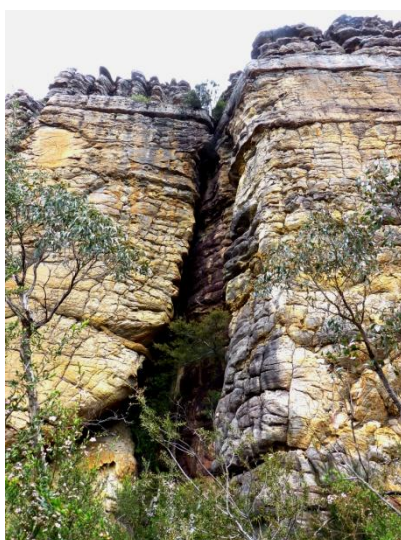
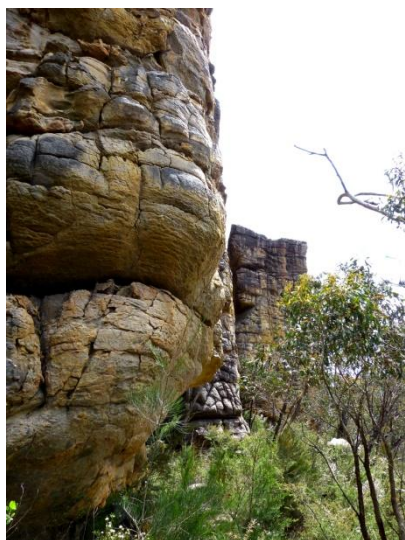


HFNC Excursion to Bundaleer, Gariwerd NP, on 20 November 2021

Rod Bird

Participants: Diane Luhrs, Rod Bird, Reto Zollinger, Yvonne Ingeme, Peter Hocking, Glenys Cayley, Pam Lehman, Peter McDonald, Lyn Harvey & Steve McWhinney.

We left Hamilton at 9.30 am, stopping at Halls Gap to meet Steve and Lyn. We then took the Mt Victory Rd, turning off left at the Glenelg River Rd and, shortly after, left onto the Stony Ck Rd. This dirt road met the Mt Rosea Track at 12 km from Halls Gap. We drove 0.8 km down the 4WD Mt Rosea Track to a parking area at the walk to Stony Peak. We had morning tea at this point. Two weeks earlier Diane and I had walked up the trail to Stony Point to see the great cliff walls but thought this time it best to leave that to the end of the day. In the end, no-one had the energy! A few photos are presented below to show a little more of what could be glimpsed from the road. Rock climbers enjoy these cliffs.



Walls on Stony Peak

We walked 1.6 km down the Mt Rosea Track to the south (which is suitable only for 4WD vehicles and may be closed in winter) to the start of the **Tower Hill** trail. We chose this walk rather than the shorter but steeper climb to Stony Peak because there are better views of the landscape beyond and we also hoped also to find the trail to **Calectasia Falls**. The book *'50 Walks in the Grampians'* by Tyrone Thomas (1991) gives directions to the *'delightful Calectasia Falls'*, described as *'fairly big and with a very pleasant cascade area just above the main drop'*. The falls were said to be 750 m WNW from the base of the Tower Hill stack and the walk of *'Medium grade'* difficulty.



Ribbed Bush-pea



Grampians Parrot-pea



Soft Bush-pea



Showy Parrot-pea



Rough Bush-pea

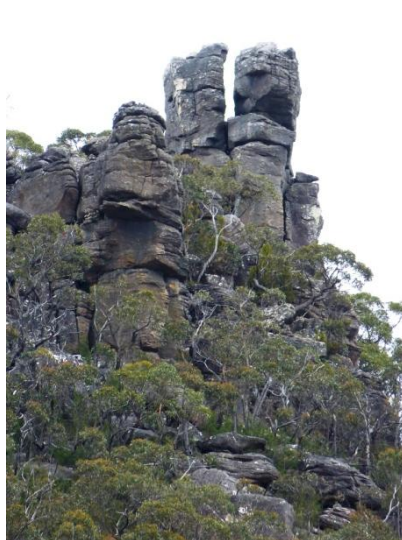


Dwarf Wedge-pea

There were many plants in bloom along the Mt Rosea Track. The pea-flower species were especially prominent and these included Soft Bush-pea (*Pultenaea mollis*), Ribbed Bush-pea (*Pultenaea costata*), Rough Bush-pea (*Pultenaea scabra*), Grampian's Bush-pea (*Dillwynia oreodoxa*) and Showy Parrot-pea (*Dillwynia sericea*). Other stand-out species were Dwarf Wedge-pea (*Gompholobium ecostatum*), Grampians Bauera (*Bauera sessiliflora*), Blue Tinsel-lily (*Calectasia intermedia*), Dwarf Boronia (*Cyanothamnus nanus*), Cat's Claw Grevillea (*Grevillea alpina*) and Fairy Aprons (*Utricularia dichotoma*).



Views of Tower Hill from Mt Rosea Tk



Grampians Bauera



Blue Tinsel-lily



Dwarf Boronia



Cat's Claw Grevillea

Other species in flower along the Mt Rosea Tk included Victorian Smokebush (*Conospermum mitchellii*), Fringed Everlasting (*Chrysocephalum baxteri*), Common Fringe-myrtle (*Calytrix tetragona*), Snow Myrtle (*Calytrix alpestris*), Western Furze-hakea (*Hakea repullulans*), Dagger Hakea (*Hakea teretifolia*), Grampians Thryptomene (*Thryptomene calycina*), Hairy Correa (*Correa aemula*), Black's goodenia (*Goodenia blackiana*), Common Apple-berry (*Billaerdeira scandens*), Tiny Violet (*Viola hederacea* ssp. *seppeltiana*) and Common Heath (*Epacris impressa*).



Fringed Everlasting



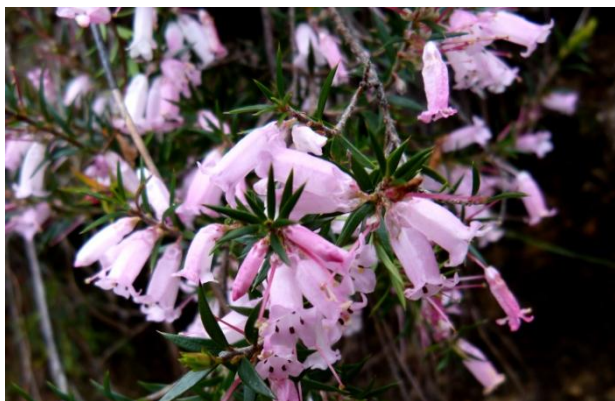
Snow Myrtle



Victorian Smokebush



Western Furze-hakea



Common Heath



Fairy Aprons



Black's Goodenia



Grampians Thryptomene



Dagger Hakea



Tiny Violet

After crossing a creek and walking up a long slope we reached the trail to **Tower Hill**. We walked about 100 m up the trail from the Mt. Rosea Track to some large rocks where there are great views of the landscape to the east and west. The **Western Wall** is the major feature.



Part of the Western Wall, viewed from the Tower Hill trail at Bundaleer

We had lunch at these rocks and then continued the scramble up the rough trail to the base of the Tower Hill stacks, 300-400 m distant. A large Striped Skink (*Ctenotus* sp. ?) was observed on the path.

Flora of note along the way included Wedge-leaved Hop-bush (*Dodonaea viscosa* ssp. *cuneata*), Hooded Caladenia (*Caladenia cucullata*), Tall Greenhood (*Pterostylis melagramma*), Musky Caladenia (*Caladenia moschata*), Bronze Caladenia (*Caladenia iridescens*). The latter species was particularly showy and about 2 dozen plants were in flower along the way, some on the path.



Wedge-leaved Hop-bush



A Striped Skink



Bronze Caladenia



Hooded Caladenia



Musky Caladenia



Bronze Caladenia



Common Apple-berry



Hairy Correa



Grampians Sheoak

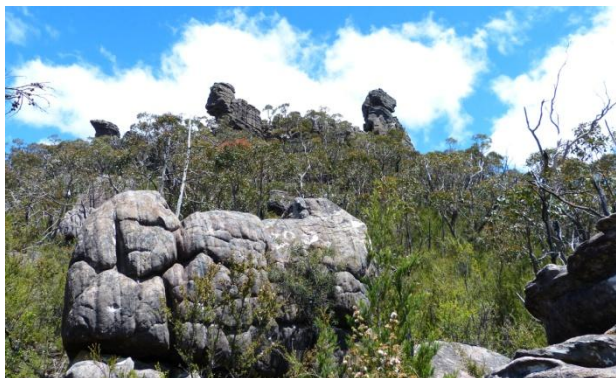


Kunzea & Calytrix



Violet Kunzea

As we approached the base of the Tower Hill cliff the trail forked. The right hand prong was assumed to be the start of the trail to **Calectasia Falls**. Reto and Peter took the climb up to near the summit of the Tower, while the others admired another rock garden, with Violet Kunzea (*Kunzea parvifolia*) the spectacular major new ingredient. Grampians Sheoak (*Allocasuarina grampiana*) was also present.



Tower Hill



West Tower



Looking west from Tower Hill

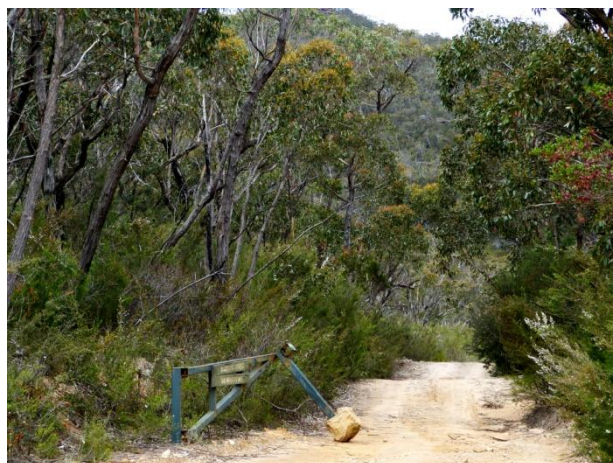


Common Everlastings at Tower Hill

We had reached a point where the way to Calectasia Falls was uncertain. The track appeared to be overgrown and passage along it was going to be a scratchy affair – if indeed it was the correct trail. Our uncertainty was added to by knowing that there was also, according to a map that Pam downloaded, a trail off that leading back to the car park at Stony Peak. We had contemplated taking that route but it did not look inviting late in the afternoon. Easy decision – return the way we had come. We will keep that other walk for another day.

A gate to enable seasonal closure of the Mt Rosea Tk had been pulled out by hoons in a 4WD a few weeks earlier. There were a couple of vehicles travelling on that track during the afternoon, taking advantage of the open barrier. Some parts of the track had been deeply eroded during the winter.

Back at the vehicles we had afternoon tea and then departed, taking the right hand turn out of the Mt Rosea Tk onto Stony Peak Rd, to meet the Mt Victory Rd and the one-way passage past Silverband Falls to the Halls Gap-Dunkeld Rd.



One way to open a locked barrier

We were fortunate in having good weather for the excursion. This was the first visit by HFNC to the Bundaleer area, although John and Ross Cayley visited it several times to go rock-climbing.

Some native flora seen in the Bundaleer area of Gariwerd NP in Nov. 2021

1. *Acacia aculeatissima* (Thin-leaf Wattle)
2. *Acacia brownii* (Heath Wattle)
3. *Acacia myrtifolia* (Myrtle Wattle)
4. *Allocasuarina grampiana* (Grampians Sheoak)
5. *Allocasuarina muelleriana* (Slaty She-oak)
6. *Banksia marginata* (Silver Banksia)
7. *Bauera sessiliflora* (Showy Bauera)
8. *Billardiera bignoniaceae* (Orange Bell-climber)
9. *Billardiera scandens* (Common Apple-berry)
10. *Bossiaea rosmarinifolia* (Grampians Bossiaea)
11. *Brunonia australis* (Blue Pincushion)
12. *Caladenia cucullata* (Hooded Caladenia)
13. *Caladenia iridescens* (Bronze Caladenia)
14. *Caladenia moschata* (Musky Caladenia)
15. *Calectasia intermedia* (Blue Tinsel-lily)
16. *Calytrix alpestris* (Snow Myrtle)
17. *Calytrix tetragona* (Common Fringe-myrtle)
18. *Cassytha pubescens* (Downy Dodder-laurel)
19. *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* (Common Everlasting)
20. *Chrysocephalum baxteri* (Fringed Everlasting)
21. *Conospermum mitchellii* (Victorian Smokebush)
22. *Coronidium scorpioides* (Button Everlasting)
23. *Correa aemula* (Hairy Correa)
24. *Cyanothamnus nanus* (Tiny Boronia)
25. *Dillwynia oreodoxa* (Grampians Parrot-pea)
26. *Dillwynia sericea* (Showy Parrot-pea)
27. *Dodonaea viscosa* (Wedge-leaf Hop-bush)
28. *Drosera auriculata* (Tall Sundew)
29. *Epacris impressa* (Common Heath)
30. *Eucalyptus baxteri* (Brown Stringybark)
31. *Eucalyptus obliqua* (Messmate Stringybark)
32. *Eucalyptus viminalis* (Manna Gum)
33. *Gahnia sieberiana* (Red-fruit Saw-sedge)
34. *Gompholobium ecostatum* (Dwarf Wedge-pea)
35. *Goodenia blackiana* (Black's Goodenia)
36. *Goodenia ovata* (Hop Goodenia)
37. *Grevillea alpina* (Cat's Claws Grevillea)
38. *Grevillea aquifolium* (Variable Prickly Grevillea)
39. *Hakea repullulans* (Western Furze Hakea)
40. *Hakea teretifolia* (Dagger Hakea)
41. *Hibbertia fasciculata* (Bundled Guinea-flower)
42. *Hibbertia sericea* (Silky Guinea-flower)
43. *Hypolaena fastigiana* (Tassel Rope-rush)
44. *Kennedia prostrata* (Running Postman)
45. *Kunzea parvifolia* (Violet Kunzea)
46. *Leptospermum myrsinoides* (Heath Tea-tree)
47. *Leptospermum scoparium* (Manuka)
48. *Leucopogon virgatus*. (Common Beard-heath)
49. *Lomandra filiformis* ssp. *coriacea* (Wattle Mat-rush)
50. *Melaleuca squarrosa* (Scented Paper-bark)
51. *Pimelea flava* (Yellow Rice-flower)
52. *Pteridium esculentum* (Austral Bracken)
53. *Pterostylis melagramma* (Tall Greenhood)
54. *Pultenaea costata* (Ribbed Bush-pea)
55. *Pultenaea humilis* (Dwarf Bush-pea)
56. *Pultenaea mollis* (Soft Bush-pea)
57. *Pultenaea oreodoxa* (Grampians Bush-pea)
58. *Pultenaea scabra* (Rough Bush-pea)
59. *Stylidium soboliferum* (Grampians Trigger-plant)
60. *Tetratheca ciliata* (Pink Bells)
61. *Thryptomene calycina* (Grampians Thryptomene)
62. *Utricularia uniflora* (Fairy Aprons)
63. *Viola hederacea* (Ivy-leaf Violet)
64. *Viola hederacea* ssp. *seppeltiana* (Tiny Violet)

Birds seen or heard at Bundaleer in Nov. 2021

1. Bassian Thrush
2. Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
3. Common Bronzewing
4. Crescent Honeyeater
5. Crimson Rosella
6. Dusky Woodswallow
7. Eastern Spinebill
8. Eastern Yellow Robin
9. Fan-tailed Cuckoo
10. Gang Gang Cockatoo
11. Golden Whistler
12. Grey Fantail
13. Grey Shrike-thrush
14. Little Wattlebird
15. New Holland Honeyeater
16. Pied Currawong
17. Rufous Whistler
18. Shining Bronze-cuckoo
19. White-browed Scrubwren
20. White-throated Treecreeper
21. Willie Wagtail
22. Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo