

# Wednesday Walk — Mount Aggie — 8 November 2017

We met at Weston and travelled via the Cotter Road to Brindabella Road which took us up into the mountains along a winding route. Our first stop, for morning tea, was at Bull's Head where several tall *Pimelea pauciflora* were decorated with lots of tiny yellow flowers.

Much more noticeable were the *Daviesia mimosoides* (Bitter Pea) growing all along the banks of decomposing sedimentary rocks that bordered the roadside. At the lower end of the road, where our journey began, they were already forming seed-pods. But higher along the winding road their stems were heavy with clusters of yellow and brown perfumed flowers. Further up, another pea plant, *Bossiaea foliosa*, replaced the *Daviesia* with an equally outstanding display of bright golden flowers.

Adding some contrast were several large *Olearia lirata* bushes, their clouds of white flowers noticeable amongst the tall eucalypts. Some *Pomaderris aspera* were flowering and patches of bright pink at ground level indicated the presence of *Tetralochea bauerifolia*. There were some *Grevilleas* too — *Grevillea oxyantha* and *G. diminuta* had very few flowers on them, but further up the road a few stands of the grey-foliaged *G. lanigera* were showing their pink and cream flowers.

We finally reached the Mount Aggie carpark and started our walk along the track to Mount Aggie through what had been a forest of Alpine Ash (*Eucalyptus delegatensis*) and Snow Gums (*E. pauciflora*) before the 2003 fires. Alpine Ash is a fire-sensitive species and this area was burnt in that catastrophe so most of the tree re-growth seemed to consist of Snow Gums. Many of the original large old trees that were killed by the fire have fallen to the ground after succumbing to the strong winds experienced at that altitude. Beneath the *Eucalyptus pauciflora*, the understorey was mostly brilliant yellow *Bossiaea foliosa*, although we did find one cream variant growing amongst the more gaudy surroundings.

There were a few other shrubs beside the upward-leading trail. The tallest were a few *Acacia melanoxylon* (Blackwood Wattles), with the lower vegetation consisting of *Persoonia subvelutina* (Velvety Geebung), *Coprosma hirtella* and *Lomatia myricoides*. A little further on, we came to an open rocky area a little way below the peak where there were a few *Oxylobium ellipticum* and, in places, a fairly dense understorey of *Leucopogon fletcheri*, some of them still flowering.

In the more open areas, the robust mountain form of *Leucochrysum albicans* were flowering. Some flowers had not yet opened and appeared as dark maroon buds amongst the more advanced yellow-centred white flowers fringed with maroon. There were delicate green clumps of *Rhodanthe anthemoides* scattered amongst them, but they had a week or two ahead of them before flowering time. And, spread across the ground at the edge of this area were patches of *Goodenia hederacea* var. *alpina* showing a few golden flowers.

By this time we could see the peak of Mount Aggie and made our way up there for lunch. The peak consists of upturned flaky grey slate-like sedimentary rock forming a foreground of dark jagged edges pointing up to the sky against a backdrop of distant hills stretching across the horizon.

There were lots more *Leucochrysum albicans* and *Rhodanthe anthemoides* there along with a few *Tetralochea bauerifolia*. Scattered amongst the rocks, there were *Pelargonium australe* with one or two of them bearing a few pale pink flowers. And, it was a suitable habitat (exposed rocky areas at high altitudes) for *Leionema lamprophyllum* which we found in profusion amongst the highest outcrops. A few were still showing some white flowers amongst their small and shiny dark green leaves, but most were developing a dense load of dark red seed capsules.

It was one of those places that makes you reluctant to leave, but we finally turned towards home with our memories of so many beautiful plants amongst the magnificent scenery of the mountains.

Text: Jo Walker; Photos: Brigitta Wimmer



*Bossiaea foliosa*



*Brachyscome decipiens*



*Brachyscome spathulata*





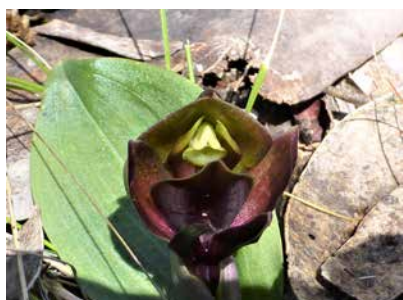
*Bossiaea foliosa*



*Caladenia carnea*



*Euphrasia collina ssp paludosa*



*Chiloglottis valida*



*Daviesia mimosoides*



*Geranium solanderi*



*Grevillea diminuta*



*Grevillea lanigera*



*Leonema lamprohyllum ssp obovatum* flowers



*Grevillea oxyantha*



*Olearia lirata*



*Leonema lamprohyllum ssp obovatum*





*Leucochrysum alpinum*



*Leucopogon fletcheri*



*Microseris lanceolata*



*Olearia lirata* close-up



*Scleranthus biflorus*



*Tetradlea bauerifolia*



Panoramic view from Mt Aggie



View from the top of  
Mt Aggie

# Plant List

? indicates that those present were unsure of the plant name

Acacia dealbata	Daviesia mimosoides	Pelargonium australe
Acacia melanoxylon	Daviesia ulicifolia	Persoonia chamaepeuce
Acacia obliquinervia	Dianella tasmanica	Persoonia subvelutina
Acacia pravissima	Eucalyptus pauciflora	Pimelea glauca
Acaena novae-zelandiae	Euchiton sp	Plantago varia
Acaena ovina	Euphrasia collina subsp. paludosa	Poa induta
Acrothamnus hookeri	Exocarpos strictus	Poa sieberiana
Agrostis bettyae	Geranium solanderi	Podolobium alpestre
Arthropodium milleflorum	Glycine clandestina	Polyscias sambucifolia
Asperula conferta	Goodenia hederacea ssp. alpestris	Polystichum proliferum
Asplenium flabellifolium	Hypericum gramineum	Poranthera microphylla
Bossiaea foliosa	Leionema lamprophyllum	Ranunculus lappaceus
Brachyscome aculeata	Leptospermum myrtifolium	Rhodanthe anthemoides
Brachyscome diversifolia	Leucochrysum alpinum	Rubus parvifolius
Brachyscome spathulata	Leucopogon fletcheri ssp. brevisepalus	Scleranthus biflorus
Brachyloma daphnoides	Leucopogon fraseri	Senecio sp.
Bulbine glauca	Leucopogon gelidus	Simpliglottis valida
Celmesia sp tomentella?	Lomandra longifolia	Stackhousia monogyna
Cheilanthes sp.	Lomatia myricoides	Stellaria pungens
Chiloglottis valida	Luzula sp.	Stylidium armeria
Clematis aristata	Microlaena stipoides	Stylidium graminifolium
Coronidium monticola	Microseris lanceolata	Tasmania lanceolata
Coprosma hirtella	Olearia erubescens	Tetratheca bauerifolia
Craspedia variabilis	Oreomyrrhis eriopoda	Veronica calycina
Crassula sieberiana	Oxylobium ellipticum	Viola betonicifolia
Cymbonotus sp.		