

Walk Report Tallaganda State Forest 20th March 2019

Wednesday Walkers enjoyed a jaunt through the wet forests of Tallaganda State Forest on 20th March 2019. A fire trail off the west side of Main Ridge Road, south of Mount Cronin, descends to a valley where a foot pad branches off to the north-east and parallels a small creek, crossing some minor water courses, before meeting a fire trail and ascending eastwards back to Main Ridge Road. The walk continues southwards along the road to the parked cars, completing a circuit.

We started our walk amongst *E. radiata* with a discussion of the similarities between the leaves and growth habit of *Persoonia silvatica* and *Tasmania lanceolata*. A close examination of a specimen that appeared to be growing both the green fruit of the persoonia and the black berries of *Tasmania lanceolata* (the give-aways for distinguishing the two species) revealed two plants growing together. Confusing for some.... well, maybe only me.

The bright purple berries of *Billardiera longifolia* demanded our attention, as did *Diplodinium recurvum* standing pertly on the top of a road cutting. The eucalypts were a highlight, particularly the tall stately *E. dalrympleana* concentrated along the lower trail. *E. fastigata* (particularly along the road to Tallaganda SF), *E. sieberi* and *E. obliqua* were also of interest. The previous day's rain enhanced the distinctive fragrance of wet eucalypt leaves and was very pleasant. Happily at least some magnificent eucalypt specimens have escaped the sawmills although the group encountered a rather close view of a *E. dalrympleana* recently exploded across the trail. A quick body count was taken to make sure the faster walkers were not trapped underneath.

Patches of golden yellow *Xerochrysum bracteatum*, paler *Coronidium gunnianum*, white *Largenophora stipitata* and a colourful range of fungus lined the path, which passed a patch of *Dicksonia antarctica* and/or *Cyathea australis* growing along a creek. While most of us enjoyed our lunch in a clearing, a couple of risk takers sat amongst the plentiful *Dianella tasmanica* allowing leeches to enjoy their lunch too.

Granite outcrops drew our attention during the ascent, and it was easy to imagine a group of Aboriginal men meeting amongst the monoliths. Clusters of *Clematis aristata* seed pods were admired as was the minty scent of *Prostanthera lasianthos*. The final stretch along the main road contains a wide cleared area full of daisies, peas and heaths that would be lovely to observe in spring.

Images and report by Kris Nash



Billardiera longiflora



Diplodinium decorum



E. dalrympleana and other tall eucalypts amongst *Dianella tasmanica*



Xerochrysum bracteatum



A bracket fungus