



LITTLE FOREST WALK.....

This was reported last month but space did not permit some photos and a comment on the birds seen was inadvertently omitted.



TAKING A BREATHER

Following is Frank's account of the birds spotted.

Pigeonhouse Mountain

A total of 20 species of bird was recorded on the climb up Pigeonhouse Mountain. Most numerous were Eastern Spinebills, and Brown Thornbills, Grey Fantails and White-throated Treecreepers were quite common too. The highlights were a Bassian Thrush, spotted by Ashlea and Pauline, feeding along the track; at least two Crescent Honeyeaters and a singing Rose Robin at higher elevation near the summit; several Golden Whistlers and Eastern Yellow Robins, a Rufous Fantail and a Black-faced Monarch.

Mount Bushwalker Track

Mount Bushwalker was notable for the very large numbers of New Holland Honeyeaters and Little Wattlebirds which were everywhere along the track. The two most exciting sightings were a couple of Beautiful Firetails and a male Southern Emu-wren. We saw some White-throated Needleetails flashing past overhead, and there were quite a few Tree Martins and Welcome Swallows. Eastern Whipbirds and a Superb Lyrebird were heard. A total of 22 species was recorded.



DEFINITE PROOF THAT PIGEONHOUSE WAS CONQUERED

GILLINDICH WALK

This walk took place on pleasant day and into places we had not been before. The larger area, Gillindich. we went to first and after some to-ing and fro-ing to find the best access, we strode off and followed the main track. There was little in flower - *Melichrus urceolatus* was one that comes to mind. Red stringybark (*E. macrorhyncha*) was also in flower and there were a few orchids seen as well. Parson's Bands (*Eriochilus cucullatus*) was one of these with petals varying from white to pink. *Platylobium formosum var formosum* was one of the most common shrubs. Few plants seemed to reach their typical maximum height of a metre. Similarly, few *Daviesia leptophylla* reached their typical height - suggesting considerable browsing by wildlife. Many of the eucalypts were quite tall (making some identification uncertain) and as Celia noted - many of them had hollows and holes providing suitable habitat for wildlife. Manna gum (*E.viminalis*), Candlebark (*E.rubida*) and mountain gum (*E.darympleana*) are somewhat similar in appearance and have three buds or flowers per cluster. New or juvenile foliage can be helpful in distinguishing the species but cannot often be found on mature/tall trees. The tall wattle, Broad-leaved hickory (*A. falciformis*) was a significant part of the upper storey plants. Some eucalypts had markers on them suggesting that gliders (sugar or greater) have used those trees.

Around lunchtime we separated a bit and a few people got to the creek. One plant from here was the prickly tea-tree, *L. continentale* which we have not encountered before on our walks.

BURWOOD CREEK WALK

We drove to this reserve after lunch for an initial look. The roadside vegetation near the point of entry was a mix of introduced plants as

well as some indigenous species like *Dichondra* and *Glycine*. A dry gully that had to be crossed had a lot of blackberry entrenched in it and dictated where entry could be gained. Most of where we walked could possibly be described as grassy woodland; the grass, however, was well in check due to the significant numbers of kangaroos in the area. In this area, Ashlea saw what she later identified as *Speculantha rubescens*. This is a greenhood; the name *Pterostylis* is commonly associated with greenhoods; it may be that some *Pterostylis* have now been allocated to a relatively new genus, *Speculantha*.

Gillindich Nature Reserve

Acacia dealbata
Acacia falciformis
Acacia gunnii
Acacia rubida
Amyema pendula
Brachyloma daphnoides
Choretrum pauciflorum
Daviesia leptophylla
Eriochilus cucullatus (orchid)
Eucalyptus dives
Eucalyptus macrorhyncha
Eucalyptus rossii
Eucalyptus sp.
Exocarpos cupressiformis
Exocarpos strictus
Hardenbergia violaceae
Hibbertia obtusifolia
Hovea linearis
Leptospermum continentale
Leucopogon sp ?
Lomandra filiformis
Melichrus urceolatus
Monotoca scoparia
Platylobium formosum
Poa sieberiana
Rytidosperma pallidum
Tetralochebauerifolia

Burwood Creek Nature Reserve

Anthosachne scabra
Aristida ramosa
Carex appressa
Cassinia arcuata
Centaurium erythraea
Cirsium vulgare (thistle)
Cymbonotus lawsonianus
Dichondra repens
Eriochilus cucullatus (orchid)
Eucalyptus bridgesiana
Eucalyptus melliodora
Glycine tabacina
Hibbertia obtusifolia
Hydrocotyle laxiflora
Hypericum gramineum
Hypochaeris radicata (flatweed)
Lomandra multiflora
Melichrus urceolatus
Oreomyrrhis eriopoda
Plantago varia

Ranunculus lappaceus
Rosa anglocandicans (rose)
Senecio quadridentatus
Solenogyne gunnii
Speculantha rubescens (orchid)
Themeda triandra
Viola betonicifolia
Veronica sp.
Wahlenbergia luteola

BIRD REPORT

Birds were rather few and far between at Gillindich, but we did record a total of 20 species over about 4 hours. Grey Fantails, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos and White-throated Treecreepers were the most frequently seen. We also found a mixed flock of Buff-rumped and Striated Thornbills with both Rufous and Golden Whistlers, and some Brown-headed Honeyeaters. The highlight was a bronze-cuckoo that appeared to be an immature Shining Bronze-cuckoo. A Wedge-tailed Eagle was seen as we left.

We moved on to Burwood Creek which proved to be much better for birds – 25 species recorded in just over an hour in a much smaller area than Gillindich. Grey Fantails were numerous and we recorded six species of honeyeater (Eastern Spinebill, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Red Wattlebird, White-eared Honeyeater, White-naped Honeyeater, Brown-headed Honeyeater). The highlight was a male Scarlet Robin. Back at the cars, as we were about to leave, a Brown Falcon flew over, chased by Magpies.

WETLANDS - Jen reports that over nine hundred plants have been sent to the wetlands in recent weeks. Species included were *Banksia spinulosa* and *B. paludosa*, *Hakea sericea*, *Leptospermum lanigerum*, *Lomandra* and close to thirty other species.

JULY FORUM - The committee has been deliberating regarding publicity for the event. Posters, leaflets at plant sale outlets, contacting garden clubs and the use of our Facebook page will be utilised to put the event 'out there' so to speak. Note that the email with this newsletter indicates how to register.

CALENDAR

Sat May 25	Mt Annan Facilities
Sat Jun 8	Walk - Towrang/Cookbundoon
Sat Jul 6	Presentation/Forum
Sat Aug 3	Walk - Alison Hone Reserve
Sat Sep 7	Walk - Ettrema Gorge area
Sat Sep 19	Propagation
Sun Sep 22	Propagation
Sat Oct 5	Walk - Dalton Reserves
Wed Oct 16	Wetlands working bee
Sun Nov 3	Riversdale plant stall
Sat Nov 16	Walk - Penrose State Forest
Sat Dec 7	AGM + end of year function

