

Wednesday Walk at Sweeney's Travelling Stock Reserve – 20 March 2013

Sweeney's is a 40 hectare TSR on the Tarago Road between Bungendore and Tarago, NSW. It is a mixture of grassland and woodland with an extensive variety of native plants and few weeds. There is a dam and a few soaks, adding to the diversity of flora. The display of flowers in spring is astonishing in a good year. We ticked off a large number of plants from our previous list and even added a few - *Allocasuarina littoralis*, *Desmodium gunnii*, *Leptospermum myrtifolium* and *Wahlenbergia stricta*. There was a good smattering of flowers - *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, *Convolvulus angustissimus*, *Glycine tabacina*, *G. clandestina*, *Hypoxis hygrometrica*, *Tricoryne elatior*, *Hypericum gramineum*, *Hibbertia obtusifolia*, *Astroloma humifusum*, *Isotoma fluviatilis* - and a stunning display of *Ottelia ovalifolia* flowers in the dam. The trees are a feature, many big old ones with good hollows and a few recently damaged ones - *Eucalyptus bridgesiana*, *E. dives*, *E. mannifera*, *E. melliodora*, *E. rossii*, *E. rubida* and *E. viminalis*, not to mention the hybrids between *E. dives* and *E. pauciflora*. We didn't see any greenhoods this year but we did see quite a few *Eriochilus cucullatus*. There was an interesting array of insects which are covered after the plant list.



Convolvulus angustissimus Image by Roger Farrow



Eriochilus cucullatus Image by Roger Farrow



Gratiola peruviana Image by Roger Farrow



Amyema pendula buds Image by Roger Farrow



Goodenia hederacea Image by Roger Farrow



Isotoma fluviatilis Image by Roger Farrow



Juncus fockei Image by Roger Farrow



Myriophyllum sp. Image by Roger Farrow



White flowers of *Ottelia ovalifolia* Image by Roger Farrow

Plant List for Sweeney's Travelling Stock Reserve – 20 March 2013

? indicates that those present were unsure of the plant name

<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	<i>Eucalyptus bridgesiana</i>
<i>Acacia mearnsii</i>	<i>Eucalyptus dives</i>
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	<i>Eucalyptus dives</i> x <i>pauciflora</i>
<i>Acacia parramattensis</i>	<i>Eucalyptus mannifera</i>
<i>Acaena ovina</i>	<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>
<i>Ajuga australis</i>	<i>Eucalyptus pauciflora</i>
<i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i>	<i>Eucalyptus rossii</i>
<i>Alternanthera denticulata</i>	<i>Eucalyptus rubida</i>
<i>Amphibromus nervosus</i>	<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>
<i>Amyema pendula</i>	<i>Galium gaudichaudii</i>
<i>Anthosachne scabra</i>	<i>Geranium</i> sp.
<i>Aristida ramosa</i>	<i>Glycine clandestina</i>
<i>Asperula conferta</i>	<i>Glycine tabacina</i>
<i>Astroloma humifusum</i>	<i>Gonocarpus tetragynus</i>
<i>Austrostipa bigeniculata</i>	<i>Goodenia hederacea</i>
<i>Austrostipa densiflora</i>	<i>Gratiola perruviana</i>
<i>Austrostipa scabra</i> ssp. <i>falcata</i>	<i>Haloragis heterophylla</i>
<i>Bossiaea prostrata</i>	<i>Helichrysum rutidolepis</i>
<i>Bothriochloa macra</i>	<i>Hibbertia obtusifolia</i>
<i>Brachyloma daphnoides</i>	<i>Hovea heterophylla</i>
<i>Calocephalus citreus</i>	<i>Hydrocotyle laxiflora</i>
<i>Calotis anthemoides</i>	<i>Hydrocotyle tripartita</i>
<i>Carex appressa</i>	<i>Hypericum gramineum</i>
<i>Cassinia aculeata</i>	<i>Hypoxis hygrometrica</i>
<i>Cassinia arcuata</i>	<i>Isotoma fluviatilis</i>
<i>Cassinia longifolia</i>	<i>Juncus fockei</i>
<i>Cassinia quinquefaria</i>	<i>Juncus</i> sp.
<i>Centipeda cunninghamii</i>	<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>
<i>Chamaesyce drummondii</i>	<i>Kunzea parvifolia</i>
<i>Cheilanthes</i> sp.	<i>Laxmannia gracilis</i>
<i>Chloris truncata</i>	<i>Leptorhynchos squamatus</i>
<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	<i>Leptospermum multicaule</i>
<i>Convolvulus angustissimus</i>	<i>Leptospermum myrtifolium</i>
<i>Craspedia variabilis</i>	<i>Lissanthe strigosa</i>
<i>Cryptandra amara</i> var. <i>longiflora</i>	<i>Lomandra filiformis</i> ssp. <i>coriacea</i>
<i>Cymbonotus lawsonianus</i>	<i>Lomandra filiformis</i> ssp. <i>filiformis</i>
<i>Damasonium minus</i>	<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>
<i>Daucus glochidiatus</i>	<i>Lomandra multiflora</i>
<i>Daviesia genistifolia</i>	<i>Luzula densiflora</i>
<i>Desmodium gunnii</i>	<i>Melichrus urceolatus</i>
<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>
<i>Dichelachne crinita</i>	<i>Myriophyllum</i> sp.
<i>Dichelachne</i> sp.	<i>Ottelia ovalifolia</i>
<i>Dichondra repens</i>	<i>Persicaria prostrata</i>
<i>Dillwynia sericea</i>	<i>Persoonia</i> sp.
<i>Echinopogon</i> sp.	<i>Pimelea curviflora</i>
<i>Einadia nutans</i>	<i>Plantago</i> sp.
<i>Eleocharis acuta</i>	<i>Plantago varia</i>
<i>Eragrostis trachycarpa</i>	<i>Poa labillardieri</i>
<i>Eriochilus cucullatus</i>	<i>Poa sieberiana</i>
<i>Eryngium ovinum</i>	<i>Poranthera microphylla</i>

Potamogeton sp.
 Pteridium esculentum
 Rubus parvifolius
 Rytidosperma pallidum
 Rytidosperma sp.
 Schoenus apogon
 Scleranthus biflorus
 Senecio quadridentatus
 Solenogyne dominii

Themeda triandra
 Tricoryne elatior
 Vittadinia cuneata
 Vittadinia gracilis
 Vittadinia muelleri
 Wahlenbergia communis
 Wahlenbergia gracilis
 Wahlenbergia stricta
 Wurmbea dioica

Insects at Sweeney's - information and images provided by Roger Farrow



Swarming crane flies (*Tipulidae*) hanging off mistletoe and also seen on bark. These particular crane flies like to hang off remnant spider's webs on bark and appear in autumn. Nothing is known about these aggregations and why they like spider's webs. Mating does not appear to be involved and I don't know what sex the flies are. When disturbed they fly off in a big burst only to reassemble some time later.



There were a few leaf-eating beetles feeding on the bipinnate wattles. This is a species of *Calomela*. (Chrysomelinae).



This eucalypt leaf beetle, *Cadmus* sp., is protruding its wings prior to flying off. These beetles hide their head below their thorax (Cryptocephalinae).



There were masses of butterflies. Most were female Common Browns. The males and females emerge in spring and after mating the males die off and the females over-summer (aestivate) and wait to mature and lay their eggs in autumn on grasses. Another patterned species seen above is an allied species, the Shouldered Brown (*Heteronympha penelope*) in which both sexes persist through summer.



The remarkable lacewing engaged in antennal stroking on a tree trunk is *Porisma strigatus*. This is the only species in an endemic sub-family of lacewings.



A large egg mass on a blackwood leaf (*Acacia melanoxylon*). At one end is a maggot-like insect. This is a wingless female painted apple moth (*Teia anartoides*) which has laid these eggs. She developed from a tussock moth larva probably on this tree. The male is a normal fully-winged moth. After hatching the larvae spin out a gossamer thread and disperse on the wind to fresh host plants.



This little moth is the adult of a leaf-tier caterpillar belonging to the family Tortricidae and is well camouflaged on the wattle. The larvae tie the leaf tips of their host plant with silk and feed from the inside of this shelter.