

HFNC Excursion to Rock Art Shelters on Victoria Range, 30 April 1966

Margaret Corrick

The party of eleven adults and 8 juniors left 3HA at 9.15 and reached the Billywing turnoff at 10 am. The leader was Mr Ellis Tucker.

The first stop was near Red Rock Creek, where Mr Tucker showed the party a painted rock face located during Easter 1966 by Dr Agar of Geelong. There was one lizard still very clear and several others very faded.

After lunch the party drove further up towards the north of the range and walked up another creek to an interesting gorge and then out of the gorge to higher levels where many wind-eroded caves and fissures are to be seen.

Notes from Ellis Tucker from a visit to the area on 8/4/1966

One very clear red stick figure at Red Rock Creek. Several more lizard types very faded and flaked.

Two new shelters with paintings found North-East of Cultivation Creek No. 4. Many paintings in three groups in the first – badly flaked. Well used camp site – deep ash bed – some flakes and stone chips and charred mussel shells. Second site – several paintings – only two clear – stained and flaked.

Owl roost and pellet deposit found adjoining C.C. No. 1. Owl flushed – believed to be Boobook. Approx. a dozen mammalian jawbones collected and sent to Curator of mammals – Vict. Museum. The bones were identified as *Chalinolobus* sp. (possibly *C. morio* – Chocolate Bat), *Antechinus stuartii* [now *A. agilis* – Agile Antechinus], *Antechinus flavipes* (Yellow-footed Phascogale), *Cercartetus nanus* (Pygmy Possum) and *Rattus assimilis* [now *R. fuscipes* – Bush Rat].

Small crustaceans, later identified as *Phreatoicid terracola*, were collected from rock pools in creek bed above Red Rock Creek. There were many hundreds of the Freshwater Shrimps of all sizes.

Many large Austral King-ferns [*Todea barbara*] seen. Orchids included *Prasophyllum nigricans* [possibly *Corunastylis tepperi*, as *Pr. nigricans* does not occur here], *Eriochilus cucculatus* (Parsons Bands) in great numbers and *Prasophyllum parviflora* on higher peaks [possibly *Pr. australe* – *Pr. parviflorum* does not occur in Western Victoria].

A painting site was found in the valley of south branch of Cultivation Creek, south of the Goat Track. Very exposed rockface paintings – seven or eight traditional lizard men, very faded and weathered. The placement of figures interesting – grouped around a large, deep hole in rockface, as if issuing from it.



Bushy Clubmoss LE

The Matrush seen blooming on the day of excursion is the Small-flowered Matrush (*Lomandra micrantha*).

Approximately one acre of Bushy Clubmoss (*Lycopodium deuterodensum*) was found south of the Goat Track, in the Cultivation Creek valley.

Notes from Keith Walker on 19/5/1966

Keith and Ian McCann (Stawell FNC) had taken Mr Aldo Massola to view the new painting sites in Cultivation Creek area and had located two but had been unable to find the two new ones located by Mr Tucker over Easter 1966.