

HFNC Excursion to Wannan Rapids Flora Reserve, 22 October 2017

Rod Bird & Diane Luhrs

Participants: Daryl & Lindal Delahoy, Lyn & Dave Munro, Rod Bird & Diane Luhrs, Janeen Samuel, Peter Hocking, Reto Zollinger & Yvonne Ingeme and an unexpected but very welcome visitor, Glenn Mack. Glenn had been camping in the Grampians and had seen our program on the internet site.

We met at 9 am in a little drizzle at the Hamilton Visitor Centre and then drove via the Four Posts bridge to the Delahoy's property off Ballintubber Rd at Bulart, where Daryl led us through the farm to the Wannan Rapids Flora Reserve. Members remarked on the splendid shelter belts of native species that the Delahoys' have established on the farm over many years.



The weather was a little damp, with the odd slight shower of rain, followed by short interludes of sun. We looked first at the rapids on the river, after finding a way through the dense thicket of *Acacia paradoxa* (Hedge Wattle) now growing on the bank above the rapids. The view of the rapids, the water and adjacent vegetation was very colourful and a delight to see. Photos on the following pages show some of the scenes. The rocks here are acidic ignimbrite structure, similar to that at Nigretta Falls, with well-defined cleavage lines and flat surfaces.

The river level was a little too high to allow us to cross to the eastern bank where one of our 'target' species *Philotheca angustifolius* (Small-leaved Wax-flower) was in flower (seen with binoculars) but we had closer views of one shrub of *Dillwynia cinerascens* (Grey Parrot-pea) and several *Pimelia stricta* (Gaunt Rice-flower) clinging to the steep western bank above the river. These species are not found elsewhere on the Wannan River or indeed in the region. *Dodonaea viscosa* ssp *cuneata* (Wedge-leaved Hop Bush) was also present and is uncommon in the region. The red-coloured lobes of the hop bush are particularly bright at this location. The hop bush once occurred at the Wannan Four Posts Streamside Reserve (on the block on the northern side of the river) but has not been seen there in recent years.

We took a walk upstream, across the saline flat near the western boundary, for about 300 m from the rapids, then looped back along the river bank, noting that there were at least 3 channels that finally converged about 100 m from the rapids. The reserve north from the rapids has many temporary pools and areas of sand between the wandering water courses. There are many fine *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River Red Gum) in this relatively flat area. We then returned to the vehicles and had our picnic lunch.

Following lunch, we walked downstream about 200 m beyond the Delahoys boundary to another open area of grassland on the high bank where we found a good collection of flowering species but also some *Disa bracteata* (African Weed Orchid, AWO). About 50 AWO were dug up. *Polyporus arcularis* (Fringed Polypore) and *Lichenomphalina chromacea* (Yellow Belly-buttons) fungus were seen. We then returned to the vehicles and departed at 3 pm for Hamilton via the Bulart Bridge and Henty Highway.

For those who had seen the reserve in the 1980s it was clear that there have been many deleterious changes. The most significant effect has been the proliferation of Hedge Wattle (*Acacia paradoxa*) on the banks, obliterating much of the ground cover of native shrubs, grasses and herbs that were once present. Whether that is a phase that will eventually pass is an interesting speculation.

Pasture grasses now also appear to dominate many areas but those where there is a very shallow cover of soil over the bed rock are still fairly free of the introduced species. It was disappointing to find several garden weed species flourishing in the reserve. These species include *Juncus acutus* (Spiny Rush) which has invaded the saline flat upstream from the rapids, *Sparaxis bulbifera* (Harlequin Flower), *Gladiolus undulatus* (Wild Gladiolus), *Galium* sp. (Cleavers) and AWO. Several infestations of each weed species were noted. We did not see any *Fumaria* sp. (Fumitory), a common pest of gardens and bushland.

As usual, we recorded native species in flower (denoted with # in the table). On this occasion we also included quite a few species that were not in flower, but no attempt was made to conduct a comprehensive survey (the surveys done from 1975-2010 list 228 native species for the reserve). Our walk had taken us only to part of the west bank and not at all on the eastern bank of the river. Because of the overcast and cool conditions few sun-orchids and native lilies were displaying their flowers and many other species were yet to flower, or had finished, so this list is far from comprehensive.



Overall view from the western bank of the main rapids section



The upper pool, looking down to the choke



Looking upstream to the start of the rapids



Upstream from the rapids



Downstream from the rapids

Native flora seen at the Wannan Rapids Reserve 22 Oct 2017

GENUS	SPECIES	VERNACULAR	Flowers
<i>Acacia</i>	<i>paradoxa</i>	Hedge Wattle	#
<i>Acacia</i>	<i>verticillata</i>	Prickly Moses	#
<i>Acaena</i>	<i>echinata</i>	Sheep's Burr	
<i>Allocasuarina</i>	<i>verticillata</i>	Drooping she-oak	
<i>Alternanthera</i>	<i>denticulata</i>	Lesser Joyweed	
<i>Amyema</i>	<i>pendula</i>	Drooping Mistletoe	
<i>Arthropodium</i>	<i>strictum</i>	Chocolate Lily	#
<i>Asperula</i>	<i>conferta</i>	Common Woodruff	
<i>Astroloma</i>	<i>humifusum</i>	Cranberry Heath	
<i>Austrodanthonia</i>	<i>setacea</i>	Bristly Wallaby-grass	
<i>Austrostipa</i>	<i>hemipogon</i>	Spear Grass	
<i>Brunonia</i>	<i>australis</i>	BluePincushion	
<i>Bulbine</i>	<i>bulbosa</i>	Bulbine Lily	#
<i>Burchardia</i>	<i>umbellata</i>	Milkmaids	#
<i>Bursaria</i>	<i>spinosa</i>	Sweet Bursaria	
<i>Caesia</i>	<i>calliantha</i>	Blue Grass-lily	
<i>Caladenia</i>	<i>carnea</i>	Pink Fingers	#
<i>Carex</i>	<i>appressa</i>	Tall Sedge	#
<i>Cassytha</i>	<i>pubescens</i>	Downy Dodder laurel	
<i>Centipeda</i>	<i>cunninghamii</i>	Sneeze-weed	#
<i>Chaemaesilla</i>	<i>corymbosa</i>	Blue Stars	#
<i>Cheilanthes</i>	<i>austrotenuifolia</i>	Rock Fern	
<i>Chrysocephalum</i>	<i>apiculatum</i>	Common Everlasting	#
<i>Convolvulus</i>	<i>angustissimus</i>	Pink Bindweed	#
<i>Cotula</i>	<i>coronopifolia</i>	Water Buttons	
<i>Crassula</i>	<i>sieberiana</i>	Sieber Crassula	
<i>Cynoglossum</i>	<i>suaveolens</i>	Sweet Hound's-tongue	#
<i>Cyrtostylis</i>	<i>reniformis</i>	Small Gnat orchid	
<i>Dianella</i>	<i>longifolia</i>	Pale Flax-lily	
<i>Dianella</i>	<i>tasmanica</i>	Tasman Flax-lily	
<i>Dillwynia</i>	<i>cinerascens</i>	Grey Parrot-pea	#
<i>Diuris</i>	<i>behrii</i>	Golden Moths	
<i>Dodonaea</i>	<i>viscosa cuneata</i>	Wedge-leaved Hop-bush	#
<i>Drosera</i>	<i>peltata</i>	Pale Sundew	#
<i>Eleocharis</i>	<i>acuta</i>	Common Spike-rush	
<i>Epilobium</i>	<i>billardierianum</i>	Variable Willow-herb	
<i>Eucalyptus</i>	<i>camaldulensis</i>	River Red Gum	
<i>Eucalyptus</i>	<i>viminalis cyg.</i>	Manna Gum	
<i>Exocarpos</i>	<i>cupressiformis</i>	Cherry Ballart	
<i>Galium</i>	<i>gaudichaudii</i>	Rough Bedstraw	
<i>Geranium</i>	<i>retrosum</i>	Grassland Crane's bill	#
<i>Glycine</i>	<i>latrobeana</i>	Clover Glycine	#
<i>Gonocarpus</i>	<i>tetragynus</i>	Raspwort	
<i>Goodenia</i>	<i>geniculata</i>	Bent Goodenia	#
<i>Hydrocotyle</i>	<i>laxiflora</i>	Stinking Pennywort	
<i>Hypericum</i>	<i>gramineum</i>	Small St John's Wort	#
<i>Hypoxis</i>	<i>glabella</i>	Yellow Star	#
<i>Juncus</i>	<i>pallidus</i>	Pale Rush	
<i>Kennedia</i>	<i>prostrata</i>	Running Postman	#
<i>Levenhookia</i>	<i>dubia</i>	Hairy Stylewort	#*
<i>Lepidosperma</i>	<i>longitudinale</i>	Pithy sword-sedge	
<i>Leptorhynchos</i>	<i>squamatus</i>	Scaly Buttons	#
<i>Lobelia</i>	<i>irrigua</i>	Salt Pratia	#
<i>Lomandra</i>	<i>filiformis</i>	Wattle Mat-lily	
<i>Lomandra</i>	<i>longifolia</i>	Spiny Mat-lily	
<i>Microtis</i>	<i>unifolia</i>	Common Onion-orchid	#
<i>Myosotis</i>	<i>australis</i>	Forget-me-not	#
<i>Oxalis</i>	<i>perennans</i>	Grassland Wood-sorrel	#
<i>Pelargonium</i>	<i>australe</i>	Austral Stork's bill	
<i>Pelargonium</i>	<i>rodneyanum</i>	MagentaStork's bill	
<i>Persicaria</i>	<i>prostrata</i>	Creeping Cudweed	
<i>Philothea</i>	<i>angustifolius ssp</i>	Small-leaved Wax-flower	#
<i>Pimelea</i>	<i>humilis</i>	Common Rice-flower	#
<i>Pimelea</i>	<i>stricta</i>	Gaunt Rice-flower	#
<i>Plantago</i>	<i>varia</i>	Variable Plantain	#
<i>Poa</i>	<i>labillardierei</i>	Common Tussock Grass	#
<i>Poa</i>	<i>morrisii</i>	Tussock Grass	
<i>Pseudognaphalium</i>	<i>lutealbum</i>	Jersy Cudweed	#
<i>Peridium</i>	<i>esculentum</i>	Austral Bracken	



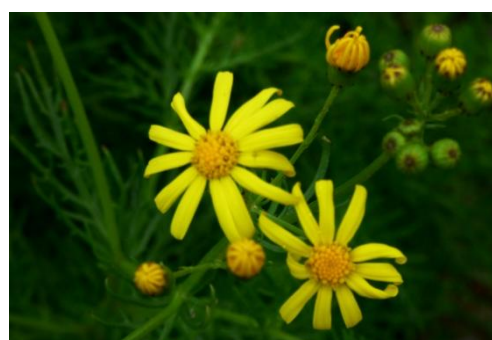
Grey Parrot-pea



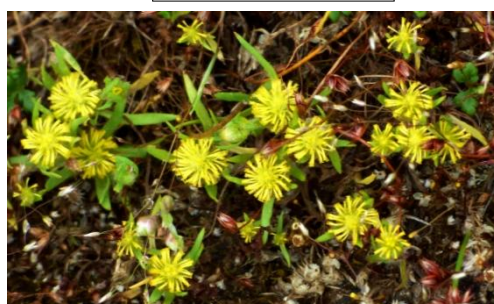
Wedge-leaved Hop-bush



Hedge Wattle



Variable Groundsel



Common Sun-ray

<i>Rumex</i>	<i>brownii</i>	Slender Dock	
<i>Samolus</i>	<i>repens</i>	Creeping Brook-weed	#
<i>Schoenoplectus</i>	<i>pungens</i>	Sharp Club-sedge	
<i>Senecio</i>	<i>pinnatifolius</i>	Variable Groundsel	#
<i>Senecio</i>	<i>squarrosus</i>	Leafy Fireweed	#
<i>Siloxerus</i>	<i>multiflorus</i>	Small Wrinkle-wort	#
<i>Stackhousia</i>	<i>monogyna</i>	Candles	#
<i>Stylidium</i>	<i>beagleholei</i>	Beaglehole's Trigger-plant	#
<i>Thelymitra</i>	<i>ixioides</i>	Dotted Sun-orchid	#
<i>Thelymitra</i>	<i>pauciflora</i>	Slender Sun-orchid	#
<i>Thelymitra</i>	<i>rubra</i>	Salmon Sun-orchid	#
<i>Themeda</i>	<i>triandra</i>	Kangaroo Grass	#
<i>Thysanotus</i>	<i>patersonii</i>	Twining fringe-lily	#
<i>Tricoryne</i>	<i>elatior</i>	Yellow Rush-lily	#
<i>Triglochin</i>	<i>procera</i>	Water Ribbons	
<i>Triglochin</i>	<i>striata</i>	Streaked Arrow grass	
<i>Triptilodiscus</i>	<i>pygmaeus</i>	Common Sun-ray	#
<i>Typha</i>	<i>domingensis</i>	Bulrush	
<i>Villarsia</i>	<i>umbricola</i>	Lax Marsh-flower	
<i>Wahlenbergia</i>	<i>gracilis</i>	Sprawling Bluebell	#
<i>Wurmbea</i>	<i>dioica</i>	Early Nancy	#
<i>Xanthorrhoea</i>	<i>minor</i>	Small Grass-tree	

* new record for this reserve.



Yellow Star



Bent Goodenia



Onion Orchid



Wiry Buttons



Candles



Austral Forget-me-not



Running Postman



Chocolate Lily



One of the patches of native grassland



Milkmaid