



The Clematis

The Quarterly Newsletter of the
Bairnsdale & District Field Naturalists Club Inc. A0006074C
P.O. Box 563, Bairnsdale Victoria 3875 www.bairnsdalefieldnaturalists.com.au

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Koala at Karoonda Park, Gelantipy

Photo by Pauline Stewart

CONTENTS

Programme March to June 2018	3
Camp-out, Karoonda Park, Gelantipy	4-15
In Search of Tongues and Bonnets	16-18
Bushwalk to Lake Tyers Glasshouse	19

CORRESPONDENCE TO: The Secretary, P.O. Box 563, Bairnsdale 3875

www.bairnsdalefieldnaturalists.com.au

The Clematis is printed and supported by the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning

MEETINGS

General meetings take place at:

The Noweyung Centre,
84 Goold Street, Bairnsdale
as per program at 7.30pm *sharp*
Committee meetings take place at:
members homes as per
program at 4.00pm

THE CLEMATIS

Responsibility for the accuracy of information and opinions expressed in this newsletter rests with the author of the article.

All articles for Winter Clematis must be sent to the Newsletter Editor by 1st June 2018.

SUBSCRIPTION FEES 2016/17

Single membership	\$30
Family membership	\$45
Mid-year fee (new members only)	\$15

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- To further the awareness and study of all branches of natural history within the East Gippsland community through field excursions, regular surveys, specialist guest speakers and publications.
- To observe and strengthen the laws for the preservation and protection of indigenous flora, fauna, habitat and important geological features.
- To promote the formation and preservation of National and State Parks and Reserves.
- To collaborate with other groups and agencies with similar environmental interest.

LIBRARY INFORMATION - ask a committee member if you would like to borrow a book.

- Books are generally borrowed for one month - however you can write on the sign-out sheet if you wish to have it longer.
- Should any library materials need maintenance, please make a committee member aware of same.
- If you wish to recommend a book, this can be done by writing a short recommendation for the Clematis. This information could be from our library books or from other books that you believe our library could look at purchasing.

FIELD TRIPS

It is your responsibility to contact the coordinator of each field trip to notify them of intention to participate.

The coordinator will notify you if the trip has to be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances.

Please take note of safety procedures in your Bairnsdale & District Field Naturalists Club Inc. 'RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY' booklet. This can be downloaded from our web site.

RULES TO OBSERVE DURING FIELD TRIPS

- Excursions are cancelled on days of TOTAL FIRE BAN.
- Participants to keep a visual on the car in front and behind.
- When making a turn, give signal, and stay at intersection until following car has also turned.
- If separated from other cars, stop, and stay with your car. Other members will return to find you.
- The Car Pooling Cost Calculator is used to assist drivers and car pool passengers to share fuel costs.

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY FOR BUSH WALKS

Walks vary in distance from 8 to 14 km.

Easy: Flat, good firm track.

Moderately easy: Mostly flat, track in good to fair condition.

Moderate: May be undulating, track in good to fair condition.

Moderately Difficult: May be some steep sections, track may be rough in places.

Difficult: May have long steep sections, track may be non-existent at times.

Contact the leader of the walk for a rating if it's not included in the program.

CONTACTS for Field Trips

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PROGRAMME March to June 2018

Date	Activity	Time	Destination	Meeting Place	Subject	Leader/ Speaker
MARCH Sun 4th	Junior excursion	9.00am	All Abilities Playground	Blond Bay/Wattle Point	Walk/swim at Storm Bay	Vicki Fraser
Thurs 8 th	Comm. meeting	4.00pm	Pauline Stewart's home			
Frid 16 th	General meeting	7.30pm	Noweyung Centre		Invertebrate biodiversity	Max Campbell VFN Club
Sun 18 th	Excursion	9.00am	Bridge Club	Pettman's Beach		Jen Wilkinson
Sun 25th	Bushwalk	9.00am	Bridge Club	Deptford area	Moderate	Noel Williamson
30,31st	Junior Camp-out	TBA		Clive Disher Park at Perry Bridge	Joint Easter Camp with VFNC junior group	Vicki Fraser
APRIL 01,02nd	Junior Camp-out continues					
Thurs 12th	Comm. meeting	4.00pm	Jen Wilkinson's home			
Frid 20th	Juniors meeting General meeting	6.00pm 7.30pm	Noweyung Centre		Orchid pollination	Mitch Smith
Sun 22 nd	Excursion	9.00am	Bridge Club	Buchan area		James Turner
Sun 29 th	Bushwalk	9.00am	Bridge Club	Upper Hospital Creek Road from Buchan Rd	Moderate	Noel Williamson
MAY Sun 6 th	Junior Group	TBA				Vicki Fraser
Thurs 19 th	Planning / comm. meeting	4.00pm	Margaret Regan's home			
Frid 18 th	General meeting	7.30pm	Noweyung Centre			TBA
Sun 20 th	Excursion	9.00am	Bridge Club	Fernbank/Lympiers Track to Stockdale		James Turner
25,26,27,28	Bushwalk/camp-out	TBA	Mallacoota			Noel Williamson
JUNE Sun 3 rd	Junior Group	TBA				Vicki Fraser
Sun 17 th	Excursion	TBA				James Turner
Sun 24 th	Bushwalk	9.00am	Bridge Club	Hospital Creek Road from Mottle Rd intersection	Moderate	Noel Williamson

CAMP-OUT, KAROONDA PARK, GELANTIPY 24-27 November 2017

By Margaret Regan

Friday 24 November

We arrived at our very comfortable accommodation at Karoonda Park in time for lunch. After lunch we headed north where our first stop was at Boundary Creek. The vegetation was woodland with a tussock grass (*Poa* sp.) as a ground cover. One of the overhead trees was Candlebark (*Eucalyptus rubida*) whose bark is smooth and white when fresh but develops reddish patches in summer to autumn. Daisies were Sticky Everlasting (*Ozothamnus thyrsoideus*) with blunt narrow shiny leaves; white and yellow Dusty Daisy-bush (*Olearia phlogopappa*) to 2.5m, with hairy young growth; and yellow and white Button Everlasting (*Coronidium scorpioides*). Two peas were mostly yellow Prickly Bush-pea (*Pultenaea forsythiana*); and yellow Prostrate Bossiaea (*Bossiaea prostrata*) with round leaves. Heaths were white Common Heath (*Epacris impressa*) named for the 5 indentations in the base of the corolla tube (fused petals); white Common Beard-heath (*Leucopogon virgatus*) with erect leaves and flowers crowded near the tips of the branches; and white Mountain Beard-heath (*Acrothamnus hookeri*) which has oblong leaves and pink or red succulent fruits. A smaller shrub was Hairy Pink-bells (*Tetratea pilosa*) with hairy stems. There was also the often-seen perennial Creamy Candles (*Stackhousia monogyna*). The only orchid was yellow and brown Tiger Orchid (*Diuris sulphurea*) with few brown markings. Tiny plants were white Common Woodruff (*Asperula conferta*) with leaves in rings of 5 or 6; the tiny white to pink shrub Dwarf Boronia (*Boronia nana*); purple herbaceous Showy Violet (*Viola betonicifolia*); and the sedge Common Bog-rush (*Schoenus apogon*). We were delighted to find the pretty white Early Forest Gentian (*Gentianella polysperes*) whose petals have blue-green veins. Birds heard here were Spotted Pardalote and Sacred Kingfisher.

We then turned into the Black Mountain Limestone Creek Road and onto Wombargo Track which had been control burnt in autumn 2017. At our first stop along the track, there were orchids other than Tiger Orchid. These were the similar yellow and brown Leopard Orchid (*Diuris pardina*) with many brown markings; a tiny forest of burgundy Common Bird-orchid (*Chiloglottis valida*) which has a heart-shaped labellum with dark calli; blue Graceful Sun-orchid (*Thelymitra simulata*); and white Musky Caladenia or Scented Fingers (*Caladenia moschata*) whose petals and sepals are white with pink or bronze tips. Again, we saw Common Woodruff, Creamy Candles, Button Everlasting and Showy Violet. New daisies were mauve Coarse Daisy (*Brachyscome spathulata*) with a basal rosette of spoon-shaped leaves; and Rough Burr-daisy (*Calotis scabiosifolia*) whose fruits have 5-10 awns (spines). Other new plants were the small shrubs white Daphne Heath (*Brachyloma daphnoides*) with sweetly scented tubular flowers; Grey Guinea-flower (*Hibbertia obtusifolia*); and prostrate Matted Bush-pea (*Pultenaea fasciculata*). Other small herbaceous plants were yellow Bulbine Lily (*Bulbine bulbosa*); and many plants of Strawberry Buttercup (*Ranunculus collinus*) whose flowers have from 5-11 bright yellow petals; tiny Slender Speedwell (*Veronica gracilis*) whose flowers are pale lilac with darker veins; white beautifully scented Sweet Hound's-tongue (*Cynoglossum suaveolens*), whose leaves are shaped like a hound's tongue; and bluebells (*Wahlenbergia* sp.).

Large Bird Orchid (*Chiloglottis valida*)

Photo by Fran Bright

Musky Caladenia or Scented Fingers (*Caladenia moschata*)

Photo by Fran Bright

Further up the Wombargo Track were two more orchids: Mountain Spider-orchid (*Caladenia montana*) whose sepals have long dark brownish clubs; and Mountain Golden Moths (*Diuris monticola*) where the flower parts can have fine brown streaks at their bases. Again, we saw Early Forest Gentian and Dwarf Boronia. Many plants had pink flowers!! There was small shrub Heath Pink-bells (*Tetratheca bauerifolia*) whose leaves are in rings of 4-6; a deep pink Showy Violet; and a pink climbing pea Variable Glycine (*Glycine tabacina*) whose leaves have 3 leaflets. Another small herbaceous plant was white Prickly Starwort (*Stellaria pungens*) with pointed leaves and flowers whose 5 petals are so deeply divided there is the impression that there are 10 petals.

As with most places we visited over the 4-day camp, there was evidence of brumbies with hoofed tracks and piles of dung. In the eucalypts surrounding Karoonda Park were a large number of Koalas.



Koala at Karoonda Park

Photo by Lindsay Tuck



Mountain Golden Moth (*Diuris monticola*)

Photo by Fran Bright



Sacred Kingfisher

Photo by Ken Russell, BirdLife East Gippsland

Plants:		<i>Stackhousia monogyna</i>	Creamy Candles
<i>Acrothamnus hookeri</i>	Mountain Beard-heath	<i>Stellaria pungens</i>	Prickly Starwort
<i>Asperula conferta</i>	Common Woodruff	<i>Tetradlea bauerifolia</i>	Heath Pink-bells
<i>Boronia nana</i>	Dwarf Boronia	<i>T. pilosa</i>	Hairy Pink-bells
<i>Bossiaea prostrata</i>	Prostrate Bossiaea	<i>Thelymitra simulata</i>	Graceful Sun-orchid
<i>Brachyloma daphnoides</i>	Daphne Heath	<i>Veronica gracilis</i>	Slender Speedwell
<i>Brachyscome spathulata</i>	Coarse Daisy	<i>Viola betonicifolia</i>	Showy Violet
<i>Bulbine bulbosa</i>	Bulbine Lily	<i>Wahlenbergia</i> sp.	A bluebell
<i>Caladenia montana</i>	Mountain Spider-orchid	Birds:	
<i>C. moschata</i>	Musky Caladenia or Scented Fingers	<u>Boundary Creek</u>	
<i>Calotis scabiosifolia</i>	Rough Burr-daisy	Australian Magpie	Pied Currawong
<i>Chiloglottis valida</i>	Common Bird-orchid	Rufous Whistler	Spotted Pardalote
<i>Coronidium scorpioides</i>	Button Everlasting	Superb Fairy-wren	White-eared Honeyeater
<i>Cynoglossum suaveolens</i>	Sweet Hound's-tongue	White-throated Treecreeper	
<i>Diuris monticola</i>	Mountain Golden Moths	<u>Wombargo Road</u>	
<i>D. pardina</i>	Leopard Orchid	Crimson Rosella	Laughing Kookaburra
<i>D. sulphurea</i>	Tiger Orchid	Rufous Whistler	Sacred Kingfisher
<i>Epacris impressa</i>	Common Heath	White-throated Treecreeper	
<i>Eucalyptus rubida</i>	Candlebark	<u>Karoonda Park</u>	
<i>Gentianella polysperes</i>	Early Forest Gentian	Australian King Parrot	Crimson Rosella
<i>Glycine tabacina</i>	Variable Glycine	European Goldfinch	Eastern Spinebill
<i>Hibbertia obtusifolia</i>	Grey Guinea-flower	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Grey Fantail
<i>Leucopogon virgatus</i>	Common Beard-heath	Grey Shrike-thrush	House Sparrow
<i>Olearia phlogopappa</i>	Dusty Daisy-bush	Pied Currawong	Red-browed Finch
<i>Ozothamnus thyrsoides</i>	Sticky Everlasting	Rufous Whistler	Scarlet Robin
<i>Poa</i> sp.	A tussock grass	Striated Pardalote	Welcome Swallow
<i>Pultenaea fasciculata</i>	Matted Bush-pea	White-throated Treecreeper	White-winged Chough
<i>P. forsythiana</i>	Prickly Bush-pea	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Yellow-rumped Thornbill
<i>Ranunculus collinus</i>	Strawberry Buttercup	Mammal:	
<i>Schoenus apogon</i>	Common Bog-rush	Koala	

Saturday 25 November

Today we drove north towards the NSW border. Our first stop was near Mt Hamilton at Hamilton Gap, just before the scary winding narrow road leading to Suggan Buggan, where there is a terrifyingly steep drop on one side. Here the orchid lovers found Tiger Orchid; blue Spotted Sun-orchid (*Thelymitra ixioides*); and Musky Caladenia. Again, we found Daphne Heath, Creamy Candles, and Prickly Starwort. A new plant was the broom-like semi-parasitic shrub Pale-fruit Ballart (*Exocarpus strictus*) with tiny scale leaves and fruit whose stalk swells to form a pale lilac aril. The succulent aril is an attractive food for birds. Their digestive juices weaken the coat of the seed, allowing it to germinate more easily after defecation and dispersal by the bird. Two other shrubs were the white daisy Shiny Cassinia (*Cassinia longifolia*) whose shiny leaves have a mat of whitish hairs beneath (as do many daisies); and the Grey Guinea-flower (*Hibbertia obtusifolia*). Small plants were the purple pea Twining Glycine (*Glycine clandestina*); and the yellow daisy Scaly Buttons (*Leptorhynchos squamatus*) where the bracts below the inflorescence have dark tips. A grass we noted was the reddish Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*). The only bird we noticed was Spotted Pardalote. There were quite a lot of plain brown moths which had emerged after two days of rain. Here we found the signs of damage by feral deer!

At a stop further along the road to Suggan Buggan the daisies were the shrubs Shiny Cassinia (*Cassinia longifolia*); white Common Cassinia or Dogwood (*C. aculeata*) which has shorter leaves than Shiny Cassinia, and they are wrinkled and have rolled under margins; and white Pepper shrub, Everlasting (*Ozothamnus conditus*) with flat leaves; and the herbaceous yellow Clustered Everlasting (*Chrysocephalum semipapposum*), an aromatic perennial with hairy leaves. Lilies were yellow Rock Lily (*Bulbine glauca*) which has a basal tuft of long bluish-grey narrow leaves and star-shaped flowers borne on spikes; mauve Pale Vanilla-lily (*Arthropodium milleflorum*) also has long narrow leaves and hanging flowers whose mauve stamens have furred filaments; and mauve Black-anther Flax-lily (*Dianella revoluta*) whose leaves are much wider, and the anthers (with the pollen) are black or brown. Other shrubs were yellow Hop Goodenia (*Goodenia ovata*) with broad leaves; small white Shrubby Platysace (*Platysace lanceolata*) whose inflorescence is a compound umbel like that of carrot which is in the same family Apiaceae; pale yellowish-green Suggan Buggan Star-hair (*Astrotricha* sp.4), a shrub to 1.5 metres which has felted stems, linear leaves and dense inflorescences of tiny flowers. In Victoria this Star-hair only seems to occur in the catchment of the upper Snowy River. A perennial to 120cm was mauve Diggers' Speedwell (*Derwentia perfoliata*) with opposite grey-green leaves joined at the base, and long loose inflorescences with up to 70 blooms.



Tom Cat Creek

Photo by Connie Tuck

After passing through the tiny locality of Suggan Buggan, our next stop was at Tomcat Creek. Just before the stop we passed through hillsides with the conifer White Cypress-pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*).



White Cypress-pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*)

Photo by Pauline Stewart

White Cypress-pine occurs in all states except Tasmania and is the most widespread species in the genus in Australia. It is also the most economically important species of Cypress-pine. The timber of the trees has exceptional decay and termite resistance and is much used in house construction. The cypress-pines have tiny scale leaves appressed in 3s to the green branchlets. They bear round female cones with 6 scales which become woody. When mature the scales open to release winged seeds. White Cypress-pine has grey-green foliage and the cones never have warts. The Tomcat Creek gully was a mostly eucalypt woodland. There were unfortunately lots of weeds – a sign, no doubt, of some human interference! Another unfortunate sign of human interference were piles of brumby manure. Three daisies were again Clustered Everlasting, but there was also the white shrub Sticky Everlasting; and the very rare purple to white Ridged New Holland Daisy (*Vittadina pustulata*). It has only been recorded twice before in Victoria, once in this area and at another site in the Mallee. It occurs in other states. New plants were the trailing Pink Bindweed (*Convolvulus angustissimus*) which has arrow-shaped leaves and round flowers; and the mauve herb in the lavender family Lamiaceae, Dwarf Skullcap (*Scutellaria humilis*) with opposite round leaves and irregular flowers, usually found on stony ground near streams. We also found Narrow rock-fern (*Cheilanthes sieberi*) which has narrow fronds with the pinnae widely spaced. We saw a family of the entertaining White-winged Choughs.

We finally reached the border between New South Wales and Victoria, at Willis on the Snowy River. There were many weeds here including the pretty, but unfortunately sited orange California Poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*). California Poppy is often seen along the banks of the Upper Snowy River. It produces copious amounts of seed. There was however the also very pretty River Bottlebrush (*Callistemon sieberi*) where the many flowers are densely



The old Suggan Buggan school house

Photo by Pauline Stewart

clustered in a spike. The flowers have stamens (male parts) with very long pink filaments (stalks) below bright yellow anthers (containing the pollen). We followed the Willis Loop track to lunch by the river itself. It was densely edged with Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), a tall (to 3m) perennial bamboo-like grass. Reed Warblers were loudly calling from the reeds – how do these smaller birds often have a very loud call? Growing among rocks in the flood zone of the Snowy River were two new plants. One was the pink-purple pea Chinese Lespedeza or Bush Clover (*Lespedeza juncea*). This is a perennial subshrub with hairy stems, leaves with 3 leaflets with short sharp points, and solitary or small clusters of flowers. The other was the very rare guinea-flower *Hibbertia exponens*. We were enthralled by the actions of a pair of gorgeous Rainbow Bee-eaters. They had a home perch in a tree, and continuously flew out to capture insects on the wing, then returning to the perch. When in flight, their open wings flashed the coppery colour of their undersurfaces.

<u>New plants:</u>		<i>Themeda triandra</i>	Kangaroo Grass
<i>Arthropodium milleflorum</i>	Pale Vanilla-lily	<i>Vittadinia pustulata</i>	Ridged New Holland Daisy
<i>Astrotricha</i> sp.4	Suggan Buggan Star-hair	<u>Birds:</u>	
<i>Bulbine glauca</i>	Rock Lily	<u>Hamilton Gap</u>	
<i>Callistemon sieberi</i>	River Bottlebrush	Eastern Whipbird	Grey Shrike-thrush
<i>Callitris glaucophylla</i>	White Cypress-pine	Laughing Kookaburra	Red Wattlebird
<i>Cassinia aculeata</i>	Common Cassinia or Dogwood	Spotted Pardalote	Striated Pardalote
<i>C. longifolia</i>	Shiny Cassinia	White-eared Honeyeater	Yellow-faced Honeyeater
<i>Cheilanthes sieberi</i>	Narrow rock-fern	<u>Tom Cat Creek</u>	
<i>Chrysocephalum semipapposum</i>	Clustered Everlasting	Australian Magpie	Grey Shrike-thrush
<i>Convolvulus angustissimus</i>	Pink Bindweed	Laughing Kookaburra	Rufous Skylark
<i>Derwentia perfoliata</i>	Diggers' Speedwell	Rufous Whistler	Sacred Kingfisher
<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	Black-anther Flax-lily	<u>Willis</u>	
* <i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California Poppy	Great Cormorant	Australian Magpie
<i>Exocarpus strictus</i>	Pale-fruit Ballart	Clamorous Reed-warbler	Eurasian Coot
<i>Glycine clandestina</i>	Twining Glycine	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Grey Shrike-thrush
<i>Goodenia ovata</i>	Hop Goodenia	Pied Currawong	Rainbow Bee-eater
<i>Hibbertia obtusifolia</i>	Grey Guinea-flower	Rufous Whistler	Superb Fairy-wren
<i>Leptorhynchos squamatus</i>	Scaly Buttons	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	White-winged Chough
<i>Ozothamnus thyrsoides</i>	Sticky Everlasting	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	White-naped Honeyeater	Brown Treecreeper
<i>Platysace lanceolata</i>	Shrubby Platysace		
<i>Scutellaria humilis</i>	Dwarf Skullcap		
<i>Thelymitra ixioides</i>	Spotted Sun-orchid		

Sunday 26 November

Again, we headed north from Gelantipy, and made a short detour along Seldom Seen Road. Beneath the power lines the vegetation is kept slashed, so smaller plants are conveniently seen. The area is very rocky. The two orchids found were blue Spotted Sun-orchid and Mountain Spider-orchid (*Caladenia montana*). Daisies were the herbs Button Everlasting; and mauve Coarse Daisy which has a basal rosette of spoon-shaped leaves with rounded teeth and a solitary flower; and the shrub Sticky Everlasting. Two shrubby heaths were a white Common Heath; and white Twin-flower Beard-heath (*Leucopogon fletcheri*) whose pendent flowers are usually paired in the axils of the pointed leaves. There was also the shrub yellow and brownish Hop Bitter-pea (*Daviesia latifolia*) which has broad phyllodes with prominent venation, and racemes with many flowers; and the ubiquitous Kangaroo Grass, which when flowering has red-brown spikelets with presumably 3 stamens (male parts).

A little further along Seldom Seen Road we came to a patch of the pretty Mountain Banksia (*Banksia canei*) which were only to about 1 metre high. It only grows to 3m with yellow flowers in spikes. After fertilization of the flowers, much of the flower falls leaving the dry furry woody fruits in a "cone". Each fruit contains two winged seeds. The leaves mostly have sharp spines along their margins. The orchids were Musky Caladenia, and blue Tall Sun-orchid (*Thelymitra media*) which has a flowering stalk to 100cm with up to 30 flowers. We again saw Daphne Heath. New plants were pink Heath Milkwort (*Comesperma ericinum*) with pea-like flowers, which we had seen at Marlo; and two shrubby peas, mostly yellow Prickly Bush-pea; and the rare yellow and reddish prostrate Matted Parrot-pea (*Dillwynia prostrata*) with small crowded narrow leaves. Matted Parrot-pea is only found in Victoria on poor stony soils in the upper reaches of the Snowy River. There were two sour-bushes, the small white to cream Dwarf Sour-bush (*Choretrum pauciflorum*) (to 100cm) with leaves reduced to triangular scales, and flowers in terminal spikes; and yellowish taller (to 1.3m) Leafless Sour-bush (*Omphacomeria acerba*) with minute leaves and flowers unisexual (either male or female). Both species have round green fruits. Another plant with green fruits was yellow Cluster-flower Geebung (*Persoonia confertiflora*) with broad leaves. There was a pair of black and white butterflies mating.



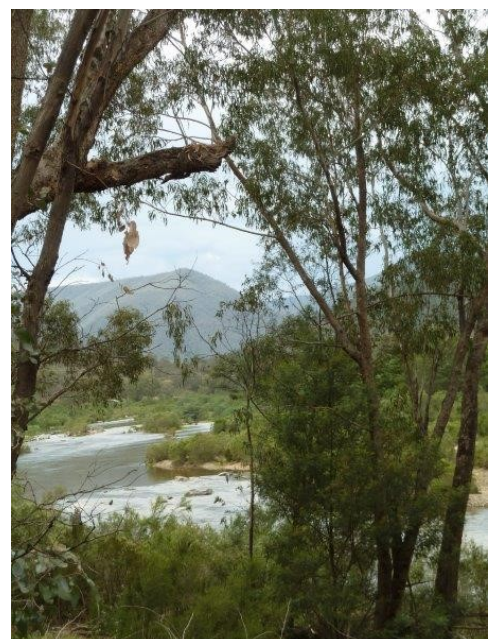
Mountain Spider-orchid (*Caladenia montana*)

Photo by Fran Bright



Little River Gorge

Photo by Pauline Stewart



Snowy River

Photo by Pauline Stewart

After turning onto McKillops Road, we stopped to walk down to see the Little River Falls. These falls have a main drop of 31m and are at the start of the great gorge of the Little River which carves through volcanic rock and sandstone. The river falls 610m during its 14km descent to its junction with the Snowy River. Along the short track to the falls were the shrubs, red and yellow Woolly Grevillea (*Grevillea lanigera*) with greenish-grey hairy leaves; cream *Pomaderris phyllicifolia* subsp. *ericoides* whose narrow leaves have turned-under margins; white Small-fruit Hakea (*Hakea microcarpa*) which has round sharp-pointed leaves and tiny fruit; and yellow Grey Everlasting (*Ozothamnus obcordatum*) with rounded leaves which are greyish hairy beneath. Two shrubby yellow and reddish peas were Narrow-leaf Bitter-pea (*Daviesia mimosoides*) (to 2m) with flowers in dense clusters; and the mostly prostrate Matted Bossiaea (*Bossiaea buxifolia*) with almost circular leaves with solitary blooms.

Many of the smaller plants were herbaceous daisies; tiny yellow Scaly Buttons (*Leptorhynchus squamatus*); white or pale blue Tufted Daisy (*Brachyscome scapigera*) with a basal rosette of leaves; mauve and yellow Fuzzweed (*Vittadinia cuneata*) with hairy stems and leaves; and yellow Hoary Sunray (*Leucochrysum albicans*) whose leaves are woolly hairy. Two lilies were mauve Black-anther Flax-lily and yellow Bulbine Lily. We also found again the tall perennial Diggers' Speedwell. Other small herbaceous plants were yellow Spur Velleia (*Velleia paradoxa*) which has a nectary spur beneath the corolla (fused petals); purple Austral Bugle (*Ajuga australis*) which is in the lavender family Lamiaceae and has square stems, opposite aromatic leaves and 2-lipped flowers; blue Native Flax (*Linum marginale*) with regular 5-petalled flowers; and orange Small St John's Wort (*Hypericum gramineum*) with stem-clasping leaves. The only orchid was Tiger Orchid. At the base of the falls was a small pool in which a Little Black Cormorant was fishing.

Further down McKillop Road we stopped to see the awe-inspiring splendour of the Little River Gorge. It is Victoria's deepest gorge, being over 500 metres deep. Living in the gorge are known to be the rare animals, Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby and Tiger Quoll. Unfortunately, we saw neither. A rare plant near the lookout was Suggan Buggan Mallee (*Eucalyptus saxatilis*) which always grows on very rocky sites. It is small (to 10m) and multi-stemmed (mallee) with smooth bark shedding in long ribbons. It has curved linear leaves and buds in 3s, and the fruits with curved-out lips. Another rare plant was Slender Westringia (*Westringia eremicola*) which grows to 2m; its branches are covered with white hairs and the narrow leaves are in whorls of 3. The irregular flowers have a lavender tinge with yellow-brown dots in the throat. There was the fairly common shrub yellow-green Elderberry Panax (*Polyscias sambucifolia*) whose pinnate leaves are very variable, and its white fruits are succulent and edible. Two climbers were the slender yellow-green Apple-berry (*Billardiera mutabilis*) with hanging tubular flowers and later long smooth edible berries; and the larger semi-parasitic Downy Dodder-laurel (*Cassytha pubescens*) with woolly stems, petals and fruits. There was also leafless Rosy Hyacinth-orchid (*Dipodium roseum*), a tall orchid to 100mm with usually up to 30 flowers. The recurved tepals of the flowers are pink with darker blotches, and the labellum is striped.

At Little River Junction Track we were in dry White Box (*Eucalyptus albens*) woodland. We were now in a 'rain shadow' area, where the rainfall can be half that of surrounding country. White Box has whitish-grey box bark, thick broad leaves and long ridged buds and fruits. Another tree was Black Wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*) with dark green bipinnate leaves and flower heads in branched racemes. This is a site for the endangered Yellow Hyacinth-orchid (*Dipodium hamiltonianum*). It is confined to this dry 'rain shadow' area in Victoria. Unfortunately, all we saw were 3 stems. Another rare plant confined to this environment was the purple herbaceous pea Large Tick-trefoil (*Desmodium brachypodum*) whose trifoliolate leaves have minute hooked hairs on their lower surfaces and there are terminal clusters of flowers. Small herbaceous plants were Yellow Rush Lily (*Tricoryne elatior*) where pretty flowers have stamens whose filaments bear a dense woolly tuft of golden hairs; Yellow Burr-daisy (*Calotis lappulacea*) where each fruit in the inflorescence ('daisy') has two awns, giving the mature inflorescence a burr-like appearance; Bronze Bluebell (*Wahlenbergia luteola*) whose flowers are blue inside and yellowish-brown outside; and Pink Bindweed. There was also Bristly cloak-fern (*Cheilanthes distans*) which has narrow stiff fronds with a dense coating of scales on the undersurface of the pinnae. It grows in the crevices of rocky outcrops or on exposed rocky hills.

We then drove down to the Snowy River at the well-known McKillops Bridge. Unfortunately, the banks of this famous river are much clothed with herbaceous weeds such as the California Poppy. We did see the native shrub Twiggy Lignum (*Muehlenbeckia dielina*) with erect linear leaves and cream to greenish flowers in clusters. The flowers are either male or female (unisexual). This species mainly grows in mallee and heath environments with limestone, but also in dry rocky situations such as the upper Snowy River and near Licola. Nearby were the pink River Bottlebrush and Dwarf Skullcap.

On the way back up from the bridge along the scary road, we stopped to see the other species of cypress-pine, Black Cypress-pine (*Callitris endlicheri*) that grows in this area. It has green foliage, so it appears darker than the White Cypress-pine. The 6 scales of its spherical cones each have a sharp projection near the tip. Again, we saw Large Tick-trefoil. Further up the road again on the road cutting was mauve Rock Daisy (*Brachyscome petrophila*). The descriptive species name is taken from 'petro' meaning rock, and 'phila' meaning loving. Its toothed leaves are much divided and borne on the stem. It seems to be restricted to the higher country in East Gippsland, but with another population in Nungatta National Park in NSW. In the damper environment of the gutter below the road cutting were a number of ferns – dark green Mother shield-fern (*Polystichum proliferum*) which produces buds at the ends of its fronds; tall soft bright green Bat's wing (*Histiopteris incisa*) with 2-3 pinnate fronds to 200cm; and tiny trailing Necklace fern (*Asplenium flabellifolium*) with fan-shaped pinnae.

<u>New Plants:</u>		<i>Polystichum proliferum</i>	Mother shield-fern
<i>Acacia mearnsii</i>	Black Wattle	<i>Pomaderris phycifolia</i> subsp. <i>ericoides</i>	
<i>Ajuga australis</i>	Austral Bugle	<i>Thelymitra media</i>	Tall Sun-orchid
<i>Asplenium flabellifolium</i>	Necklace fern	<i>Velleia paradoxa</i>	Spur Velleia
<i>Banksia canei</i>	Mountain Banksia	<i>Wahlenbergia luteola</i>	Bronze Bluebell
<i>Billardiera mutabilis</i>	Apple-berry	<i>Westringia eremicola</i>	Slender Westringia
<i>Bossiaea buxifolia</i>	Matted Bossiaea	<u>Birds:</u>	
<i>Brachyscome petrophila</i>	Rock Daisy	<u>Seldom Seen Road</u>	
<i>B. scapigera</i>	Tufted Daisy	Brush Cuckoo	Golden Whistler
<i>Caladenia montana</i>	Mountain Spider-orchid	Grey Fantail	Pied Currawong
<i>Calotis lappulacea</i>	Yellow Burr-daisy	Rufous Whistler	Spotted Pardalote
<i>Cassytha pubescens</i>	Downy Dodder-laurel	White-throated Treecreeper	
<i>Cheilanthes distans</i>	Bristly cloak-fern	<u>Wulgulmerang</u>	
<i>Choretrum pauciflorum</i>	Dwarf Sour-bush	Australian Wood Duck	Nankeen Kestrel
<i>Daviesia latifolia</i>	Hop Bitter-pea	<u>Little River Falls</u>	
<i>D. mimosoides</i>	Narrow-leaf Bitter-pea	Little Black Cormorant	Eastern Spinebill
<i>Desmodium brachypodum</i>	Large Tick-trefoil	Laughing Kookaburra	Pied Currawong
<i>Dipodium roseum</i>	Rosy Hyacinth-orchid	Rufous Whistler	Welcome Swallow
<i>Eucalyptus albens</i>	White Box	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	
<i>E. saxatilis</i>	Suggan Buggan Mallee	<u>McKillops Bridge</u>	
<i>Histiopteris incisa</i>	Bat's wing	Crimson Rosella	Eastern Whipbird
<i>Hypericum gramineum</i>	Small St John's Wort	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	Australian King Parrot
<i>Leucochrysum albicans</i>	Hoary Sunray	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	Fuscous Honeyeater
<i>Leucopogon fletcheri</i>	Twin-flower Beard-heath	Scarlet Honeyeater	Rufous Whistler
<i>Linum marginale</i>	Native Flax	Olive-backed Oriole	Pied Currawong
<i>Muehlenbeckia diclina</i>	Twiggy Lignum	Rainbow Bee-eater	Striated Pardalote
<i>Omphacomeria acerba</i>	Leafless Sour-bush	Sacred Kingfisher	Weebill
<i>Ozothamnus obcordatum</i>	Grey Everlasting	Welcome Swallow	White-browed Treecreeper
<i>Persoonia confertiflora</i>	Cluster-flower Geebung	White-throated Treecreeper	White-winged Cough
<i>Polyscias sambucifolius</i>	Elderberry Panax		

Monday 27 November

On our last day we headed north again, but this time turned west again onto Limestone Black Mountain Road. Just after entering the Alpine National Park we stopped in a rocky area just above the Little River. There were an overwhelming number of plant species flowering. Plants we had already seen were Mountain Banksia, *Pomaderris phyllicifolia* subsp. *ericoides*, Woolly Grevillea, Small-fruit Hakea, Pale-fruit Ballart, Daphne Heath, white Common Heath, Grey Guinea-flower, Dwarf Boronia, Tufted Daisy, Button Everlasting, Scaly Buttons, Dwarf Sour-bush, Creamy Candles, Heath Pink-bells, Native Flax, Mountain or Snow Gentian, and Austral Bugle.

New plants were the overhead trees Snow Gum (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*) with smooth, sometimes coloured bark, thick leathery leaves with conspicuous longitudinal veins and buds in clusters of 7-12; and Mountain Gum (*E. dalrympleana*), a taller tree with similar bark, but buds in 3s. Two new peas were the orange and red shrub Mountain Mirbelia (*Mirbelia oxylobioides*) which has tiny pointed stiff leaves and hairy grooved pods; and the pinkish-purple herb Dusky Scurf-pea (*Cullen microcephalum*) with leaves with 3 broad leaflets and flowers mostly in 3s terminal along the flowering stalk. Daisies were the shrubs white and yellow Moth Daisy-bush (*Olearia erubescens*) whose branchlets and leaf undersurfaces are covered with white hairs, and there are only 4-8 white ray florets; white Common Cassinia; and the herb white or mauve Rough Burr-daisy (*Calotis scabiosifolia*) with a basal rosette of narrowish entire leaves. A new heath was the white shrub Drumstick Heath (*Epacris breviflora*), which has ovate pointed leaves and erect flowers clustered in the upper leaf axils on the stem. The two new orchids were Cinnamon Bells or Potato Orchid (*Gastrodia sesamoides*) which is leafless and has up to 20 bell-shaped flowers which are light brown externally and white internally; and bluish Highland Sun-orchid (*Thelymitra alpina*).



Potato Orchid (*Gastrodia sesamoides*) Photo by Fran Bright

Upstream on the Little River in a damper environment we went bush-bashing searching for the rare leafless pea shrub Murrumbidgee Bossiaea (*Bossiaea grayi*), known only from 2 records NW of Wulgulmerang. We finally found a patch of the plants, but they had finished flowering. Murrumbidgee Bossiaea has flattened green branches (which function as leaves) and leaves reduced to scales. There was also the tall shrub cream Hazel Pomaderris (*Pomaderris aspera*) with large broad leaves (to 12cm) whose undersurfaces have rusty star-shaped hairs, and whose flowers borne in clusters at the ends of the branches, have no petals. There was another pea shrub, yellow and reddish Flat-pea (*Platylobium montanum*) with opposite heart-shaped leaves. There was also Diggers' Speedwell, Musky Caladenia, the tiny climber blue Love Creeper (*Comesperma volubile*), and mauve and white Ivy-leaved Violet (*Viola hederacea*).

Sadly, our next visit was to First Emu Flat. James had been told of the damage caused by feral pigs, and we saw the evidence all over the grassy plain. As well as trampling and wallowing, there was much digging, as the pigs search for edible roots. We also saw evidence of brumbies, with piles of horse manure. To top all this off, there appeared to have been human "pigs" doing wheelies around the plain!! Despite this, and maybe not for much longer, we managed to see some interesting plants. Around the edge of the plain were the shrubs Small-fruit Hakea and Drumstick Heath, with at the edge near the trees, some Mother shield-fern. A small subshrub was White Marianth (*Rhytidosporum procumbens*) with starry flowers. Small herbs were Showy Violet, yellow Mountain Velleia (*Velleia montana*), a rosetted perennial with almost elliptic entire leaves and flowers covered with fine hairs; white Mountain Wurmbea (*Wurmbea biglandulosa*) with 3 linear leaves and up to 6 flowers, with each tepal having 2 pink nectaries, and the anthers being red or purple; and the lily-like Golden Weatherglass (*Hypoxis hygrometrica*) whose flowers have 6 tepals and a hairy stalk.

Our very last foray into the beautiful subalps was a wonderland of colour. It was at Rocky Plains Creek Falls. It seemed as if every plant was in flower. The Small-fruit Hakea had plants with white or pink flowers. The pea shrubs were the bright yellow and reddish Gorse Bitter-pea (*Daviesia ulicifolia*) with stiff sharp-pointed leaves and triangular pods; orange and red Mountain Mirbelia; and yellow Leafy Bossiaea (*Bossiaea foliosa* sl.) which has tiny round dark green leaves and brown stipules (bracts at the base of the leaf). Smaller plants were prostrate yellow Ivy Goodenia (*Goodenia hederacea* subsp. *alpestris*) which has shiny rounded toothed leaves with cottony undersurfaces;

the root parasite pink Purple Eyebright (*Euphrasia collina*) with opposite toothed leaves and flowers with trilobed lower lips; white Small Poranthera (*Poranthera microphylla*) with obovate leaves (wider away from the stem) and clusters of tiny flowers; and yellow Rock Lily.

There were exposed slabs of rock and growing in the crevices was the bright green cushion plant Twin-flower Knawel (*Scleranthus biflorus*). Its flowers are paired on the flower stalk, and have 4 sepals, no petals and 1 stamen. There were two species of triggerplant – dark pink Thrift-leaved Triggerplant (*Stylidium armeria*) which has leaves to 40cm and the plants are solitary or with 2-5 tufts; and dark pink Alpine Triggerplant (*S. montanum*) whose longest leaf is 12cm and grows in compact clumps of up to 50 tufts. A few plants of the rare Austral Toad-flax (*Thesium australe*) were seen. This is a small lax yellow-green semi-parasitic perennial herb with narrow leaves and tiny green and white flowers. There were hundreds of flowers of the golden Honey Caladenia (*Caladenia hildae*) whose white labellum is red-tipped. Two other orchids were white and pink Mountain Caladenia (*C. alpina*), where the petals and sepals are pinkish externally and the labellum has reddish bars and spots; and yellow Mountain Golden Moths.

Thank you once again, James, for leading us to all these wonderful environments, and being able to identify all the plants and birds. You're a genius!! Thanks also to Pauline for checking out the birds.



Searching!

Photo by Fran Bright



Golden Caladenia (*Caladenia hildae*) Photo by Fran Bright



Jen Wilkinson photographing plants Photo by Fran Bright

<u>New plants:</u>		<i>Poranthera microphylla</i>	Small Poranthera
<i>Bossiaea foliosa</i> sl.	Leafy Bossiaea	<i>Rhytidosporum procumbens</i>	White Marianth
<i>B. grayi</i>	Murrumbidgee Bossiaea	<i>Scleranthus biflorus</i>	Twin-flower Knawel
<i>Caladenia alpina</i>	Mountain Caladenia	<i>Stylidium armeria</i>	Thrift-leaved Triggerplant
<i>C. hildae</i>	Honey Caladenia	<i>S. montanum</i>	Alpine Triggerplant
<i>Calotis scabiosifolia</i>	Rough Burr-daisy	<i>Thelymitra alpina</i>	Highland Sun-orchid
<i>Comesperma volubile</i>	Love Creeper	<i>Thesium australe</i>	Austral Toad-flax
<i>Cullen microcephalum</i>	Dusky Scurf-pea	<i>Velleia montana</i>	Mountain Velleia
<i>Daviesia ulicifolia</i>	Gorse Bitter-pea	<i>Viola hederacea</i>	Ivy-leaved Violet
<i>Epacris brevifolia</i>	Drumstick Heath	<i>Wurmbea biglandulosa</i>	Mountain Wurmbea
<i>Eucalyptus dalrympleana</i>	Mountain Gum	<u>Birds:</u>	
<i>E. pauciflora</i>	Snow Gum	<u>Wombargo Creek</u>	
<i>Euphrasia collina</i>	Purple Eyebright	Crimson Rosella	Eastern Spinebill
<i>Gastrodia sesamoides</i>	Cinnamon Bells or Potato Orchid	Grey Fantail	Laughing Kookaburra
<i>Goodenia hederacea</i> subsp. <i>alpestris</i>	Ivy Goodenia	Red Wattlebird	Sacred Kingfisher
<i>Hypoxis hygrometrica</i>	Golden Weather-glass	Striated Pardalote	Yellow-faced Honeyeater
<i>Mirbelia oxylobioides</i>	Mountain Mirbelia	White-eared Honeyeater	White-throated Treecreeper
<i>Olearia erubescens</i>	Moth Daisy-bush	<u>Little River</u>	
<i>Platylobium montanum</i>	Flat-pea	Quail sp.	
<i>Pomaderris aspera</i>	Hazel Pomaderris		

IN SEARCH OF TONGUES AND BONNETS - 13 January 2018

By Margaret Regan

The orchid genus *Cryptostylis* has four species in East Gippsland. Three of these species have erect broad leathery leaves; one is leafless. The upside-down flowers have very showy labellae, and their tepals are narrow and plain. The labellae are designed to attract a particular wasp pollinator called the Orchid Dupe Wasp. The orchids pretend to be a sexy female wasp and emit the pheromone which is also produced by the female wasp. In the process of trying to mate with the “female wasp” (the orchid’s labellum), they pick up the sticky pollinium containing the pollen, and when trying to mate with the labellum of another flower, transfer the pollinium to that flower. The four species of *Cryptostylis* are the Large Tongue-orchid (*C. subulata*) whose erect leaves are green on both sides; and the reddish oblong labellum with inrolled margins, is held beneath the rest of the flower. The labellum has a double black callus at the end. The erect leaf of the Small Tongue-orchid (*C. leptochila*) is broader, and green on one side and purple on the other. Its reddish oblong labellum is curved back over the rest of the flower and has inrolled margins. There are two rows of small shiny black calli along its length. It appears to be stimulated by fire. The Furred or Leafless Tongue-orchid (*C. hunteriana*) has no leaf, and is a saprophyte, living in an association with mycorrhizal fungi. Its reddish oblong labellum has a dark central area and the whole labellum is covered with coloured glandular hairs (hence the furry appearance). The fourth member of the genus looks somewhat different and is called the Bonnet Orchid or Tartan Tongue-orchid (*C. erecta*). It also has an erect broad leaf which is green on one side and purple on the other. Its labellum is held erect, but it is translucent white with reddish streaks, and is bonnet-shaped.

Leafless or Furred Tongue-orchid (*Cryptostylis hunteriana*)

Photo by Fran Bright

Our main search area was around the Marlo Airport where two of the Tongue-orchids and the Bonnet Orchid have been seen in the past. The entry to the airport is rather amusing. There is a pedestrian gate. The adjoining vehicle gate is chained with 12 different locks along the chain – presumably each organisation allowed access has their own key!! Our entry to the area was keenly watched by a very cute Red-necked Wallaby. In Tasmania these are called Bennett’s Wallaby. These wallabies have white cheek markings and red colouring on the neck. The rest of the body is grayish. We quickly discovered plants of Large Tongue-orchid, which is the most common in the genus in Victoria, and Leafless Tongue-orchid, which is endangered in Victoria. The Bonnet Orchid is also endangered in Victoria and we saw flowering plants of this species over the fence inside the airstrip surrounds. There was another orchid discovered and this was the greenish-brown Horned Orchid (*Orthoceras strictum*). Its channelled leaves are grass-like and form a small tussock. There can be up to 9 flowers on the stem, and these have a hooded dorsal sepal, long thin erect lateral sepals (the “horns”) and tiny hidden petals. The Horned Orchid can disappear after severe fire. It is thought that a moderate sized bee may be the pollinator of this orchid.

Large Tongue-orchid (*Cryptostylis subulata*)

Photo by Fran Bright

There were many other plants in the wet heath around the airport. Once again, white Burgan (*Kunzea ericoides*) seems to be invading. Other large shrubs were Scrub Sheoak (*Allocasuarina paludosa*); the pea Golden Spray (*Viminaria juncea*) with hanging almost leafless branches; white Swamp Heath (*Epacris paludosa*) which has crowded pointed leaves and the flowers are clustered at the ends of the branchlets; and yellow Prickly Geebung (*Persoonia juniperina*) with long rigid pointed leaves. Many plants having the species name “juniperina” have prickly leaves. Another plant as tall as these shrubs was Spear Grass-tree (*Xanthorrhoea resinosa*). The generic name comes from the Greek “xanthos” (yellow) referring to the yellow resin found in Spear Grass-tree. This resin was used by the

aborigines to attach stone tools to handles. There was also the large sedge Red-fruit Saw-sedge (*Gahnia sieberiana*) with long black plumed inflorescences; and Zig-zag Bog-rush (*Schoenus brevifolius*). Two smaller shrubs were pink Heath Milkwort (*Comesperma ericinum*); and Blue-spike Milkwort (*C. calymega*). The milkworts have pea-like flowers with 5 sepals resembling petals and 3 petals.

Tiny plants were yellow Swamp Goodenia (*Goodenia humilis*); orange-yellow Small St John's Wort (*Hypericum gramineum*); the lily Golden Weather-glass (*Hypoxis hygrometrica*) with star-like yellow flowers, ridged stems and stem-clasping leaves; pretty blue Angled Lobelia (*Lobelia anceps*) whose flowers have 3 petals much larger than the other 2; Blue Dampiera (*Dampiera stricta*), a perennial to 90cm, whose flowers have rusty hairs on the undersurface of the petals; pale Blue Bottle-daisy (*Lagenophora stipitata*) which has hairy leaves in a basal rosette; and Wiry Stackhousia (*Stackhousia nuda*) with wiry almost leafless stems and nobbly fruits. Small climbers were gorgeous mauve Twining Fringe-lily (*Thysanotus patersonii*) whose petals have fringed margins; and semi-parasitic Slender Dodder-laurel (*Cassytha glabella*) which has tiny white flowers.

There was also the tiny non-flowering Swamp Selaginella (*Selaginella uliginosa*) with stiff leaves arranged in four rows around the stem. Its spores are borne in sporangia at the tips of the branches, loosely arranged in cones. The other non-flowering plant was Screw fern (*Lindsaea linearis*), a tiny plant with fan-shaped pinnae on the sterile fronds, and erect narrow fertile fronds bearing spores along the outer margins of the pinnae. As we commonly see there were many Spiny or Jewel Spiders with their webs strung between the shrubs, making it quite difficult to walk about without breaking one. The larger female spider is 10mm across, and her large abdomen has 6 prominent spines, and a mottled yellow and white pattern. Birds we noticed were Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo and Superb Fairy-wren.

On then to the Marlo – Cabbage Tree Road where we found the fourth member of the genus, the Small Tongue-orchid (*Cryptostylis leptochila*). We also saw the very pretty scrambling purple Hairy Fan-flower (*Scaevola ramosissima*) which has hairy leaves. We then turned into Palm Track and had lunch at the Cabbage Tree Creek Flora Reserve. This reserve is 1700 hectares and is Victoria's main population of Cabbage tree palms and is the only palm in the state. It was discovered by Baron von Mueller in 1854. As it is so separated from other populations of the palm in NSW and Queensland, it is thought that the local indigenous people may have planted them from seed obtained from a more northern tribe. While lunching we were surrounded by lovely bird song, and the expert birdos amongst us were able to identify them by their calls. Over 120 bird species have been seen in this area.

We then moved on to Old Coast Road. There had been rain the previous day, so there was a number of puddles along the way, leading to muddy cars. One puddle however, was a tiny bit oversized, and it was unfortunate that one of our ANOS friends Joan came to grief. Her car was deeply enough bogged for muddy water to enter one side. Gummed-booted strong men gathered and valiantly pushed from the back – no go! Eventually the car was towed out. There was some apprehension from the drivers on the wrong side of the muddy puddle, but a safe route was chosen. The brave ones drove through themselves, and Kerry took over the vehicles of the scaredy cats!!

On Old Coast Road near its junction with Gravel Road is another grass-tree plain. Here was again Spear Grass-tree, Scrub Sheoak and Heath Milkwort. There was another milkwort, the rush-like Leafless Milkwort (*Comesperma defoliatum*). Funnily enough we also saw again Leafless or Furry Tongue-orchid. A new orchid was Rosy Hyacinth-orchid (*Dipodium roseum*) which is also leafless!! Its flowering stalk can be to 100cm with may be 30 flowers which are pink with darker blotches. The tips of the tepals are recurved and the labellum is usually striped. Three new plants were yellow Common Wedge-pea (*Gompholobium huegelii*) with trifoliate leaves; yellow Spike Goodenia (*Goodenia stelligera*) whose irregular flowers are in an erect terminal spike, with the outside of the petals covered with brown hairs; and rush-like Slender Yellow-eye (*Xyris gracilis*) with small very fine leaves, irregular tepals and 3 curled stigmas. A Turquoise Parrot was seen flying swiftly over the plain.

After an adventurous, interesting day, we all returned safely, but rather late, home. Thank you to James and Kerry, and to Len and Jacquie for the birds seen or heard at the Cabbage Tree Creek Flora Reserve during lunch.



Rescuing a car from the boggy road

Photo by Fran Bright

Plants:		<i>Schoenus brevifolius</i>	Zig-zag Bog-rush
<i>Allocasuarina paludosa</i>	Scrub Sheoak	<i>Selaginella uliginosa</i>	Swamp Selaginella
<i>Cassytha glabella</i>	Slender Dodder-laurel	<i>Stackhousia nuda</i>	Wiry Stackhousia
<i>Caustis flexuosa</i>	Curly Wig	<i>Thysanotus patersonii</i>	Twining Fringe-lily
<i>Comesperma calymega</i>	Blue-spike Milkwort	<i>Viminaria juncea</i>	Golden Spray
<i>C. defoliatum</i>	Leafless Milkwort	<i>Xanthorrhoea resinosa</i>	Spear Grass-tree
<i>C. ericinum</i>	Heath Milkwort	<i>Xyris gracilis</i>	Slender Yellow-eye
<i>Cryptostylis erecta</i>	Bonnet Orchid or Tartan Tongue-orchid	Birds:	Turquoise Parrot
<i>C. hunteriana</i>	Furred or Leafless Tongue-orchid	Common Bronzewing	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo
<i>C. leptochila</i>	Small Tongue-orchid	Crimson Rosella	Fan-tailed Cuckoo
<i>C. subulata</i>	Large Tongue-orchid	Golden Whistler	Grey Shrike-thrush
<i>Dampiera stricta</i>	Blue Dampiera	Pied Currawong	Grey Fantail
<i>Dipodium roseum</i>	Rosy Hyacinth-orchid	Black-faced Monarch	Eastern Yellow Robin
<i>Epacris paludosa</i>	Swamp Heath	Silvereye	Welcome Swallow
<i>Gahnia sieberiana</i>	Red-fruit Saw-sedge	Mistletoebird	Red-browed Finch
<i>Gompholobium huegelii</i>	Common Wedge-pea	Laughing Kookaburra	White-throated Treecreeper
<i>Goodenia humilis</i>	Swamp Goodenia	Superb Fairy-wren	White-browed Scrubwren
<i>G. stelligera</i>	Spike Goodenia	Brown Gerygone	Brown Thornbill
<i>Hypericum gramineum</i>	Small St John's Wort	Spotted Pardalote	Eastern Spinebill
<i>Hypoxis hygrometrica</i>	Golden Weather-glass	Lewin's Honeyeater	Yellow-faced Honeyeater
<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	Burgan	Red Wattlebird	Scarlet Honeyeater
<i>Lagenophora stipitata</i>	Blue Bottle-daisy	Crescent Honeyeater	New Holland Honeyeater
<i>Lindsaea linearis</i>	Screw fern	White-naped Honeyeater	Eastern Whipbird
<i>Lobelia anceps</i>	Angled Lobelia	Invertebrate:	
<i>Orthoceras strictum</i>	Horned Orchid	Spiny or Jewel Spider	
<i>Persoonia juniperina</i>	Prickly Geebung	Mammal:	
<i>Scaevola ramosissima</i>	Hairy Fan-flower	Red-necked or Bennett's Wallaby	

BUSH WALK — LAKE TYERS - 25th FEBRUARY 2018**By Pauline Stewart**

On the last Sunday of February, only a few members went on the first bushwalk of the year. Leaving from the car park at Lake Tyers beach the sand bar was crossed at the entrance and the group headed east up and over a sand dune and onto a narrow walking track through dry reedy marshland. Further into the walk, members were very lucky to observe a Ground Parrot *Pezoporus wallicus* erupt out of the reeds, fly 30 metres or so and drop back into the reeds and out of sight.

After about 5 km we reached a fork in the road where one turned off to Lake Tyers House and the other to the Glasshouse. The Glasshouse reserve was a bit of a surprise as it is now a large, cleared area where about 20-30 tents and caravans were camping with what looked like room for a hundred more.

It was here on the shore of Lake Tyers in 1908 that this site was chosen for its fine quartz sand to establish a glass making factory by Edward L.R. Roberts. Mr. Roberts had a large contract for supplying glass insulators for the Postal Department as they were thought to be more superior than the pottery ones in use at the time. Other items manufactured were window panes, green glass items, vases and green bottles. After manufacture the produce was taken by dray to Cross's Landing or towed across if the entrance was open. It was then sent to Melbourne by steamer and rail. Unfortunately, the contract was lost in 1912 and the factory was abandoned. All that is left now is a brick chimney and some kilns.

After a tour of the ruins and not finding any picnic tables at the camp site we headed back along the track and found a peaceful bush area to have our lunch in which was only interrupted by the cry of one member being bitten by a bull-ant. Although steady rain set in on the walk back to Lake Tyers it wasn't cold and we all had enjoyed stretching our legs after 3 months in recess. Thanks go to Noel Williamson for leading us to this historic site.

Ref:

The Tambo Shire Centenary History

- John D. Adams

Gippsland Times 1909

**Gail Hume and Noel Williamson at the Glass Factory ruins.****Photo Pauline Stewart**

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