

Walk at Paulls Road South Maroota – 26 August 2023

Jennifer Farrer

What a wonderful afternoon we had! Seven of us met for a picnic lunch at the South Maroota Community Reserve and a further six members met us to start the walk.

This may have been the shortest walk our Group has ever done in terms of distance walked but certainly not in terms of species encountered. In two hours and 400 metres, we recorded sighting 54 different species. Almost from the very start of the walk, we encountered plants that were not familiar to us and which required a lot of consulting of various resources to make definite identifications. The jury is still out on the exact species of some of the plants we saw.

Paulls Road is a well-known flora diversity hotspot and our experience has certainly confirmed this. As mentioned in the publicity for the walk several threatened species grow there. On Saturday we all saw several plants of *Grevillea parviflora* var *supplicans* growing beside the path. This low-growing spreading plant with small yellowish flowers has only been recorded growing at Berrilee, Glenorie, Arcadia and South Maroota. Another threatened species is *Micromyrtus blakelyi*. Several of us saw and photographed this plant but it was only after Ricki Nash got home and keyed out the specimen, she had taken that she realised what it was. See James Indsto's photo below.

As well as the new species, we saw plenty of familiar flowers including many *Grevillea buxifolia* and *Gompholobium grandiflorum* and some early flowering orchids such *Thelmitra ixioides* and *Caladenia catenata*. A complete list of the species sighted will be on our website.

If you decide to go out to South Maroota and check out this amazing walk for yourself, walk along the fire trail at the end of Paulls Road and after a short distance take the right-hand trail.

Many thanks to James Indsto for these wonderful photos:



Acacia brownii



Boronia floribunda



Boronia ledifolia



Bossiaea obcordata



Daviesia corymbosa



Dillwynia elegans



Gompholobium grandiflorum



Grevillea buxifolia



Grevillea parviflora



Grevillea speciosa



Hybanthus vernonii



Leucopogon lanceolatus



Leucopogon microphyllus



Micromyrtus blakelyi



Brachyloma daphnoides



Viminaria juncea ?



Lomandra multiflora



Thelymitra ixioides