

HFNC Excursion to Dundas Range Scenic Reserve on 19 September 2020

Rod Bird, Diane Luhrs & Dave Munro

Participants: Members present were Diane Luhrs, Rod Bird, Greg Hartigan, Jane Hayes, Yvonne Ingeme, Reto Zollinger, Peter Hocking, Roger Thompson, Dave & Lyn Munro, Darryl & Lyndal Delahoy. Friends who attended were Margo Sietsma, Marion Cotton, Lisa McIntyre, Jo Tully and Bill Gardiner.

With the slight relaxation of the Covid-19 'rules' we were able to resume our excursion program. As seen above, we had a good roll-up of 17 members and friends who enjoyed a very mild and pleasant day out. As a result of restrictions of the Covid-19 saga we could not car-pool and do a car-shuffle, so we diverged from the plan to walk the ridge line from the northern tip of the range down to Mt Dundas, something that we did in 2003. Instead, we concentrated on Mt Dundas and the portion of the range south of Dundas Gap Rd, with some people walking the ridge line to the area burned earlier in the year. .

We met on the Dundas Gap Rd at the eastern side of the Dundas Range Scenic Reserve at 9.45 am. We then drove south for about 200 m along the bush track on the eastern side of the reserve. Our vehicles were left there and our party was split into 2 groups: one going along the spine of the southern range as far as the section that was burned in early 2020 and the other group who stayed around the area of the old gravel quarry.



Those on the southern walk (about 2 km to the burn area) saw an abundance of *Pultenea scabra* (Rough Bush-pea) and *Correa aemula* (Hairy Correa) on and around the rocky peaks and many other shrubs and understory species along the way.



Hairy Correa



Rough Bush-pea



Bushy Needlewood



Wax-lip Orchid



Erect Guinea-flower

The shrubs included one patch of *Hakea decurrens* (Bushy Needlewood), many very large *Leptospermum scoparium* (Manuka) and *Bursaria spinosa* (Sweet Bursaria), the latter species not in flower. *Glossodia major* (Wax-lip Orchid), *Platylobium obtusangulum* (Common Flat-pea), *Hibbertia riparia* (Erect Guinea-flower), *Tetralochea ciliata* (Pink Bells) and *Caladenia carnea* (Pink Fingers) were prominent in the understory.



Common Flat-pea



Pink Fingers

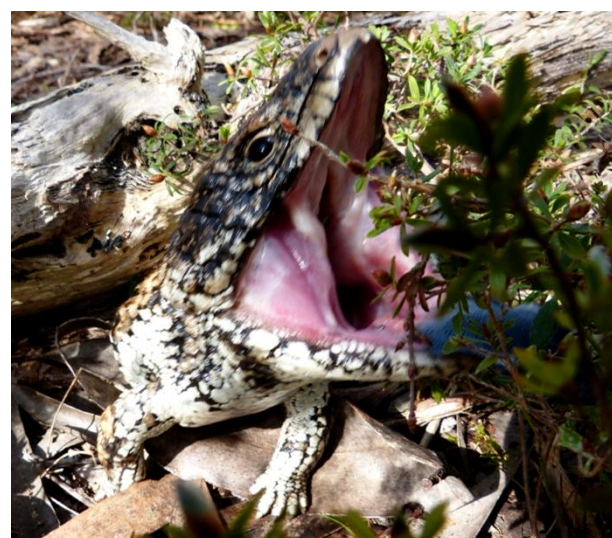


Pink Bells

We came across a sleeping Shingleback (*Tiliqua rugosa*), Black Wallabies (*Wallabia bicolor*) and Eastern Grey Kangaroos (*Macropus giganteus*) on our stroll through the open Brown Stringybark forest. The Black Wallabies were not too fussed by our arrival and continued browsing the shrubs. The Shingleback was inclined to resent our intrusion.



Black Wallaby



Shingleback

We were surprised to find very few flowering plants on the area burned in the fire that escaped from a farm in early 2020. Apart from a number of *Xerochrysum bracteata* (Golden Everlasting), *Glossodia major*, (Wax-lip Orchid), *Caladenia carnea* (Pink Fingers) and one sizable group of small *Diuris orientis*

(Wallflower Orchid) the fire had not resulted in the flowering of many species and the ground was quite bare. From the scorch marks up to 10 m high on the trees it seems that the fire must have been very hot.



Golden Everlasting



Wallflower Orchid



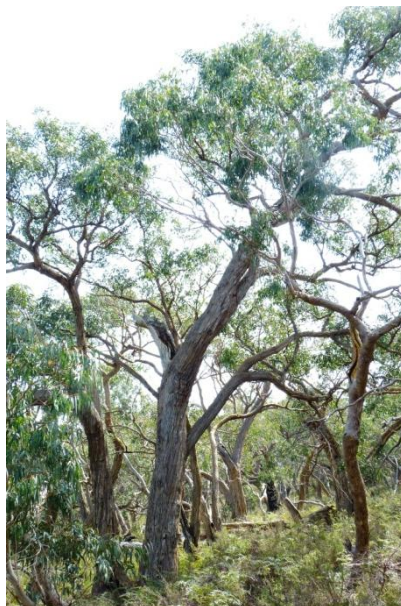
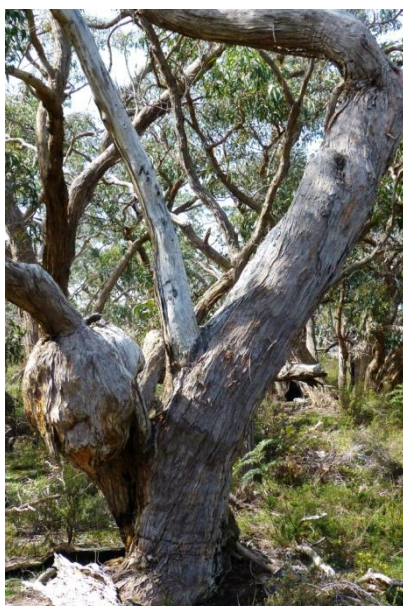
Billy Button



Part of area burned in early 2020



Bulldozed line in the Stringybark forest



Brown Stringybark trees in various stages of life and situation

We found one large feral pine on the last ridge before the fire area. There was also a recently created (probably clandestine) trail bike trail through the southern area of the fire.

Crossing to the track on the western boundary we passed over the destructive wide, bulldozed break through an area with large Stringybarks that was put diagonally across a part of the reserve but did not connect to any track. The fire did not get near it. Why it was there, rather than being positioned on the edge of the forest, is a mystery.

Those who stayed at the old quarry area had a good time. Despite the gravel-stripping, this site has a great variety of flora. Plants that stood out were the pea flowers: *Davesia brevifolia* (Leaf-less Bitter-pea), *Dillwynia hispida* (Red Parrot-pea), *Dillwynia sericea* (Showy parrot-pea), *Pultenea humilis* (Dwarf Bush-pea), *Platylobium parviflorum* (Flat Pea) and *Comesperma volubile* (Love Creeper). *Acacia paradoxa* (Hedge Wattle) and *Leptospermum myrsinoides* (Heath Tea-tree) were also prominent. We have observed over the years that Hedge Wattle is increasingly becoming a bad invasive shrub. It was not recorded for the Dundas Range by Cliff Beauglehole in the 1970s yet now is common.



Hedge Wattle



Tall Daisy



Greencomb Spider- Orchid

Orchids seen included *Caladenia carnea* (Pink Fingers) (and possibly *C. prolata*?), *Diuris orientis* (Wallflower Orchid), *Diuris pardina* (Leopard Orchid) *Glossodia major* (Wax-lip Orchid), *Cyrtostylis reniformis* (Gnat Orchid), *Pterostylis concinna* (Trim Greenhood) and *Caladenia parva* (Greencomb Spider-orchid). *Brachyscome diversifolia* (Tall Daisy), various sundews (*Drosera* spp.), *Kennedia prostrata* (Running Postman), Beard Heath (*Leucopogon* spp.), *Epacis impressa* (Common Heath), Flame Heath (*Stenantha conostephiodes*) were among other species seen at and near the quarry area.



Love Creeper



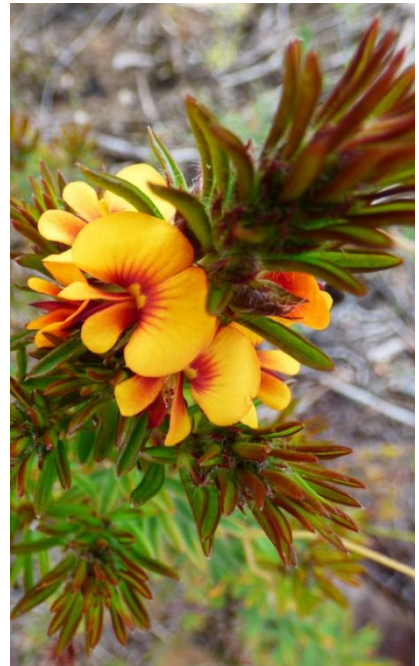
Red Parrot-pea



Leaf-less Bitter-pea



Common Heath



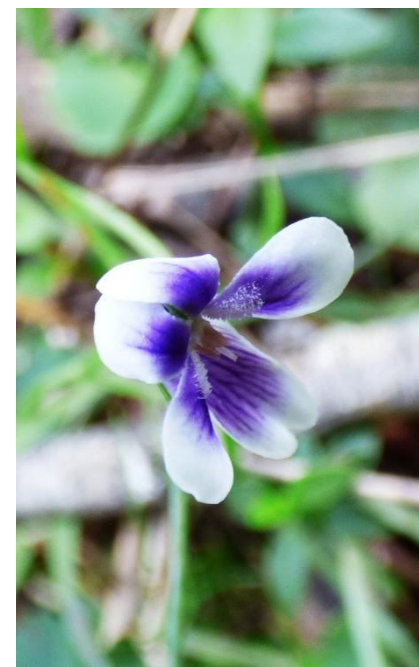
Dwarf Bush-pea



Flat Pea



Flame Heath



Ivy-leaved Violet



Pink Fingers (or *C. prolata*?)

After a picnic lunch at the old quarry site we drove around to the track up to Mt Dundas, stopping at a parking area on the hillside. There we inspected a mass of *Corybas incurvus* (Slaty Helmet Orchid) growing on the wet bank of the road cutting.

Our next stop was on the saddle where the track turns back for the run to the towers at the top of the mount. A mass of *Pterostylis nutans* (Nodding Greenhood) was seen on the roadside there. We walked to the peak on the east side of the range, finding *Pterostylis pedunculata* (Maroonhood), *Caladenia parva*, *Pterostylis concinna* on the saddle as well as masses of *Phyllanthus hirtellus* (Thyme Spurge). At the rocky peak we found *Xerochrysum bracteata* (Golden Everlasting), *Senecio pinnatifidus* (Variable Groundsel) and *Stypandra glauca* (Nodding Blue-lily) in brilliant flower.



Slaty Helmet Orchid



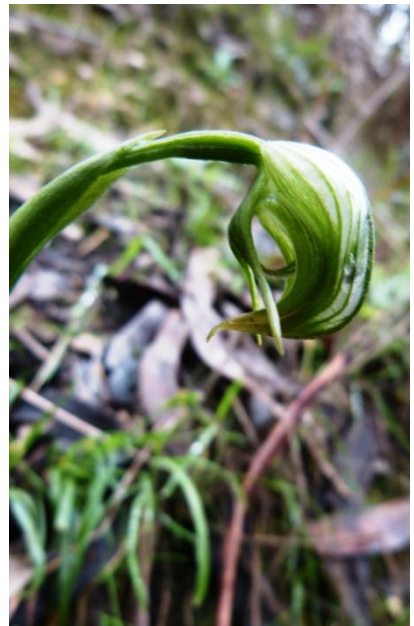
Thyme Spurge



Maroonhood



Trim Greenhood



Nodding Greenhood



Variable Groundsel



Nodding Blue-lily



Golden Everlasting

On the hillside were several other *Senecio* species, including the large, bluish-leaved *Senecio odoratus*

(Scented Groundsel) – that species has proliferated after a fire on this part of the mount but had yet to flower this spring.

Our last stop was about half way along the track on the western boundary. We looked among the *Eucalyptus baxteri* (Brown Stringybark) for *Caleana major* (Large Duck Orchid) but found no sign of the plants that we had seen on a geological excursion with Ross Cayley on 17 Nov 2018. Perhaps we were much too early this time to see any flowers.



One interesting plant that was conspicuous here – and on the western, sandy edge of the southern block – was a Smokebush, either *Conospermum mitchellii* (Victorian Smokebush) or *C. patens* (Slender Smokebush). It is possible that both species may occur there.



Smokebush



A sundew



Ladybird

A list of the native flora that we saw and identified are given in the table below. A table listing the complete native flora in the Dundas Scenic Reserve, based largely on the surveys of Cliff Beaglehole in the period 1968-1975, is available on the HFNC website. HFNC members have added 38 species to Beaglehole's list of 270 native species.

A few fungi were identified at various places during the day and several are illustrated below.

1. *Lichenomphalia umbellifera*
2. *Stropharia sp.* Dung Roundhead
3. *Panaeolus sphinctrinus*
4. *Panaeolus rickenii* – Bell Mottlegill
5. *Trametes versicolour* – a bracket fungus
6. *Dermocybe clelandii* – Cleland's Cortinar



Lichenomphalia umbellifera



Dung Roundhead



Panaeolus sphinctrinus



Bell Mottlegill



Trametes versicolor



Cleland's Cortinar?

We did not note many birds on this trip. Those that we did see or hear at the Dundas reserve were:

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Australian Magpie | 8. Red Wattlebird | 15. Striated Pardalote |
| 2. Grey Currawong | 9. Little Raven | 16. Spotted Pardalote |
| 3. Laughing Kookaburra | 10. Fan-tailed Cuckoo | 17. Eastern Yellow Robin |
| 4. Sacred Kingfisher | 11. White-eared Honeyeater | 18. Yellow-faced Honeyeater |
| 5. Crimson Rosella | 12. White-throated Treecreeper | 19. Brown Thornbill |
| 6. Gang Gang | 13. Superb Fairy-wren | |
| 7. Grey Shrike-thrush | 14. White-browed Scrubwren | |

Postscript

DL and RB returned to the south block 2 weeks after the excursion, hoping to drive down the west track to investigate the fire area. However, recent rain had affected the track so a walk was decided but the objective was not reached, having spent time at the old quarry area where there was a riot of flowers.

A number of orchid species not seen on the club excursion were noted along the way. These included dozens of *Caladenia tentaculata* (Mantis Orchid), a solitary *Caladenia pusilla* (Tiny Caladenia) and *Thelymitra flexuosa* (Twisted Sun-orchid), a few *Acianthus pusillus* (Small Mosquito-orchid) and *Caleana major* (Large Duck-orchid). The latter were seen by the west track towards the road. *Diuris pardina* (Leopard Orchid) was in flower everywhere. With the exception of *Thelymitra antennifera* (Rabbit-ears Orchid) there was insufficient sun for the many sun-orchid species to open their flowers.

Interesting plants not seen in flower earlier were *Dianella revoluta* (Black-anther Flax-lily), *Coronidium scorpioides* (Button Everlasting), *Neurachne allopecuroidea* (Fox-tail Mulga-grass) and *Lomandra multiflora* (Many-flowered Mat-rush). Some *Eucalyptus baxteri* (Brown Stringybark) were in flower.



Daphne Heath



Showy Parrot-pea



Leopard Orchid



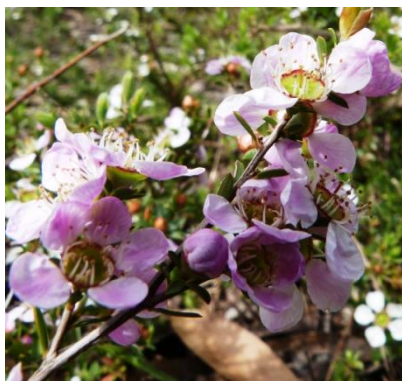
Large Duck-orchid



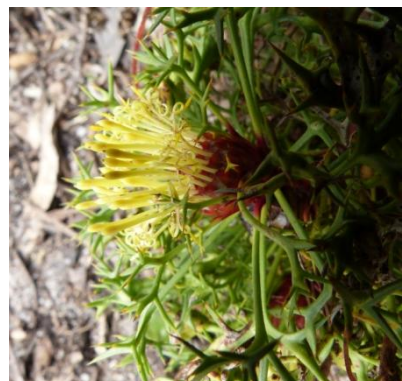
Tiny Caladenia



Many-flowered Mat-rush



Heath Tea-tree



Horny Cone-bush



Mantis Spider-orchid

Dundas Range Native Flora List

HFNC 19 September and 11 October 2020[€]

Botanic Name	Common Name	Sept	Oct
<i>Acacia mearnsii</i>	Black Wattle		L
<i>Acacia myrtifolia</i>	Myrtle Wattle	F	L
<i>Acacia paradoxa</i>	Hedge Wattle	F*	F
<i>Acacia verticillata</i>	Prickly Moses	F	F
<i>Acianthus pusillus</i>	Small Mosquito-orchid		F
<i>Acrotriche serrulata</i>	Honey-pots	L	L
<i>Amyema pendula</i>	Drooping Mistletoe		L
<i>Arthropodium strictum</i>	Chocolate Lily	L	B
<i>Asperula conferta</i>	Common Woodruff	L*	
<i>Asperula scoparia</i>	Prickly Woodruff	L	
<i>Asplenium flabellifolium</i>	Neckless Fern	L	
<i>Banksia marginata</i>	Silver Banksia	F	
<i>Brachyloma daphnoides</i>	Daphne Heath	L	F
<i>Brachyscome diversifolia</i>	Tall Daisy	F	
<i>Brunonia australis</i>	Blue Pincushion	L	B
<i>Burchardia umbellata</i>	Milk Maids	L	
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	Sweet Bursaria	L	L
<i>Caladenia carnea</i>	Pink Fingers	F	F
<i>Caladenia parva</i>	Green-comb Spider-orchid	F*	
<i>Caladenia pusilla</i>	Tiny Caladenia		F*
<i>Caladenia tentaculata</i>	Mantis Orchid		F*
<i>Caleana major</i>	Large Duck-orchid		F*
<i>Chamaecilla corymbosa</i>	Blue Stars	F	F
<i>Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia</i>	Rock Fern	L	L
<i>Chorizandra enodis</i>	Black Bristle-rush		F
<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	Common Everlasting	L	
<i>Comesperma volubile</i>	Love Creeper	F*	F
<i>Conospermum patens</i>	Slender Smokebush	F	F
<i>Coronidium scorpioides</i>	Button Everlasting		F
<i>Correa aemula</i>	Hairy Correa	F	F
<i>Corunastylis archeri</i>	Midge Orchid	F	
<i>Corybas incurvus</i>	Slaty Helmet-orchid	F*	
<i>Craspedia variabilis</i>	Common Billy-buttons	F	
<i>Cybonotus preissianus</i>	Austral Bear's-ears	L	
<i>Cyrtostylis reniformis</i>	Small Gnat Orchid	F	
<i>Davesia brevifolia</i>	Leafless Bitter-pea	F	F
<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	Black-anther Flax-lily		F
<i>Dichondra repens</i>	Kidney-weed	L	
<i>Dillwynia hispida</i>	Red Parrot-pea	F*	F
<i>Dillwynia glaberrima</i>	Smooth Parrot-pea	F	
<i>Dillwynia sericea</i>	Showy Parrot-pea		F*
<i>Diuris orientis</i>	Wallflower Orchid	F*	F
<i>Diuris pardina</i>	Leopard Orchid		F
<i>Dodonaea cuneata</i>	Wedge-leaf Hop-bush	L	L
<i>Drosera aberrans</i>	Scented Sundew	L	
<i>Drosera auriculata</i>	Tall Sundew	F	F
<i>Drosera hookeri</i>	Grassland Sundew	F*	
<i>Drosera macrantha</i>	Climbing Sundew	F	
<i>Epacris impressa</i>	Common Heath	F	L
<i>Eryngium ovinum</i>	Blue Devil		L
<i>Eucalyptus baxteri</i>	Brown Stringybark	L	F
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	River Red Gum	L	
<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>	Swamp Gum	L	
<i>Exocarpos cupressiformis</i>	Cherry Ballart	L	L
<i>Gahnia sieberiana</i>	Red-fruit Saw-sedge	F	

<i>Glossodia major</i>	Wax-lip Orchid	F	F
<i>Glycine clandestina</i>	Twining Glycine	F	
<i>Grevillea aquifolium</i>	Variable Prickly Grevillea	F	F
<i>Hakea decurrens</i>	Bushy Needlewood	F*	
<i>Hibbertia riparia</i>	Erect Guinea-flower	F	
<i>Hibbertia virgata</i>	Twiggy Guinea-flower	F*	
<i>Hydrocotyle foveolata</i>	Yellow Pennywort	F	
<i>Hydrocotyle laxiflora</i>	Stinking Pennywort	L	
<i>Hypericum gramineum</i>	Small St John's Wort		F
<i>Hypolaena fastigiata</i>	Tassel Rope-rush		F
<i>Iso pogon ceratophyllus</i>	Horny Cone-bush	L	F
<i>Kennedia prostrata</i>	Running Postman	F	F
<i>Lepidosperma carphoides</i>	Black Rapier-sedge		F
<i>Leptocercis menziesii</i>	Hare Orchid	L	L
<i>Leptospermum continentale</i>	Prickly Tea-tree	F	
<i>Leptospermum myrsinoides</i>	Heath Tea-tree	F	F
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	Manuka	F	L
<i>Leucopogon ericoides</i>	Pink Beard-heath	F	
<i>Leucopogon virgatus</i>	Common Beard-heath	F	F
<i>Lomandra multiflora</i>	Many-flowered Mat-rush		F
<i>Lomandra sororia</i>	Small Mat-rush		F
<i>Microseris sp.</i>	Murnong		F
<i>Neurachne allopecuroidea</i>	Fox-tail Mulga-grass		F*
<i>Oxalis perennans</i>	Grassland Wood-sorrel	F	F
<i>Pauridia glabella</i>	Tiny Star	F	
<i>Pelagonium australe</i>	Austral Pelagonium	L	
<i>Pelagonium rodneyanum</i>	Magenta Stork's-bill	L	L
<i>Phyllanthus hirtellus</i>	Thyme Spurge	F	F
<i>Platylobium obtusangulum</i>	Common Flat-pea	F*	F
<i>Platylobium parviflorum</i>	A Flat-pea	F*	
<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	Bracken	L	L
<i>Pterostylis concinna</i>	Trim Greenhood	F*	
<i>Pterostylis nutans</i>	Nodding Greenhood	F	
<i>Pterostylis pedunculata</i>	Maroonhood	F	
<i>Pultenea humilis</i>	Dwarf Bush-pea	F	F
<i>Pultenea scabra</i>	Rough Bush-pea	F	
<i>Pyrorchis nigricans</i>	Red Beaks Orchid	L	
<i>Senecio odoratus</i>	Scented Groundsel	L	
<i>Senecio pinnatifolius</i>	Variable Groundsel	F	
<i>Stellaria pungens</i>	Prickly Starwort	L	
<i>Stenanthera conostephioides</i>	Flame Heath	F	F
<i>Stypandra glauca</i>	Nodding Blue-lily	F	F
<i>Styphelia adscendens</i>	Golden Heath	L	L
<i>Styphelia humifusa</i>	Cranberry Heath	F	L
<i>Tetradlea ciliata</i>	Pink-bells	F	F
<i>Thelymitra antennifera</i>	Rabbit-ears	B	F
<i>Thelymitra flexuosa</i>	Twisted Sun-orchid		F
<i>Viola hederacea</i>	Ivy-leaved Violet	F	
<i>Wurmbea dioica</i>	Early Nancy	L	
<i>Xanthorrhoea minor</i>	Small Grass-tree	L	L
<i>Xerochrysum bracteatum</i>	Golden Everlasting	F	

€ Hamilton Field Naturalists excursions in 2020:

- walk from Dundas Gap Rd-old quarry area, south on ridge top to area burned in summer 2020, and drive to Mt Dundas saddle (19 Sept. 2020)
- follow-up visit by D Luhrs & R Bird on 11 Oct 2020 to the old quarry area and west boundary track

plants with flowers (F), or buds (B) or only leaves (L) – 105 species recorded

* plants not recorded previously by AC Beaglehole or HFNC (18 'new' species recorded this October)