

HFNC Excursion to Strachans Fern Gully in the Grampians, 29 Oct. 1966

Margaret Corrick

Seventeen adults and 6 juniors attended. We left 3HA at 9.15 and travelled via McIntyres Crossing and Bullawin Rd where 3 stops were made.

The Bullawin Rd area has been heavily burned during the last 6 months but the areas which had escaped burning within the last year showed some interesting plants. *Patersonia fragilis* [Short Purple-flag] and *Boronia nana* [now *Cyanothamnus nanus* var. *nanus* – Dwarf Boronia] were photographed at one spot and Pink Swamp-heath [*Sprengelia incarnata*] was at its best in several places. One plant, *Lyperanthus nigricans* [now *Pyrorchis nigricans* – Red-beaks], was seen in flower, also one large plant of *Thelymitra grandiflora* [now *Thelymitra aristata* – Great Sun-orchid]



Unburned area on Bullawin Rd LE



Gompholobium ecostatum LE



Hovea heterophylla LE



Lobelia gibbosa LE



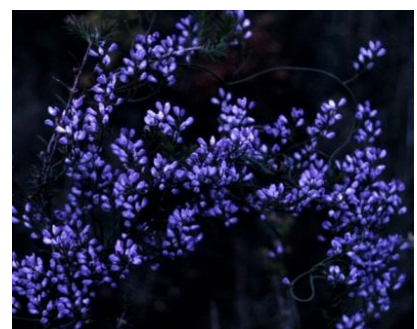
Sprengelia incarnata LE



Patersonia fragilis LE



Thysanotus tuberosus LE



Comesperma volubile LE

[Photos by Lionel Elmore are shown of some flora species not mentioned by the author in the report. The species from Bullawin Rd are *Hovea heterophylla* (Common Hovea), *Thysanotus tuberosis* (Common Fringe-lily), *Comesperma volubile* (Love Creeper), *Lobelia gibbosa* (Tall Lobelia). Other species near Strachans Huts and fern gully off Sawmill Track are *Kunzea parvifolia* (Violet Kunzea), *Olearia ciliata* (Fringed Daisy-bush) and *Cyathea australis* (Rough Treefern)].

Lunch was taken at Strachans Camp before proceeding to the fern gully. White-naped Honeyeaters were nesting in the camp area.



Kunzea parvifolia LE



Olearia ciliata LE

[No directions were provided in the report as to the precise location of the fern gully but it is thought that it is adjacent to the nearby Sawmill Track, which leads on to the Victoria Range Rd. This high rainfall area was a major logging site from *Eucalyptus alaticaulis* (Grampians Grey Gum) and *Eucalyptus obliqua* (Messmate Stringybark). Logging ended in about 1990, after the Grampians State Forest was designated as the Grampians National Park in 1984. Few big, old trees remained at that time.

Rough Treeferns (*Cyathea australis*) have rough tubercles at the base of the fronds, whereas Soft Treefern (*Dicksonia Antarctica*) has soft, reddish-brown hair at the base of the fronds].



Rough Treeferns, Grampians Grey Gum & Messmate LE