

Wednesday Walk – Wee Jasper NSW: *Grevillea iaspicula* Reserve, Doctors Flat Road, Sutton Hill TSR – 1 November 2017

The Wee Jasper area was the destination for our walk this week, although again it was mostly a drive with interesting stops here and there.

We met at Weston and negotiated the roads through the new suburbs to Uriarra. There we started our journey along Mountain Creek Road, turning left towards Wee Jasper at the far end and passing through gently hilly country where dark sedimentary rock formations formed curved wall-like structures across the green hills.

When we reached Wee Jasper, our first visit was to the small reserve fenced off to preserve the rare *Grevillea iaspicula*. This is an area of weathered grey limestone boulders with some interesting plants in addition to the Grevilleas. The pink and cream flowers of *Grevillea iaspicula* were conspicuous against the bright green foliage. There were some thick-trunked sturdy old bushes of this species and others of a range of sizes, including one almost prostrate plant. Also growing there were several Kurrajong Trees (*Brachychiton populneum*) and a small population of *Senna aciphylla* covered in golden flowers. Two shrubs topped with a profusion of white flowers turned out to be *Olearia rosemarinifolia*. There were small ferns growing in the rock crevices including *Cheilanthes distans* (Bristly Cloak Fern) and *Adiantum hispidulum* (Rough Maidenhair Fern) and a few *Pelargonium australe* displaying their pink flowers in a nook between the boulders.

Our next part of the journey was to Doctors Flat Road where we'd previously explored an area near a wide creek that crossed the road. As it was rather a long way down the road, and we weren't sure of the exact location, we didn't get to it. We back-tracked a bit and had lunch by the roadside, watching a Wedge-tailed Eagle soaring and sweeping across the sky above us. The detour was worth it though, as *Kunzea parvifolia* bushes were adorning the hillsides with swathes of mauve flowers — a really beautiful sight. And the narrow-leaved *Daviesia leptophylla* was flowering and adding some contrasting yellow and brown colour to the scenery. *Dodonaea viscosa* bushes also extended for some way along the roadside bearing lots of dark reddish seed capsules.

After lunch, we made our way back to Mountain Creek Road stopping on the way to look at some very tall Wattle trees growing on the more open hillsides. Their bark was dark and flaky, their large leaves greyish-green and the large seed pods (still green and developing) exhibited quite deep constrictions between the seeds. The trees were just beginning to show some cream flowers and appeared to be *Acacia falciformis* (Broad-leaved Hickory).

Our last stop was at the Sutton Hill Travelling Stock Route, a large area that kept us busy for an hour or so. The reserve consisted of undulating countryside, mostly open forest with Red Stringybarks (*Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*) and Yellow Box (*E. melliodora*) the dominant trees along with a few Cypress Pines (*Callitris endlicheri*) and Cherry Ballart (*Exocarpos cupressiformis*).

We walked along a large soakage area descending down the hillside and found several liliaceous plants amongst the *Dodonaea viscosa* and *Acacia paradoxa*. The yellow flowers of *Bulbine bulbosa* were sighted first, but there were Chocolate Lilies (*Arthropodium fimbriatum*) there too, with one or two in flower, and some very large Vanilla Lilies (*Arthropodium milleflorum*) bearing lots of buds. And some more golden flowers were provided by a little patch of Scaly Buttons (*Leptorhynchus squamatus*) and some Buttercups (*Ranunculus lappaceus*).

On the higher and drier ground, dissected in places by low ridges of dark sedimentary rock, there were some bright orange-yellow pea flowers of *Dillwynia sericea* (Silky Parrot Pea) and a small-leaved form of *Pultenaea procumbens* (Heathy Bush-pea). There were a few Finger-flowers (*Cheiranthra linearis*) there too, their large purplish-blue flowers and bright yellow stamens standing out in the dry landscape. This species is said to indicate the presence of gold in the soil, and there were certainly extensive scatters of quartz there (much of it containing visible but tiny crystals), a rock that is often also found in association with gold.

Another interesting find was a small population of Milkmaids (*Burchardia umbellata*) waving their long-stemmed cream flowerheads in the breeze. And, not to forget the equally interesting birds, someone looked up and pointed out on a high branch a large pot-shaped and neatly crafted mud nest belonging to some White-winged Choughs.

This was another long-distance drive, but was well worth it as it yielded some surprises and a range of beautiful plants in three habitats close together but very different.

Text: Jo Walker; Photos: Jeanette Jeffrey



Carex appressa foreground, *Eleocharis acuta* in the water



Senna aciphylla, Wee Jasper



Grevillea iaspicula, Wee Jasper



Dianella revoluta with its brown anthers, Sutton Creek TSR



Lomandra multiflora, male flower, Sutton Creek TSR



Dillwynia phyllicoides showing twisted leaves, Doctor's Flat Rd

Plant List – Sutton Creek Travelling Stock Reserve (Wee Jasper Road), Grevillea Reserve, Doctor's Flat Rd – 1 November 2017

? indicates that those present were unsure of the plant name

Acacia falciformis
Acacia gunnii
Acacia paradoxa
Acaena ovina
Aristida ramosa
Arthropodium fimbriatum
Arthropodium milleflorum
Austrostipa scabra
Brachychiton populneus
Brachyloma daphnoides
Bulbine bulbosa
Bulbine glauca
Burchardia umbellata
Bursaria spinosa
Callitris endlicheri
Calytrix tetragona
Cassinia longifolia
Cassinia quinquefaria
Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia
Cheiranthra linearis (Syn C. cyanea)
Clematis leptophylla
Convolvulus angustissimus
Craspedia variabilis
Cymbonotus lawsonianus
Cynoglossum sp
Daucus glochidiatus
Desmodium varians
Dianella revoluta
Dillwynia sericea
Eleocharis acuta (water)
Eucalyptus macrorhyncha
Eucalyptus melliodora

Exocarpos cupressiformis
Glycine clandestina
Goodenia hederacea
Hardenbergia violacea
Hibbertia obtusifolia
Hydrocotyle laxiflora
Hypericum gramineum
Indigofera australis
Indigofera adesiifolia
Lepidosperma laterale (sedge)
Leptorhynchus squamatus
Lissanthe strigosa
Lomandra filiformis ss. coriacea?
Lomandra multiflora
Luzula densiflora
Microlaena stipoides
Microtis unifolia?
Plantago varia
Pultenaea procumbens
Ranunculus lappaceus
Rytidosperma pallidum (syn Joycea)
Schoenus apogon
Stackhousia monogyna
Stylidium graminifolia
Themeda triandra
Tricoryne elatior
Vittadinia cuneata
Wahlenbergia communis
Wahlenbergia sp.
Wahlenbergia stricta
Xerochrysum viscosum

Wee Jasper Grevillea Reserve

Adiantum hispidulum
Brachychiton populneus
Bursaria spinosa
Bulbine bulbosa
Bulbine glauca
Cheilanthes distans
Daucus glochidiatus
Discaria pubescens
Dodoniaea viscosa subsp angustissima
Grevillea iaspicula
Indigophera adesmifolia
Olearia rosmarinifolia
Pelargonium australe
Pleurosorus rutifolius
Rubus parvifolius
Senna aciphylla
Stellaria pungens

Doctor's Flat Road

Acacia obliquinervia
Bossiaea buxifolia
Brachyscome spathulata
Callotis scabiosa
Coronidium scorpioides
Daviesia leptophylla
Dillwynia phyllioides
Dodoniaea viscosa
Kunzea parvifolia
Persoonia chamaepeuce