

Report on last meeting by John Knight

Forests West and North of Batemans Bay

Despite the early start, especially for those travelling from southern areas, members arrived bright eyed and ready for a big day. The weather was cool but fine, although the wind did get up a bit at lunch time, spreading a chill among the group. We settled in for morning tea, and after an introduction by Cliff Williams about his garden, he led us on a stroll around, pointing out a range of plants, both natural and planted. Particularly impressive were the stands of Eucalypts dominating the landscape, and due to a unique microclimate, a broad range of naturally occurring rainforest species. Fun was had trying to determine names for some of these plants, as most members do not grow them. Even Cliff had to admit that a couple were not known to him.



Cliff leading us into his rainforest

This visit was all too short, but we had to get onto the main exercise of the day, trying to unravel the secrets of the local forests. So we said goodbye to Cliff, although he and Marjorie did join us for the first part of the journey.

Firstly along Western Distributor Road, we stopped at a clearing where grew a range of smaller plants, including *Dampiera purpurea*, which few members had seen in its natural home. How such a succulent looking plant can survive in apparently dry, harsh conditions, amazed us. We stopped at quite a few sites along this road, observing varied understorey plants as the aspect changed. The brooding hills of the Budawang Range were always our companion, and this proximity, with its influence on rainfall and wind, allowed varied forest types to thrive within Currowan SF. We were to stop many times along this road, as the understorey changed constantly, with heaths on dry hillsides featuring *Boronia microphylla*, a range of Proteacea including *Banksia spinulosa*, *Isopogon anemonifolius* and *Petrophile pedunculata*, and splashes of colour from Goodenia, Comesperma



Most, but it seems not all, searching for small understorey plants
Photo Mark Noake

and *Tetratheca*. We noted the mallee Eucalypts, *E. multicaulis*, (Whipstick Mallee Ash) closely related to *E. sieberi*, which is the dominant tree on the drier ridges throughout this area, and *E. ligustrina*, (Privet Leaved Stringybark) both growing on dry knolls, and impressive *E. saligna* (Sydney Blue Gum) dominating the gullies where the topography turned to the east. With so much to keep us occupied, our lunch site was still some distance away by the planned arrival time, so the worms were gnawing when we reached Mares Hill Road and Yadboro SF. Seats were quickly placed in sunny sites, and the chaff bags emptied as icy winds whipped from the west over Mt. Budawang. Some ate on the run, finding new plants such as *Lambertia formosa*, while Norm Hulands discovered a sign suggesting that the roads we were on were closed for the day due to a car rally taking place. Someone (me) panicked and attempted to ring the organisers, whose number was on the sign, but no answer, so the local police were contacted for information. They had no



knowledge, but suggested we travel carefully ! Luckily no fast travelling cars were encountered, although we did move warily on through Clyde SF towards Mogood Lookout, stopping just a couple of times and relying on the 2way radio to impart information.

The lookout offered impressive views north across the Pigeon House Range, east to the coast and Durras Mountain, south across the ranges of Moruya and west to the broad sweep of the Great Dividing Range, but the track up was a little less impressive. Thankfully all vehicles made it up without mishap. Going back down was just as much fun.

On the way to the Shallow Crossing we stopped a couple of times, first to observe vast stands of *Daviesia wyattiana*, then further on the brilliant, but prickly triangular foliage of *Pultenaea cunninghamii* in various colours of grey, blue and red contrasting or complimenting the yellow/red pea flowers. Here also grew the yellow flowered *Cassinia aureonitens*. Along Backhouse Road a population of *Grevillea arenaria* was found, growing on a south east slope. This is similar to the large leaved forms growing around Shallow Crossing, which we discovered once across the floodway of the Clyde River, which was flowing briskly following recent rain. A lone plant of *Phebalium squamulosum* was known to grow here, and it was eventually found, along with the tree violet, *Melicytis dentatus* (*Hymenanthera dentata* is the old name) and a new plant for many, Corkwood, *Duboisia myoporoides* displaying masses of small white bell flowers. This member of the Solanaceae Family is grown commercially to extract the alkaloid scopolamine, for use in pharmaceuticals. (In New Guinea, where the plant also grows, the main compound is nicotine)

Mogood Lookout Photo Sue Knight

At this point some members decided to head directly to Batemans Bay, and others from the north took the Sheep Track back to the highway. For the rest, a comfortable drive along Barkshed Road took us to a recently logged site where we stopped and discussed the pros and cons of such activity. Many habitat trees had been left, and the gullies held narrow refuge for a ferny understorey, but the site still dismayed some who saw the destruction as unnecessary.

In defence of the forest workers, they must do the bidding of those who make decisions at a higher government level.

As noted, with the weather being somewhat cooler than expected for this time of the year, there was plenty of flowers to discover on our travels.

We must thank Dianne Clark for compiling the following list of plants we found along the way. It is not an easy task but one which Di completed without fuss, and with much diligence, even recording the location where plants were found. However to save space, this information has been excluded from this report, but members requiring it can contact me and I will forward via email.

Acacia	filicifolia	Eucalyptus	scias	Petrophile	pedunculata
Acacia	floribunda	Eucalyptus	sieberi	Phebalium	squamulosum
Acacia	mabellae	Eustrephus	latifolius	Pimelea	axiflora
Acacia	obtusifolia	Ficus	coronata	Platylobium	formosum
Acacia	terminalis	Gleichenia	dicarpa	Platysace	ericoides
Adiantum	aethiopicum	Gompholobium	latifolium	Platysace	lanceolata
Allocastrum	verticillata	Gonocarpus	teucroides	Platysace	sp.
Amperea	xiphoclada	Goodenia	sp.	Poa	dives
Aphanopetalum	resinosum	Grevillea	arenaria	Podolobium	ilicifolium
Astrotricha	latifolia	Hakea	sericea	Polyscias	sambucifolia
Babingtonia	pluriflora	Hibbertia	aspera	Polyscias	murrayi
Banksia	spinulosa	Howittia	trilocularis	Pomaderris	aspera
Billardiera	scandens	Hybanthus	monopetalus	Pomaderris	lanigera
Boronia	microphylla	Hymenanchera	dentata	Pomax	umbellata
Breynia	oblongifolia	Isopogon	anemonifolius	Prostanthera	lasianthus
Callicoma	serratifolia	Kennedia	rubicunda	Psychotria	loniceroides
Cassinia	aureonitans	Kunzea	ambigua	Pultenaea	cunninghamii
Caustis	flexuosa	Lambertia	formosa	Pultenaea	retusa
Cissus	hypoglauca	Lepidosperma	urophorum	Scaevola	ramosissima
Claoxylon	australe	Leptospermum	emarginatum	Schelhammera	undulata
Comesperma	ericinum	Leptospermum	trinervium	Solanum	aviculare
Coronidium	elatum	Leucopogon	lanceolatus	Stellaria	flaccida
Correa	lawrenceana var. cordifolia	Lindsaea	linearis	Stylidium	graminifolium
Correa	reflexa	Lindsaea	microphylla	Tetratheca	thymifolia
Corymbia	maculata	Livistona	australis	Tristaniopsis	collina
Cyathea	australis	Lomandra	confertifolia subsp. confertifolia	Tristaniopsis	laurina
Cymbidium	suave	Lomandra	confertifolia subsp. rubiginosa	Tylophora	barbata

Dampiera	purpurea	Lomandra	multiflora	Viola	hederacea
Daviesia	ulicifolia	Lomandra	obliqua	Xanthosia	atkinsoniana
Daviesia	wyattiana	Lomatia	ilicifolia	Xanthosia	pilosa
Dianella	longifolia	Lomatia	myricoides	Xanthorrhoea	australis
Dillwynia	retorta	Marsdenia	suaveolens	Xanthorrhoea	resinosum
Dipodium	roseum	Mitrasacme	polymorpha	Xerochrysum	bracteatum
Dodonaea	triquetra	Myrsine	howittiana	Zieria	smithii
Duboisia	myoporoides	Notelaea	longifolia		
Elaeocarpus	reticulatus	Ozothamnus	diosmifolius		
Entolasia	stricta	Parsonsia	straminea		
Eucalyptus	ligustrina	Patersonia	glabrata		
Eucalyptus	multicaulis	Persoonia	levis		
Eucalyptus	saligna	Persoonia	linearis		