



NEWSLETTER

MAY 2017

April has been a relatively quiet month compared with the numerous activities in March. The coming month brings two walks and a propagation day. Thanks to Pauline for the account below of the Nadgigomar walk.

APRIL WALK

In search of *Rulingia prostrata*

The 1st of April saw a good sized group head out to Nadgigomar Nature Reserve in search of the rare and endangered *Rulingia prostrata*.

As Bob led the off-track walk through very thick melaleuca scrub, it became apparent that searching for a rare and endangered plant required some commitment. It was hard work. Pushing a way through the dry scrub, taking care with every step, and pushing aside scratchy, dry branches, made it seem as though we'd walked miles when we had only gone a few hundred metres. There didn't even seem to be any wallaby tracks to follow. I'm sure it occurred to more than one of the party that perhaps we were on a fool's errand.

Regular stops gave an opportunity for a head count and to debate the direction towards the sought-after wetland. After some time, and certainly after the novelty of the trek had long disappeared, we came to a more open dry sclerophyll forest. Suddenly there was space to move, visibility beyond the metre just in front of you, and there were signs of living things in the forest which were enjoying the beautiful sunshine, judging from the happy birdsong.

The large wetland for which we had been searching stretched out to the south. It wasn't known whether the elusive *Rulingia prostrata* would be present. A search of the perimeter did not reveal any such discoveries. We did see a number of pea flowers, and a rather unusual banksia. A young sapling caught Bill's attention as it was one of the few trees trying to grow in the wetland; it was presumed to be *Eucalyptus amplifolia* due to its enormous leaves

It was decided to head north, to the smaller wetlands. This involved a much more pleasant stroll through the forest. The group split, with the drivers heading back to bring the cars closer to the northern wetland.

As the forest opened into another wetland clearing and people had their eyes glued to the ground, it seemed that Ashlea went straight to a clump of *Rulingia prostrata*, otherwise known as Dwarf kerrawang. After taking in details of the plants' location, making an estimate of extent of the colony (approximately 2000 plants), the group enjoyed a well-earned rest and lunch break. It was a successful outing which will not be soon forgotten by those who attended.



Larger wetland at Nadgigomar NR - photo Pauline



Lunch at Nadgigomar - not far from the occurrence of the *Rulingia* - photo Pauline

MORE ON RULINGIA

Rulingia belongs to the family Sterculiaceae - which will not sound all that familiar. The best known member of this would be the kurrajong, *Brachychiton*. We have seen these on a trip some years ago to the Wee

Jasper area. We have also seen another species from the genus *Lasiopetalum* on one occasion. - *Lasiopetalum ferrugineum* - but I think only once.



Rulingia prostrata - note the lobed leaves - photo Pauline

R. prostrata is rated threatened in Victoria and endangered in NSW. It is estimated that there are about 100, 000 plants in about forty locations with most plants in a few locations. Other occurrences have been recorded in our general area - including Rose Lagoon which is down the highway towards Collector; also a number of occurrences have been noted from the Wingello and Penrose areas.

One of these occurrences reported to the DECCW was from the Australian Plants Society in 2005. There is no information on which local group recorded the plant at this location - if it was a group. (National Recovery Plan for the Dwarf Kerrawang Rulingia Prostrata 2010).

The Canberra ANPS group did record the Nadgigomar occurrence in 2006 and below is a photo of the species in flower at the reserve. I had expected that the Wingello occurrence would have been by the Canberra Group but this location is not recorded in their plant index in 2010.

http://anps-canberra.asn.au/WWW_index/ww_index.html.



Rulingia prostrata in flower - photo by Roger Farrow of the Canberra ANPS Group 24-11-2010 in Nadgigomar NR swamp

OTHER NADGIGOMAR PLANTS

The pea plant mentioned by Pauline and shown in the photo below is Bossiaea heterophylla. It occurs widely in the Windellama area and we have seen a smaller colony at Greenwich Park. Its flowering time sets it apart from all the other peas in this area. It is an open shrub to about 1.5 metres and grows happily in some shade.



Bossiaea heterophylla in flower - photo Pauline

2017 CALENDAR

Sat May 6	Walk on private property - near Currawang
Thu May 18	Propagation at Jen's
Sat May 20	Walk at reserve in Tallong
Sat Jun 3	Walk in Morton NP via Bundanoon
Sat Jul 1	Bees/Birds/Soils presentations
Sat Aug 5	Walk at Pomaderris Reserve
Sat Sep 2	Walk in Monga NP via Braidwood
Thu Sep 14	Propagation - seeding - Jen's place
Sun Sep 17	Propagation - seeding - Jen's place
Sat Oct 7	Walk at South's Reserve via Kooringaroo Rd
Wed Oct 18	Wetlands Garden Maintenance
Sat Nov 4	Walk at Reedy Creek TSR
Sat Dec 2	Xmas party, AGM and property walk - Raina's place

COMING UP

On Saturday is the walk on a private property near Currawang - details have been emailed by Bob.

Later in the month we have a propagation day - various tasks - at Jen's - from around 9.00 on.

On May 20 we have the walk in a reserve at Tallong. There will be an opportunity to see one of the favourite types of location where the endangered Tallong midge orchid is found. Not sure if the orchids will be seen! More details for this walk later.