

#LOCKDOWNSYDNEY

Or the benefits of being locked down while living on the edge

Monday 28th June 2021

On day 2 of lockdown Faye and I escaped to Royal National Park and walked the 4.5km Forest Path loop. Most of the morning we were on our own but nearer the end we ran into three sets of adults taking out children of primary school age who were excited to be in the bush and by the time we returned to the car the carpark had 18 cars there. No doubt many of those were cycling along Lady Carrington Drive.



Possibly old flower heads of a *Corybas* species?

We walked the Forest Path in clockwise direction and in the early stages of that walk there is always a chance to find orchids. Indeed, we did find three species of *Pterostylis* and one species of *Acianthus*.



Acianthus fornicatus





Pterostylis nutans



Pterostylis obtusa



Pterostylis longifolia

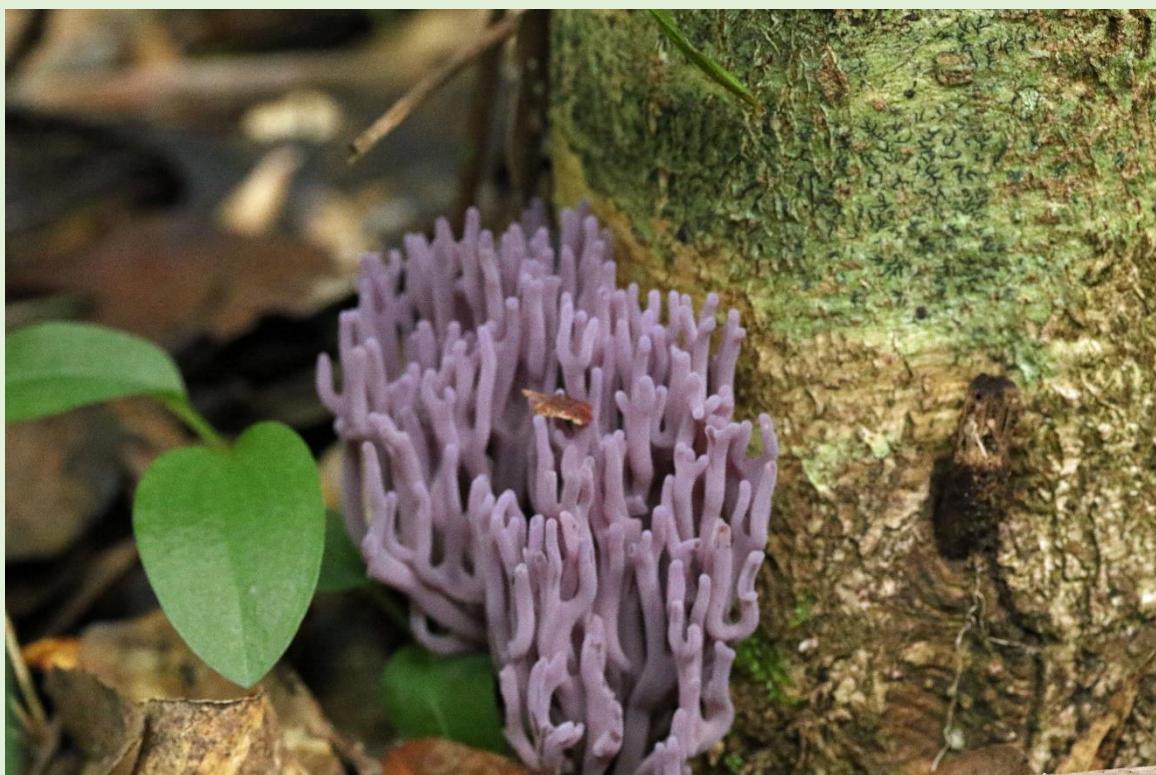




After that flush of orchids, it was time to focus on fungi!





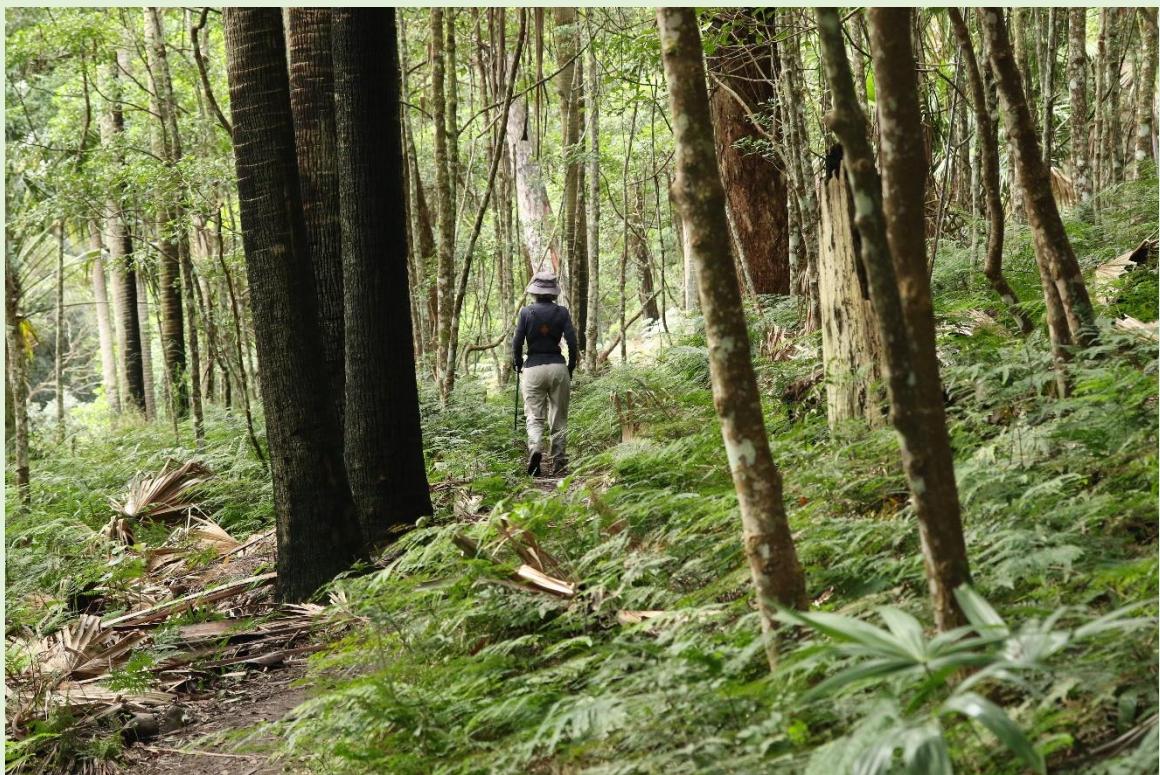








I should also note that there were many, many ferns too but perhaps I will end this section by just adding a few scenery images!



In social distancing isolation without even a deer to scare us
(And certainly clad)¹

¹ <https://www.dw.com/en/nude-sunbathers-fined-for-sydney-covid-lockdown-breach/a-58071602>





Aseroe rubra commonly called Anemone Stinkhorn, with the early phase also now recorded

Tuesday 29th June 2021

Time for our morning walk! This one was about 3.5km in the Warrangarree Reserve off Woronora Heights². Some NPA members might remember this was one of the short local walks I led following the first big lockdown!

The lower portions of the reserve are located on the river flat floodplain 2m above sea level. The reserve rises steeply from the floodplain to the upper ridge at an elevation of over 100m. The reserve is generally very steep with vertical escarpments and scree slope gradients between 20% and 70%.

It covers Sydney Sandstone Ridge Top Woodland, comprising Narrow-leaf Apple *Angophora bakeri*, Smooth-barked Apple *Angophora costata*, Red Bloodwood *Eucalyptus gummifera*, Sydney Peppermint *Eucalyptus piperita* and Silver-top Ash *Eucalyptus sieberi*. The mid storey is mostly open with a diversity of shrubs and vines including Old Man Banksia *Banksia serrata*, Black She-oak *Allocasuarina littoralis*, Silver Banksia *Banksia marginata*, Geebung *Persoonia levis* and Needlebush *Hakea sericea*.



Because of its proximity to suburbia and its westerly face it is also heavily burnt for hazard reduction but at least that displays the bones of the underlying geology!

² <https://cms.ssc.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/website/temp-dms/policies-pdf/plan-of-management-natural-areas-warrangarree-drive-bushland-reserve-woronora.pdf>

The reserve occupies a part of the steep Woronora Valley two kilometres up river from the confluence of the Woronora and Georges Rivers. It is located on the southern side of the valley and covers a total area of 22.75 hectares

The lower stratum is sparse and containing herbs, grasses and other herbaceous plants dominated by Flannel Flower *Actinotus helianthi*, Spiny Mat Rush *Lomandra longifolia*, Prickly Moses *Acacia ulicifolia* and the grasses *Stipa pubescens* and *Entolasia stricta*.





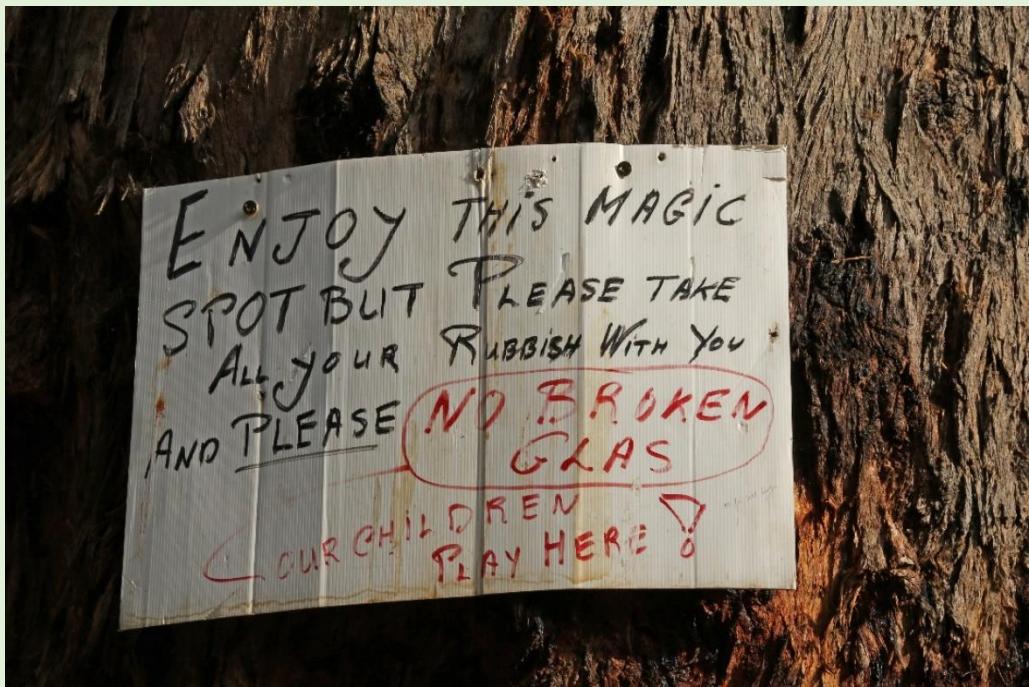
And with clear evidence that mountain bikes do serious damage to sandstone country!

Down lower there is Sydney Sandstone Gully Forest and River-Flat Eucalyptus Forest.





And people who care for it!



Incidentally, on our walk today we saw or heard Little Pied Cormorant, White-faced Heron, Little Corella, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Rainbow Lorikeet, Australian King Parrot, Laughing Kookaburra, Spotted Pardalote, White-browed Scrubwren, Brown Thornbill, Lewin's Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Eastern Whipbird, Australian Magpie, Pied Currawong and Australian Raven. That's 16 species.... And without binoculars. It is also mid-winter and very few birds are calling.



Brian Everingham