

Wednesday Walk – Uriarra Road Reserve – 12 July 2017

We started our walk at the gate on Uriarra Road and kept to the main path for a while, detouring into the vegetation at the sides of the track now and then.

This area was burnt in the 2003 bushfire, but has recovered well. There is fairly thick growth of young eucalypts in places, including *Eucalyptus blakelyi* (Blakely's Red Gum), *E. macrorhyncha* (Red Stringybark), *E. bridgesiana* (Apple Box) and *E. nortonii* (Mealy Bundy). The main understorey shrubs at the beginning of the walk were mostly *Leucopogon fletcheri* (Fletcher's Beard-heath) — not flowering yet but bearing masses of drooping buds — with a few *Pultenaea procumbens* amongst them. A wide Meat Ants' nest extended for a couple of metres along the side of the track and had been excavated in several places by an Echidna.

We eventually found the track we were looking for veering left along the side of a slope. On the lower side of the path there was a sizeable population of *Stypandra glauca* (Nodding Blue-lily) under the trees. Amongst them was a healthy-looking *Persoonia rigida* (Rigid Geebung). We did see a few of these during the day, but, as usual, they were mostly growing as single shrubs amongst the other vegetation.

On the higher side of the track, below a large outcrop of pinkish cream rocks, was the large population of *Cryptandra* sp. *Floriferous* (previously *C. amara* var. *floribunda*), the main attraction of this walk. It was flowering, but not as prolifically as it often does. Scattered through them, and also growing amongst the rocks higher on the slope, were quite a few *Leucopogon attenuatus* (Grey Beard-heath), some of them bearing a few fluffy white flowers — although most were still in bud.

We turned left again, and, after crossing an open area, made our way down to a grassy sward sheltered by Burgan (*Kunzea ericoides*) and Tea-trees (*Leptospermum obovatum* and *L. brevipes*) where we had lunch. Judging by the diggings and droppings, we were trespassing on a Wombat's territory.

After lunch, we made our way back towards the entrance. We passed through mostly eucalypt forest, but came into a small area of *Callitris endlicheri* for a while. There were some large old trees in this part of the forest, some of which had survived the fire and other bad times. There was one very large *Eucalyptus rossii* (Scribbly Gum) still showing a few areas of dead grey wood on its trunk and branches, but almost completely re-cloaked by the thick white bark slowly spreading life back over previous disasters.

It was a rather cold day, and we didn't see much in the way of wildlife — although a Wedge-tailed Eagle did glide over early in the walk. But the avian highlight of the day was a beautiful little Owlet Nightjar. It flew across into a tree beside the track we were on and was so well-camouflaged it took us a while to see it again, even with binoculars. It perched there for some time, so we got a good look at it while it watched us carefully with its large round eyes. It was another addition to the exciting things we so often see on Wednesday walks.

By Jo Walker; Photos: Mike Shihoff (MS) and Brigitta Wimmer (BW)

Plant List for Uriarra Road Reserve – 12 July 2017

Acacia buxifolia
Acacia gunnii
Acacia implexa
Acacia mearnsii
Acacia rubida
Aristida ramosa
Austrostipa densiflora
Brachyloma daphnoides
Callitris endlicheri
Cassinia longifolia
Cassinia quinquefaria
Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia
Chrysocephalum apiculatum
Chrysocephalum semipapposum
Convolvulus angustissimus
Cryptandra sp. *Floriferous*
Cymbonotus lawsonianus
Dillwynia sericea
Eucalyptus blakelyi
Eucalyptus bridgesiana
Eucalyptus dives
Eucalyptus goniocalyx
Eucalyptus macrorhyncha
Eucalyptus nortonii
Eucalyptus rossii
Exocarpos cupressiformis
Gompholobium huegelii
Goodenia hederacea
Hibbertia obtusifolia
Hovea heterophylla

Juncus sp.
Kunzea ericoides
Lepidosperma laterale
Leptospermum brevipes
Leptospermum multicaule
Leptospermum obovatum
Leucopogon attenuatus
Leucopogon fletcheri ssp. *brevisepalus*
Lomandra filiformis ssp. *coriacea*
Lomandra longifolia
Melichrus urceolatus
Microlaena stipoides
Monotoca scoparia
Panicum effusum
Persoonia rigida
Poa sieberiana
Pomaderris angustifolia
Poranthera microphylla
Pultenaea procumbens
Rytidosperma pallidum (*Joycea pallida*)
Senecio sp.
Senecio quadridentatus
Solanum cinereum
Solenogyne dominii
Stypantra glauca
Themeda triandra
Vittadinia cuneata
Vittadinia muelleri
Xerochrysum viscosum



Eucalyptus goniocalyx juvenile leaves with galls (BW)



Leptospermum brevipes (BW)



Leucopogon attenuatus (BW)



Monotoca scoparia (BW)



Rocky slope with *Stypantra glauca* (BW)



Solanum cinereum (BW)



Aristida ramosa three awns (BW)



Local & imported cockatoo dishes of charred Acacia harbouring a grub and evidence of its extraction and remnant of shredded pine cone (MS)



Group at morning tea (BW)