

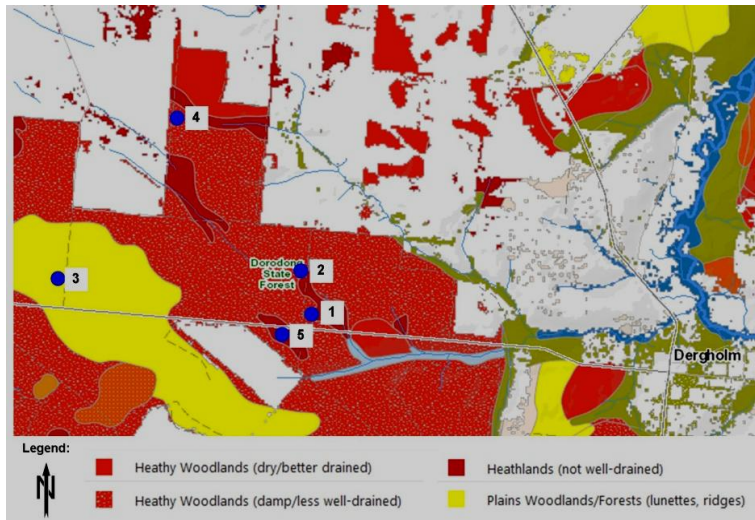
HFNC Excursion to Dorodong & Roseneath State Forests near Dergholm

18 October 2020

Reto Zollinger, Yvonne Ingeme & Rod Bird

Participants: Diane Luhrs, Rod Bird, Yvonne Ingeme, Reto Zollinger, Liz Fenton, Peter Hocking, Darryl & Lyndal Delahoy, Peter & Wendy McDonald.

On a dry partly overcast day a convoy of Field Nat's made their way to Dergholm to explore part of the Dorodong & Roseneath State Forests.



The vegetation consists of dry to damp heathy woodland with sections of treeless poorly drained heathland and areas of Plains Woodland on a substrate consisting of quaternary fine to medium grained dune sand.

Our first stop was just off Dorodong Road, on Bades Road, near an old quarry where we found many wildflowers including *Utricularia tenella* (Pink Bladder-wort) and *Thelymitra ixioides* (Dotted Sun Orchid), one of a few Sun Orchids that was actually open for our enjoyment.

A short distance further along Bades Road provided an opportunity to inspect a section of woodland burned in early January 2020. The area had a good stand of *Xanthorrhoea minor* and many stunning orchid specimens ranging from *Caladenia* Spider Orchids, *Pyrorchis nigricans* (Red Beak Orchid) and *Diuris pardina* (Leopard Orchid) scattered among grassland forbs such as *Arthropodium strictum* (Chocolate Lily), *Burchardia umbellata* (Milkmaids) and *Microseris* sp. (Murnong/Yam Daisy). In contrast, the unburned woodland adjacent provided a display of maturing vegetation with flowering *Leptospermum* sp. (Tea-tree), different *Pultenea* sp. (Bush-peas), *Hibbertia* sp. (Guinea-flower) and *Calectasia intermedia* (Blue Tinsel-lily) among many other species.

After marvelling over and photographing the heathy woodland ecosystem we drove back to Dorodong Rd and then west, turning into Newmans Road and stopping in a section of wet Plains Woodland dominated by *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River Red Gum) and some *E. leucoxylon* (Yellow Gum) along the fringes. The woodland's grassy understorey showcased a carpet of *Bulbine bulbosa* (Bulbine Lily) scattered with many other grassland forbs including *Wurmbea dioica* (Early Nancy), *Chamaescilla corymbosa* (Blue Squill), *Ranunculus* sp. (Buttercup) and *Microtis* sp. (Onion Orchid) and areas of inundated low lying sections resonating with frog calls and dotted with *Craspedia variabilis* (Billy Buttons).

The next stop was our main target for the day, comprising an area of long unburnt heathy woodland with a rare stand of old *Banksia ornata* (Desert Banksia) and provides important habitat for many woodland bird species. The *Pinus radiata* plantations surrounding this section of the Dorodong State Forest on three sides are likely the reason for being spared from fire. The display of flowering *Comospermum* sp. (Smoke-bush) and tea-tree among the impressive old stands of Desert Banksia provided a feast for the eyes whilst hidden under the vegetation one could spot many orchid leaves and the odd flowering *Calochilus* sp. (Purplish Beard-orchid). Unfortunately the close proximity to the Pine plantation has resulted in the invasion of countless wild pine trees throughout this significant section of forest.

After a wonderful day exploring different ecological vegetation classes we decided stop along Dorodong Road in a section of wet heathland that yielded many additional flora species. Amongst the wildflowers were bright red *Grevillea lavandulacea* (Lavender Grevillea), showy white-flowering *Argentipallium* sp. (Blunt Everlasting), *Ptilotus macrocephalus* (Featherheads), *Boronia coerulescens* (Blue Boronia), Scrub Sheoak (*Allocasuarina paludosa*) and several pea species and orchids.



Dotted Sun-orchid



Purplish beard-orchid



Mantis Orchid



Leopard Orchid



White Spider-orchid



Purplish Beard-orchid



Buttercup



Dwarf Bush-pea



Blue Tinsel-lily



Heath Tea-tree



Blue Squill



Blunt Everlasting



Small Grass-tree



Milkmaids



Desert Banksia



Victorian Smokebush



Guinea-flower



Lavender Grevillea

The main landscape areas visited on this excursion are shown below.



Damp Plains Woodland



Dry Heathy Woodland – long unburned



Heathy Woodland – burned 10 months earlier



Damp Heath

The relatively small area of wet heath off Dorodong Rd exhibited a rich floristic range, highlighting the diversity that exists across the landscape. To preserve that diversity there is a need to manage the landscape in such a way to ensure a mosaic of recently burnt, un-burnt and long unburnt areas where flora and fauna can continue to thrive.



Swamp Sheoak



Blue Boronia



Tiny Caladenia

Birds recorded: few species were recorded, since most interest during the day was in the flora. The most interesting sighting was that of Chestnut-rumped Heathwren, seen at our last stop in the Damp Heath area. Musk Lorikeets were found in flowering Yellow Gum at the Damp Plains Woodland area.

1. Chestnut-rumped Heathwren
2. Musk Lorikeet
3. Grey Shrike-thrush
4. Superb Fairy-wren
5. Grey Currawong
6. Crimson Rosella

7. New Holland Honeyeater
8. Yellow-faced Honeyeater
9. White-eared Honeyeater
10. White-throated Treecreeper
11. Striated Pardalote
12. Spotted Pardalote

Flora list for sites visited in the Dorodong and Roseneath State Forests.

The lists are not comprehensive, since only a small area was visited at each stop and detailed assessments were not made, with many small species not being recorded. It is likely, too, that many species noted at one stop only would be found in the other sites.

Botanic name	Common Name	Dorodong Bades Rd	Roseneath Swamp	Roseneath sand hill	Dorodong wet heath [#]
<i>Acacia</i> sp.	Acacia			P	
<i>Acotriche serrulata</i>	Honey Pots		P		
<i>Ajuga australis</i>	Austral Bugle		F		
<i>Allocasuarina muelleriana</i>	Slaty Sheoak			F	
<i>Allocasuarina paludosa</i>	Scrub Sheoak				F
<i>Apodasmia brownii</i>	Coarse Twine-rush			F	
<i>Argentipallium obtusifolium</i>	Blunt Everlasting				F
<i>Arthropodium strictum</i>	Chocolate Lily	F	F		
<i>Banksia marginata</i>	Silver Banksia			P	
<i>Banksia ornata</i>	Desert Banksia			P	
<i>Boronia coerulescens</i>	Blue Boronia				F
<i>Brunonia australis</i>	Blue Pincushions		B		
<i>Bulbine bulbosa</i>	Bulbine Lily		F		
<i>Burchardia umbellata</i>	Milkmaids	F	F	F	
<i>Caladenia carnea</i>	Pink Fingers	F			
<i>Caladenia pusilla</i>	Tiny Caladenia		F		
<i>Caladenia tentaculata</i>	Mantis Orchid	F	F		F
<i>Caladenia venusta</i>	White Spider-orchid	F	F		
<i>Caladenia</i> sp.	White Spider-orchid ?	F			
<i>Caladenia venusta/tentaculata</i>	Hybrid?	F			
<i>Calectasia intermedia</i>	Blue Tinsel-lily	F			
<i>Calochilus robertsonii</i>	Purplish Beard-orchid	F		F	F
<i>Calytrix tetragona</i>	Fringe-myrtle	F	F		F
<i>Chaemaesilla corymbosa</i>	Blue Squill		F		
<i>Chorizandra enodis</i>	Black Bristle-rush		F		
<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	Common Everlasting		F		F
<i>Comesperma calymega</i>	Blue-spike Milkwort				F
<i>Conospermum mitchellii</i>	Victorian Smokebush		P	F	
<i>Coronidium scorpioides</i>	Button Everlasting	F			F
<i>Craspedia variabilis</i>	Common Billy-buttons			F	
<i>Davesia brevifolia</i>	Leafless Bitter-pea				F
<i>Dianella longifolia</i>	Pale Flax-lily		F		
<i>Dillwynia hispida</i>	Red Parrot-pea				F
<i>Dillwynia seracea</i>	Showy Parrot-pea	F			
<i>Diuris pardina</i>	Leopard Orchid	F			F
<i>Drosera</i> sp.	Sundews		F		
<i>Epacris impressa</i>	Common Heath				F
<i>Eucalyptus baxteri</i>	Brown Stringybark	P		P	
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	River Red Gum		P		P
<i>Eucalyptus leucoxydon</i>	Yellow Gum		F		
<i>Gonocarpus tetragynus</i>	Raspwort		P		
<i>Goodenia hederaceae</i>	Bent Goodenia	F			
<i>Grevillea lavandulacea</i>	Lavender Grevillea	F			F
<i>Hakea rostrata</i>	Beaked Hakea				F

<i>Helichrysum scorpioides</i>	Button Everlasting	F			
<i>Hibbertia fasciculata</i>	Bundled Guinea-flower	F		F	F
<i>Hibbertia</i> sp. 2	Guinea-flower			F	F
<i>Hydrocotyle</i> sp.	Pennywort		P		
<i>Hypoxis</i> sp	Yellow Star		F		
<i>Isopogon ceratophyllus</i>	Horny Cone-bush			F	F
<i>Kennedia prostrata</i>	Running Postman				F
<i>Leptorhynchos squamatus</i>	Scaly Buttons		F		
<i>Leptosperma myrsinoides</i>	Heath Tea-tree	F		F	F
<i>Leptospermum continentale</i>	Prickly Tea-tree			F	F
<i>Leucopogon</i> sp 2	Beard-heath				F
<i>Leucopogon virgatus</i>	Common Beard Heath	F		F	F
<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>	Wattle Mat-rush				F
<i>Lomandra multiflora</i>	Many-flowered Mat-rush		F		
<i>Micocercis</i> sp.	Murnong/Yam Daisy		F	F	
<i>Microtis</i> sp.	Onion Orchid		F		
<i>Neurachne allopecuroidea</i>	Fox-tail Mulga-grass				F
<i>Pimelea humilis</i>	Common Rice-flower	F	F		F
<i>Platylobium obtusangulum</i>	Common Flat-pea				F
<i>Pultenea humilis</i>	Dwarf Bush-pea	F			F
<i>Ptilotus macrocephalus</i>	Featherheads				P
<i>Pyrorchis nigricans</i>	Red Beaks Orchid	F			
<i>Ranunculus</i> sp.	Buttercup		F		
<i>Senecio quadridentatus</i>	Cotton Fireweed		F		
<i>Siloxera multiflorus</i>	Small Wrinklewort	F			
<i>Stenantha conostephioides</i>	Emu Heath				F
<i>Styphelia humifusa</i>	Cranberry Heath				F
<i>Tetralathea ciliata</i>	Pink Bells	F		F	
<i>Thelymitra flexuosa</i>	Twisted Sun-orchid		F		
<i>Thelymitra ixioides</i>	Dotted Sun-orchid		F		
<i>Thelymitra rubra</i>	Salmon Sun-orchid		F	F	
<i>Thysanotus patersonii</i>	Twining Fringe-lily		F		
<i>Utricularia tenella</i>	Pink Bladder-wort	F	F		
<i>Villarsia umbricola</i>	Lax Marsh-flower		F		
<i>Wahlenbergia</i> sp.	Blue Bell	F			
<i>Wurmbea dioica</i>	Early Nancy		F		
<i>Xanthorrhoea minor</i>	Small Grass-tree	P		P	P

= south side of the Dergholm Rd, west of Bades Rd, 5 km from Dergholm
P = present; F = flower; B = buds