

Wednesday Walk Brooks Hill Reserve 31 July 2019

On a sunny cool day the Wednesday Walkers did a circuit of the reserve with a few detours to interesting-looking steep hillsides under tall eucalypts.

The whole reserve is now very dry due to the lack of rain to the point where Red-anther Wallaby-grass (*Rhytidosperma pallida*) was dying in some of the steeper areas. And two unusual species of plants growing as single populations there (*Comesperma ericinum* and *Astrotricha ledifolia*) had almost disappeared.

We did see some *Acacia genistifolia* up near the railway line still in full flower. And, after a careful search, close to the ground, we found a suckering, low-growing *Olearia* sp. There were no blue flowers at this time of the year but the twenty or so little stems looked quite healthy.

The ground-hugging *Pultenaea subspicata* was still carpeting large areas of the reserve promising a display of bright orange flowers in spring.

We saw several wombat burrows and the presence of hungry echidnas was indicated by large excavations in meat-ants' nests. There were few birds around, but a friendly Kookaburra joined us at morning tea and gave us a vocal greeting to the reserve.

Jo Walker

(images GRK = Gail Ritchie-Knight, BMW = Brigitta Wimmer)



Exocarpos cupressiformis GRK



Eucalyptus dives – early flowers GRK



Leptorhynchos squamatus BMW



WWers botanising GRK



Olearia tenuifolia – small and prostrate BMW



Olearia tenuifolia – spent flower BMW



Amyema pendula BMW



Acacia dealbata GRK

