

HFNC Excursion to Victoria Point on 27 Oct 1968

Margaret & Bill Corrick

Participants: Western Victoria Field Naturalists Club Association excursion, hosted by HFNC.

The convoy left Hamilton at 9.30 am and proceeded past the Strathkellar swamp to Moutajup and thence to Bryants Swamp, then Victoria Point and the Water Reserve on the south side of the road.

Strathkellar Swamp – this small swamp is found immediately past the railway crossing. It usually contains water birds & possible migratory waders. As we travel east good views of the Grampians can be seen: particularly prominent straight ahead is the southern end of the Serra Range. On your right is Mt. Sturgeon and Mt Abrupt and Signal Peak are to the left. Victoria Range is around to the north-west.

Bryants Swamp – The road passes through a cutting in a lunette and passes close to the south side of the swamp; a Fisheries & Wildlife Game Reserve. Some tree planting has been done, mainly on the western side, and some duck nesting boxes installed. The swamp has been a site for Ibis rookeries, although it is some years since birds have bred here. There was a brief stop to look for waterbirds.

Victoria Point – this is the southern extremity of the Victoria Range. Our picnic spot is the Crown Land Water Reserve containing a permanent spring. That supplies water for 3 farm dams lower down the hill and flowed all through the recent drought. After the Wannon River dried up it was the only water for miles around. Over one hundred species of plants have been listed for this small area. For the day's outing a nature trail has been laid out through the reserve. There is also plenty of interest in the bush on the north side of the road. Please do not pick orchids. It is suggested that where necessary any other specimens should only be taken if plentiful and well away from the road.

The Nature Trail was planned two weeks ago, so it is likely that some things listed may not still be in good flower. Only the showy and larger species have been marked but we will be pleased to help in identifying other things where possible.

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| 1. <i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i> (Yellow Box) | 22. <i>Muellerina eucalyptoides</i> (Creeping Mistletoe) |
| 2. <i>Acacia mearnsii</i> (Black Wattle) | 23. <i>E. camaldulensis</i> (Red Gum) |
| 3. <i>Astroloma conostephioides</i> (Flame Heath) | 24. <i>A. melanoxylon</i> (Blackwood) |
| 4. <i>Caladenia carnea</i> (Pink Fingers) | 25. <i>Bulbine bulbosa</i> (Bulbine Lily) |
| 5. <i>Glossodia major</i> (Waxlip Orchid) | 26. <i>Myoporum insulare</i> (Boobialla) |
| 6. <i>Brachyloma daphnoides</i> (Daphne Heath) | 27. <i>Cheilanthes tenuifolia</i> (Rock Fern) |
| 7. <i>E. melliodora</i> (Yellow Box) | 28. <i>Anguillaria dioica</i> (Early Nancy) |
| 8. <i>Dodonaea cuneata</i> (Hop Bush, narrow leaf) | 29. <i>Pterostylis concinna</i> (Trim Greenhood) |
| 9. <i>Dichopogon strictus</i> (Chocolate Lily) | 30. <i>Blechnum nudum</i> (Fish-bone Water Fern) |
| 10. <i>Microseris scapigera</i> (Yam) | 31. <i>Melaleuca squarrosa</i> (Scented Paper-bark) |
| 11. <i>Drosera auriculata</i> (Sundew) | 32. <i>Leptospermum lanigerum</i> (Woolly Tea-tree) |
| 12. <i>Ranunculus robertsonii</i> (Buttercup) | 33. <i>Goodenia ovata</i> (Hop Goodenia) |
| 13. <i>Leptospermum scoparium</i> (Tea Tree) | 34. <i>A. verticillata</i> (Prickly Moses) |
| 14. <i>Diuris maculata</i> (Leopard Orchid) | 35. <i>Todea barbara</i> (King Fern) |
| 15. <i>Pterostylis longifolia</i> (Tall Greenhood) | 36. <i>Caladenia dilatata</i> (Greencomb Spider) |
| 16. <i>Exocarpos cupressiformis</i> (Cherry Ballart) | 37. <i>Pterostylis pedunculata</i> (Maroon-hood) |
| 17. <i>Thelymitra</i> sp. (Sun Orchid) | 38. <i>Acianthus caudatus</i> (Mayfly Orchid) |
| 18. <i>Chamaescilla corymbosa</i> (Blue Squill) | 39. <i>Myoporum viscosum</i> (Sticky Boobialla) |
| 19. <i>Diuris pedunculata</i> (Golden Moth Orchid) | 40. <i>Pterostylis nutans</i> (Nodding Greenhood) |
| 20. <i>Hypoxis glabella</i> (Yellow Star) | 41. <i>Caladenia patersonii</i> (Spider var. hastata) |
| 21. <i>A. armata</i> (Hedge Wattle) | |

[Note – many botanic names (genus and species) have changed since this list was made but the common names give a link to recent changes in nomenclature].

Murray Gunn has provided a separate list of 125 **birds of the southern Victoria Range** area, of which number visitors should have a reasonable chance of seeing 67 species.

Return to Hamilton

The road crosses the Wannon River and continues over the now almost treeless basaltic Karabeal Plain. Near Hamilton the volcanic hills of Mt. Baimbridge, Mt. Pierpoint & Mt Napier may be seen.