir

Birds:

Emu dropping

Dinner Hill and Mt Victoria Road

Dusky Woodswallow

Grey Shrike-thrush

Laughing Kookaburra

Olive-backed Oriole

Pied Currawong

Rufous Songlark

Rufous Whistler

Sacred Kingfisher

Spotted Pardalote

Striated Pardalote

White-winged Chough (on nest)

Yellow-faced Honeyeater

Yellow-tufted Honeyeater

Timbarra North

Australian Magpie

Grey Fantail

Laughing Kookaburra

Satin Flycatcher

Superb Fairy-wren

White-browed Scrubwren

White-naped Honeyeater

Yellow-faced Honeyeater

Green Hills

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike

Crimson Rosella

Gang-gang Cockatoo

Grey Shrike-thrush

Jacky Winter

Masked Lapwing

Nankeen Kestrel

Noisy Friarbird

Pied Currawong

Spotted Pardalote

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo

Yellow-faced Honeyeater



Yellow-tufted Honeyeater



Noisy Friarbird

**Bird photos by Ken Russell
Birdlife East Gippsland**

The Newsletter of the Bairnsdale & District

Field Naturalists Club Inc.

If undelivered please return to:

P.O. Box 563, BAIRNSDALE. Vic. 3875

POSTAGE

PAID

BAIRNSDALE