

HFNC Excursion to Gariwerd NP Harrops Tk, Manja and Billimina Shelters

Diane Luhrs & Rod Bird

Participants: Glenys Cayley, Rod Bird, Diane Luhrs, Bronwen Clark, Elizabeth Fenton, Jenni Mitchell, Mervyn Hannan, Pam Lehmann, Reto Zollinger, Yvonne Ingeme, Peter McDonald, Wendy McDonald, Fiona Robertson, Dave Munro, Peter Hocking, Lyn Harvey and Steve McWhinney.

With a group over ten, we had to split into two groups to satisfy Covid regulations. Reto and Yvonne became leaders of one group and Rod and Diane were the leaders of the second group.

This was a great day with lots of native plants in flower and no rain, and good but easy exercise. We stopped for morning tea just as we turned into Harrops Tk and delighted in spending about half an hour or more wandering among the plants. Some notable species in flower there were Shrub Violet (*Hybanthus floribundus*), Blue Tinsel-lily (*Calectasia intermedia*), Leafless Bitter-pea (*Davesia brevifolia*), Showy Parrot-pea (*Dillwynia seracea*) and many hundreds of Myrtle Wattle (*Acacia myrtifolia*). A single plant of Heath Wattle (*A. brownie*) was seen on the roadside.



Shrub Violet



Blue Tinsel-lily



Showy Parrot-pea



Leafless Bitter-pea



Myrtle Wattle



Heath Wattle

We stopped next at the bridge on No.1 Creek where the riparian plants gave a purple edge to the creek. Grampians Bauera (*Bauera sessiliflora*) and Orange Bell-climber (*Billardiera bignoniaceae*) were there.

Pam found a Leopard Orchid (*Diuris pardina*) nearby on the edge of the road.



Leopard Orchid



Grampians Bauera



Orange Bell-climber

Our 2 groups stopped at sites that excited their interests, some enjoying a chat at the roadside, admiring the wildflowers from there.



Peter, Glenys, Steve, Bronwen, Rod & Dave



Myrtle Wattle, Love Creeper & Pink Beard-heath



View from No.1 Creek crossing

Harrops Tk provides many glorious views of the Billawin (Victoria) Range to the east. This is one of the best scenic drives in the southern Gariwerd ranges. It is an easy drive now, with bridges over the several creeks that were once very difficult to negotiate with 2WD vehicles.

Our group proceeded on Harrops Tk to the Manja car park to enjoy our picnic lunch before taking the 1.3 km stroll up to the Manja Shelter to see the Aboriginal art site and wildflowers along the way.

Reto and Yvonne’s group came in for lunch just as we were starting our walk. More flowers were enjoyed along the way – but not so many birds here. Notable wildflowers that we found here that were not seen earlier included the following species:

Grampians Thryptomene (*Thryptomene calycina*), Trim Greenwood (*Pterostylis concinna*), Gnat Orchid (*Cyrtostylis reniformis*), Wedge-leaved Hop-bush (*Dodoneae cuneata*), Rough Bush-pea (*Pultenea scabra*) and Juniper Wattle (*Acacia ulicifolia*). We had seen Desert Banksia (*Banksia ornata*) in flower in the latter part of the drive on Harrops Track and it was also along the walk to Manja. Snowy Myrtle (*Calytrix alpestris*) and Hop Goodenia (*Goodenia ovata*) were conspicuous at the Manja rock.



Grampians Thryptomene



Trim Greenwood



Gnat Orchid



Rough Bush-pea



Desert Banksia



Juniper Wattle



Hop Goodenia



Snowy Myrtle



Erect Guinea-flower

Many wildflowers were in bloom along the Manja walk, including some seen earlier. A few of those flowers are shown below – their botanic names can be found in the Appendix. We also saw many fungi during the day and two of those (Black Morel and Rainbow Bracket Fungus) are also shown below.



Beaked Hakea



Variable Prickly Grevillea



Wirilda



Slender Smokebush



Love Creeper buds



Boronia sp.



Common Hovea



Pink Beard-heath



Golden Heath



Black Morel



Horny Cone-bush



Rainbow Bracket Fungus



Spike Wattle



Blue Squill



Pink Bells



Running Postman



Tall Sundew



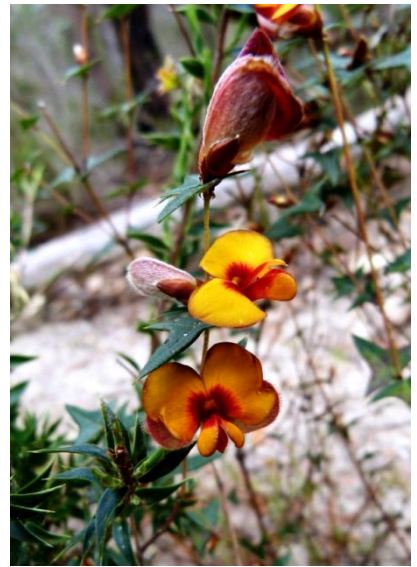
Slender Rice-flower



Wattle Mat-rush



Bundled Guinea-flower



Common Flat-pea

The picturesque sandstone crag emerges abruptly from the bush and is host to a number of different plant species near the base. The weather has undercut many of the layers in the cliff. The art site is found in a recess several metres deep and high on the northern side. The cave opening has been screened off to prevent vandalism to the images. The images are fairly simple, comprising several dozen hand stencils and a small number of human images, emu tracks and tally marks. A sample of the images is shown below, including one showing evidence of past vandalism (AA scratch mark).



Manja Rock and Aborigine art site



We finished our day with afternoon tea at Buandik Picnic ground and then a walk to the Jardwadjali Falls and, for those who had the time, to the Billimina Shelter to see more Aboriginal rock art.

Along the way we found Tall Greenhoods (*Pterostylis longifolia*) and Blunt Greenhoods (*Pterostylis curta*), as well as an unusual shrub, the Grampians Ziera (*Ziera oreocina*) that was growing on the edge of Billimina Ck that we crossed. Golden Whistlers were prominent in trees near the creek.



Grampians Ziera



Tall Greenhood



Blunt Greenhood



Tall Greenhood



Blunt Greenhood



The Billimina Shelter is situated about halfway up the range and has clear views to the west. The overhang gives shelter to a range of motifs, from tally marks to stick figures, hand prints and animal tracks. A small sample of the images is given below.

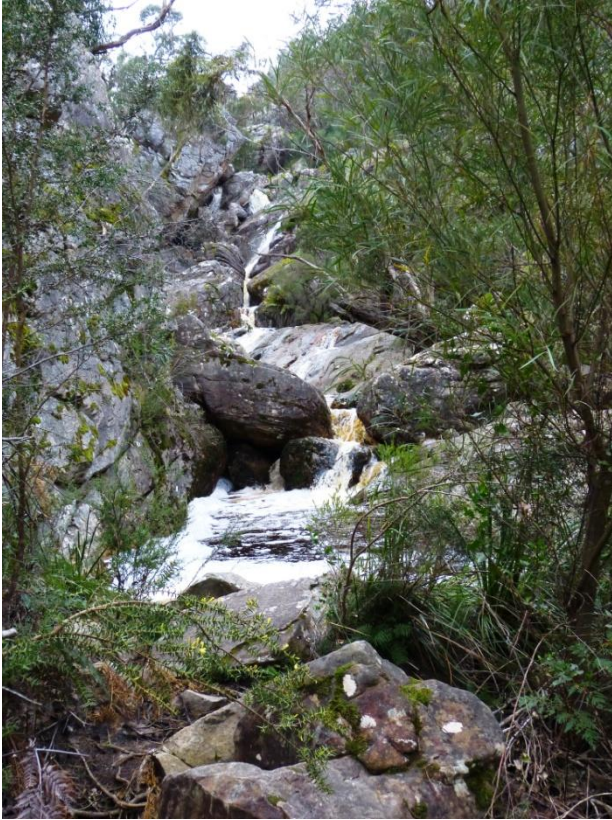


Approach to Billimina Shelter



Billimina Shelter

By this time it was close to 4.30 pm. It had been a good day and, we had enjoyed catching up with Rod's cousin Steve McWhinney and his partner Lyn Harvey from Beaufort who joined us for the day.



Jardwadjali (Buandik) Falls



Views of Billawin Range from Harrops Tk



Hazel Pomaderris



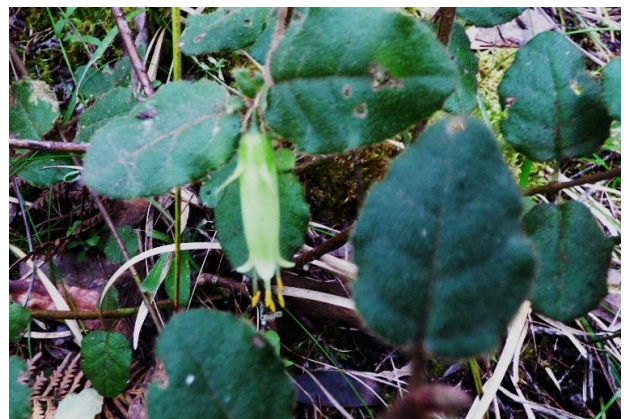
Showy Tea-tree



Ivy-leafed Violet



Flame Heath



Rock Correa

A list of birds seen during the excursion:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Australian Magpie | 9. Laughing Kookaburra | 17. Superb Fairy-wren |
| 2. Brown Thornbill | 10. New Holland Honeyeater | 18. Tree Martin |
| 3. Crimson Rosella | 11. Pied Currawong | 19. Wedge-tailed Eagle |
| 4. Eastern Spinebill | 12. Red Wattlebird | 20. Welcome Swallow |
| 5. Fan-tailed Cuckoo | 13. Spotted Pardalote | 21. White-browed Scrubwren |
| 6. Gang Gang Cockatoo | 14. Striated Pardalote | 22. White-eared honeyeater |
| 7. Golden Whistler | 15. Striated Thornbill | 23. White-throated Treecreeper |
| 8. Grey Fantail | 16. Sulphur-crested Cockatoo | 24. Yellow-faced Honeyeater |

Some fungi observed:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Black Morel (<i>Morchella elata</i>) | 5. Fairy Stool Fungus – <i>Coltricia cinnamomea</i> |
| 2. Rainbow Fungus (<i>Trametes versicolor</i>) | 6. Scarlet Bracket Fungus – <i>Pycnoporus coccineus</i> |
| 3. Earthstar Fungus – <i>Geastrum</i> sp. | |
| 4. Earth Tongue Fungus – <i>Geoglossum</i> sp. | |

Some species of native flora observed (L = species not in flower):

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <i>Acacia brownie</i> (Heath Wattle) | 39. <i>Glossodia major</i> (Wax-lip Orchid) |
| 2. <i>Acacia dealbata</i> (L) (Silver Wattle) | 40. <i>Goodenia ovata</i> (Hop Goodenia) |
| 3. <i>Acacia longifolia</i> (Sallow Wattle) | 41. <i>Grevillea aquifolium</i> (Variable Prickly Grevillea) |
| 4. <i>Acacia myrtifolia</i> (Myrtle Wattle) | 42. <i>Hakea rostrata</i> (Beaked Hakea) |
| 5. <i>Acacia oxycedrus</i> (Spike Wattle) | 43. <i>Hakea teretifolia</i> (Dagger Hakea) |
| 6. <i>Acacia paradoxa</i> (Hedge Wattle) | 44. <i>Hibbertia fasciculata</i> (Bundled Guinea-flower) |
| 7. <i>Acacia retinodes</i> (Wirilda) | 45. <i>Hibbertia riparia</i> (Erect Guinea-flower) |
| 8. <i>Acacia stricta</i> (Hop Wattle) | 46. <i>Hibbertia</i> sp. (Guinea-flower) |
| 9. <i>Acacia ulicifolia</i> (Juniper Wattle) | 47. <i>Hovea linearis</i> (Common Hovea) |
| 10. <i>Acacia verniciflua</i> (Varnish Wattle) | 48. <i>Hybanthus floribundus</i> (Shrub Violet) |
| 11. <i>Acacia verticillata</i> (Prickly Moses) | 49. <i>Hypoxis vaginata</i> (Sheath Star) |
| 12. <i>Allitia uliginosa</i> (Small Swamp Daisy) | 50. <i>Isopogon ceratifolius</i> (Horny Cone-bush) |
| 13. <i>Allocasuarina palludosa</i> (Scrub Sheoak) | 51. <i>Kennedia prostrata</i> (Running Postman) |
| 14. <i>Banksia marginata</i> (Silver Banksia) | 52. <i>Leporella fibriata</i> (L) (Fringed Hare-orchid) |
| 15. <i>Banksia ornata</i> (Desert Banksia) | 53. <i>Leptospermum myrsinoides</i> (Heath Tea-tree) |
| 16. <i>Bauera sessiliflora</i> (Grampians Bauera) | 54. <i>Leptospermum scoparium</i> (Manuka) |
| 17. <i>Billardiera bignoniaceae</i> (Orange Bell-climber) | 55. <i>Leucopogon ericoides</i> (Pink Beard-heath) |
| 18. <i>Boronia</i> sp. (Boronia) | 56. <i>Lomandra filiformis</i> (Wattle Mat-rush) |
| 19. <i>Calectasia intermedia</i> (Blue Tinsel-lily) | 57. <i>Pimelea linifolia</i> (Slender Rice-flower) |
| 20. <i>Callitris rhomboidea</i> (Oyster Bay Pine) | 58. <i>Platylobium obtusangulum</i> (Common Flat-pea) |
| 21. <i>Calytrix alpestris</i> (Snow Myrtle) | 59. <i>Pomaderris aspera</i> (Hazel Pomaderris) |
| 22. <i>Chaemeschilla corymbosa</i> (Blue Squill) | 60. <i>Pterostylis concina</i> (Trim Greenhood) |
| 23. <i>Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia</i> (Rock Fern) | 61. <i>Pterostylis curta</i> (Blunt Greenhood) |
| 24. <i>Comespernum volubile</i> (Love Creeper) | 62. <i>Pterostylis longifolia</i> (Tall Greenhood) |
| 25. <i>Conospermum patens</i> (Slender Smoke-bush) | 63. <i>Pultenea scabra</i> (Rough Bush-pea) |
| 26. <i>Correa glabra</i> (Rock Correa) | 64. <i>Pyrorchis nigricans</i> (L)(Red Beaks) |
| 27. <i>Correa reflexa</i> (Common Correa) | 65. <i>Spyridium parvifolium</i> (Dusty Miller) |
| 28. <i>Craspedia variabilis</i> (Common Billy-buttons) | 66. <i>Stackhousia viminea</i> (Slender Candles) |
| 29. <i>Cyrtostylis reniformis</i> (Gnat Orchid) | 67. <i>Stenanthera conostephioides</i> (Flame Heath) |
| 30. <i>Davesia brevifolia</i> (Leafless Bitter-pea) | 68. <i>Styphelia adscendens</i> (Golden Heath) |
| 31. <i>Dillwynia sericea</i> (Showy Parrot-pea) | 69. <i>Tetratheca ciliata</i> (Pink Bells) |
| 32. <i>Diuris pardina</i> (Leopard Orchid) | 70. <i>Thryptomene calycina</i> (Grampians Thryptomene) |
| 33. <i>Dodonaea cuneata</i> (Wedge-leaved Hop-bush) | 71. <i>Viola hederacea</i> (Ivy-leafed Violet) |
| 34. <i>Drosera auriculata</i> (Sundew) | 72. <i>Xanthorrhoea minor</i> (Small Grass-tree) |
| 35. <i>Epacris impressa</i> (Common Heath) | 73. <i>Ziera oreocina</i> (Grampians Ziera) |
| 36. <i>Eucalyptus baxteri</i> (L) (Brown Stringybark) | |
| 37. <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> (River Red Gum) | |
| 38. <i>Exocarpos cupressiformis</i> (L) (Cherry Ballart) | |