

HFNC Excursion to Mt Richmond National Park on 23 Oct. 2016

Rod Bird & Dave Munro

Participants: John & Glenys Cayley, Lyn & Dave Munro, Rod Bird & Diane Luhrs, Janeen Samuel, Hilary Turner, Peter Hocking, Reto & Yvonne Ingeme.

We left Hamilton at 9 am, driving to Portland and then 18 km west on the Portland-Nelson Rd to Mt Richmond, arriving at the Picnic Area at about 10 30 am. The weather was calm, dry and quite warm. The area was known by the Gunditjmarra people as Benwerrin.

The mount is an extinct volcano that erupted about 2 million years ago. The lava field of tuff was then covered by windblown sand from Discovery Bay. The infertile sandy soil provided an ideal habitat for more than 450 species of native flora. The Long-nosed Potoroo is found in the dense cover of the wet heath areas. Brown Stringybark, Manna Gum, Swamp Gum, Peppermint and Blackwood are the main trees, while Scented Paperbark (*Melaleuca squarrosa*) occupies the wet heathlands.

Mt Richmond NP was established in 1960, possibly the first in the lower SW. Botanist Cliff Beauglehole, Noel Learmonth and Fred Davies from Portland were foremost in that endeavour.

Mt Richmond walks

Ocean View Walk – after morning tea at the picnic ground car park we took the short walk to the SW, which emerges at a lookout near the southern edge of the park. There was not a great display of flowers along the way. Water lay along one small section of the path. We saw 7 Koalas in the Manna Gums and it was evident that they had killed several trees through severe browsing. Eastern Grey Kangaroos, a Black Wallaby and an Echidna were seen later at the foot of the hill.

Olive Whistlers and Rufous Whistlers were vocal during this walk and an Eastern Spinebill was the other most interesting species seen.



Koala on the Ocean View Walk



Xanthorrhoea australis (Austral Grass-tree)

From the lookout there is a good view across farmland to Cape Bridgewater to the east and Discovery Bay below and to the west.



Diane, Rod, Peter, Hilary, Lyn, Janeen, Reto, Yvonne, Glenys & John at the lookout (Dave had the camera)



View to Discovery Bay from the lookout

West Walk – after an early lunch back at the car park we set off on the 3 km walk that leads north then bends east to intersect the Mt Richmond access road. Dave & Lyn drove down to that point rather than taking the walk. Lyn found the Common Bird orchid (*Chiloglottis valida*) under some dense Austral Grass Tree cover while Dave was busy recording other species in flower along the lower part of the trail.

After the walkers arrived there Dave drove back to the picnic ground, taking the drivers of the cars left there.

The trail was quite narrow but that had been no deterrent to trail bikes, whose riders had ignored the signs and driven down the track. This was a marvellous walk, mostly downhill. There were 2 boardwalks across wet seepage areas where there was a profusion of flowers.



A sandy heath section of the West Walk



Boardwalk on a wet heath section of the West Walk



Caladenia pusilla



Argentipallium blandowskianum



Epacris impressa



Boronia pilosa



Pultenea prolifera



Bossiaea cinerea

Table 1. Native flora in flower at Mt Richmond NP on 23 Oct. 2016

<i>Acacia verticillata</i> – Prickly Moses	<i>Leptospermum continentale</i> – Prickly Tea-tree
<i>Ajuga australis</i> – Austral Bugle	<i>Leptospermum myrsinoides</i> – Heath Tea-tree
<i>Allocasuarina paludosa</i> – Swamp Sheoak	<i>Leucopogon virgatus</i> – Common Beard-heath
<i>Amperea xiphoclada</i> – Broom Spurge	<i>Lobelia pedunculata</i> – Matted Pratia
<i>Argentipallium blandowskianum</i> – Woolly Everlasting	<i>Lomandra longifolia</i> – Spiny-headed Mat-rush
<i>Billardiera cymosa</i> – Sweet Appleberry	<i>Mazus pumilio</i> – Swamp Mazus
<i>Bauera rubioides</i> – Wiry Bauera	<i>Melaleuca squarrosa</i> – Scented Paperbark
<i>Boronia nana</i> – Dwarf Boronia	<i>Microseris lanceolata</i> – Yam Daisy
<i>Boronia pilosa</i> – Hairy Boronia	<i>Myosotis australis</i> – Austral Forget-me-not
<i>Bossiaea cinerea</i> – Showy Bossiaea	<i>Oxalis perennans</i> – Grassland Wood-sorrel
<i>Caladenia pusilla</i> – Tiny Caladenia	<i>Pelargonium littorale</i> – Coast Stork's-bill
<i>Chamaescilla corymbosa</i> – Blue Squill	<i>Pimelea flava</i> – Yellow Rice-flower
<i>Chiloglottis valida</i> – Common Bird-orchid	<i>Pimelea humilis</i> – Common Rice-flower
<i>Comesperma volubile</i> – Love Creeper	<i>Platylobium triangulare</i> – Common Flat-pea
<i>Correa reflexa</i> – Common Correa	<i>Pultenea prolifera</i> – Otway Bush-pea
<i>Craspedia variabilis</i> – Common Billy-buttons	<i>Sambucus gaudichaudiana</i> – White Elderberry
<i>Drosera peltata</i> – Pale Sundew	<i>Senecio pinnatifolius (variabilis?)</i> – Variable Groundsel
<i>Epacris impressa</i> – Common Heath	<i>Sphaerolobium vimineum</i> – Leafless Globe-pea
<i>Geranium potentilloides</i> – Soft Crane's-bill	<i>Sprengelia incarnata</i> – Pink Swamp-heath
<i>Glycine latrobeana</i> – Clover Glycine	<i>Stackhousia viminea</i> – Slender Stackhousia
<i>Hibbertia prostrata</i> – Bundled Guinea-flower	<i>Stylidium graminifolium</i> – Grass Trigger-plant
<i>Hibbertia riparia</i> – Erect Guinea-flower	<i>Tetratheca ciliata</i> – Pink Bells
<i>Hibbertia sericea</i> – Silky Guinea-flower	<i>Thelymitra antennifera</i> – Rabbit-ears
<i>Hypericum gramineum</i> – Small St John's Wort	<i>Thysanotus patersonii</i> – Twining Fringe-lily
<i>Hypoxis hygrometrica</i> – Golden Weather-glass	<i>Viola hederacea</i> – Ivy-leaf Violet
<i>Indigophera australis</i> – Austral Indigo	<i>Wahlenbergia gracilis</i> – Sprawling Bluebell
<i>Isopogon ceratophyllus</i> – Horny Cone-bush	<i>Xanthorrhoea australis</i> – Austral Grass-tree
<i>Kennedia prostrata</i> – Running Postman	

Note 1 – some species NOT listed for the park by Kevin Sparrow (2013) in *Plants of the Great South West* include:

- *Chiloglottis valida* (also not listed by Beaglehole 1980, *Vic. Vascular Plant Checklists*)
- *Platylobium triangulare* (listed by Beaglehole 1980)
- *Stackhousia viminea* (listed by Beaglehole 1980) – both listed *S. monogyna*
- *Boronia nana* (listed by Beaglehole 1980)
- *Bauera rubioides* (listed by Beaglehole 1980)
- *Wurmbea unifolia* (Beaglehole listed *W. dioica*) and Sparrow has *W. dioica* ssp. *dioica* listed for other SW coastal reserves but not here. According to the *Living Atlas of Australia*, Beaglehole supplied a specimen to the Herbarium in 1982 and this was described in 1991 as *W. unifolia*.
- *Pelargonium littorale* was not listed by Beaglehole either (he had *P. australe*).

Note 2 – species listed by Sparrow but NOT by Beaglehole include:

- *Caladenia pusilla*
- *Geranium solanderi*

From the above, it seems that we recorded what may be 3 'new' species for the park: *Chiloglottis valida*, *Wurmbea unifolia* and *Pelargonium littorale* (?).

Table 2. Birds seen at Mt Richmond NP on 23 Oct. 2016

Brown Thornbill	Grey Shrike-thrush	White-eared Honeyeater
Buff-rumped Thornbill	Grey Fantail	White-throated Treecreeper
Blue-winged Parrot	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Olive Whistler
Crimson Rosella	Shining Bronze-cuckoo	Rufous Whistler
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	New Holland Honeyeater	Superb Fairy-wren
Common Bronzewing	White-naped Honeyeater	Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo
Eastern Spinebill	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	



Ajuga australis – Austral Bugles



Platylodium triangulare – Common Flat-pea ?



Stackhousia viminea ?



Chiloglottis valida



Insect cells on *L. myrsinoides*



Sprengelia incarnata



Melaleuca squarrosa



Lomandra longifolia



Boronia nana



Pimelea flava