

# HFNC Excursion to the Gar Waterfalls track, Troopers Creek, on 24 July 2022

Diane Luhrs & Ross Simpson

**Present:** Rod Bird, Diane Luhrs, Glenys Cayley, Janeen Samuel, Ross Simpson, Reto Zollinger, Yvonne Ingeme, Doug Ward, Pam Lehmann, Cathryn Carlyle, and Steve McWhinney

**Leaders:** Cathryn Carlyle and Ross Simpson

Most of us departed from the Hamilton Visitor Centre at 9.30 am for the long drive in convoy to the Troopers Ck camping ground where we met up with Cathryn, Reto, Yvonne and Steve. As some of the party were intending to walk through to the Beehive Falls carpark, a car-shuffle was arranged so that there would be a vehicle there to return them to Troopers Creek at the end of the walk. While the car-shuffle was being arranged the rest of the party enjoyed a morning tea around a camp fire.

Once all were back together at Troopers Ck, Ross and Cathryn led us on the Gar Falls Track that followed the Dead Bullock Creek. The Gar Falls track led us past a number of small waterfalls and great views of the large sandstone cliffs on the opposite side of the creek. We made our lunch spot with a good view to the very long but narrow Gar Waterfall. In a good wet season the width of these falls would be quite remarkable. The sandstone rocks at all the falls were worn very smooth by the water over many years and looked stunning in their variety of colours from creams and yellows to rich copper.

Along the track to the falls a few birds were seen. At this time there were few plants in flower. Some of the early spring flowers seen along the way were Variable Prickly Grevillea, Cat's Claw Grevillea, Scented Sundew, Guinea Flowers, Brush Heath, Dagger Hakea, Pine Heath, Common Heath, various Wattles (including many feral *A. longifolia*), Common Correa, Hairy Correa and two orchids (Large Mosquito Orchid and the Dwarf Greenhood). Some of the Eucalypts were also sporting white flowers. Although not in flower, the Grampians Trigger-plants were vibrantly green.

Fungi were emerging from the soil and others arising from dead timber: Puffball, Fairy Stool, Jelly Bells, Rooting Shank and the Yellow Belly Buttons.

We stopped for lunch at the Gar Falls near the sign pointing to Beehive Falls and Briggs Bluff further ahead. This is where we spotted a number of Large Mosquito Orchids beside the track. After lunch Ross, Cathryn, Reto, Yvonne, Doug and Pam continued to the Beehive Falls and carpark, while Rod, Steve, Janeen, Glenys and I returned along the same track to the Troopers Ck carpark.

Ross described the walk to the Beehive Falls as a slow and winding walk up to a higher level that left the tall trees behind and followed the track through low stunted growth with views across 50 m to tall grey rock walls that looked much like elephant's skin. Further along there was some bush-bashing and then a steep climb down to the base of the Beehive Falls. Overall, Ross described this section of the track as a moderate walk on the new section of the Peaks Trail with care needed on some sections of the old track. The last 1.4 km to the Beehive Falls carpark was an easy relatively flat walk.

## Birdlist:

Australian Magpie	Grey Shrike Thrush	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Brown Thornbill	Laughing Kookaburra	Superb Fairy-wren
Crimson Rosella	New Holland Honeyeater	Wedge-tailed Eagle
Eastern Spinebill	Red-rumped Parrot	White-browed Babbler
Forest Raven	Scarlet Robin	White-throated Tree-creeper
Golden Whistler	Spotted Pardalote	
Grey Fantail	Striated Pardalote	

## Fungus

Species Name	Common Name
<i>Omphalina chromacea</i>	Yellow Belly-buttons
<i>Crepidotus crocophylus</i>	Yellow Crep
<i>Oudemansiella radicata</i> / <i>Xerula radicata</i>	Rooting Shank

<i>Coltricia cinnamomea</i>	Fairy Stool
<i>Lycoperdon</i> sp.	Puffball
<i>Stereum</i> sp.	

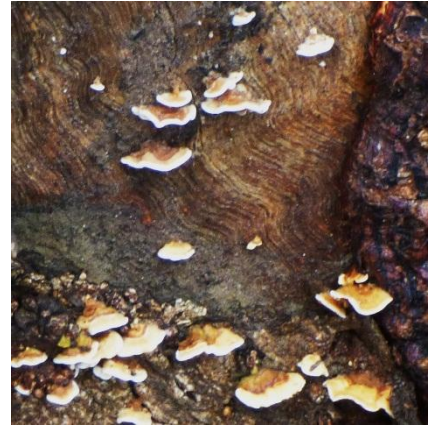




At the first waterfall: Glenys, Yvonne, Pam, Reto, Cathryn, Ross, Rod, Janeen, Steve (PL)



The first tall waterfall (DL)



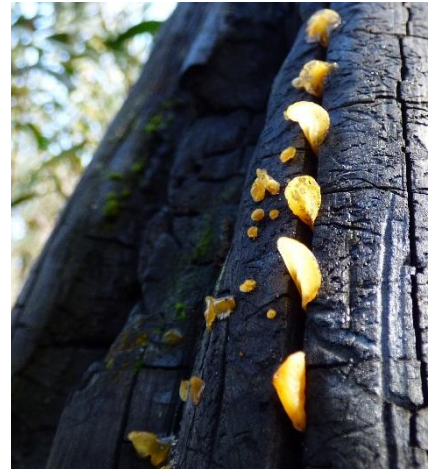
Possibly a *Stereum* sp. (DL)



Along the track (PL)



Dagger Hakea/*Hakea teretifolia*



Yellow Crep/*Crepidotus crocophylus* (DL)



The morning cloud hangs on (DL)



Ross, Janeen, Doug and Cathryn (PL)



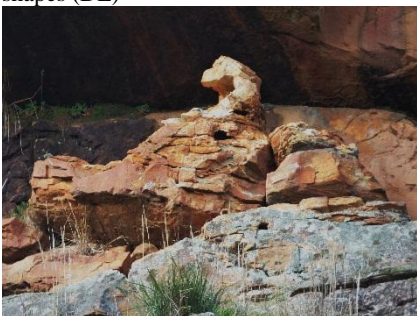
Puffball - perhaps *Lycoperdon* sp. (DL)



Sandstone caves and interesting rock shapes (DL)



Fairy Stool /*Coltricia cinnamomea* (DL)



A resting dog perhaps? (DL)



Yellow Belly Buttons/*Omphalina chromacea* (PL)





Variable Prickly Grevillea/*Grevillea aquifolium* (DL)



Large Mosquito Orchid/*Acianthus exertus* (PL)



Common Correa/*Correa reflexa* (DL)



Cat's Claw Grevillea (DL)



Scented Sundew/*Drosera whittakeri* (DL)



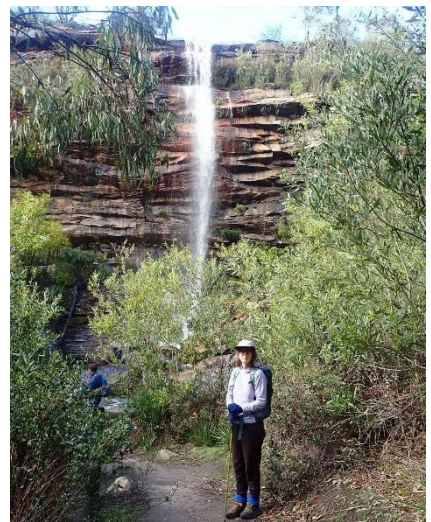
Hairy Correa/*Correa aemula* (DL)



Brush Heath/*Brachyloma ericoides* (DL)



Juniper Wattle/*Acacia ulicifolia* (DL)



Cathryn at the first tall waterfall (PL)



Guinea Flower/*Hibbertia* sp. (DL)



Spreading Wattle/*Acacia genistifolia* (DL)



Janeen & Ross at the base of the falls (PL)





Lunch stop at Gar Falls (DL)



Rod and Steve negotiate the rocky steps



Reto, Yvonne, Doug, Pam and Cathryn near Beehive Falls (PL)



Lunch stop (DL)



Reto on the after-lunch section of the walk to Beehive Falls (RS)



Beehive Falls (RS)



View from the opposite side across the rock face (DL)



Upper section of walk – large rock wall (RS)



Looking across to the return track (DL)



Reto and Yvonne (PL)



Cat's Claws Grevillea/*Grevillea alpina* (RS)





Grampian Trigger-plant/*Stylidium soboliferum* (RS)



Common Heath/*Epacris impressa* (RS)



Pine Heath/*Stenanthera pinifolium*



Coral Lichen (RS)



Spongy white secretion with caterpillars inside (RS)



Reto demonstrates a biological feature to Yvonne, Cathryn and Doug (PL)



Yvonne tramps along the higher path to Beehive Falls (PL)



And up ... Yvonne (PL)



Along the higher plateau (PL)



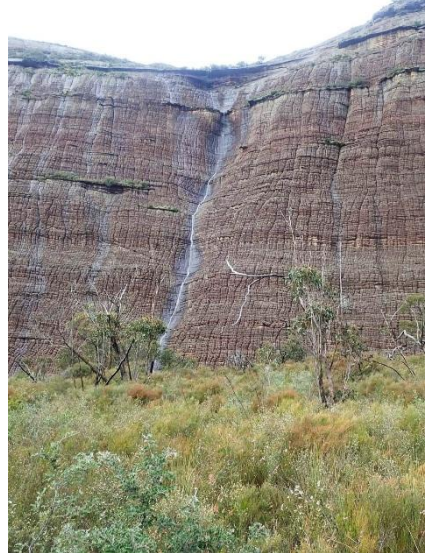
Ross heading to Beehive Falls – flowering Dagger Hakea/*H. teretifolia* (PL)



Cathryn points out features along the way (PL)



Ross walks under a section of Beehive Falls (PL)



The 'elephant hide' surface of the rock face (PL)





Golden Whistler (DL)



White-browed Babbler (DL)



Ploughshare Wattle/*Acacia gunnii* (RB)



Common Beard-heath/*Leucopogon virgatus* (RB)

### List of some plants in flower

*Acacia genistifolia* (Spreading Wattle)

*Acacia gunnii* (Ploughshare Wattle)

*Acacia longifolia* (Sallow Wattle)

*Acacia ulicifolia* (Juniper Wattle)

*Acianthus exsertus* (Large Mosquito Orchid)

*Allocasuarina muelleriana* (Slaty Sheoak)

*Brachyloma ericoides* (Brush Heath)

*Correa aemula* (Hairy Correa)

*Correa reflexa* (Common Correa)

*Drosera whittakeri* (Scented Sundew)

*Epacris impressa* (Common Heath)

*Grevillea alpina* (Cat's Claw Grevillea)

*Grevillea aquifolium* (Variable Prickly Grevillea)

*Hakea teretifolia* (Dagger Hakea)

*Hibbertia* sp. (Guinea Flower)

*Leucopogon virgatus* (Common Beard-heath)

*Pterostylis nana* (Dwarf Greenhood)

*Stenanthera pinifolium* (Pine Heath)

*Stylidium soboliferum* (Grampians Trigger-plant)