

## HFNC Excursion to the Chimney Pot on 28 May 1966

Margaret Corrick

We left 3Ha at 9.0 am, with 15 members including juniors. Our leader was Keith Walker.

The first stop was at Victoria Point where a large patch of grass tree *Xanthorrhoea major* [*australis*] in flower attracted attention. We also found Fringed Hare-orchids (*Leptoceras fimbriatum*) in flower here and the Gnat or Mosquito Orchid (*Acianthus exertus*) [now *Acianthus pusillus* – Small Mosquito Orchid]. *Pterostylis longifolia* (Tall Greenhood) [now *Pterostylis melagramma* – Black-striped Greenhood] was in bud.

We were distressed to see the extensive burning which the Forests Commission had done west of the Bullawin Rd and extending north as far as the Victoria Valley Rd. A small fern gully which had contained a fine specimen of *Banksia integrifolia* [now *Banksia saxicola* – Rock Banksia] was completely destroyed. This species is found only on the highest places of the Victoria Range and on other high points of the Grampians, notably Mt William and the major Mitchell Plateau. [It occurs elsewhere only on the coastal granites at Wilson Promontory]. The Bullawin Rd specimen was a particularly fine one and we have not seen one elsewhere in the Grampians at such a low altitude as this.

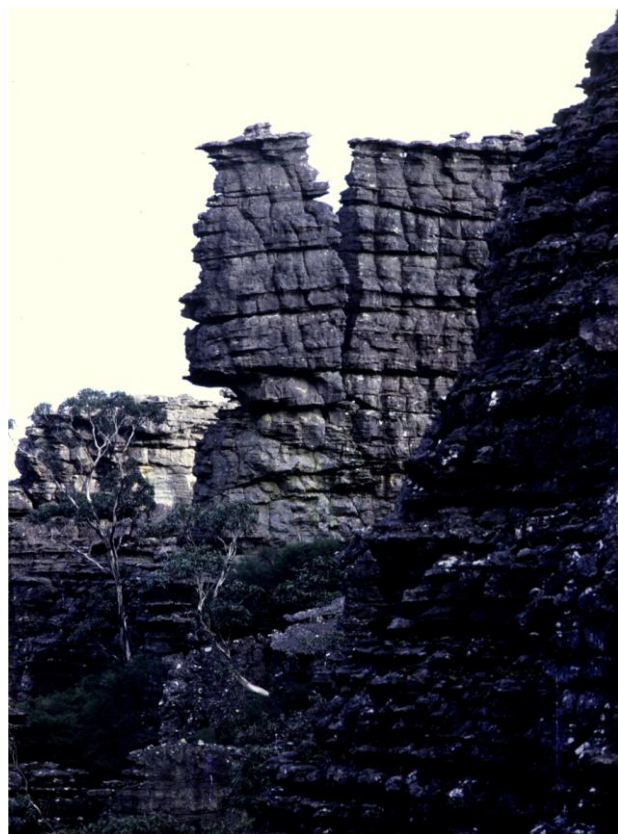
We had an early lunch in the waterworks clearing and started walking at 12.30. The track was well marked with red metal tags on the trees and led right around the Chimney Pot rock masses. Three members of the party reached the highest point on the Chimney Pot.



Chimney Pots viewed from the south LE

The bush in this vicinity had not been burnt and the undergrowth was not unduly thick. Many good specimens up to 8 ft high of the beard heath (*Leucopogon neurophyllus*) were coming to flower. *Banksia integrifolia* was plentiful higher up.

A valley behind the Chimney Pot was well sheltered and damp. It contained some tall Mountain Grey Gums [*Eucalyptus alaticaulis*], Messmate (*E. obliqua*) and ferns – Mother Spleenwort [*Asplenium bulbiferum*] and Kangaroo Fern [*Microsorium diversifolium*].



Chimney Pots NE corner LE

On the south-west slopes we noted the Brown Stringybark (*E. baxteri*) and another eucalypt, possibly the Scribbly Gum.

A very attractive waterfall was observed on the creek flowing from the SE side of the Chimney Pot. It flowed over a very smooth rock face and was surrounded by Coral Fern [*Gleichenia microphylla*].

Near this waterfall 3 members of the party noted a small rock shelter and a quick inspection yielded about six aboriginal stone tools.