

Walk Report Tinderry Range 7th March 2019

The Tinderry Range has been a favourite area for Wednesday Walkers with its spectacular views and opportunity to see several endemic plants. However, the news last year that the core area along each side of the summit road was, in fact, private property and up for sale (we had always assumed it was Commonwealth land next to the Nature Reserve) put all this in jeopardy. Our worst fears were realised when arrived today and saw 'private no entry signs' along the road plus a fence and gate with a bulldozed trail to the main ridge which will presumably lead to the house site. The only consolation was a Land for Wildlife sign. Hopefully, the new owners could be sympathetic to a visit from members in the future.

We had a short walk along the roadside and noted the continued recovery of the shrub layer from the devastating 2006 fires, notably the prickly *Leptospermum arachnoides* in the hanging swamp that is now largely impenetrable.

We continued down the road past the met station track, that also had a No Entry sign, to the Round Flat fire-trail inside the Nature Reserve. At this time of year, when there was little in flower, our main objectives were to relocate the Tinderry Pea and check out the *Olearia glandulosa* in the swamp. Our last visit here was in 2006 but it did not take much searching to find the original Tinderry Pea (unidentified *Oxylobium*/*Podolobium*) much reduced in size but still showing healthy regrowth from a clump of suckers. We still don't know the origins of this curious pea with its linear leaves and suckering habit, as it does not resemble either *Oxylobium ellipticum* growing nearby (small recurved leaves) or *Podolobium alpestre*, one prostrate plant along main track (larger ovate leaves). Since our last visit the *Olearia glandulosa* appears to be spreading in the swamp with many small new plants in flower and a few remaining woody specimens seen on previous visits. Goat grazing still seems an issue here.

The rain cleared after lunch and we continued down the fire trail for a short distance and were lucky to locate a single *Olearia montana*, a local endemic, as well as an *Olearia* new to the list, *O. megalophylla*, discovered by Steve.

One of my impressions of the changes to the whole area since past visits is of the dense regrowth of eucalypt saplings and silver wattle while the sparse canopy of mountain gums continues to open out as the fire-killed specimens fall down. It will take many years before the forest canopy returns to its former state, but then perhaps every fire prone vegetation association goes through this cycle.

Roger Farrow



Checking the GPS for the Pea Round Flat FT
Tinderry NR



Having fun in the Swamp Round Flat FT Tinderry
NR

ADDENDUM:

On Wednesday 6th March, Wednesday Walkers went to the Tinderry Nature Reserve to find the unusual 'Tinderry pea'. Roger has received confirmation from Mike Crisp (ANU Fabaceae expert) and Dave Albrecht (Herbarium) that the pea is actually *Oxylobium arborescens*. This species is well outside its recorded range and is not on Duggan's comprehensive list for the Reserve. The flowers are usually plain yellow but can be marked with orange as in the case of the 'Tinderry pea'. The mystery is solved. Photo by Roger Farrow 12th July 2011.



Roger Farrow 2011.12.07