

Report on Wednesday Walk 3 October 2018
A Pomaderris Crawl around the Mayfield Circuit
(Cullulla, Sandy Point and Willowglen Roads).

There are two places to **see** the greatest diversity of Pomaderris in our area: the first is along the Mulloon Fire trail, with nine species, dominated by *Pomaderris* sp. 'Bundanoon', and the second is the Mayfield area circuit with seven species, dominated by *P. elliptica* and including the endangered *P. delicata*.

The visit on this Wednesday was also to celebrate Jo walker's 80th birthday and to recognise her great contribution in raising the profile of this underappreciated genus of hardy flowering shrubs.



Jo Walker photographing *Pomaderris ledifolia* Willowglen Road 2010

Our first stop on the circuit was the Cullulla Quarry where we have followed the colonisation of a gravel bank since it was constructed during road realignment in about 2010. The seemingly inhospitable-looking bank had been colonised by a range of acacia, pea and pomaderris species, among others, and in more recent years by the slower growing allocasuarinas and stringybarks. This year the prolonged drought had set back the health and flowering of many plants and the miserable weather cut short any prospect of a decent plant survey. We noted the *P.ferruginea* and *P andromedifolia* in their same spots as well as the remains of a Mitsubishi Pajero hidden in the bush above the bank



Cullulla Quarry 2012



Cullulla Quarry 2018

A short distance away is a small stand of the endangered *P. delicata* that was almost destroyed by road widening operations a few years ago but has now made a great recovery with new plants regenerating inside the adjacent property underneath a cover of *Allocasuarina littoralis* and stringybarks, as well as along the road edge



Pomaderris delicata Cullulla Road



Regeneration at road edge

Further down the Cullulla Road we stopped to look at a conspicuous, free-flowering daisy bush that we identified as *Olearia microphylla*. Growing nearby was another daisy bush that is common around Bundanoon, *O. viscidula*.



Olearia microphylla, Cullulla Road



Olearia viscidula, Cullulla Road

We then turned down the Sandy Point Road to Willowglen Road constructed during the 90's to access a series of subdivisions. Road construction involved a series of cuttings and embankments that favoured the establishment of a diverse range of Pomaderris species that presumably existed in the understory of the adjacent Allocasuarina and eucalypt woodland.

We stopped for morning tea at the start of the road where we noted a small *Acacia*, *A. obtusata* that we rarely see (should make a good garden plant because of its small size). This area was dominated by prickly stands of *H. sericea* in full flower, but not much else due to the dry conditions



Acacia obtusata Willowglen road



Hakea sericea Willowglen road (Brigitta)

The *P. elliptica* were in poor shape in this area so we briefly returned to a spot on the Sandy Point Road to visit a known stand in full flower and were not disappointed. Also seen was one of the main pollinators of *Pomaderris* the flower fly, *Sapromyza* sp (Lauxaniidae)



Pomaderris elliptica, Sandy Point Road



Flower fly, *Sapromyza* sp. (Lauxaniidae) on *P. ferruginea*

We returned to Willowglen Road to a site where there were known to be a number of prostrate shrubs growing along the road easement. Despite the dry conditions, there was a fine display from *Mirbelia platylobioides* and *Daviesia acicularis*, plus a few *Cryptandra amara*, *Acacia brownii*, *Rhytidosporum procumbens* and *Gompholobium minus*.



Mirbelia platylobioides Willowglen Road



Daviesia acicularis Willowglen Road



Cryptandra amara Willowglen Road



Gompholobium minus Willowglen Road

The road then ascends through the stony embankments where we start to see the *Pomaderris* appearing and growing in the most inhospitable looking substrate. The junction with Coghill Road is a regular stop and was a good place for lunch except for the wet weather that suddenly swept in. We did get to see *P. ferruginea* with its 'hanging' leaves and *P. andromedifolia* subsp. *andromedifolia* and a prickly pea, *Dillwynia sieberi*. Another *Pomaderris* pollinator, the comb-clawed beetle *Atoichus bicolor* (Tenebrioniidae) was found on the *P. ferruginea* flowers.



P. andromedifolia subsp. *andromedifolia* Willowglen Road



Atoichus bicolor (Tenebrioniidae) on *P. ferruginea*



Dillwynia sieberi Willowglen Road



Dillwynia sieberi Willowglen Road

Our penultimate stop was on the next crest where there are extensive stands of *P. elliptica* and *P. ledifolia* and a few *P. andromedifolia* subsp. *andromedifolia*. We had been searching for the second sub-species of *P. andromedifolia*, *P.a.* subsp. *confusa* and we finally saw this on our last stop a short distance away. It is distinguished from the nominate subspecies by its more rounded leaves and hairs on the lower leaf surface.



Pomaderris. elliptica Willowglen Road



Pomaderris elliptica Willowglen Road



Pomaderris ledifolia Willowglen Road



Pomaderris andromedifolia subsp *confusa* Willowglen Road

And so to afternoon tea at the Woodworks Cafe in Bungendore where friends of Jo gathered to celebrate her birthday