

EXCURSION REPORT

SUNDAY JUNE 6 2010

'Stony Rises'

Present: John & Glenys Cayley, Dave & Lyn Munro, Ken & Janeen Grimes, Jane Hayes & Sarah McLean from Earth First.

We met Sarah at the Tourist Centre in Hamilton. Sarah led us out Mt. Napier Road to Earth First's recent purchase - 'Stony Rises' north east of Mt. Napier. Earth First has bought, for preservation, approximately 65 acres of forest covering an area of lava flow from Mt. Napier.

We enjoyed a very pleasant ramble through this forest. Although rocky and somewhat damp underfoot, due to the covered stony landscape it was a delight. A mixture of Manna Gum, Black Wood plus an occasional Cherry Ballart makes up most of this forest. There are quite a few very large gum trees; some still standing and some toppled and lying on the ground, which have obviously died in a forest fire many years ago. Sprouting from these dead tree trunks are beautiful bracket fungi. The ground is also carpeted with a variety of fungi, it was great to have Dave, and Lyn recording, as well as explaining, the intricate details of these fungi. (See list 1 below). Jane Hayes did a sterling job recording the birds flitting about the forest (see list 2 below), especially with the level of noise created by those other pesky humans! There are interesting lava flow features such as small ridges, barriers and domes. Another feature surrounding this area is the once well-made dry-stone walls, some parts have fallen into disrepair however, many of the fallen stones have a beautiful moss and fungi garden flourishing on the surface, the overall effect is quite splendid. We only saw one koala, but Sarah said that there are quite a few, a statement backed-up by bare branches near the tops of the Manna Gums. It would be interesting to conduct a hair-tube survey in order to find out something about the small ground-dwelling mammals that are also likely to be present. It would also be interesting to visit Stony Rises in the spring.

List 1 - Fungi

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	COMMENTS
<i>Agaricus sp</i>	Edible Mushroom	Only 2 seen
<i>Amanita xanthocephala</i>	Vermillion Grisette	One seen on track nr caravan
<i>Clitocybe clitocyboides</i>	Funnel Cap	few patches
<i>Cortinarius (?) clelandii</i>		Few scattered patches
<i>Crepidotus sp</i>		White, gilled bracket on live <i>Ac melanoxylon</i>
<i>Galerina hypnorum</i>	Moss Galerina	several patches on moss
<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>	Sulphur Tufts	Several small patches, on wood
<i>Lacaria sp</i>	Deceiver	on track nr caravan
<i>Laetiporus portenus</i>	Punk	Fragment on ground
<i>Lepiota sp</i>		widely scattered individuals
<i>Marasmius sp</i>		Brown cap, 80mm tall
<i>Marasmius sp aff crinusequi</i>	Horse hair Fungus	Several patches
<i>Mycena albidofusca</i>	White-crowned Mycena	one colony seen
<i>Mycena sanguinolenta</i>	Bleeding Mycena	large numbers throughout reserve
<i>Mycena sp</i>		Small white
<i>Psilocybe subaeruginosa</i>	Blue staining Psilocybe	Two patches. hallucinogenic
<i>Pycnoporus cocinea</i>	Orange Bracket Fungus	One colony on dead <i>Ac mearmsii</i>
<i>Rhodocollybia butyracea</i>	Buttery Collybia	Few colonies throughout reserve
<i>Rickenella fibula</i>	Little Pins	In moss, one or two small patches
<i>Schizophyllum commune</i>	Split Gill	Colony on live <i>Ac. melanoxylon</i>
<i>Scleroderma (?) flavida</i>	Earthball	scattered through bush
<i>Stropharia semiglobata</i>		2 individuals, on dung

List 2 - Birds

Common Bronze-wing	Forest Raven	White-browed Scrub wren
Striated Thornbill,	Blackface Cuckoo-shrike	Grey Fantail
Brown Thornbill	Australian Magpie	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Striated Pardalote	Little Raven	Galah
White-eared Honeyeater	Crimson Rosella	Laughing Kookaburra
White-naped Honeyeater	Superb Fairy-wren	White-throated Treecreeper
Golden Whistler		