

Oct 2015

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Upcoming Events

Sunday 11th Oct, 10AM at
Anakie Depot. Sallow wattle
removal along Ballan Rd

Sunday 8th November TBA

Important Note: if a Total Fire
Ban is declared for the Central
fire district, the FoBR activity will
be called off.

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Philotheca verrucosa
Photo by Cathy Powers

Significant plants

By Cathy Powers

Mother Nature was in good form for our excursion on the Sunday the 13th of September. A group of us met at the Depot and began a day of searching, sharing and learning. We convoyed to an area along Demotts Road where a number of the 'Plants of Significance' were found. At each species, Chris L. shared his extensive knowledge about identification features.

Philotheca verrucosa is a small shrub; has leaves and stems with a warty texture. The buds are pink and open to a white flower.



Philotheca verrucosa
Photo by Cathy Powers



Acacia brownii (left) is a semi-prostrate, sprawling shrub with the usual yellow puff-ball flowers. The phyllodes (which serve the purpose of leaves) are slender, sharply pointed, rigid and have a pronounced midrib.

Some of us searched for the *Pimelea octophylla* without success. Note that Chris L. and Cathy P. searched the area again without finding the plants in question so we will return when there is potential for the flowers to be present.

There are four *Pultenaea* species in our project. Although the *Pultenaea graveolens* was not flowering and the plant we observed was very near an ant's nest (I soon found out!), we were able to determine its identification by the plant's perfume. There is a good reason why its common name is Scented Bush-pea. The branches have a weeping habit; the leaves and stems are hairy.



Pultenaea graveolens
Photo by Cathy Powers

After lunch, we then ventured to the north end of the park stopping along Thompsons Road to check out the *Pomaderris elliptica* and *Leucopogon glacialis*. The *P. elliptica* is a large shrub with small yellow to pale yellow flowers in clusters but we were unable to enjoy this feature as the plant was still only in bud. The leaves are mostly ovate to elliptic; a light coloured underside with stellate hairs..



Pomaderris elliptica
Photo by Cathy Powers

We also enjoyed the *Grevillea steiglitziana* and *Grevillea chrysophaea* along the way, not to mention the various orchids in flower. With such a bounty of flowering plants, it was sometimes difficult to keep our minds on the purpose of the excursion. Now the challenge to all members is to get out in the bush, search out the plant species in our project, note the location and put the observation in NatureShare (www.natureshare.org.au). If you go that URL, you can find the species we found as well as those we did not have time to search for. Many of the observations on NatureShare have images to assist in identification but putting the observation in this e-repository can be without identification. Ultimately, some other person can provide the correct identification. Thanks to Chris for his expertise, Colin for sending out the invitation to join in and all the members who attended. It was a great day. P.S. We also found other species in our project - perhaps discussed in the next issue.



Caladenia caerulea
Photo by Cathy Powers