

Sunday 10th March 2019

BARREN GROUNDS NATURE RESERVE

Party: Brian Everingham (i/c but biting off much more than his knee can deal with. Is this the last of the 20km walks prior to a knee replacement?), Claire Cullen, Sarah Howes, Micaela Lucas, Veronique Hill, Peter Smith, Helen Dalton, Julie Small and Faye Bingham

Distance: 20km **Grade** 3 (despite the distance there were no big climbs)

And apart from actually walking it once more the highlights for the leader himself were seeing a Pilotbird (well done to Faye), a pair of Southern Emu-wrens and a rather impressive tally of identified butterflies (Orchard Swallowtail, Macleays Swallowtail, Black Jezebel, Blue Triangle, Common Grass Blue, Cabbage White, Variable Sword-grass Brown) and several that escaped our identification in their haste to flutter off into the wilds.

In addition to those highlights it should be noted that above our heads there were Welcome Swallows, a few Tree Martins and even some Spine-tailed Swifts. Lower down there were Eastern Yellow Robin, Wattlebirds (not sure if they were Red or Little – they mostly stayed inside the heath and my memory of the calls is not so good), New Holland Honeyeaters, Eastern Spinebills, Grey Shrike-Thrush, Grey Fantails and Brown Thornbills. We could also add the Crimson Rosella and Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos.

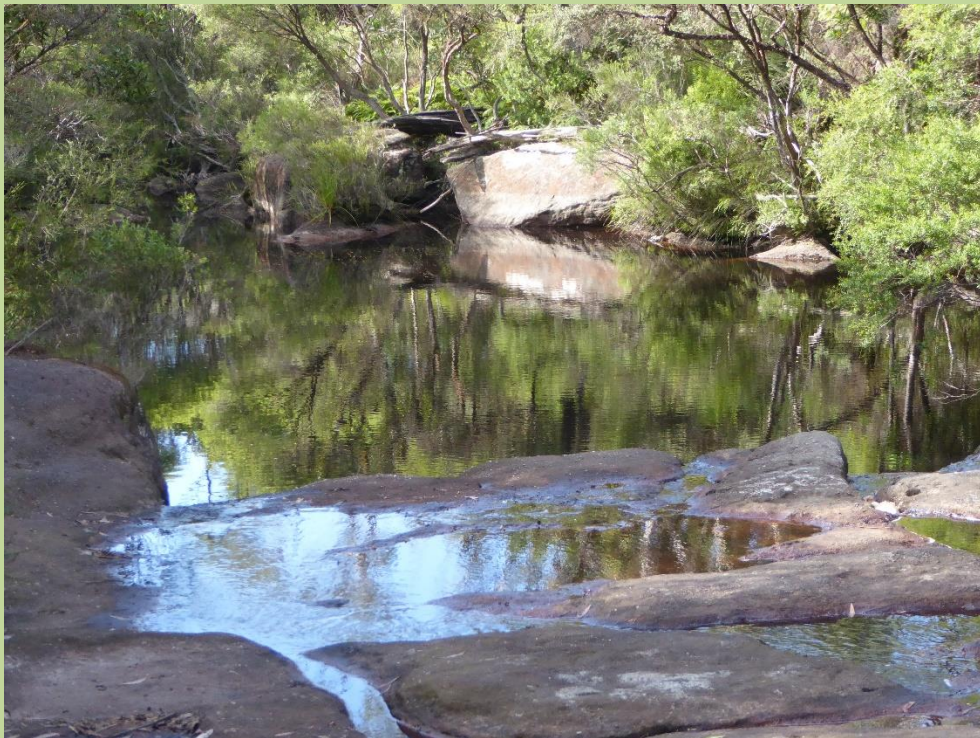
What we cannot add are Ground Parrots and Eastern bristlebirds. They remain elusive!



Dog vomit slime mold - *Fuligo septica*



Tasmannia insipida







Drosera spathulata



Blandfordia nobilis





Blurry and at a very long distance with a very tiny camera but can you see the pair of Southern Emu-wrens?



Through the eyes of managing a reserve however, I noted:

1. The problem of doing an ecological burn so that there is a mosaic of burn patterns across the landscape and therefore suitable habitats for the variety of species that exist here
2. The fill used to harden the fire trails has brought in a variety of weeds that have become larger since my last visit. Kevin Mills claims the fill was clean and the weeds predate the fill. I am not sure. The new fill seems to be the site for much of the weeds I saw.





Banksia paludosa

Brian Everingham