

# Walk Report Captains Flat Cemetery and Carwoola Property 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019

## CAPTAINS FLAT CEMETERY

The cemetery is located off the Braidwood Road, about 4 km from the township of Captains Flat. The last burial took place in the 1960's while the oldest recorded burial was in 1868. Wednesday Walkers were intrigued by its size, about 4 ha divided into various sections, relative to the Captains Flat township. There are 29 graves with headstones or plaques and 112 unmarked graves. The site contains grassy woodland dominated by *Eucalyptus pauciflora* and *E. aggregata* with a groundcover dominated by *Themeda triandra* and *Poa sieberiana*.

The walk started with a discussion of appropriate and inappropriate management of grasslands to retain orchids and other important grassland plants. The Tarengo Leek Orchid *Prasophyllum petilum* was recorded at the cemetery in 1991 with leaves possibly identified in 2009. The area where it was once sighted was fenced and now contains dense regrowth of *Hakea microcarpa*, *Acacia dealbata* and *Leptospermum myrtifolium*.

We walked through open grassland before entering the enclosed area and then meandered through other woodland sections before turning northwards across the forested base of a hill and back to the grassland. We admired *Eucalyptus aggregata* (listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act) and discussed the features we could use to identify the other eucalypts we encountered – *E. rubida*, *E. dives* and *E. pauciflora*. Although only a few individuals, *Epacris gunnii*, *Coronidium gunnianum*, *Leptorhynchus squamatus*, *Exocarpus strictus* and *Monotoca scoparia* were in flower or fruit.



*Epacris gunnii*



*Monotoca scoparia*



View of Captains Flat Cemetery showing grassland, woodland and the overgrown enclosed area (left).



Wednesday Walkers examining features of eucalypts in the woodland

### **CARWOOLA PROPERTY (Rod and Linda)**

Following the cemetery walk, sixteen of the walkers drove back along the Captains Flat road to Carwoola, for lunch, and an inspection of regeneration on a private property that was completely burnt in the bushfire of February 2017. A small area of garden, including the house, was saved by the intrepid local rural fire service. In the valley of Whiskers Creek, where the house was situated, the fire was mainly at ground level, but foliage on almost all the trees was scorched and killed. Stands of *Kunzea ericoides* produced a hotter blaze on the dry slopes.



Feb 2017



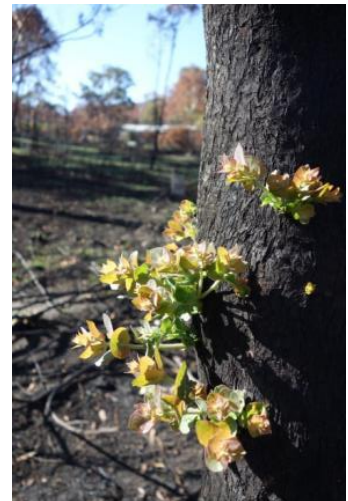
Lucky chooks!



...not to mention the house...



There was a little, light rain immediately after the fire, and regeneration was rapid. Within 8 days green shoots were showing on the *Themeda*. After 5 weeks, epicormic growth was showing on most of the eucalypts, *Lomandras* were shooting, and wattles were germinating in the ash.



On Wednesday, we were able to appreciate the difference that 2 years had made.



10 days after the fire:

Scorched foliage on the trees died.

A shade house was protected by the firefighters (the car, and owners, were away at the time of the fire).



Wednesday 27-03-19.

Most trees are leafy, but have not yet recovered their normal shape, for example young *Eucalyptus rubida*, centre background. Many large *E. polyanthemos* burnt at the base and subsequently fell (although not the one in the left foreground).

Whiskers Creek, Feb 2017

Prepared by the Wednesday Walker





Whiskers Creek Wednesday 27-03-19

Regeneration of *Acacia dealbata* occurred by suckering (middle, background), and from seed, with dense stands of this species challenging the *K. ericoides* for dominance. Regeneration of the single *A. melanoxylon* on the property was also by extensive suckering, whereas *A. rubida* and *A. mearnsii* came back exclusively from seed. Among the eucalypts, the fire promoted germination particularly for *E. polyanthemos*.

Given the season, the very dry summer, and the healthy local populations of swamp wallabies, red-necked wallabies and Eastern grey kangaroos, there was little understorey vegetation to observe on Wednesday. A few small, local ground covers could be seen within the critter-proof fence around the garden.



*Mentha diemenica*



*Brachyscome rigidula*



*Leucochrysum albicans*

What a great day we all had. Thanks to Rod and Linda for such an interesting and informative visit (and for writing up such a great report.