

HFNC Excursion to the Black Range/Burrunj on 24 May 1975

Rod Bird

We visited the Black Range/Burrunj from the Rocklands-Cherrypool Track off the Henty Highway at Cherrypool/Djarabul). That track takes one through Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*)/River Red Gum (*E. camaldulensis*)/Yellow Gum (*E. leucoxylon*) woodland, with Oyster Bay Pine (*Callitris rhomboidea*), some Long-leaved Box (*E. goniocalyx*) and Brown Stringybark (*E. baxteri*) as one approaches HGH Corner. The wattle in flower here in winter is usually Varnish Wattle (*Acacia verniciflua*) and some were beginning to flower. The day was rather wet but all tracks were good.

We turned right at HGH Corner and proceeded north, then west, to the picnic area near the eastern side of the range. That track takes one through a dense heathland with many species. Grampians Thryptomene (*Thryptomene calycina*) was just starting to flower. Hakeas, Hibbertias and heaths were all flowering, with Alpine Grevillea (*Grevillea alpina*), Lavender Grevillea (*G. lavandulacea*), Mint Bush (*Prostanthera* sp.) and Heath Myrtle (*Micromyrtus ciliata*) especially bright.



Grevillea alpina



Grevillea lavandulacea



Prostanthera denticulata



Micromyrtus ciliata

From the parking area the track leads up a small rise and past a small rock shelter that now has a wire mesh screen to prevent vandalism of the Aborigine art work there. Rocks around the area were broken.

Orchids of note that were seen on the moss-clad rocky slope were Gnat Orchids (*Cyrtostylis reniformis*) and Red-tip Greenhood (*Pterostylis parviflora*?). The Fringed Hare-orchid (*Leporella fimbriata*) was seen on the sandy flat west of the rise.

On the cliff ledges the Grampians Heath (*Epacris impressa* ver. *grandiflora*) was flowering brightly and there was some evidence of flowers on Large-leaf Ray-flower shrubs (*Cyphanthera anthocercidea*) – a rare plant. At the base of the cliff was a dense growth of plants, including Rough Bush-pea (*Pultenaea scabra*) and Heath Myrtle.



Rough Bush-pea



Epacris impressa var *grandiflora*



Fringed Hare Orchid

The general feeling of the club members was that, because of its size and great scenic and botanical attractions, the entire Black Range area should be a National Park (or as part of a Grampians National Park). The area extends south to the Rockland Reservoir and east to the Henty Highway, with some Crown Lands extending some way south from Cherrypool. The area contains the largest representation of intact Yellow Box/Yellow Gum/Grey Box Woodlands in western Victoria and should be protected.

Plants found in the Black Range area:

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| Alpine Grevillea (<i>Grevillea alpina</i>) | Long-leaved Box (<i>Eucalyptus goniocalyx</i>) |
| Beaked Hakea (<i>Hakea rostrata</i>) | Manuka (<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>) |
| Black-anther Flax-lily (<i>Dianella revoluta</i>) | Milkmaids (<i>Burchardia umbellata</i>) |
| Brown Stringybark (<i>Eucalyptus baxteri</i>) | Mint Bush (<i>Prostanthera</i> spp.) |
| Brush Heath (<i>Brachyloma ericoides</i>) | Nodding Blue-lily (<i>Stypantra glauca</i>) |
| Buloke (<i>Allocasuarina luehmannii</i>) | Orange Bell-climber (<i>Marianthus bignoniaceus</i>) |
| Bundled Hibbertia (<i>Hibbertia fasciculata</i> var <i>prostrata</i>) | Oyster Bay Pine (<i>Callitris rhomboidea</i>) |
| Bushy Needlewood (<i>Hakea decurrens</i>) | Pine Heath (<i>Stenanthera pinifolia</i>) |
| Cherry Ballart (<i>Exocarpos cupressiformis</i>) | Pink Beard-heath (<i>Styphelia ericoides</i>) |
| Common Correa (<i>Correa reflexa</i>) | Prickly Cryptandra (<i>Cryptandra tomentosa</i>) |
| Common Flat-pea (<i>Platylobium obtusangulum</i>) | River Red Gum (<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>) |
| Common Heath (<i>Epacris impressa</i>) | Rough Bush-pea (<i>Pultenaea scabra</i>) |
| Cranberry Heath (<i>Styphelia humifusa</i>) | Round-leaf Mint-bush (<i>Prostanthera rotundifolia</i>) |
| Daphne Heath (<i>Brachyloma daphnoides</i>) | Scent-bark (<i>Eucalyptus aromaphloia</i>) |
| Desert Banksia (<i>Banksia ornata</i>) | Scrub Sheoak (<i>Allocasuarina paludosa</i>) |
| Drooping Sheoak (<i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i>) | Showy Bauera (<i>Bauera sessiliflora</i>) |
| Dusty Miller (<i>Spyridium parvifolium</i>) | Showy Parrot-pea (<i>Dillwynia sericea</i>) |
| Dwarf Bush-pea (<i>Pultenaea humilis</i>) | Silver Banksia (<i>Banksia marginata</i>) |
| Erect Guinea-flower (<i>Hibbertia riparia</i>) | Slaty Sheoak (<i>Allocasuarina muelleriana</i>) |
| Flame Heath (<i>Stenanthera conostephioides</i>) | Sweet Bursaria (<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>) |
| Fringed Hare-orchid (<i>Leporella fimbriata</i>) | Thryptomene (<i>Thryptomene calycina</i>) |
| Golden Heath (<i>Styphelia adscendens</i>) | Twiggy Daisy-bush (<i>Olearia ramulosa</i>) |
| Greenhoods (<i>Pterostylis</i> spp.) | Variable Prickly Grevillea (<i>Grevillea aquifolium</i>) |
| Heath Myrtle (<i>Micromyrtus ciliata</i>) | Varnish Wattle (<i>Acacia verniciflua</i>) |
| Heath Tea-tree (<i>Leptospermum myrsinoides</i>) | Victorian Smoke-bush (<i>Conospermum mitchellii</i>) |
| Hedge Wattle (<i>Acacia paradoxa</i>) | Violet Kunzea (<i>Kunzea parvifolia</i>) |
| Inland Pigface (<i>Carpobrotus modestus</i>) | Wedge-leaved Hop-bush (<i>Dodonaea cuneata</i>) |
| Ixodia (<i>Ixodia achillaeoides</i>) | Winged Spyridium (<i>Spyridium vexilliferum</i>) |
| Kangaroo Grass (<i>Themeda triandra</i>) | Yellow Box (<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>) |
| Large-leaf Ray-flower (<i>Cyphanthera anthocercidea</i>) | Yellow Gum (<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</i>) |
| Leafless Bitter-pea (<i>Daviesia brevifolia</i>) | Yellow Hakea (<i>Hakea nodosa</i>) |