

Wed, 15 August 2018, Cuumbean NR (formerly Scabbing Flat Crown Land)

Wednesday Walkers braved the windy conditions to venture into the northern part of Cuumbean Nature Reserve, the area formerly known as Scabbing Flat Crown Land. We walked a circuit of about 5.5 km starting at the gate on Captains Flat Rd, about 1km from the Captains Flat/ Kings Highway roundabout, walking northwards along Scabbing Flat Fire Trail, eastwards along a footpad paralleling the Kings Highway, southwards along a boundary trail and finally going cross-country westwards to our parked cars. There were a few moments of unease when we identified a pile of rotting debris as evening gowns, handbags and shoes but we moved quickly past. Dumped rubbish is obviously an issue along the outskirts of the reserve.

Cuumbean NR is dominated by dry sclerophyll forest of *E. rossii*, *E. nortonii*, *E. macrorhyncha*, *E. mannifera* and *E. polyanthemos*. Views across the relatively young trunks of various hues and textures – stringy, wrinkly, squiggly, flaky, smooth – were a feature of the walk although there were many artistically sculptured old trees with hollows, and a fantastic view from the top of the ridge. My apologies for suggesting this was a flat walk where really it is hilly and rough in places.

The understorey consists of *Rytidosperma pallidum* interspersed with numerous shrubs often dominated by *Dillwynia sieberi*. Patches of forbs including *Microseris lanceolata*, *Craspedia variabilis* and *Leptorhynchos squamatus* were emerging from the dry ground while numerous prickly shrubs were well chewed. In flower were *Styphelia triflora*, *Acacia gunnii*, *Acacia genistifolia* and stunning *Melichrus urceolata* although many other acacias, davesias, peas and heaths were in bud. Spring is nearly sprung.



Styphelia triflora



View to dam



Cryptandra amara



Acacia genistifolia



Acacia gunnii



Acacia paradoxa