

Wednesday Walk — Mulloon Fire Trail, Tallaganda Forest NSW — 25 October 2017

After travelling through the small villages of Hoskinstown and Forbes Creek we started our journey through the tall trees of Tallaganda Forest along the Mulloon Fire Trail.

The forest consists of a variety of trees, with differing associations dependent on soil type, altitude, moisture and aspect. Ribbon Gums (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) were easy to recognise, with long ribbons of shed bark forming skirts around their pale trunks. And the occasional waft of peppermint scent indicated Narrow-leaved Peppermints (*E. radiata*) nearby. The fibrous-barked trees were a bit more difficult to identify, but we saw Silvertop Ash (*E. sieberi*), Brown Barrel (*E. fastigata*) and Messmate Stringybark (*E. obliqua*).

The taller understorey was formed by stands of *Acacia dealbata* with a few *A. melanoxylon* and *Banksia marginata*. There were a few smaller understory plants, mostly *Leucopogon lanceolata* with the occasional spiky *Acrotriche divaricata* bush.

Our first stop was to look at a huge *Olearia lirata*, taller than any of us and festooned in white flowers. A little further on, the understorey changed again to mostly *Lomandra longifolia* with heavily-flowering *Daviesia mimosoides* and spiny *D. ulicifolia* adding a bit of colour amongst them.

We drove into the picnic area at the beginning of the Tallaganda Conservation Area for morning tea where there were swathes of golden-flowered *Pultenaea altissima* brightening up the forest.

The road is narrow and winding for most of the way, but we did find a few verges where we could pull off to look at the vegetation. We spotted one of the small populations of the rare *Pomaderris costata* in flower and, when we'd scrambled down the slope to get a closer look, found a small *Comesperma volubile* trailing over a *Persoonia asperula* and still bearing a few flowers. On a previous trip there, we'd seen one of these delicately-stemmed twiners completely covering a small shrub with its bright blue flowers.

A population of *Grevillea lanigera* in flower warranted another stop and walk along the roadside. In a damp area, we found Billy Buttons (*Craspedia variabilis*), *Stackhousia monogyna*, some carpets of *Persoonia chamaepeuce* and a few rather small *Olearia erubescens* plants, all framed by a stand of *Kunzea parvifolia* and *Polyscias sambucifolia*.

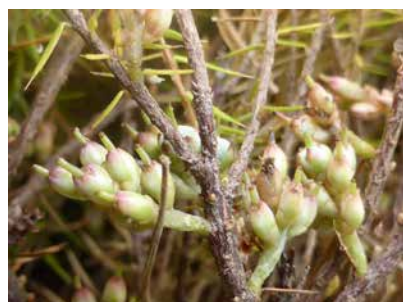
We stopped for lunch where two fire trails form a cross-road, Palerang Fire Trail to the left and Gaurock Fire Trail on the right. The forest was a bit more open there and the low understorey included *Banksia spinulosa*, several of them bearing bright orange-yellow flowerheads, and the pink-flowering little *Boronia algida*. Near the roadside there was a small group of *Oxylobium ellipticum* and some scattered *Comesperma ericinum* nodding their heads of magenta flowers on tall stems. Peering closer to the ground under the trees, we found *Hibbertia obtusifolia* and a few tiny *Rhytidosporum procumbens*.

At the end of the Mulloon Fire Trail, we headed for the Bombay picnic area by the Shoalhaven River, but stopped just before the turnoff to look at some *Pomaderris pauciflora*, just a small population growing by the roadside amongst some tall *Grevillea arenaria*. We were engrossed in the vegetation when we suddenly spotted a Brush-tailed Possum watching us from a multi-stemmed little tree. It was only at head height, but moved reluctantly to a higher branch when everyone tried to take its photo.

We walked down to the river when we got to the picnic area through stands of *Pomaderris betulina* and *Micrantheum hexandrum*. One of the leafless peas, a *Bossiaea*, growing on the slopes had finished flowering but was covered in masses of colourful developing seed-pods.

This was a long and winding drive, but a good way to see a wide range of vegetation without much walking.

Text: Jo Walker; Photos: Jeanette Jeffrey



Acrotriche serrulata fruit



Boronia algida



Bossiaea obcordata



Olearia lirata



Morning tea



Pomaderris costata



Bombay Reserve



Eucalyptus rubida,
Bombay Reserve



Luzula densiflora, Bombay Reserve



Mirbelia oxylobioides
Bombay Reserve

Plant List — Mulloon Fire Trail, Tallaganda Forest — 25 October 2017

? indicates that those present were unsure of the plant name

Acacia dealbata	Eucalyptus radiata	Patersonia sp?
Acacia gunnii	Eucalyptus rossii	Persoonia asperula
Acacia melanoxylon	Eucalyptus rubida	Persoonia chamaepeuce
Acaena novae-zelandiae	Eucalyptus sieberi	Persoonia linearis
Acrotriche divaricata	Eucalyptus viminalis	Poa sp.
Acrotriche serrulata	Exocarpos cupressiformis	Polyscias sambucifolia
Adjuga australis	Exocarpos strictus	Pomaderris costata
Asperula conferta	Geranium sp.	Pomaderris pauciflora (at intersection with Bombay Rd)
Banksia marginata	Glycine clandestina	Pteridium esculentum
Banksia spinulosa	Gonocarpus tetragynus	Pultenaea altissima
Boronia algida	Goodenia hederacea	Pultenaea subspicata
Bossiaea buxifolia	Goodia lotifolia	Rhytidisporum procumbens
Bossiaea obcordata	Grevillea arenaria	Senecio sp?
Brachyloma daphnoides	Grevillea lanigera	Smilax australis
Bursaria spinose	Hibbertia calycina	Stackhousia monogyna
Caladenia fuscata	Hibbertia obtusifolia	Stellaria pungens
Cassinia aculeata	Hydrocotyle laxiflora	Stylidium graminifolium
Cassinia longifolia	Hypericum gramineum	Stylidium sp.
Choretrum pauciflorum	Indigofera australis	Stypandra glauca
Clematis aristata	Kunzea ericoides	Tasmannia lanceolata
Comesperma ericinum	Kunzea parvifolia	Tetratheca bauerifolia?
Comesperma volubile	Leptosperma sp?	Thelymitra sp.
Craspedia variabilis	Leucopogon lanceolatus	Veronica calycina
Daviesia mimosoides	Leucopogon virgatus	Viola betonicifolia
Daviesia ulicifolia	Lomandra longifolia	Viola hederacea
Dianella revoluta	Lomandra sp.?	Wahlenbergia communis (quarry)
Dianella tasmanica	Lomatia ilicifolia	Xerochrysum bracteatum
Dicksonia antarctica	Lomatia myricoides	
Dipodium (roseum?)	Melaleuca parvistaminea	
Einadia hastata	Microlaena stipoides	
Eucalyptus dalrympleana	Mirbelia platylobioides	
Eucalyptus dives	Olearia erubescens	
Eucalyptus fastigata	Olearia lirata	
Eucalyptus mannifera	Oreomyrrhis eriopoda	
Eucalyptus obliqua	Oxylobium ellipticum	
		Bombay Reserve
		Bossiaea sp. (leafless, flattened stem)
		Calytris endlicheri
		Grevillea arenaria
		Micrantheum hexandrum
		Pomaderris betulina