

Wednesday Walk – McLeods Creek Nature Reserve – 25 May 2016

Eleven intrepid Wednesday Walkers explored the far northern reaches of McLeods Creek Nature Reserve (probably to a part further away than we intended), located on Marked Tree Road, north-east of Gundaroo. The reserve has only relatively recently been withdrawn from grazing, since about 2010. There is a section of forest dominated by *E. macrorhyncha*, *E. polyanthemos* and *E. mannifera*, with *E. goniocalyx* and *E. rossii* scattered in patches. The larger section of the reserve contains secondary grassland with large scattered *E. melliodora* and *E. bridgesiana* along the northern creek, but there is also a small patch of natural temperate grassland in a frost hollow.

We started our walk from the forested eastern section, rambling our way to a deeply eroded creek, before following the creek into the more open and grassy areas on the northern boundary, and finally returning along the road. Although we saw very few flowers, we enjoyed the mixture of eucalypts, some individual trees being so mixed up we had difficulty deciding which species they really were. A large tree at the gate combined the bark of a yellow box with the leaves and buds of a red stringy-bark — most unusual. The sprawling ancient eucalypts were a highlight of today's visit.

Understorey species in the forest included *Pultenaea setulosa*, *Brachyloma daphnoides*, *Daviesia leptophylla*, *Dianella revoluta*, *Hibbertia calycina*, *Melichrus urceolatus* and a flowering *Astroloma humifusum*. We saw many orchid leaves and rosettes, but none in flower or bud. *Cheiranthra linearis* and *Opercularia* sp. were interesting plants observed. The grassy areas included similar species but were dominated by *Themeda triandra*, *Aristida ramosa* and other grasses, with patches of herbaceous plants including *Leptorhynchos squamatus* and *Leucocrysum albicans*.

We also enjoyed the fascinating appearance of the active erosion in the drainage lines and pondered over the dumped rubbish in and around the creek. Although cold at the start and out in the open, it was a lovely and enjoyable day.

Photos by Gail Ritchie Knight unless otherwise stated.



Eucalyptus mannifera



Eucalyptus mannifera



Eucalyptus polyanthemos



Eucalyptus polyanthemos



Eucalyptus polyanthemos visibly much older



Leucocrysum albicans var. *tricolor*



Melichrus urceolatus buds;
Photo: Helen Brewer



Eucalyptus polyanthemos bark



Eucalyptus macrorhyncha bark



Significant erosion



Significant erosion

Plant List for McLeods Creek Nature Reserve – 27 July 2016

? indicates that those present were unsure of the plant name

Grassland from eastern gate (with signage)

Acacia mearnsii
Acacia parramattensis
Acaena ovina
Amyema miquelii
Amyema pendula
Aristida ramosa
Astroloma humifusum
Austrodanthonia sp.
Austrostipa scabra ssp. *falcata*
Bothriochloa macra
Bossiaea buxifolia
Brachyloma daphnoides
Carex appressa
Cassinia arcuata
Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia
Chloris truncata
Chrysocephalum apiculatum
Cymbonotus lawsonianus
Daucus glochidiatus
Daviesia genistifolia
Daviesia leptophylla
Dianella revoluta
Dichopogon fimbriatus
Dillwynia sericea
Einadia nutans
Elymus scaber
Eucalyptus bridgesiana
Eucalyptus macrorhyncha
Eucalyptus mannifera
Eucalyptus melliodora
Eucalyptus polyanthemus
Geranium sp.
Gonocarpus tetragynus
Goodenia hederacea
Hibbertia obtusifolia
Hovea heterophylla
Hydrocotyle laxiflora
Hypericum gramineum
Indigofera australis

Joycea pallida
Juncus sp.
Lachnagrostis filiformis
Leptorhynchus squamatus
Leucochrysum albicans var. *tricolor*
Lissanthe strigosa
Lomandra filiformis ssp. *coriacea*
Lomandra filiformis ssp. *filiformis*
Lythrum hyssopifolia
Melichrus urceolatus
Microlaena stipoides
Panicum effusum
Poa labillardierei
Poa sieberiana
Pultenaea setulosa
Rumex brownii
Scleranthus biflorus
Senecio quadridentatus
Solenogyne dominii
Themeda triandra
Veronica calycina
Vittadinia gracilis

Forest

Acacia dealbata
Acacia genistifolia
Acacia gunnii
Acacia implexa
Acacia mearnsii
Acacia parramattensis
Acaena ovina
Acrotriche serrulata
Allocasuarina verticillata
Amyema miquelii
Astroloma humifusum
Austrostipa scabra ssp. *falcata*
Bossiaea buxifolia
Bossiaea prostrata
Brachyloma daphnoides
Carex appressa

Cassinia arcuata
Cassinia longifolia
Cassinia quinquefaria
Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia
Cheiranthra linearis
Coronidium scorpioides
Cymbonotus lawsonianus
Daviesia genistifolia
Daviesia leptophylla
Dianella revoluta
Dillwynia phyllicoides
Dillwynia sericea
Diuris sp.
Eucalyptus goniocalyx
Eucalyptus macrorhyncha
Eucalyptus mannifera
Eucalyptus melliodora
Eucalyptus polyanthemus
Eucalyptus rossii
Euchiton sp.
Exocarpos cupressiformis
Galium gaudichaudii
Geranium sp.
Glycine clandestina
Gompholobium huegelii
Gonocarpus tetragynus
Goodenia hederacea
Greenhood rosettes
Grevillea lanigera

Hardenbergia violacea
Hibbertia calycina
Hibbertia obtusifolia
Hovea heterophylla
Hydrocotyle laxiflora
Hypericum gramineum
Indigofera australis
Joycea pallida
Juncus sp.
Lepidosperma laterale
Leptorhynchus squamatus
Leucochrysum albicans var. tricolor
Lissanthe strigosa
Lomandra filiformis ssp. coriacea
Lomandra filiformis ssp. filiformis
Luzula densiflora
Melichrus urceolatus
Microlaena stipoides
Opercularia sp.
Pimelea curviflora
Pultenaea setulosa
Senecio quadridentatus
Solenogyne dominii
Stackhousia monogyna
Themeda triandra
Thysanotus patersonii
Tricoryne elatior
Wahlenbergia stricta