

# Wednesday Walk – Cuumbeun Nature Reserve (south) from Captains Flat Rd – 7 February 2018

On 7th February 2018 a group of seven Wednesday Walkers (WW) met and carpoled at the Spotlight carpark, Queanbeyan. The WW travelled to the Cuumbeun Nature Reserve (CNR) (south) on Captain's Flat Rd Carwoola. The best entrance to this section of the nature reserve is some 1500 metres approximately from the King's Highway turn off and to the right on Captain's Flat Rd (Captain Alured Tasker Faunce (1808–1856)).

The day was forecast to be a very warm day with a predicted maximum of 30 degrees C. The group agreed to walk the Nature Reserve (NR) until the team deemed it wise to turn back.

This section (all three sections of CNR reserve are 709 hectares in area) of the reserve is sited on the plateau atop of the eastern escarpment (720 — 840m) with Queanbeyan (570m) to the west. Soils across the reserve are generally shale in origin and skeletal in nature with deeper soils occurring in small areas on the plateau and with a small number of magnificent remnant Eucalyptus melliodora on top and in some drainage lines.

Initially, we walked west observing a range of eucalypts such as *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*, *E. mannifera*, *E. melliodora*, *E. nortonii*, *E. polyanthemos* and *E. rossii*. Surprisingly one plant of *Microlaena stipoides* was discovered near the reserve's entry gate. A colony of small glaucous *Grevillea lanigera* was found in moist rocky places, near the track south (Swamp Trail). *Acacia rubida*, *Dillwynia sericea*, *Dillwynia sieberi* and *Styphelia triflora* are well represented throughout this section of the NR.

We turned south onto the signposted Swamp Trail. During wet periods on the plateau, water drains east and south creating soaks or perched water tables, with bogs and ideal sites for constructed dams (product of historical land clearing for grazing). *Kunzea ericoides* grows well, unencumbered by any other native vegetation. *Carex appressa* also grows well along these damp drainage lines as well as encircling dam pondage and their drainage outlets. Along one of these now dry drainage lines was an unusually large colony of *Acacia dawsonii*, though now struggling to survive.

During morning tea, at the base of a near empty dam, we observed a small colony of *Acacia dealbata*. Two 'ring-in' *Acacia baileyana* were also observed.

The discovery of a daisy off-trail promulgated a WW debate over its current binomial. It was later resolved to be *Coronidium gunnianum*. "... many populations on the Southern Tablelands of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory are from elevations above 700 m" <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Coronidium~gunnianum>

Two plants of *Acrotriche serrulata* (one plant with flowers and seed heads) were found off-trail by Jo Walker. A small colony of *Acacia pycnantha* provoked a WW discussion on the morphology of the phyllodes of 'broad-leaved' *Acacia* species. Margins that can potentially touch plant stems are phyllodes = *Acacia*. Lamina blades that can potentially touch plant stems are true leaves = non-*Acacia* plants. Other plants of interest to WW were *Daviesia genistifolia*, *Exocarpos cupressiformis*, *Exocarpos strictus*, *Persoonia rigida*, *Gompholobium huegelii* and *Pomaderris subcapitata*. Several healthy plants of a light green form of *Acacia gunnii* were observed growing beside the trail.

Swamp Trail rises, passes a rural property to the left, and then crosses Shed Trail to the east. The trail turns west, descending towards the Queanbeyan Escarpment and with splendid views of the Brindabella Ranges beyond. At this point in our walk and as the heat of the day was rising we elected to return to our start point, stopping for lunch in a pleasant shady spot off-trail.

Dry as this section of the Cuumbeun NR is (07 Feb 2018), it is a fine example of a well preserved grassy box woodland, generally free of exotic weeds. *Rytidosperma pallidum* is the dominant grass plant.

Credit to NSW NPW, NSW OEH, NSW SE LLS and Landcare, who by their combined management actions on this CNR, have effectively fenced off the reserve and removed and halted the dumping of vehicles and waste.

Text: Bill Willis; Photos: Brigitta Wimmer



*Acrotricha ledifolia* flowers



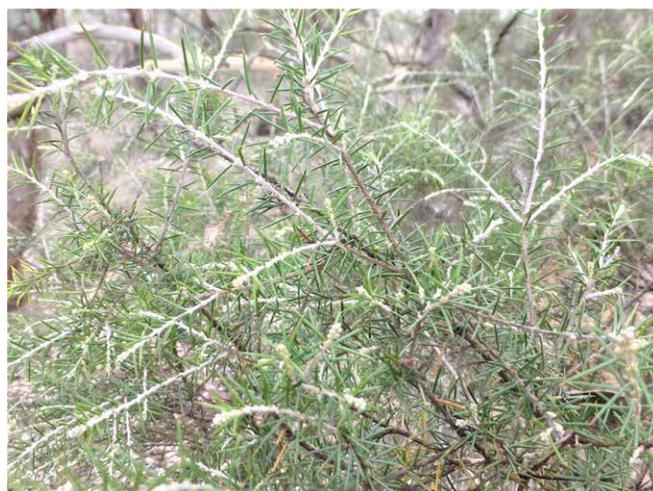
*Cassinia monticola*



*Acrotricha ledifolia*



*Coronidium monticola*



*Dillwynia sieberi*



Dense *Eucalyptus pauciflora*



Entrance sign to Cuumbeun Nature Reserve

# Plant List

? indicates that those present were unsure of the plant name

Acacia buxifolia	Dichelachne micrantha	Leptospermum myrtifolium
Acacia dawsonii	Dillwynia sericia	Leucochrysum albicans var. tricolor
Acacia dealbata	Dillwynia sieberi	Leucopogon fletcheri ssp. brevisepalus
Acacia genistifolia	Eucalyptus bridgesiana	Lomandra filiformis ssp. coriacea
Acacia gunnii	Eucalyptus macrorhyncha	Lomandra filiformis ssp. filiformis
Acacia mearnsii	Eucalyptus mannifera	Lomandra longifolia
Acacia parramattensis	Eucalyptus melliodora	Lomandra multiflora
Acacia pycnanatha?	Eucalyptus nortonii	Melichrus urceolatus
Acacia rubida	Eucalyptus polyanthemos	Microlaena stipoides
Acrotriche serrulata	Eucalyptus rossii	Persoonia rigida
Astroloma humifusum	Exocarpos cupressiformis	Poa sp.
Astrotricha ledifolia	Exocarpos strictus	Pomaderris subcapitata
Brachyloma daphnoides	Gompholobium huegelii	Pultenaea microphylla
Brachyscome rigidula	Gonocarpus tetragynus	Pultenaea procumbens
Carex appressa	Goodenia hederacea	Rytidosperma pallidum
Cassinia longifolia	Grevillea lanigera	Rytidosperma sp.
Chrysocephalum semipapposum	Hardenbergia violacea	Stellaria pungens
Comesperma ericinum	Hibbertia obtusifolia	Stylidium graminifolium
Coronidium gunnianum	Hovea heterophylla	Styphelia triflora
Daviesia genistifolia	Hypericum gramineum	Themeda triandra
Daviesia mimosoides	Indigofera australis	Vittadinia muelleri
Daviesia ulicifolia	Juncus sp.	Xerochrysum viscosum
Dianella revoluta	Kunzea ericoides	