

## HFNC Excursion to Wilkin on 16 October 2011

Dave Munro

Present; Reto Z & Yvonne, Rod B, Lyn and Dave M, Hilary T, Kay A, Sally & 2 members SGAP

Weather mild and slightly overcast. Showers threatened but did not eventuate. We followed a recent trip by the Portland FNC guided by Kay. The route from Grubbed Rd, included Heatherlie Rd, Wilkin School Rd, Mill Swamp in the Wilkin Flora Reserve, then across the Myaring Bridge to West Kilarra Forest Rd and the second part of the Wilkin Flora Reserve.

Our lunch stop was at Mill Swamp, where there was a good display of wildflowers in the surrounding heath. The only birds seen on the lake were a few Black Swan and Eurasian Coots, with Little Grassbirds in the reeds. A small flock of Varied Sitella passed through the tree tops.

A feature of the northern section of the Wilkin Forest was the almost completely defoliated eucalypts. It seemed that all eucalyptus species were affected. The forest looked terrible. At the first stop, Heatherlie Rd, we inspected the trees and discovered the larvae of the Painted Case-moth (*Doratifera oxleyi*), commonly known as “chinese junks” due to their rather ornate decorations (see photo). Identification was made after the excursion by Reto and Yvonne. As we progressed further south the infestation diminished. The question must be asked what will be the effect on this forest if areas already denuded are targeted for “Planned Burns”? Surely the health of the forest must be considered and such burns be cancelled.

The other “attack” on the integrity of the forest was the astonishing number of *Pinus radiata* wildlings to be seen. They were particularly abundant on the West Killara Forest Rd. adjacent to the several Pine plantations. In some areas of what should have been native bush, the pines were almost the dominant species. Some of the individual trees were 10-20 m in height. They must have been more than 10 years old. We cannot understand why DSE or PV can stand by and allow such an obvious degradation of reserves under their management.

At the Mill Swamp Reto discovered a very co-operative Jacky Lizard lying by the side of the path (see photo). It obligingly remained stationary allowing us all to have a close look and take many photos. It eventually moved back into its hole proving that was indeed alive. The next reptile we encountered proved to be much more active. A beautifully marked brown and cream Tiger Snake showed plenty of activity when Rod almost stood on it. It flared its neck like a Cobra and advanced: we considered that backing off was a good option.

A list of plants in flower which were identified is attached.





**Plants seen in flower and identified on Heatherlie Rd, Mill Swamp, Wilkin School Rd & Killara Forest Rd – HFNC 16 Oct 2011**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<i>Acacia myrtifolia</i>	Myrtle Wattle	Mill Swamp
<i>Acacia verniciflua</i>	Varnish Wattle	Wilkin School Rd
<i>Acacia verticillata</i>	Prickly Moses	Mill Swamp, Wilkins School Rd
<i>Allocasuarina paludosa</i>	Scrub Sheoak	Heatherlie Rd
<i>Arthropodium stricta(?)</i>	Chocolate Lily	Wilkin School Rd
<i>Banksia marginata</i>	Silver Banksia	All sites
<i>Billarderia cymosa</i>	Sweet Apple-berry	Mill Swamp
<i>Boronia nana</i>	Dwarf Boronia	Mill Swamp, Wilkin School Rd
<i>Boronia pilosa</i>	Hairy Boronia	Heatherlie Rd, Wilkin School Rd
<i>Bossiaea prostrata</i>	Creeping Bossiaea	Wilkin School Rd
<i>Caladenia carnea</i>	Pink Fingers	Heatherlie Rd, Mill Swamp
<i>Caladenia parva</i>	Small Greencomb Spider Orchid	Heatherlie Rd
<i>Caladenia venusta</i>	Large White Spider Orchid	Heatherlie Rd
<i>Calochilus robertsonii</i>	Purplish Beard-orchid	Mill Swamp
<i>Caytrix alpestris</i>	Snow Myrtle	Mill Swamp
<i>Chamaescilla corybosa</i>	Blue squills	Wilkin School Rd
<i>Conosperma volubile</i>	Love Creeper	Heatherlie Rd, Mill Swamp, Wilkin School Rd
<i>Crasspedia variabilis</i>	Common Billy-buttons	Mill Swamp
<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	Black-anthered Dianella	Mill Swamp
<i>Dillwynia sericea</i>	Showy Parrot-pea	Heatherlie Rd, Mill Swamp, Wilkin School Rd
<i>Dillwynia hispida</i>	Red Parrot-pea	Mill Swamp
<i>Diuris pardina</i>	Leopard Orchid	Heatherlie Rd
<i>Dodonea cuneata</i>	Wedge-leafed Hop Bush	Wilkin School Rd
<i>Drosera peltata</i>	Pale Sundew	Heatherlie Rd
<i>Epacris impressa</i>	Common Heath	Heatherlie Rd
<i>Glossodia major</i>	Waxlip	Heatherlie Rd, Wilkin S Rd,
<i>Gompholobium huegelii</i>	Common Wedge-pea	Heatherlie Rd
<i>Goodenia geniculata</i>	Bent Goodenia	All sites
<i>Hibbertia fasciculare</i>	Bundled Guinea-flower	Heatherlie Rd
<i>Hibbertia riparia</i>	Erect Guinea-flower	All sites
<i>Kennedia prostrata</i>	Running Postman	Heatherlie Rd, Mill Swamp, Wilkin School Rd
<i>Leporella fimbriatus</i>	Fringed Hare-orchid	Leaf, Heatherlie Rd
<i>Leptospermum myrsinoides</i>	Heath Tea-tree	All sites
<i>Leucopogon virgatus</i>	Common Beard-heath	Heatherlie Rd
<i>Microseris sp</i>	Yam Daisy	Heatherlie Rd, Mill Swamp
<i>Patersonia fragilis</i>	Short Purple-flag	W Killarra Forest Rd
<i>Pimelea humilis</i>	Common Rice-flower	Mill Swamp, Wilkin School Rd
<i>Platylobium sp (triangulare?)</i>	Flat-pea	Wilkin School Rd
<i>Pyrorchis nigricans</i>	Red Beaks	Leaf, Heatherlie Rd
<i>Stackhousia monogyna</i>	Creamy Candles	Heatherlie Rd, Mill Swamp, Wilkin School Rd
<i>Stackhousia flava</i>		Wilkin School Rd
<i>Stylidium graminifolia</i>	Grass-leaved Triggerplant	Mill Swamp
<i>Tetradlea ciliata</i>	Pink Bells	Heatherlie Rd, Mill Swamp
<i>Thelymitra antennifera</i>	Rabbits Ears	Heatherlie Rd, Mill Swamp
<i>Thelymitra ixiodes</i>	Dotted Sun-orchid	Heatherlie Rd
<i>Thelymitra rubra</i>	Salmon Sun-orchid	In bud Heatherlie Rd
<i>Thysanotus patersonii</i>	Twining Fringe-lily	All sites