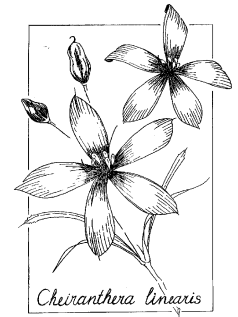




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## NEWSLETTER      SEPTEMBER      2016

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### AUGUST WALK

Serendipity, or a fortunate accident, is what the small group of members experienced recently during the August walk. While we were carefully looking for a particular place along Main Road 92, which Tim and Jen had previously noted, we came across a spot teeming with interesting plants—many in flower.

Not far from the road, a space about 20 metres wide had been cleared for a gas pipe—edging this sunny corridor were the treasures, amongst them a range of pea plants including *Phyllota* and *Bossiaea* which were identified using one of Tim's keys.

Following the unlikely lead of a pair of trail bike riders, we also discovered a *Boronia* in flower, much to Tim's delight.

Lunch was enjoyed at the Jerrawangala Lookout, a busy stop-over for four-wheel drivers. Coastal landmarks such as Point Perpendicular and St Georges Basin were clearly visible.

A wander on the edges of the Jerrawangala National Park turned up one of Jen's favourites—*Phebalium*, as well as another *Bossiaea* with a strange, flat leaf-like stem. Later we saw a number of these in flower.

A most enjoyable day for the four who could manage to make it.

### TAMWORTH GET-TOGETHER

Almost 100 Australian plant enthusiasts gathered in Tamworth for the Get-Together. The speakers throughout the first morning covered a range of topics, the common denominator was the high quality of presentation. The talk on Travelling Stock Routes was of particular interest to me because of the significant role they have played in preserving habitat. This precious resource is currently under threat, with Cabinet shortly to decide whether to allow them to be leased for continuous grazing alone. The call to lobby local MPs, by sending a submission prepared by NSW APS, reflects the decision, as part of the Strategic Plan, to take a more active role in conservation, while the threat of losing such

significant remnant habitats is indicative of the urgent need for such action.

The various locations chosen for visits for the remainder of the Get-Together represented a broad-cross section of interests from remnant Yellow-Box woodland to rehabilitation and experimental projects such as the native agro-forestry trial, to beautifully landscaped gardens.

Each location provided a chance to see what can be achieved by actively promoting Australian plants in a community. The Peel Wetlands was an interesting comparison to our own project. Started 21 years ago, also in a wasteland, this project has become a practical educational tool within the community, on an annual basis Year 4 students are involved in planting out a new area. A generation of Tamworth young people are now familiar with the project and have learnt through their participation in the project

The Tamworth Group were most generous hosts, ensuring a surfeit of refreshments at every break. By the time we rolled out of town, I believe we were all looking forward to a few days of walking off some of the excess.

### TAG-ALONG, THE PILLIGA

Although the warmth and sunshine I had imagined while closeted in my air-conditioned office did not eventuate—the floral displays of the Pilliga exceeded expectation.

What was very apparent over the three days, was the importance of the area to the local Kamilaroi people, for ceremonial and meeting places. This strong connection has been maintained and highlighted by informative signposting and in one locality even through modern sculptures.

The sculpture walk at Dandry Gorge was the highlight of the tour for me—it combined stunning ancient landscape, with abundant floral displays and prolific birdlife. Near the beginning of the loop walk, from a high vantage point, Anthony drew attention to the layers of vegetation along water course, in particular, the mature pine trees were noted to be high up, above the saturation point, not liking to be submerged. Sculptures representing local Aboriginal peoples' connection to the land were placed at various key locations. The artists' collaboration with the

local community meant that they enhanced the walk by highlighting particular elements—whether local plants or cultural practices. For instance, one bushtucker fruit favoured by Aboriginal people because it's so sweet, the *Styphelia triflora* or Five Corners, featured in a number of the art works.

Due to weather conditions on the first day, we also had an opportunity to visit Anthony and Annabell's property and nursery. As well as wandering around greenhouses, spotting interesting plants, Anthony guided us around his stock plants and showed their set-up for cut flowers.

Anthony's encyclopaedic knowledge and enthusiasm to share his passion for the Pilliga meant that 15-minute stops lengthened as ever more interesting plants were discovered, discussed and photographed.

This enthusiasm for Australian plants was matched by those on the tour, which was never more evident than when the first *Diuris goonooensis*, or Western Donkey Orchid was discovered. There was an instant hum and a rush to see this little beauty, and then a press to get that perfect photo to take home

The enterprising Binnaway community have restored the old barracks where railway workers lived in years gone by, providing

simple, but comfortable accommodation for visitors. The communal kitchen and dining rooms gave members of the tour an opportunity to get to know each other in a relaxed setting. The only thing lacking was that the massive coal-fired stove in the kitchen had been decommissioned. In the cold, wet weather we experienced, it would have been most welcome.



Western Donkey orchid - Pauline



Not a true Tamworth local; it is *Eucalyptus youngiana* extending from near Kalgoorlie into the western parts of South Australia - Pauline



Boronia from the Pilliga - Pauline

Thanks again to Pauline, Bob & Celia and Jen who represented us at the Get-together; to Pauline again for covering the August activities. Weather permitting, we will have a chance to hear more about the event on Saturday as we survey the Narrangarril Reserve not far from town. People may wish to bring their pea plants id page and I will have some available as well.

Just a few comments re the August walk. We did not get quite to where we had intended (as Pauline suggested) - a feature of our walks this year - but it was a good spot and we just wandered around a bit. The list of what we saw is on the next page. A few unidentified things are mainly due to specimen loss or no reproductive parts on some things. A boronia in flower may have been *B. ledifolia*

Several species have not been encountered before on our trips. One of these was *Bossiaea scolopendria* which Pauline referred to and was identified as a *Bossiaea* using the pea description page.

*Kunzea capitata* was another - this species' flowers vary from white to pink/purple. The 'capitata' part of the name refers to the flowers which are crowded in clusters at the end of the branchlets - just being like terminal heads.

Another name that will probably not be familiar is *Epacris calvertiana*. The creamy flowers on this plants are much larger and better displayed than those of the more common *E. microphylla*. As a group we have encountered this before but only for the 'longest' members like Jen and Sandy/Jenny Davidson. There is a small occurrence of it on Steve and Jan Green's property near Myrtle Creek this side of Taralga.

The pink-flowered *Sprengelia incarnata* (an epacrid) is also on the list of newbies. It is a fairly distinctive species and is easily recognisable. This was growing in moist sand near the national park we visited briefly. There are a few entrances to this park and the one we followed led to a lookout with distant views available. In addition, there was a pictorial representation of the horizon so by referring to it you could pick out landmarks in the distance, right down to the coast as Pauline wrote above.

## CALENDAR

Sat Sep 3	Narrangarril NR veg. survey with GFN group
Sat Oct 1	West Goulburn Bushland
Sat Nov 5	Windellama Field Day
Wed Nov 23	Wetlands Garden maintenance
Sat Dec 3	Christmas get-together and walk at Tony and Sandra's property at Back Arm

Acacia elongata	Hakea laevipes
Acacia hamiltoniana	Hibbertia sp.
Acacia longifolia	Isopogon anemonifolius
Acacia myrtifolia	Isopogon anethifolius
Acacia obtusifolia	Kunzea ambigua
Acacia suaveolens	Kunzea capitata
Acacia terminalis	Lambertia formosa – mountain devil
Acacia ulicifolia	Leionema diosmeum
Actinotus minor – lesser flannel flower	Lepidosperma laterale
Allocasuarina distyla	Leptomeria acida
Allocasuarina littoralis	Leptospermum continentale
Amperea xiphoclada	Leptospermum polygalifolium
Aotus ericoides – pea –first thought to be a Mirbelia	Leptospermum rotundifolium
Banksia ericifolia	Leptospermum trinervium
Banksia paludosa	Lomandra longifolia
Banksia serrata	Lomandra obliqua
Banksia spinulosa	Lomatia ilicifolia
Boronia sp	Persoonia levis
Bossiaea ensata	Persoonia linearis
Bossiaea heterophylla	Persoonia mollis ssp ?
Bossiaea scolopendria – wide flat branches	Persoonia sp. ?
Callicoma serratifolia – Black 'wattle' to the early settlers	Petrophile pedunculata
Cassinia arcuata	Petrophile sessilis
Cassytha pubescens – Dodder/Devil's twine	Philotheca salsolifolia
Caustis flexouosa – curly grass	Phyllota phylicoides
Comesperma ericinum – pink match heads	Pimelea linifolia
Corymbia gummifera – red bloodwood	Pteridium esculentum- bracken
Dampiera stricta	Schoenus villosus – a sedge
Dianella longifolia	Sprengelia incarnata
Dillwynia brunioides	Stylidium lineare – small trigger plant
Epacris calvertiana var calvertiana	Tetratheca ericoides
Epacris microphylla	Viola hederacea
Eucalyptus haemastoma/sclerophylla	Xanthorrhoea sp.
Eucalyptus sieberi	
Gahnia sieberana	
Gleichenia dicarpa - a fern	
Goodenia bellidifolia (?)	