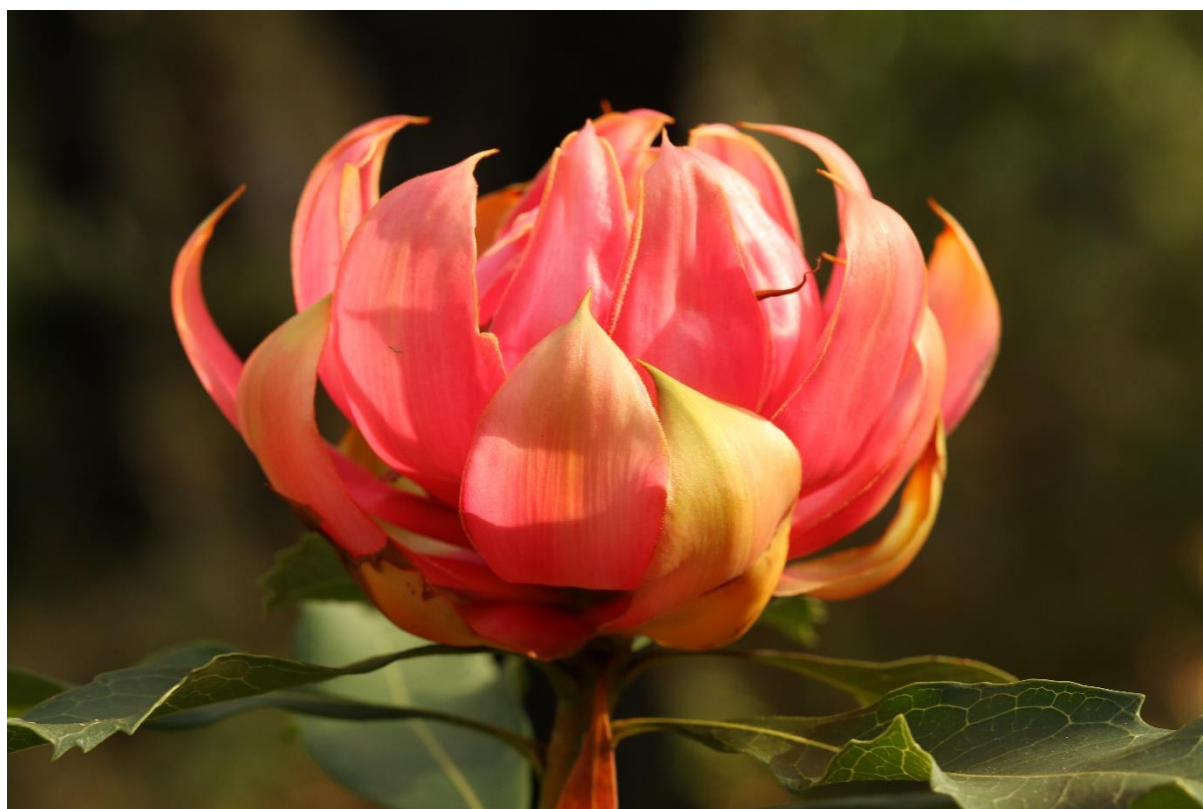


# *Bottle Forest*

## *Royal National Park*

Locked Down Sydney

August 27<sup>th</sup> 2021



Gilbert White spent much of his life exploring one tiny corner of England. He was born in Selborne and died in Selborne, in his grandfather's vicarage in a sleepy County called Hampshire. He did go to Oriel College, Oxford, but having been placed in several positions in the church in a variety of locations, he returned permanently to Selborne in 1784, for the 4<sup>th</sup> time, and stayed there until his death.

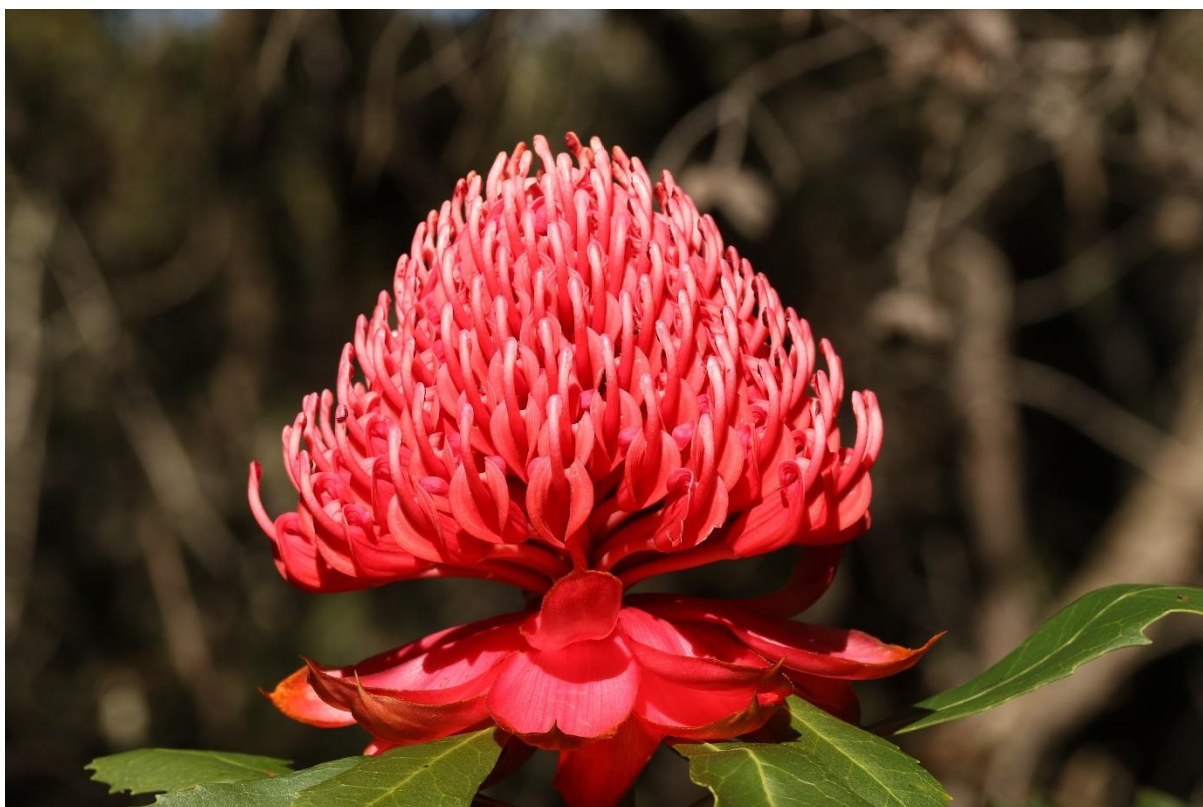
Now White may have been a good man of the cloth but he did seem distracted by natural history and his knowledge of that one tiny corner of his world became legendary. It is still worth reading *Natural History of Selborne* for his intimate knowledge of his patch of England.

I thought about White today. During this period of lockdown, we have all become more than intimate with our own tiny patch. Granted, my tiny patch is much bigger than many other people, but even so one returns to the same patch and it is through that close contact that one does see the changes happening, even within the space of ten days!

And so, we observed today! The last visit here, on August 13<sup>th</sup>, gave me multiple opportunities to enjoy *Diuris maculata*. Today, just a handful remain. What's left are seed heads!



Next year, no doubt, there will be many more to enjoy!



Today, also, demonstrates that some people enjoy the bush ... and some claim it as their own!



Unfortunately, several were cut off for someone's private enjoyment!

So let us just accept that the bush is here for more than the odd waratah and look more closely!





*Glossodia minor*, a little tacky



*Thelymitra ixioides*, in bud



*Daviesia corymbosa*, methinks







*Lasiopetalum ferrugineum*



Indeed, since our last visit to this patch, the bush had become quite “rusty” in its appearance. No wonder their common name is “Rusty Petals”!





*Petrophile sessilis*



It's not just the showy bits that are worth looking at!



*Dampiera purpurea*



*Leucopogon setiger*





*Caladenia carnea*





*Xylomelum pyriforme* - Woody Pear



It will soon be in bloom





*Caustis flexuosa*









And with that I call it a morning

*Brian Everingham*

