

Wednesday Walk – from Kambah Pool to Red Rock Gorge – 21 March 2018

We started today from the southern Kambah Pool carpark and followed the signposted track to Red Rock Gorge and beyond. We decided to have lunch and turn back when we could see the Old Stone Wall a little further along. The weather was cloudy, a cool 18° and became quite windy on the more exposed slopes.

Whilst there were some weeds we nevertheless had plenty to keep us occupied. As we walked we discussed the species — *E. blakelyi*, *E. bridgesiana*, *E. dives*, *E. macrorhyncha*, *E. mannifera*, *E. melliodora* and *E. rossii* were all present. We also added *E. polyanthemos* to the list. The eucalypts gave way to *Acacia dealbata* and *Casuarina cunninghamiana* further down the slope by the river.

In places the track becomes narrow and winds through large patches of *Kunzea ericoides* but then alternates with open grasslands of good *Themeda triandra* cover. At morning tea at the lookout we enjoyed the view across and up the rocky bed of the Murrumbidgee. Further on the vertical cliffs of the Red Rocks were impressive (although not quite as red because of the lacking sunshine), set within the frame of surrounding dense vegetation in varying shapes and hues of green.

We saw lots of *Grevillea juniperina* plants looking very healthy even after this dry and hot summer, *Acacia rubida*, *Dodonea viscosa* ssp *angustissima*, *Cassinia quinquefaria* and *C. longifolia*, *Pomaderris angustifolia* and *P. betulina*, and the brown-orange seed capsules of *Bursaria spinosa* provided a splash of colour.

Amongst the lower growing plants we encountered *Melichrus urceolatus* already in full bud, one *Leucopogon attenuata* and a *Cryptandra amara* (thanks Jo) and a few flowering *Chrysocephalum semipapposum*. *Correa reflexa* showed its creamy green bells with protruding anthers enclosed by pairs of its hairy leaves. In between there were quite a variety of ground covers including *Desmodium varians*, *Cullen microcephalum*, *Acrotriche serrulata*, *Asperula conferta*, *Astroloma humifusum* carrying some red buds, pink *Convolvulus angustissimus* and *Geranium* sp, and scrambling *Clematis microphylla*.

And various birds and insects were a bonus on our walk, particularly the black cockatoos flying over, busy ants and bugs *Eurymeloides pulchra* (Hemiptera Eurymelidae) clambering over each other on a branch and an exquisite colourful dragonfly *Austroaeschna* sp (Telephlebiidae) that might have been waiting for some warmth before moving on (ID by Roger).

Words and photos by Brigitta Wimmer



Cassinia longifolia



Chrysocephalum semipapposum



Geranium sp



Correa reflexa



Melichrus urceolatus



Grevillea juniperina



Bridge over side creek



The group at the lookout



The Murrumbidgee River from the lookout



Pomaderris betulina



Ants and bugs *Eurymeloides pulchra*
(Hemiptera Eurymelidae)



The stone wall



The track back to Red Rocks Gorge

Plant List

? indicates that those present were unsure of the plant name

Acacia dealbata	Convolvulus angustissimus	Hibbertia obtusifolia
Acacia doratoxylon	Correa reflexa	Hypericum gramineum
Acacia rubida	Cryptandra amara var. longiflora	Kunzea ericoides
Acaena ovina	Cullen microcephalum	Kunzea parvifolia
Acrotriche serrulata	Cymbonotus lawsonianus	Lepidosperma laterale
Ajuga australis	Daviesia mimosoides	Leptorhynchos squamatus
Amyema sp	Desmodium varians	Leucopogon attenuatus
Asperula conferta	Dianella revoluta	Lomandra filiformis ssp. filiformis
Astroloma humifusum	Dichondra repens	Lomandra longifolia
Bossiaea buxifolia	Dillwynia sericea	Lomandra multiflora
Bothriochloa macra	Dodonaea viscosa ssp. angustissima	Melichrus urceolatus
Brachychiton populneus	Epilobium billardioreanum ? ssp	Panicum effusum
Brachyloma daphnoides	cinereum	Pimelia curviflora
Bursaria spinosa	Eryngium ovinum	Pomaderris angustifolia
Callitris endlicheri	Eucalyptus blakelyi	Pomaderris betulina
Carex appressa	Eucalyptus bridgesiana	Pultenaea procumbens
Cassinia arcuata	Eucalyptus dives	Rubus parvifolius
Cassinia longifolia	Eucalyptus macrorhyncha	Senecio quadridentatus
Cassinia quinquefaria	Eucalyptus mannifera	Sorghum leiocladum
Cassytha sp.	Eucalyptus melliodora	Sporobulus sp
Casuarina cunninghamiana	Eucalyptus polyanthemus	Themeda triandra
Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia	Eucalyptus rossii	Veronica perfoliata
Cheilanthes sp	Geranium sp.	Vittadinia cuneata
Chrysocephalum apiculatum	Gonocarpus tetragynus	Vittadinia muelleri
Chrysocephalum semipapposum	Grevillea juniperina	Wahlenbergia communis
Clematis microphylla	Hibbertia riparia	Xerochrysum viscosum