

Wednesday Walk – Mt Ginini tower to Mt Franklin Road – 21 February 2018

A new walk following the ACT/NSW border south from the tower

New walks are always rewarding, as apart from the fresh scenery and new vegetation to explore, there is always the possibility of finding new plant species to record and add to our lists. In this case, even finding a satisfactory route was quite an exercise.

The walk initially follows an old 4WD track south from the radar tower through cleared alpine snow gum woodland. The track eventually turns west so we carried on south through an open rocky ridgeline, passing a border post, before entering snow gum woodland. This entailed scrub bashing down through the heath and some gentle falls on the rocky uneven ground underfoot. Finally, we reached the easily identified saddle and turned east down a steep rocky slope to the Mt Franklin road and returned to the lower car park.

On arrival at morning tea, we checked out the diagnostics of the Jounama Snow Gum, *E. pauciflora* subsp. *debeuzevillei*, that is endemic to the area. It is distinguished from the typical Snow gum, *E. p.* subsp. *pauciflora*, by its glaucous angular buds, smaller, more rounded leaves and low branching habit. Mike informed us that de Beuzeville was not some eminent French botanist but Wilfred de Beuzeville, a forester from Bombala, but no less distinguished as a plant collector.

Before we started the walk, I wanted to obtain the coordinates of a single *Cassinia monticola* plant to the north-west of the tower along the old 4WD track, now quite obscured by shrubbery (mostly *Bossiaea foliosa* complex and *Podolobium alpestre*). In 2008 we discovered the first sighting of *C. monticola* for the ACT on a Wednesday Walk in Ginini Flats but this has not been seen since. So I was interested to find out whether the specimen at the summit was in NSW or the ACT. According to Google Earth, which has the border marked, this plant is definitely in NSW in Bimberi Nature Reserve. It is probably the same plant recorded by Betty Woods a decade ago.

The first part of the walk down the 4WD track is dominated by snow grass, *Poa* spp. and Asteraceae although there is increasing encroachment by heaths, mostly *Bossiaea foliosa* complex and *Acrothamnus hookeri* (in bud). The daisies include *Microseris lanceolata* (finished flowering), now distinguished from the lowland form named *M. walteri*, *Brachyscome aculeata* (mostly finished flowering), a *Celmisia* in flower, probably *C. costiniana*, large patches of *Coronidium monticola* in full flower, scattered plants of at least two species of *Craspedia*, and clumps of *Rhodanthe anthemoides* and of *Xerochrysum subundulatum*. *Wahlenbergia gloriosa* was still in flower as was *Lobelia pedunculata*, an extensive ground cover. The daisies were being visited by a host of butterflies, notably the Spotted Alpine Xenica, *Oreixenica orichora*, as well as by reed bees in the genus *Exoneura*.

After leaving the track, we entered another boulder-strewn clearing where we saw an original border marker so we knew we were on the right route. There was the first sighting of the mauve flowers of *Euphrasia caudata*, distinguished by the long point to the leaf (caudata = tail). This was followed by the sighting of a large Apiaceae in fruit that turned out to be *Gingidia harveyana*, a species not previously seen by the Wednesday Walkers (WWs) in this area, although it has been recorded by WWs from Yerrabi (thanks Martin). Further down this rocky slope we entered snow gum woodland with an understory of *Grevillea diminuta* and *Podocarpus lawrencei*, plus patches of *Podolepis robusta* and *Euphrasia caudata* in full flower. Ahead we could see the saddle where the accumulated moisture caused a lush vegetation to develop, dominated by *Senecio linearifolius* subsp. *latifolius* and *Xerochrysum subundulatum*. Here we were entertained by the antics of numerous mountain crickets, *Acripeza reticulata*.

From the saddle, there was a steep descent to the road through patches of *Polyscias sambucifolia* and other shrubs. We should try to find a better route here next time. Not much to see on the return as the roadside vegetation had been extensively slashed, leaving only the *Podocarpus* untouched, although the highlight of the day for me was a spectacular dragonfly pointed out by Linda and yet to be identified.

More on the slashing: I noted that a large *Ozothamnus secundiflorus* just north of the tower turnoff, that I had seen on a January trip, was gone. Disappointing, as this is a rare plant in this part of the Park.

This walk would be worth repeating in mid-summer when the *Gingidia* and many Asteraceae would be in full flower.

Text: Roger Farrow; photos: Brigitta Wimmer (BW) and Roger Farrow (RF)



Jounama snow gum, *E. pauciflora debeuzevillei*
Note ridged glaucous buds (BW)



Mountain daisy bush, *Cassinia monticola* (RF)
Note emergent stigmas and anthers



Spotted alpine xenica, *Oreixenica orichora* (RF)



Mountain everlasting, *Coronidium monticola* (RF)



Eucalyptus nortonii buds (BW)



Swamp eyebright, *Euphrasia caudata* (RF)



Slender aniseed, *Gingidia harveyana* (RF)



Kunzea ericifolia (BW)



Kunzea ericoides (BW)



Lobelia pedunculata (BW)



Mountain lettuce, *Podolepis robusta* (RF)



Broad-leaved fireweed groundsel, *Senecio linearifolius* var. *latifolius* (BW)



Styphelia triflora (BW)



Roger knee deep in *Xerochrysum subundulatum* (BW)



Wahlenbergia gloriosa (BW)



Grevillea diminuta (BW)



Male Mountain Cricket, *Acripeza reticulata* (RF)



Unknown species of Dragonfly (RF)



ACT/NSW border marker (RF)



Group starting downhill (BW)



Morning tea in a dry landscape (BW)



Second dam (BW)



Turning to Swamp Trail W (BW)



Cascade everlasting, *Ozothamnus secundiflorus* 16 January 2018 (RF)

Plant List by Jeanette Jeffrey

Acacia dealbata
 Acacia obliquinervia
 Acaena novae-zelandiae
 Acaena ovina
 Aciphylla simplicifolia
 Acrothamnus hookeri
 Ajuga australis
 Arthropodium milleflorum
 Asperula conferta
 Austrofestuca hookeriana
 Baeckea sp
 Blechnum sp.
 Bossiaea foliosa Complex
 Brachyscome aculeata
 Brachyscome spatulata
 Cassinia aculeata
 Cassinia monticola
 Celmesia costiniana
 Clematis aristata
 Coprosma hirtella
 Coronidium monticola
 Craspedia sp
 Craspedia variabilis
 Cynoglossum australe
 Daviesia ulicifolia
 Dianella tasmanica
 Dichelachne micrantha

Dichelachne crinita
 Dichondra repens
 Epilobium sp.
 Eucalyptus pauciflora ssp
 debeuzevillei
 Eucalyptus pauciflora ssp pauciflora
 Eucalyptus stellulata
 Euchiton sphaericus
 Euphrasia caudata
 Euphrasia collina
 Geranium retrorsum
 Gingidia harveyana
 Gonocarpus micranthus ssp.
 micranthus
 Goodenia hederacea ssp. alpestris
 Grevillea australis
 Grevillea diminuta
 Hydrocotyle sp.
 Lagenophora stipitata
 Leptorhynchus squamatus ssp.
 alpinus
 Leucochrysum alpinum
 Leucopogon lanceolatum
 Linum marginale
 Lobelia pedunculata
 Microseris lanceolata
 Olearia brevipedunculata
 Olearia megalophylla
 Oreomyrrhis eriopoda

Oxylobium ellipticum
 Persoonia subvelutina
 Pimelia ligustrina subsp ciliata
 Poa sp.
 Podocarpus lawrencei
 Podolepis robusta
 Podolobium alpestre
 Polyscias sambucifolia
 Polystichum proliferum
 Poranthera microphylla
 Ranunculus lappaceus?
 Rhodanthe anthemoides
 Rhytidosporum alpinum
 Rubus parvifolia
 Scleranthus biflorus
 Scleranthus fasciculatus
 Senecio gunnii
 Senecio linearifolius var latifolius
 Senecio sp.
 Stackhousia monogyna
 Stellaria pungens
 Stylidium graminifolium
 Stylidium montanum
 Tasmannia lanceolata
 Veronica perfoliata
 Viola betonicifolia
 Wahlenbergia gloriosa
 Xerochrysum subundulatum