

HFNC Excursion to Black Range-Rocklands Woodlands on 24 October 2021

Rod Bird

Participants: D Luhrs & R Bird, Y Ingeme & R Zollinger, P Hocking, G Cayley, E Fenton, F Robinson and visitors K & R Edwards, L Harvey & S McWhinney, J Mitchell & M Hannan, P Lehman, C & C Carlyle, N Macumber, N Mitchell, W & A Bedgood, A Nicholls. This was one of our best-attended excursions. It was organised and led by Yvonne and Reto.

We left Hamilton at 9.30 am, with a couple of very light showers on our way, stopping at Cavendish to meet other attendees. We stopped again at the Glenisla Crossing Rd on the Henty Highway north of Glenisla. There we met visitors from the north and made our first inspection of wildflowers in the adjacent River Red Gum woodland of the **Glenisla State Forest**.

It was a little too early in Spring for the blaze of orange from Bulbine Lily (*Bulbine bulbosa*), the purple of Chocolate Lily (*Arthropodium strictum*) and Small Vanilla-lily (*A. minus*) and blue of Blue Grass-lily (*Caesia calliantha*) but there were many other grassland species in flower. Among those were orchids, including *Caladenia tentaculata* (Mantis Orchid), *Caladenia carnea* (Pink Fingers), *Thelymitra rubra* (Salmon Sun-orchid) and what appeared to be a hybrid *Caladenia parva* (Greencomb Spider-orchid),

We noted the incursion of weeds such as African Weed Orchid (*Disa bracteata*) and Harlequin Flower (*Sparaxis bulbifera*). Some are likely to eventually dominate the grassland flora. It seems too late now to attempt any control. Strenuous efforts should be made to prevent that happening in other reserves.



Chocolate Lily



Small Vanilla -lily



Blue Grass-lily



Greencomb Spider Orchid hybrid



Mantis Orchid



Pink Fingers

Some River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) were flowering and Purple-crowned and Musk Lorikeets were busy in the blossom.

We made another stop in the **Cherry-pool State Forest** further north where we found *Thelymitra ixioides* (Dotted Sun-orchid), *Caladenia pusilla* (Tiny Caladenia), *Caladenia moschata* (Musky Caladenia), *Caladenia tentaculata* (Mantis Orchid), *Neurachne allopecuroidea* (Fox-tail Mulga-grass), *Stylidium graminifolium* (Grass Triggerplant), *Hydrocotyle* sp. (Pennyworts) and many other species in flower.

The *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River Red Gum) here, and elsewhere, were showing the impact of insect attack. One culprit was found to be the Gum-leaf Skeletoniser (*Uraba lugens*), whose feeding method is to strip away the green parts of the leaf, leaving a light brown skeleton of ribs and veins.



Musky Caladenia



Tiny Caladenia



Mantis Orchid



Grass Trigger-plant



Stinking Pennywort



Gum-leaf Skeletoniser in action

Lorikeets were again heard in the tree tops of *Eucalyptus melliodora* (Yellow Box) and *E. leucoxylo*n (Yellow Gum) that were flowering. Later, in the Black Range area, the yellow flowers were conspicuous on the road surface beneath the trees, as a result of the actions of parrots, cockatoos, wattlebirds and other honeyeaters.

Our lunch stop was at **Djarabul (Cherry-pool)**, the Henty Highway stop at the Glenelg River. The weather was kind to us and we had sun and no rain. There were only a few birds on the river. In the distance we noted a huge nest in a tree on the bank and the occasional emergence of a raptors head above the lip. It may have been a Whistling Kite or perhaps a Wedge-tailed Eagle.

Our next 3 stops were on the Cherrypool Rd to the HGH T-junction with the Rocklands Rd. This Yellow Box/Yellow Gum woodland is Black Range State Forest. The **Burrunj (Black Range) State Park** lies to the west of HGH corner and the Rocklands Rd.

There were many notable species seen on these stops, with Sun-orchids responding to warmer conditions and opening. *Thelymitra pauciflora* (Blue Sun-orchid), *Thelymitra antennifera* (Rabbit-ears), *Caladenia clavigera* (Plain-lip Spider-orchid) and other orchids seen earlier were observed there. *Podolepis jaceoides* (Showy Podolepis) was, for many, the stand-out species here. The showy *Grevillea alpina* (Cats-claws) and *Acacia aculeatissima* (Thin-leaf Wattle) was flowering at one stop. *Goodenia paradoxa* (Spur Goodenia) – formerly a *Velleia* – was also seen. The most numerous acacia there (and later) was *Acacia verniciflua* (Varnish Wattle), but this species flowers in winter. *Goodenia geniculata* (Bent Goodenia), *Brachyscome* species and *Vittadinia cuneata* (New Holland Daisy), with its little purple flowers, were seen at every stop in the Black Range.



A Brachyscome daisy



Hooded Caladenia



Spur Goodenia



Plain-lip Spider-orchid



Cat's Claws Grevillea



Showy Podolepis

We made just one stop between HGH Corner and Mountain Dam campground. All of this area east/south of the road is outside the State Park. Our route now was through patches of *Eucalyptus baxteri* (Brown Stringybark) forest and woodland of Yellow Gum and Yellow Box. *Callitris rhomboidea* (Oyster Bay Pine) was also prominent and there were appearances of *Allocasuarina verticillata* (Drooping Sheoak) and *Banksia marginata* (Silver Banksia). The mass of pink-white flowers of *Calytrix tetragona* (Fringed Heath-myrtle) shrubs was also notable and *Pultenea pedunculata* (Matted Bush-pea) appeared.

On the northern side of the road, in the Yellow Gum/Yellow Box woodland, we found a small patch of

Bracteantha viscosa (Shiny Everlasting), a delightful display of golden everlasting flowers. At this spot, too, were several Dusky Woodswallows hawking for insects among the trees.



Heath Tea-tree



Small St John's Wort



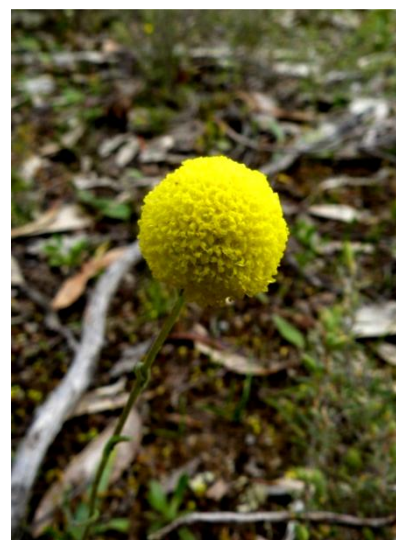
Plain-lip Spider-orchid



New Holland Daisy



Shiny Everlasting



Common Billy-button

Across the road in the State Forest we observed a red plastic-covered wire on the ground about 30 m from – and parallel with – the road. This was apparently continuous over a distance of 7 or more km. Its function was said to be part of a survey to detect mineral deposits in the area. A company is presently investigating the prospects of finding gold, silver, copper and other minerals in this region.

If commercial quantities of minerals are detected in the Black Range bushland, a concern must be had for the impact of mining on the native flora. Another concern was the sighting of the weed *Sparaxis bulbifera* (Harlequin Flower) near the road, probably introduced from vehicles. Since the whole of this area was, until at least the 1980s, grazed by sheep it is likely that there are many more weeds.

Few of us had been to **Mountain Dam campground** near the edge of **Rocklands Reservoir**. We had afternoon tea there and a pleasant time chatting. Roger Edwards then volunteered to show us a site further to the west where he had seen a red spider-orchid (possibly *Caladenia reticulata* or *C. formosa*). We found the place but the orchid was not to be seen. Several of the plants had been guarded with mesh in years past but the guards were not found either. They appear to have been removed. Roger was disappointed at not finding the orchid but the site on the boundary of Brown Stringybark forest and Yellow Box woodland more than compensated by the variety of other species of flora in flower. Among those was a single plant of *Diuris orientis* (Wallflower Diuris) – the only one seen all day. *Dillwynia humilis* (Red Parrot-pea) was prominent here as were *Pultenea humilis* (Dwarf Bush-pea) and *Tetradthea ciliata* (Pink Bells), both very colourful species that I cannot recall having seen earlier.



Red Parrot-pea



Dwarf Bush-pea



Bark-mimicking Cricket



Horny Conebush



Wallflower Orchid

Other interesting species seen were the tiny white-flowered *Stylidium androsaceum* (Book Triggerplant), *Ajuga australis* (Austral Bugle), *Cynoglossum suaveolens* (Sweet Hound's-tongue), the very spiny dwarf form *Bursaria spinosa* var. *lasiophylla* (Sweet Bursaria) and *Leptomeria aphylla* (Leafless Current-bush).

This marked the end of our excursion for most of the visitors, at around 4.30 pm. Some back-tracked to Cherrypool while the rest proceeded on to Balmoral and thence home, all satisfied with the days outing.

Lists of many of the species of flora and birds seen during the day are attached.

Some native flora noted from Glenisla SF, Cherrypool SF & Black Range SF on 24 Oct. 2021

Botanic Name	Common Name	Glen- isla SF	Cherry- pool SF	Black Ra SF 1	Black Ra SF 2	Mt Dam	Black Ra SF 3
<i>Acacia aculeatissima</i>	Thin-leaf Wattle			#			
<i>Acacia paradoxa</i>	Hedge Wattle		#				
<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>	Golden Wattle			#			
<i>Acacia verniciflua</i>	Varnish Wattle			#	#	#	#
<i>Acaena echinata</i>	Sheep's Burr	#	#				
<i>Ajuga australis</i>	Austral Bugle				#		#
<i>Allocasuarina pusilla</i>	Dwarf Sheoak				#		
<i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i>	Drooping Sheoak				#		#
<i>Amyema pendula</i>	Drooping Mistletoe						#
<i>Arthropodium minus</i>	Small Vanilla-lily			#			#
<i>Arthropodium strictum</i>	Chocolate Lily	#	#	#			#
<i>Asperula conferta</i>	Common Woodruff			#			#
<i>Austrostipa</i> sp.	Spear Grass	#	#				
<i>Banksia marginata</i>	Silver Banksia					#	
<i>Brachyloma ciliatum</i>	Fringed Brachyloma						#
<i>Brachyloma daphnoides</i>	Daphne Heath						#
<i>Brachyscome</i> sp.	Daisy			#			
<i>Bracteantha viscosa</i>	Shiny Everlasting				#		
<i>Brunonia australis</i>	Blue Pincushion			#			
<i>Bulbine bulbosa</i>	Bulbine Lily	#	#	#			
<i>Burchardia umbellata</i>	Milkmaids	#	#				#
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i> var. <i>lasiophylla</i>	Sweet Bursaria			#	#		#
<i>Caesia calliantha</i>	Blue Grass-lily	#	#	#			#
<i>Caladenia carnea</i>	Pink Fingers	#	#				
<i>Caladenia clavigera</i>	Plain-lip Spider-orchid			#			#
<i>Caladenia cuculata</i>	Hooded Caladenia						#
<i>Caladenia moschata</i>	Musky Caladenia			#			
<i>Caladenia parva</i>	Greencomb Spider-orchid	#	#	#			
<i>Caladenia pusilla</i>	Tiny Caladenia		#			#	
<i>Caladenia tentaculata</i>	Mantis Orchid	#	#	#			#
<i>Callitris rhomboidea</i>	Oyster Bay Pine			#	#		#
<i>Calytrix tetragona</i>	Fringed Heath-myrtle			#	#	#	#
<i>Chamaescilla corymbosa</i>	Blue Stars	#	#	#			
<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	Common Everlasting	#	#	#			#
<i>Chrysocephalum semipapposum</i>	Clustered Everlasting				#		
<i>Convolvulus erubescens</i>	Pink Bindweed	#	#				
<i>Corybas incurvus</i>	Slaty Helmet-orchid						#
<i>Craspedia variabilis</i>	Common Billy-buttons						#
<i>Cynoglossum suaveolens</i>	Sweet Hound's-tongue			#	#		#
<i>Cyrtostylis reniformis</i>	Gnat Orchid						#
<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	Black-anther Flax-lily		#				
<i>Dillwynia sericea</i>	Showy Parrot-pea						#
<i>Dillwynia hispida</i>	Red Parrot-pea			#			#
<i>Diuris orientis</i>	Wall-flower Orchid						#
<i>Drosera aberrans</i>	Scented Sundew			#			
<i>Drosera auriculata</i>	Tall Sundew	#		#			
<i>Epilobium billardioreanum</i>	Variable Willow-herb						#
<i>Eucalyptus goniocalyx</i>	Bundy				#		
<i>Eucalyptus baxteri</i>	Brown Stringybark				#	#	#
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	River Red Gum	#					
<i>Eucalyptus leucoxydon</i>	Yellow Gum		#		#	#	
<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	Yellow Box		#		#	#	
<i>Exocarpos cupressiformis</i>	Cherry ballart	#					
<i>Geranium solanderi</i>	Austral Crane's-bill						#
<i>Goodenia geniculata</i>	Bent Goodenia	#	#	#	#		#
<i>Goodenia paradoxa</i>	Spur Goodenia						

<i>Grevillea alpina</i>	Cat's Claws Grevillea			#			
<i>Hakea</i> sp.	Bushy Hakea						#
<i>Haloragis heterophylla</i>	Varied Raspwort						#
<i>Hibbertia fasciculata</i>	Bundled Guinea-flower			#			
<i>Hibbertia riparia</i>	Erect Guinea-flower				#		#
<i>Hibbertia sericea</i>	Silky Guinea-flower				#		#
<i>Hydrocotyle foveolata</i>	Yellow Penny-wort		#	#	#		
<i>Hydrocotyle laxiflora</i>	Stinking Penny-wort				#		
<i>Hypericum gramineum</i>	Small St John's Wort			#			
<i>Isopogon ceratophyllus</i>	Horny Cone-bush				#		#
<i>Isotoma fluviatilis</i>	Swamp Isotome					#	
<i>Kennedia prostrata</i>	Running Postman			#			
<i>Leptomeria aphyla</i>	Leafless Current-bush				#		#
<i>Leptorhynchos tenuifolius</i>	Wiry Buttons	#		#			
<i>Leptospermum myrsinoides</i>	Heath Tea-tree						#
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	Manuka			#	#		
<i>Leucopogon ericoides</i>	Pink Bearded-heath				#		#
<i>Lomandra filliformis</i>	Wattle Mat-rush			#			#
<i>Microseris</i> sp.	Yam Daisy	#	#	#			#
<i>Microtis unifolia</i>	Common Onion-orchid	#	#	#			#
<i>Neurachne alopecuroidea</i>	Fox-tail Mulga-grass	#	#	#	#		#
<i>Oxalis perennans</i>	Grassland Wood-sorrel			#			#
<i>Pauridia glabella</i>	Tiny Star			#			
<i>Pauridia vaginata</i>	Yellow Star	#		#			
<i>Pelargonium rodneyanum</i>	Magenta Stork's-bill		#	#			#
<i>Pimelea humilis</i>	Common Rice-flower	#	#	#			#
<i>Podolepis jaceoides</i>	Showy Podolepis			#			
<i>Pultenaea humilis</i>	Dwarf Bush-pea						#
<i>Pultenaea pedunculata</i>	Matted Bush-pea				#		#
<i>Ranunculus</i> sp.	Buttercup		#	#			
<i>Rytidosperma</i> sp.	Wallaby-grass			#			
<i>Senecio quadridentatus</i>	Cotton Fireweed	#	#	#	#		
<i>Senecio squarrosus</i>	Leafy Fireweed			#	#		
<i>Siloxerus multiflorus</i>	Small Wrinkle-wort			#			
<i>Stackhousia monogyna</i>	Creamy Candles		#	#			#
<i>Stenantha conostephioides</i>	Flame Heath		#				#
<i>Stylidium graminifolium</i>	Grass Triggerplant		#				
<i>Stylidium androsaceum</i>	Book Triggerplant				#		
<i>Styphelia humifusa</i>	Cranberry Heath				#		
<i>Tetralochea ciliata</i>	Pink Bells						#
<i>Thelymitra antennifera</i>	Rabbit-ears			#			
<i>Thelymitra rubra</i>	Salmon Sun-orchid	#	#	#			
<i>Thelymitra ixiooides</i>	Dotted Sun-orchid		#				#
<i>Thelymitra nuda</i>	Plain Sun-orchid	#	#				
<i>Thelymitra pauciflora</i>	Blue Sun-orchid			#			
<i>Themeda triandra</i>	Kangaroo Grass		#				
<i>Thysanotus patersonii</i>	Twinning Fringe-lily	#	#	#			
<i>Vittadinia cuneata</i>	New Holland Daisy		#	#			#
<i>Wurmbea dioica</i>	Early Nancy	#					#

Glenisla SF = River Red Gum woodland opposite Glenisla Crossing Rd

Cherry pool SF = Woodland approaching Cherry pool

Black Range SF 1 = Woodland on Rd from Cherry pool to HGH Corner

Black Range SF 2 = Woodland on Rocklands Rd from HGH Corner to Mountain Dam camp ground

Mountain Dam = camp /picnic ground near the Rocklands Dam

Black Range 3 = Stringybark forest joining a Yellow Box/Yellow Gum woodland west of Mountain Dam.

Some birds noted from Glenisla SF, Cherrypool SF & Black Range SF on 24 Oct. 2021.

Birds seen	Glen- isla SF	Cherry- pool SF	Cherry- pool	Black Ra 1	Black Ra 2	Mt Dam	Black Ra 3
Musk Lorikeet	#						
Purple-crowned Lorikeet	#						
Long-billed Corella		#					
Crimson Rosella							
Striated Pardalote							
Australian Magpie							
Yellow-rumped Thornbill							
Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo	#						
Australian White Ibis			#				
Little Pied Cormorant			#				
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	#						
Galah	#						
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	#						
Grey Fantail				#			
Laughing Kookaburra				#			
Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo				#			
Red Wattlebird						#	#
Spotted Pardalote						#	#
Brown Thornbill							#
Weebill				#			
White-plumed Honeyeater			#			#	
Dusky Woodswallow					#		
Yellow-faced Honeyeater							#
Common Bronzewing							#
White-throated Treecreeper							#
Emu					#		
Little Raven	#						
Willie Wagtail							#
Rufous Whistler							#

Glenisla SF = River Red Gum woodland opposite Glenisla Crossing Rd

Cherrypool SF = Woodland approaching Cherrypool

Black Range SF 1 = Woodland on Rd from Cherrypool to HGH Corner

Black Range SF 2 = Woodland on Rocklands Rd from HGH Corner to Mountain Dam camp ground

Mountain Dam = camp /picnic ground near the Rocklands Dam

Black Range 3 = Stringybark forest joining a Yellow Box/Yellow Gum woodland west of Mountain Dam.



Weed Orchid & Bulbine Lilies



Book Triggerplant



Sweet Hound's-tongue