

HFNC Excursion to caves near Mt Zero and Mt Stapylton on 24 Sept. 1966

Margaret Corrick

A party of 10 adults left Hamilton at 9.0 am and went first to the Cave of Ghosts [Ngamadjidj Shelter].

Although covered with protective netting, those who had previously seen the paintings [Aborigine rock art] reported that they were fading noticeably. All this group [a line of dancing figures] had been done in white pipe clay or similar substance.

Several stops were made during the day to look at wildflowers, which were probably at the peak of their season. *Thryptomene calycina* [Grampians Thryptomene] and *Prostanthera rotundifolia* [Round-leaf Mintbush] were prominent in the bush. Other species making a colourful display were *Grevillea alpina* [Mountain Grevillea], *G. aquifolium* [Holly Grevillea], *Eriostemon verrucosus* [*Philotheca verrucosa*] (Fairy Wax-flower), *Calytrix tetragona* (Common Fringe-myrtle), *Calytrix alpestris* (Snow Myrtle) and *Micromyrtis ciliata* [Heath-myrtle], as well as smaller plants. Specimens of some flowers from the area were collected and were exhibited later at a club meeting.

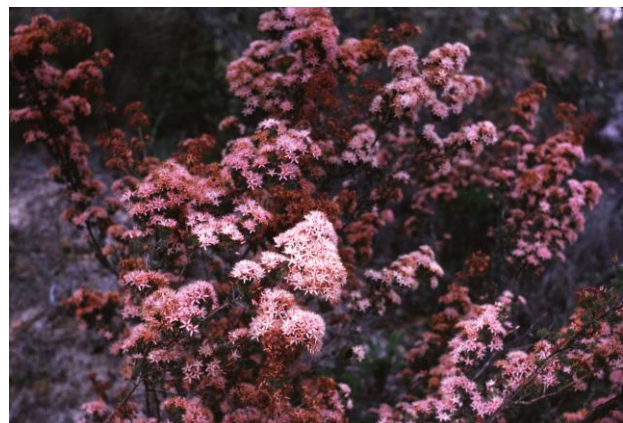


Spring wildflower display in the northern Grampians LE

After lunch we climbed to the lookout point on Mt Stapylton [Gunigalg] which commands an extensive view. Interesting rock formations and examples of wind-worm cavities were noted. A fairly large rock pool yielded some interesting specimens including a small crustacean with a transparent bi-valve shell, probably a species of 'fairy shrimp'.

Finally, we inspected the Cave of Red Hands [this is now Flat Rock 1, **Gulgurn Manja Shelter**, containing prints of a great number of childrens hands] where all the work has been done in red ochre. The hands are prints – not silhouettes – as in the Billywing Cave of Hands [**Wab Manja Shelter**].

Three Marbled Gecko were also collected and will be kept for a short period only for observation.



Common Fringe-myrtle LE