

# HFNC Excursion to Elmore's scoria cone, cave and bridge at Mount Napier on 28 Sept. 1968

Lionel Elmore & Margaret Corrick

Nine members attended this excursion.

The party visited two groups of parasitic cones about one mile west of the main Mt Napier crater. At the second group [about 250 m south from the E-W stone fence] we saw a lava cave and natural lava bridge over the lava channel that issues from the scoria cone [in later years, HFNC named these features after Lionel, who discovered and documented them].

While the party was there another well-preserved cave or lava tunnel 60-70 feet in length was discovered. Two owls were disturbed and a deposit of owl pellets noted.

Bat guano on the floor of the first and smaller cave indicated its occasional use by a bat colony.

A number of plants were listed (see Margaret Corrick's list from 28/09/1968) and these could perhaps be regarded as remnants of a once more diverse flora, downgraded by grazing and frequent burning [that has been the history of the Mt Napier crown land in years past – the country was burned regularly by adjacent farmers wishing to promote grass for grazing livestock].

The members noted the encroachment of weed species into the flora. This encroachment appears to be general throughout the district and possibly could be accounted for by the increased soil fertility in the year following the drought.

## Flora of the lava flow about 1 mile west of Mt Napier

<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> – Blackwood	<i>Juncus capitatus</i> * – Rush
<i>Acaena ovina</i> – Sheep's Burr	<i>Moenchia erecta</i> * – Erect Chickweed
<i>Ajuga australis</i> – Austral Bugle	<i>Myosotis australis</i> – Forget-me-not
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i> * – Pimpernel	<i>Oxalis perenans</i> – Grassy Wood-sorrel
<i>Arctotheca calendula</i> * – Capeweed	<i>Ozothamnus ferrugineus</i> – Tree Everlasting
<i>Asplenium flabellifolium</i> – Necklace Fern	<i>Parietaria debilis</i> – Forest Pellitory
<i>Bellardia latifolia</i> * –	<i>Pelargonium australe</i> – Austral Pelargonium
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i> – Sweet Bursaria	<i>Pellaea falcata</i> – Sickie Fern
<i>Calandrinia calyptata</i> – Pink Purslane	<i>Plantago varia</i> – Variable Plantain
<i>Centaureum minus</i> * – Centaury	<i>Pleurosorus rutifolius</i> – Blanket Fern
<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i> * – Mouse-ear Chickweed	<i>Polystichum proliferum</i> – Mother Shield Fern
<i>Cheilanthes tenuifolia</i> – Rock Fern	<i>Poranthera microphylla</i> – Small Poranthera
<i>Crassula sieberiana</i> – Sieber Crassula	<i>Pteridium esculentum</i> – Austral Bracken
<i>Cymbonotus preissianus</i> – Bear's Ear	<i>Ranunculus sessiliflorus</i> – Buttercup sp.
<i>Cynoglossum suaveolens</i> – Sweet Hound's-tongue	<i>Rubus parvifolius</i> – Small-leaf Bramble
<i>Daucus glodchidiatus</i> – Austral Carrot	<i>Rumex brownii</i> – Slender Dock
<i>Dichondra repens</i> – Kidney Weed	<i>Senecio glomeratus</i> – Annual Fireweed
<i>Epilobium billardierianum</i> ? – Variable Willow-herb	<i>Senecio pinnatifolius</i> – Variable Groundsel
<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i> – Manna Gum	<i>Senecio quadridentatus</i> – Cotton Fireweed
<i>Exocarpos cupressiformis</i> – Cherry Ballart	<i>Solanum laciniatum</i> – Kangaroo Apple
<i>Ficinia marginata</i> – Club-rush	<i>Solanum nigrum</i> * – Black Nightshade
<i>Galium gaudichaudii</i> – Rough Bedstraw	<i>Spergularia</i> sp. – Sand Spurrey
<i>Geranium potentilloides</i> – Crane's-bill	<i>Stellaria media</i> – Chickweed
<i>Hydrocotyle callicarpa</i> or <i>foveolata</i>	<i>Trifolium</i> sp. * – Clover sp.
<i>Hydrocotyle laxiflora</i> – Stinking Pennywort	<i>Veronica</i> sp. * – Speedwell
<i>Hypericum gramineum</i> – Small St John's Wort	<i>Viola betonicifolia</i> – Showy Violet
<i>Hypoxis pusilla</i> – Yellow Star	<i>Viola hederacea</i> – Ivy-leaf Violet
<i>Isotoma fluvialilis</i> – Swamp Isotome	<i>Wahlenbergia gracilis</i> ? – Sprawling Bluebell

### \* Introduced species

No attempt was made to include all introduced species.

[The botanic names of some species in this list have been updated]