

HFNC Excursion to Mt William in the Grampians, on 30 Nov. 1969

Margaret Corrick

Twelve adults and 7 juniors attended this excursion. The group in 5 cars left 3HA in Hamilton at 9.30 am and met up at the Mt. William turntable at 12 noon, for the walk to the summit. It was a pleasant, mild day with high cloud and intermittent sun.

Mt William is one of several high areas of the Grampians which are particularly interesting botanically, the others being Major Mitchell Plateau, Mt Rosea, Mt Difficult and the Victoria Range. The summits of these mountains and ranges, as well as the damp gullies, carry some uncommon plants not found in other parts of the Grampians.

Most of those plants that are well represented on Mt William were seen in good flower, including the following:

- *Pultenaea subalpina* (Rosy Bush-pea) – a showy endemic but a little past its prime
- *Dianella tasmanica* (Tasman Flax-lily)
- *Leucopogon neurophyllus* [Veined Beard-heath]
- *Caladenia lyalli* [now *C. alpina* – Mountain caladenia]
- *Correa lawrenciana* [Mountain Correa]

Acacia obliquinervia [Mountain Hickory Wattle] and *Banksia integrifolia* [now *B. saxicola* – Rock Banksia] were prominent, although not flowering. The endemic *Dillwynia oreodoxa* [Grampians Parrot-pea] was very showy but common throughout the whole area.

A treeless exposed area on top of the cliffs below the transmission tower was covered with *Melaleuca squamea* [Swamp Honey-myrtle] in full flower.

A damp gully about half way up the road below the turntable was explored briefly. Plants seen there included the following species:

- *Olearia asterotricha* [Rough Daisy-bush] – a blue-flowered shrub
- *Olearia speciosa* [Daisy-bush] – a white-flowered shrub
- *Pultenaea juniperina* [Prickly Bush-pea]
- *Pultenaea benthamii* [Bentham's Bush-pea]
- *Pultenaea scabra* [Rough Bush-pea]
- *Pultenaea maidenii* [Maiden's Bush-pea – another Grampians endemic]
- *Clematis aristata* [Mountain Clematis]
- *Dianella tasmanica* (Tasman Flax-lily)
- *Trymalium* [now *Spyridium daltonii* – Grampians Spyridium, an endemic species]
- *Goodenia ovata* [Hop Goodenia]
- *Chiloglottis gunnii* [now *Chiloglottis valida* – Common Bird-orchid]
- *Pimelea curviflora* [Curved Rice-flower] – several big plants were close by the roadside; this species is plentiful in a stunted form on roadsides and railway lines near Hamilton.

[updated botanical names have been inserted and common names included where formerly not included].

Insects

Large flocks of the Caper White Butterfly (*Anaphalis javateuonia*) were seen. This is a common migratory species (identity confirmed by Geoff Stephens and the book 'Australian Butterflies').

Many thousands of Bogong Moths (*Agrotis infusa*) were found in crevices among the rocks. The larva of this moth is the cutworm, a well-know pest of winter crops and pastures. It belongs to the family *Noctuidae* of which 1,050 species have been identified in Australia. The book 'Australian Moths' states that 'The adults, known as the Bogong Moth, migrate in the Spring to the higher mountains where they cluster in crevices and small caves during summer months. They return to their breeding grounds to deposit their eggs'. Specimens of the moth were referred to Geoff Stevens who agreed that the identification was correct but he stated that he had always thought a larger species of the family to be the Bogong Moth. It seems likely that the vernacular name has been applied to more than one species.