

Wednesday Walk — Aranda Bushland Frost Hollow to Forest — 29 November 2017

We met at the Black Mountain Carpark off William Hovell Drive for a pleasant walk in the Aranda Bushland Nature Reserve led by Jean Geue. Jean was formerly Convenor of Friends of Aranda Bushland and Project Officer for the Frost Hollow to Forest project, the results of which we spent the morning exploring. The area consists of a range of habitats with frost hollow grasslands containing a remnant woodland of Snow Gums (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*) merging into Box-Gum woodland with well-spaced Yellow Box (*E. melliodora*) and Blakely's Red Gum (*E. blakelyi*) before the land steepens and ascends into dry sclerophyll forest on the higher slopes.

We started our walk across the grassland, a flat to slightly undulating area of deep soil, towards the stand of *Eucalyptus pauciflora*. The vegetation was mostly native grasses including *Themeda triandra* (Kangaroo Grass) and *Microlaena stipoides* (Weeping Grass). The most noticeable plant was the grey-leaved form of *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* covering large areas in carpets of golden flowers. And *Persicaria prostrata* (Creeping Knotweed), a plant that we don't come across very often, was also growing here in extensive bright green patches.

As we passed along the wall of a small dam we stopped to look at some *Carex appressa* and were joined by a Brown Snake slithering rapidly up the bank towards us. Usually snakes will remove themselves quickly from the presence of humans, so this seemed strange behaviour — that is until we hurriedly moved aside and it disappeared down into its home, a hole we'd been standing over.

After investigating the isolated stand of *Eucalyptus pauciflora*, we continued on through the woodland of *E. melliodora* and *E. blakelyi* and finally reached the drier forest extending down the mountainside. We moved up through a closed forest of mostly *E. macrorhyncha* (Red Stringybark) and *E. dives* (Broad-leaved Peppermint) with a low understorey of Flax-lilies (*Dianella revoluta*) and several species of Mat Rushes (*Lomandra longifolia*, *L. multiflora* and *L. filiformis*) as well as some more colourful little plants. Large yellow flowers were provided by *Hibbertia obtusifolia* (Grey Guinea-flower) and smaller but equally bright ones by *H. riparia* (Upright Guinea-flower). And *Pultenaea procumbens* (Heathy Bush-pea) were covered in orange-yellow flowers. Taller pea plants in the same area were *Indigofera australis* (Austral Indigo) and the rarer *I. adesmiifolia*.

We had lunch sitting on some logs on a grassy slope, listening to the melodious call of a Grey Butcher-bird and watching a White-throated Treecreeper as it hopped up a tree-trunk searching for insects.

On the way back down the hillside, we passed under a few white-barked trees, *Eucalyptus mannifera* (Brittle Gum) and *E. rossii* (Scribbly Gum) and found some small populations of *Grevillea alpina*.

Most of the forest area we walked through had been damaged in a 'controlled burn' in March 2014. It was feared that *Grevillea alpina* and the small population of *Indigofera adesmiifolia* could have been burnt beyond any likelihood of recovery, so it was good to see them both growing back again along this walk.

By the time we got back to the grasslands, it was midday, the time of day that the flowers of *Tricoryne elatior* (Yellow Rock-lily) begin to open. And, sure enough, we were greeted by a few yellow flowers here and there, a pleasant end to a lovely walk in an area that demonstrates how elevation, aspect and soil type determine the range of plants that grow there.

Text: Jo Walker; Photos: Jeanette Jeffrey



Bossiaea buxifolia flower and fruit



Fenced off *Themeda* patch



Ranunculus induntatus



Grevillea alpina



Leptospermum continentale



Persicaria prostrata



Rytidosperma pallidum flowering



The group



Triplilodiscus pygmaeus



Desmodium varians



Desmodium varians flower, fruit

Plant List

? indicates that those present were unsure of the plant name

Acacia buxifolia
Acacia dealbata
Acacia decurrens
Acacia genistifolia
Acacia gunnii
Acacia implexa
Acacia rubida (1960 Cons. Planting)
Acaena ovina
Acrotriche serrulata
Amyema miquelii
Asperula conferta
Astroloma humifusum

Austrostipa densiflora
Bossiaea buxifolia
Brachyloma daphnoides
Bulbine bulbosa
Carex appressa
Carex sp.
Cassinia aculeata
Cassinia arcuata
Cassinia longifolia
Cassinia quinquefaria
Cassytha pubescens
Cassytha sp.

Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia
Chrysocephalum apiculatum
Clematis microphylla
Convolvulus angustissimus
Cryptandra amara
Cymbonotus lawsonianus
Cynoglossum suaveolens
Daviesia mimosoides
Desmodium varians
Dianella revoluta
Dicopogon fimbriatus
Dillwynia phyllicoides

<i>Einadia nutans</i>	<i>Hydrocotyle laxiflora</i>	<i>Poa sieberiana</i>
<i>Eucalyptus blakelyi</i>	<i>Hypericum gramineum</i>	<i>Pultenaea procumbens</i>
<i>Eucalyptus bridgesiana</i>	<i>Indigofera adesmiifolia</i>	<i>Ranunculus inundatus</i>
<i>Eucalyptus dives</i>	<i>Indigofera australis</i>	<i>Ranunculus lappaceus</i>
<i>Eucalyptus macrorhyncha</i>	<i>Joycea pallida</i>	<i>Rubus parvifolius</i>
<i>Eucalyptus mannifera</i>	<i>Juncus sp.</i>	<i>Rytidopserma pallidum</i>
<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	<i>Schoenus apogon</i>
<i>Eucalyptus pauciflora</i>	<i>Lepidosperma laterale</i>	<i>Scleranthus biflorus</i>
<i>Eucalyptus polyanthemus</i>	<i>Leptorhynchus squamatus</i>	<i>Senecio quadridentatus</i>
<i>Eucalyptus rossii</i>	<i>Leptospermum continentale</i>	<i>Senecio sp.</i>
<i>Eucalyptus rubida</i>	<i>Leucopogon virgatus</i>	<i>Stackhousia monogyna</i>
<i>Euchiton sphaericus</i>	<i>Lomandra filiformis subsp. coriacea</i>	<i>Stellaria pungens</i>
<i>Exocarpos cupressiformis</i>	<i>Lomandra filiformis subsp. filiformis</i>	<i>Stylidium graminifolium</i>
<i>Geranium solanderi</i>	<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	<i>Themeda triandra</i>
<i>Glycine clandestina</i>	<i>Lomandra multiflora</i>	<i>Tricoryne elatior</i>
<i>Glycine tabacina</i>	<i>Luzula sp.</i>	<i>Triptilodiscus pygmaeus</i>
<i>Gonocarpus tetragynus</i>	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	<i>Veronica calycina</i>
<i>Goodenia hederacea</i>	<i>Melichrus urceolatus</i>	<i>Vittadinia cuneata</i>
<i>Grevillea alpina</i>	<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	<i>Vittadinia cuneata</i>
<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>	<i>Oxalis sp.</i>	<i>Vittadinia muelleri</i>
<i>Hibbertia obtusifolia</i>	<i>Persicaria prostrata</i>	<i>Wahlenbergia stricta</i>
<i>Hibbertia riparia</i>	<i>Plantago varia</i>	
<i>Hovea heterophylla</i>	<i>Poa labillardieri</i>	