

Walk Report for 6 November 2019 – Wee Jasper village to Wee Jasper Creek.

This walk was new to the WW group and quite a drive for most but 15 people still made the trip. Comments indicated that the drive scenery was considered enjoyable in itself.

We gathered opposite the waste transfer station, where the walk begins. A vehicle was left at the other, Wee Jasper Creek end. This is a section of the Hume and Hovel track so is well signposted along the way and is located within the Wee Jasper Nature Reserve. The total distance was about 4.5km. A generalisation would be that the walk, although not long, was challenging for some due to steep sections and a sometimes gravelly surface. Mostly the walking trail was well-maintained, incorporating also part of the Native Dog Fire Trail.

A start at about 11am led us past *Eucalyptus albens* woodland to a (dry) creek where understory was dense with *Acacia* spp., *Dodonaea viscosa* ssp *spathulata*, *Personia rigida*, *Correa reflexa* and *Spyridium parvifolium* amongst others. Flowering well, and seen generally were *Xanthorrhoea* ? *glauca*, *Hibbertia obtusifolia*, *Dillwynia* ? *retorta*, *Cheiranthra cyanea* and, for the orchid enthusiasts, *Diuris sulphurea*.

The foot trail climbed to about the halfway point where it met the fire trail. Entertainment along the way included 2 differently marked Goannas treeing themselves near us. The second half of the trail was known to include sections steeper than the first. After lunch, most decided to return to the start, being the easier option.

5 from the group proceeded on, passing through a dry exposed ridgeline of *Eucalyptus rossii* forest on the descent. The walk finished along a grassy creek flat, near a pine forest. Although weedy, the cool southern hillside was an interesting mix incorporating *Adiantum* sp, *Craspedia variabilis* and lots of colourful *Ranunculus lappaceus*. A shallow crossing under *Casuarina cunninghamiana* completed the walk.

The team returning to the start point rallied together to support one of the party who injured her ankle. Well done to all involved, particularly Jo for bravely going on despite the discomfort and Dr Mike for his professional expertise. The 2 groups reunited and finished at 3pm.

Paul Walker

Thanks Paul. We all appreciate the special effort you took to plan this trip – even to walking it all in the morning before we arrived and tying tape to show the location of the orchids. It was a great trip.

Kris



The trail along the dry creek



Dodonaea viscosa ssp *spathulata*



Cheiranthra cyanea



Dyllwynia retorta?



Acacia ulicifolia pod



Capusa graodes pretending to be *A. ulicifolia* pod



Goanna



The trail leading down the steeper section



E. rossii amongst rock

Images by Kris Nash from top left to bottom right:
Dodonaea viscosa ssp *spathulata* *Cheiranthra cyanea*
The trail along the dry creek
Acacia ulicifolia pod Caterpillar pretending to be *A. ulicifolia* pod
Dyllwynia ?retorta One of the goannas
The trail leading down the steeper section *E. rossii* amongst rock