

HFNC Excursion to The Piccaninny, Grampians National Park – 23 May 2020

Diane Luhrs, Rod Bird & Dave Munro

Present: HFNC members who attended were Rod Bird, Diane Luhrs, Janeen Samuel, Peter & Wendy McDonald, Dave & Lyne Munro and a visitor, Alan McDonald.

This was our first excursion since the advent of the Covid-19 epidemic and we were restricted to no more than 10 participants, with all addressing the social-distancing ‘rules’.

We departed Hamilton at 9.0 am and began our walk from the car park off the Halls Gap Tourist Rd at about 10 am. There is another access to The Piccaninny trail that starts from the Victoria Valley Rd, with an easier vehicle access to a parking space. The weather was cool and damp at first but in no way affected our enjoyment of the morning. On our walk the rain fell in only a one or two very light, short showers.

At this time of year we expected to see many fungi but few birds or flowering plants. That proved to be the case. The main plants in flower were Common Heath (*Epacris impressa*), Flame Heath (*Stenantha conostephioides*), Bearded Heath (*Leucopogon ericoides*) and 3 species of orchid – Banded Greenhood (*Pterostylis sanguinea*), Red-tipped Greenhood (*Pterostylis parvifolius*) and Mosquito Orchid (*Acianthus pusillus*). The orchids were seen only in 3 discrete places alongside the 2.3 km trail to the summit.



The start to the Piccaninny Trail



Rain drops on Scarlet Sundews



Mosquito Orchid



Common Heath



Flame Heath



Banded Greenhood



Red-tipped Greenhood



Unidentified sp.



Common Heath



Pink Bearded Heath



A destructing Rooting Shank

The fungi were of most interest on this morning and we saw possibly 20 species, some of which were photographed (see below). These included Ghost Fungus (*Omphalotus nidiformis*), Yellow Buttons (*Lichenomphalia chromacea*), White Jelly Fungus (*Tremella fuciformis*), Golden Jelly Fungus (*Tremella mesenterica*), Rainbow Fungus (*Trametes versicolour*) and many more.



A Cortinarius ? – *Cortinarius* or *Dermocybe* sp.



Ghost Fungus – *Omphalotus nidiformis*



Golden Jelly – *Tremella mesenterica*



Rainbow Fungus – *Trametes versicolor*



Laccaria sp.



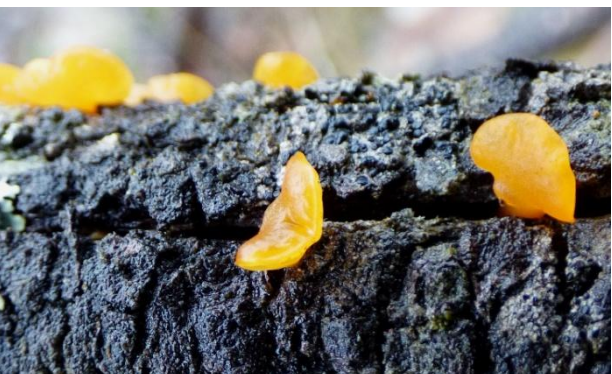
Russula lenkunya



Fairy Stool – *Coltricia cinnamomea*



Parasol Mushroom – *Lepiota* sp.



Yellow Jelly Bells – *Heterotextus miltinis*



Ghost Fungus – *Omphalotus nidiformis*



Rooting Shank – *Oudemansiella gigaspora* gp.



A death cap – *Amanita* sp.



Mushroom – *Agaricus* sp.



White Jelly – *Tremella* sp.



Yellow Navel – *Lichenomphalia chromacea*



Unidentified gilled fungus

The birds were conspicuous by their absence. We saw or heard only 10 species: White-cheeked Honeyeater, White-throated Treecreeper, Forest Raven, Spotted Pardalote, Striated Pardalote, Pied Currawong, Grey Shrike-thrush, Grey Fantail, Australian Magpie and Wedge-tailed Eagle.

We found that the wallabies were used to the presence of walkers and both Red-necked Wallaby (*Macropus rufogriseus*) and Black Wallaby (*Wallabia bicolor*) were happy to continue browsing shrubs within 10 m of the trail as we passed through their areas.



Black Wallaby



Red-necked Wallaby, male



Xanthorrhoea australis near the summit



Some of the group at the summit

List of fungi identified

Species Name	Common Name
<i>Agaricus</i> sp.	Mushroom
<i>Amanita</i> sp.	A death cap fungus
<i>Coltricia cinnamomea</i>	Fairy Stool
<i>Heterotextus miltinis</i>	Yellow Jelly Bells
<i>Laccaria</i> sp.	
<i>Lepiota</i> sp.	A Parasol fungus
<i>Lichenomphalia chromacea</i>	Yellow Navel
<i>Omphalotus nidiformis</i>	Ghost Fungus
<i>Oudemansiella gigaspora</i> gp.	Rooting Shank
<i>Russula lenkunya</i>	
<i>Trametes versicolor</i>	Rainbow Fungus
<i>Tremella fuciformis</i>	White Jelly
<i>Tremella mesenterica</i>	Golden Jelly



Picnic lunch at the car park

List of flowering plants seen

<i>Acianthus pusillus</i>	Mosquito Orchid
<i>Banksia marginata</i>	Silver Banksia
<i>Epacris impressa</i>	Common Heath
<i>Leucopogon ericoides</i>	Bearded Heath
<i>Pterostylis parvifolius</i>	Red-tipped Greenhood
<i>Pterostylis sanguinea</i>	Banded Greenhood
<i>Stenantha conostephioides</i>	Flame Heath