

## 24.07.2019 QUEANBEYAN ESCARPMENT REPORT

Finally, a brilliant and sunny winter's day turned up so WW turned out to visit the Queanbeyan Escarpment. We started from Wright Park with some trepidation due to the multiple tractors digging up our proposed return route and the concern that the Ellerton Drive Extension may have cut off our way up – never fear, our leaders had a plan – we just need to go around this corner .....

We walked south and uphill, angling towards the fences surrounding Ellerton Drive, ignoring the weeds and very disturbed and parched ground. We turned eastwards, following an old road steeply uphill. Luckily there was plenty to admire – mass patches of *Leucopogon attenuatus* in full flower interspersed with *Cryptandra amara* and *Melichrus urceolatus* in bud and flower, *Styphelia triflora* flowers going to seed, *Dillwynia sieberi* just starting to flower well, the occasional flowers on *Daviesia genistifolia* and *Acacia genistifolia* finishing up. Delightful overall, considering the low rainfall.

The old road led us around the heads of dry creeks, generally in a south-easterly direction, undulating until reaching the boundary with Cuumbeun Nature Reserve and finally the Queanbeyan River Trail. Morning tea saw us overlooking Queanbeyan and admiring a patch of lichen covered heaths lazing about in a damp, moss covered depression. I should mention the much-admired single flower on *Brachyscome rigidula*, a lovely contrast of purple with the yellows, creams and whites of the other flowering plants

We turned towards the south on reaching the fire trail where we were greeted by a proud stand of *Hakea decurrens* and a few *Grevillea lanigera* flowers. Returning back towards the north and following the fire trail had us admiring more of the views as well as further patches of *Leucopogon* and *Dillwynia*. Lunch was on logs in the sun before a small group raced off down the fire trail, only to find the last section of the road was gone, meaning a foray onto a spur line and a clamber down a steep slope. The plan was to warn the road workers that there were some senior citizens coming down the track ("What, older than you lot?" said the site control officer, "I had better warn the truck drivers to keep an eye out"). I hope they made it!

Kris Nash



*Daviesia genistifolia*



*Acacia genistifolia*





*Cryptandra amara*



*Brachyscome rigidula*



WW admiring *Leucopogon attenuatus*



*Leucopogon attenuatus*



*Grevillea lanigera*



Lunch in the sun



*Dillwynia sieberi*



*Hakea decurrens*