

### **Wednesday Walk 03<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 Mount Jerrabomberra NSW**

The plants recorded in this report are by no means a complete list of plants observed by WWs, but are plants that many walkers noted as plants of interest and plants that initiated walker discussion.

Mount Jerrabomberra is the set of three hills to immediately east of the NSW/ACT border and within NSW. There are walks of varying inclination and walker difficulty to the summit of the Mount.

On the 03/04/2019 the WW chose the walk commencing from the western side of the Mount along Jerrabomberra Hill Road off Halloran Drive to the summit along an easy incline on a broad well graded vehicular track.

Early in the walk we discovered aside the road ***Grevillea ramosissima ssp ramosissima*** and ***Acacia pycnantha*** (once known as ***Acacia westonii***). ***A pycnantha*** is well represented at lower levels below Jerrabomberra Heights. We bypassed a steeper gravel trail with bollards at its entrance and opted for the steadier road climb. Gravelly soils occur extensively on Mount Jerrabomberra. "Generally, these soils lack pedological differentiation except for some weak horizon development in minor landscape features." \*

We noted that the grassy box woodland landscape of Mount Jerrabomberra has many ***Eucalyptus polyanthemus ssp polyanthemus*** and a less representative number of ***E. melliodora*** on the rare deeper soils. Several genera and species of Poaceae including: ***Aristida ramosa***, ***Bothriochloa macra***, ***Poa labillardierei***, ***P. sieberiana***, ***P.? meionectes***, ***Rytidosperma carphoides***, ***R. erianthum***, ***R. pallidum*** ***R. racemosum ssp racemosum*** were observed along the lower mountain road. Significant numbers of ***Daviesia mimosoides***, ***Cassinia longifolia*** and ***C. quinquefaria*** were also present.

The listed parasitic dodder, *Cassytha* species, was identified by Jeanette as ***Cassytha pubescens***. Rising to Jerrabomberra Heights we then walked below the large water tank to observe disjunct colonies of ***Grevillea ramosissima ssp ramosissima***. The dry crumbly soils and the stressed nature of many of the plants indicate they are doing it tough and the Mount Jerrabomberra colonies need to be reassessed and a conservation strategy developed.

After a delightful morning tea we proceeded in a northerly direction and Jo Walker showed us two ***Pomaderris andromedifolia ssp. confusa***.

We rejoined the main upward trail and noted a ***Cymbopogon refractus*** in seeds. Some plants we observed were: ***Acacia genistifolia*** (with flowers), ***A. mearnsii***, ***A. penninervis***, ***Hakea decurrens***, ***Pomax umbellata***.

Surprisingly below the top water tank is a water bubbler - with bowls for pets. As we approached the lookout some walkers climbed the stairs to the lookout. Walkers who continued on the trail observed colonies of ***Pomaderris betulina*** and, as the trail spirals upwards to the east and then to the south on the leeward side, in the damp rock crevices were the necklace fern ***Asplenium flabellifolium*** and ***Stellaria pungens***. The trail turned to the north towards the lookout and we passed numerous ***Lomandra longifolia*** plants and a small number of ***Calotis lappulacea***.

After lunch at the lookout we returned by the same trail to the base of the mountain taking a gravel trail that passed through a large number of near prostrate ***Leptospermum multicaule***.

Many WWs had an enjoyable afternoon tea and post-walk debrief at the 'old' Jerrabomberra shops.

Bill Willis

\*Engineering geology of the Queanbeyan urban area, NSW.

G. Briscoe and J.R. Kellett



*Pomax umbellata* (Bill Willis)



*Acacia genistifolia* (Roger Farrow)



View from the top (Bill Willis)



*Calotis lappulacea* (Bill Willis)