

## 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  
 Stypandra 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 *Stypandra 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)