

## Wednesday Walk — Mount Majura Nature Reserve — 28 June 2017

The reason for our walk on Mount Majura was to find a patch of mysterious daisy bushes that Mike had discovered some years ago. We began our journey from the gate on Ian Nichol Street in Watson and walked for some time along the lower slopes almost parallel to the Federal Highway.

The *Acacia genistifolia* was putting on a great display of masses of cream flowers, but not much else was flowering there in mid-winter. In places, we passed through extensive populations of *A. parramattensis*, the dominant wattle there — although later we did come across a few Silver Wattles (*A. dealbata*) and Hickory Wattles (*A. implexa*). The eucalypts on the lower slopes were mostly Blakely's Red Gum (*E. blakelyi*) and Yellow Box (*E. melliodora*), but there were also some Apple Box (*E. bridgesiana*). One of the Apple Box trees near a small creek had a low horizontal branch exhibiting beautifully the distinctive tessellated bark patterns.

After a while, we began to move up the open slopes dotted with small outcrops of crumbling rocks where we found a few ferns. They were mainly Rock Ferns (*Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia*), but there were also a few little Necklace Ferns (*Asplenium flabellifolium*) nestled amongst crevices in the rocks.

There were some sizeable populations of *Chrysocephalum semipapposum* in places and a few *Xerochrysum viscosum*. And we found all three species of the local New Holland Daisies — *Vittadinia muelleri*, *V. gracilis* and *V. cuneata*. Heath plants were represented mainly by Daphne Heath (*Brachyloma daphnoides*), some of them obviously very old plants. Urn Heaths (*Melichrus urceolatus*) were bearing heavy loads of cream buds, some just opening, and the tubular cream flowers of *Styphelia triflora* caught our attention several times.

As we came to the higher slopes, we were walking amongst Brittle Gums (*Eucalyptus mannifera*) and Scribbly Gums (*E. rossii*), one of the latter a magnificent old tree that called for a group photo.

After passing through a small forest of Drooping Sheoaks (*Allocasuarina verticillata*), we continued the steep climb under the power-lines. And, then, there they were — the mystery daisy bushes! And we could see blue flowers. They were *Olearia tenuifolia* (Narrow-leaved Daisy Bush). Although there are scattered populations elsewhere in south-eastern New South Wales and Victoria, it is a rare plant. We have seen it on Mount Tennent in Namadgi National Park growing in a similar landscape, a steep rocky slope with dry-looking soil. They do need extremely good drainage to flourish — or even survive. I lost two large plants at my place, growing in what looked like well-drained soil, after two days of heavy rain. The Mount Majura population seemed very healthy, and there was an extensive area of small plants emerging.

We didn't see much wildlife, but a dozen or so Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos treated us to a fly-past. And, amongst the rocks, there was a large green-blue centipede with long curved yellow legs.

Although we only covered a small area of the Nature Reserve, we saw an array of interesting plants and the re-discovery of the *Olearia tenuifolia* really made it a day to remember.

By Jo Walker; Photos: Brigitta Wimmer

## Plant List for Mt Majura from Antill St – 28 June 2017

Acacia dealbata	Galium gaudichaudii
Acacia genistifolia	Geranium solanderi
Acacia implexa	Glycine clandestina
Acacia paradoxa	Gonocarpus tetragynus
Acacia parramattensis	Goodenia hederacea
Acacia rubida	Hardenbergia violacea
Acacia ulicifolia	Hibbertia obtusifolia
Acaena ovina	Hovea heterophylla
Allocasuarina littoralis	Hydrocotyle laxiflora
Allocasuarina verticillata	Hypericum gramineum
Amyema miquelii	Indigofera australis
Aristida ramosa	Juncus sp.
Asplenium flabellifolium	Lepidosperma laterale
Astroloma humifusum	Leptorhynchos squamatus
Austrostipa bigeniculata	Leucochrysum albicans var. tricolor
Austrostipa densiflora	Lomandra filiformis ssp. coriacea
Austrostipa scabra var. falcata	Lomandra filiformis ssp. filiformis
Bossiaea buxifolia	Lomandra multiflora
Bothriochloa macra	Luzula densiflora
Brachychiton populneus	Lythrum hyssopifolia
Brachyloma daphnoides	Melichrus urceolatus
Bulbine bulbosa	Microlaena stipoides
Bursaria spinosa subsp. lasiophylla	Olearia tenuifolia
Calytrix tetragona	Opercularia hispida
Cassinia longifolia	Persicaria prostrata
Cassinia quinquefaria	Poa sp.
Centipeda cunninghamii	Pteridium esculentum
Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia	Pultenaea subspicata
Chrysocephalum apiculatum	Rytidosperma pallidum
Chrysocephalum semipapposum	Rytidosperma sp.
Clematis leptophylla	Schoenus apogon
Convolvulus angustissimus	Scleranthus diander
Craspedia variabilis	Senecio quadridentatus
Cryptandra amara	Solenogyne dominii
Cymbonotus lawsonianus	Stackhousia monogyna
Daviesia genistifolia	Stellaria pungens
Desmodium varians	Stypandra glauca
Dianella revolute	Styphelia triflora
Dichondra repens	Themeda triandra
Dillwynia sericea	Tricoryne elatior
Einadia nutans	Triptilodiscus pygmaeus
Eryngium ovinum	Vittadinia cuneata
Eucalyptus blakelyi	Vittadinia gracilis
Eucalyptus bridgesiana	Vittadinia muelleri
Eucalyptus mannifera	Wahlenbergia communis
Eucalyptus melliodora	Wahlenbergia stricta
Eucalyptus rossii	Xerochrysum viscosum
Exocarpos cupressiformis	



Steep rocky path



*Hibbertia obtusifolia*



*Eucalyptus rossii* photo shoot



*Acacia paramattensis* glands



*Astroloma humifusum*



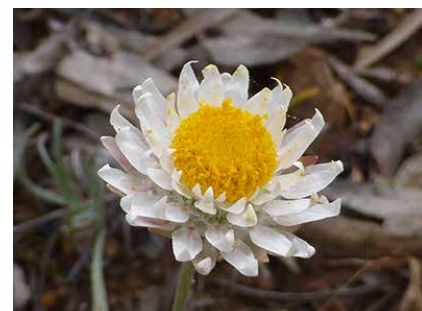
*Cryptandra amara*



*Euc bridgesiana* trunk



*Goodenia hederacea*



*Leucochrysum albicans*



*Olearia tenuifolia*



*Opercularia hispida*



*Styphelia triflora*





*Vittadinia cuneata* closeup



*Wahlenbergia stricta*



Centipede (*Scolopendra* sp.)



Photoshoot by a *Eucalyptus rossii*