

HFNC Excursion to Mt William, Grampians National Park – 20 Nov. 2016

Rod Bird & Dave Munro

Participants: Lyn & Dave Munro, John & Glenys Cayley, Rod Bird & Diane Luhrs, Reto Zollinger & Yvonne Ingeme. We left Hamilton at 9 am, stopping at Dunkeld to wait for any other participants. In the morning sun on the Grampians road the new red and orange growth of gums and banksia was stunning.

Site: The weather was warm and fine as we began our walk up the road to the summit from the car park. We found that the display of flowers on the mount this year was not as great as in 2015 when Diane and Rod visited on 8 November. There was only minimal flowering of *Leucopogon neurophyllus*, *Leptospermum turbinatum*, *Pultenea sub-alpina*, *Pimelea pagophila* and *Calytrix alpestris* as we neared the last km to the sub-alpine summit. This seemed odd because the rainfall in 2016 was much greater. The flowering appeared to be either delayed (there were few old flowers) or unlikely to be profuse.

Bush-peas were present but were not flowering profusely. These included *P. benthamii*, *P. laxiflora*, *P. sub-alpina* (Rosy Bush-pea), *Dillwynia oreodoxa* and *D. sericea*. The Rosy Bush-pea flowers were striking. Orchids were absent except for a couple of *Caladenia alpina* in the trackside gutter.

Dave & Lyn ventured only part way up to the summit, looking for wildflowers there. Water was seeping down from ledges along the way and *Utricularia uniflora* were flowering beautifully there. We found *Tasmannia lanceolata* (Mountain Bitter-pepper) lining the verges on the last 500 m of the walk to the summit. These plants had small buds but no flowers. Cliff Beaglehole recorded this species in the Mt William-Major Mitchell Plateau block in 1975, and we had seen it in flower on the southern slope of the plateau near the walk track in August 2000 (Ian McCann found it there in 1960 and Cliff in Dec. 1967), and we also saw it in Red Cave near the Billywing in August 2001. The species is now being cultivated for the production of spice. The fresh buds, fruit and leaves have an astringent, bitter taste when chewed.

The walkers found the 2 or 3 km progress to the summit quite steep (a steady rise of 10-20 degrees) and on a hot day would be quite stressful. On the summit (1167 m ASL), while taking a rest and lunch on the concrete lookout platform, we noticed a snake and several large skinks in the rocks nearby.

Back at the car park, while having a cup of coffee, we were visited by an Eastern Yellow Robin and a female Flame Robin. Our bird list was not extensive, only 22 species being recorded (Table 2), but it was good to see Crescent Honeyeaters in a forested gully on our walk down from the summit.

The flowering was much greater on the mid and lower sections of the 15 km access road. There we found flowering *Kunzea parvifolia*, *Melaleuca decussata*, *Grevillea alpina*, *Boronia latipinna*, *Pimelia linifolia*, *Conospermum mitchellii*, *Patersonia longiscapa* and many other species (see Table 1).

Table 1. Mt William flora in flower near access road and summit

Botanic name	Common name		
<i>Allocasuarina misera?</i>	Slender Sheoak	<i>Hakea teretifolia</i>	Dagger hakea
<i>Billardiera bignoniaceae</i>	Orange Bell-climber	<i>Hibbertia riparia</i>	Erect Guinea-flower
<i>Boronia latipinna</i>	Grampians Boronia	<i>Kunzea parvifolia</i>	Violet Kunzea
<i>Burchardia umbellata</i>	Milkmaids	<i>Leucopogon virgatus</i>	Common Beard-heath
<i>Caladenia alpina</i>	Mountain Caladenia	<i>Leucopogon neurophyllus</i>	Mt William Beard-heath
<i>Calytrix alpestris</i>	Snow Myrtle	<i>Leptospermum myrsinoides</i>	Heath Tea-tree
<i>Chrysocephalum baxteri</i>	White Everlasting	<i>Leptospermum turbinatum</i>	Shiny Tea-tree
<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	Common Everlasting	<i>Melaleuca decussata</i>	Totem Poles
<i>Conospermum mitchellii</i>	Victorian Smokebush	<i>Patersonia longiscapa</i>	Long Purple-flag
<i>Dillwynia oreodoxa</i>	Grampians parrot-pea	<i>Pimelea linifolia</i>	Slender Rice-flower
<i>Dillwynia sericea</i>	Showy Parrot-pea	<i>Pimelea pagophila</i>	Grampians Rice-flower
<i>Dodonaea cuneata</i>	Wedge-leaf Hopbush	<i>Pultenea benthamii</i>	Bentham's Bush-pea
<i>Drosera peltata</i>	Pale Sundew	<i>Pultenea laxiflora</i>	Loose-flower Bush-pea
<i>Epacris impressa</i>	Common Heath	<i>Pultenea mollis</i>	Soft Bush-pea
<i>Euphrasia collina</i>	Purple Eyebright	<i>Pultenea sub-alpina</i>	Rosy Bush-pea
<i>Grevillea alpina</i>	Cat's Claws	<i>Stylidium soboliferum</i>	Grampians Trigger-plant
<i>Grevillea aquifolium</i>	Variable Prickly Grevillea	<i>Tetradlea ciliata</i>	Pink Bells
		<i>Utricularia uniflora</i>	Fairies Aprons

Table 2. Birds recorded near the Mt William access road and on the summit

Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Brown Thornbill
Crescent Honeyeater
Crimson Rosella
Eastern Yellow Robin
Fan-tailed Cuckoo
Flame Robin
Forest Raven
Grey Currawong
Grey Fantail
Grey Shrike-thrush

Long-billed Corella
Nankeen Kestrel
Spotted Pardalote
Striated Pardalote
Striated Thornbill
Superb Fairy-wren
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
White-browed Scrubwren
White-eared Honeyeater
White-throated Treecreeper
Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo



View across Wild Sheep Hills to Serra Range



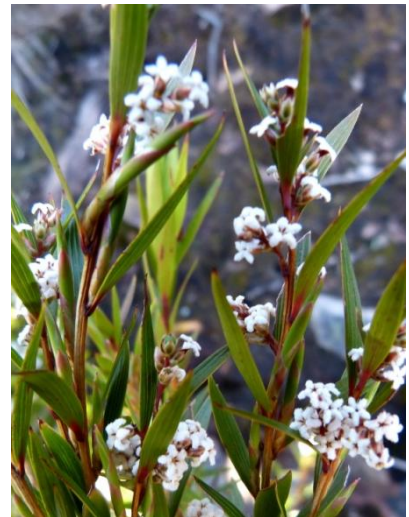
Rosy Bush-pea – *Pultenea sub-alpina*



Pultenea benthamii



Soft Bush-pea - *Pultenea mollis*



Leucopogon neurophyllus



Showy parrot-pea - *Dillwynia sericea*



White Everlasting - *Chrysocephalum baxteri*



Caladenia alpina



Dodonaea cuneata



Flame Robin, female



Common Everlasting – *Chrysocephalum acuminatum*



Grampians Rice-flower – *Pimelea pagophila*



Cats Claws – *Grevillea alpina*



Variable Prickly Grevillea - *Grevillea aquifolium*



Totem Poles – *Melaleuca decussata*



Violet Kunzea – *Kunzea parvifolia*