

Brian Everingham

**Trip Report
August 2024
Volume 2.1**

Kalbarri



Anthocercis ilicifolia : Holly-Leaf Tailflower

Monday 5th August 2024



We awake to the day!



And manage a short foreshore walk before the big one!



Our first walk for the trip was a 9km loop walk called The Loop and Nature's Window. Joanne, Winnie, Suk Kwan and Lydia completed the full loop. Faye and I turned around at the river, skipped the first river walking and returned the same way. Interestingly, looking at the maps, methinks we had the tougher of the walks. Our climb back was tougher and steeper than the walk along the river but we did skip the sand. Oh well, an ageing body must be cared for!





Even before we left the parking lot Faye spied a Black-flanked Rock Wallaby!



Pterostylis pyramidalis – Tall Snail Orchid

On the way we found many greenhood orchids (all the same), some lovely acacias and a variety of Drosera. There were also many fossils and the scenery was simply amazing.



Grevillea petrophiloides



What could be on that sand bar?



Chinese geology students having a wow of a time





What has Joanne spotted?





Aha: an Osprey on the left (or was it the Australian Ringneck on the right)



Seringia saxatalis



So much variation in the *Drosera* genus here!



Down on the Murchison



The intrepid explorers



Florence would say they were “piggy-backing”



Pheladenia deformis (*Caladenia deformis*)

According to Lachlan Copeland, “Both names are perfectly valid (ie *Caladenia deformis* as it was originally named, or *Pheladenia deformis*) and there is no right or wrong as is often the case. The results of the latest, highly detailed molecular analyses certainly suggest it's best placed in an expanded *Caladenia* though.”

Terrh Dunham says that “Pheladenia, from the Greek Phelos (false), and aden (gland), in reference to the distinctive labellum lamina calli, distinguished from the closely related Caladenia genus by its blue colouration and prominently bearded labellum.”

But I think the highlight was going to another location to view the scenery at the “Skywalk”, a pair of cantilevered viewing platforms. We were blessed by finding a whole series of orchids, including Caladenia (Kalbarri Cowslip Orchid), and another Caladenia or two.







Caladenia varians



And the Kalbarri Cowslip

Caladenia flava subsp. maculata

Tonight, we all dined together with Winnie's cooking. A special day indeed.

Tuesday 6th August 2024

Our early planned start was rapidly cancelled when we discovered that fresh fish was on sale at 9.00am. Of course, Winnie was determined to get fresh fish.

That gave me the chance to go for a walk along the waterfront where Joanne and I watched Welcome Swallows and a Magpie-lark collecting mud for nest building. Faye, Joanne and I then watched an Osprey hunting for fish - and failing - before we explored the vegetation along the riverbank.



One of those plants was *Jacksonia cupulifera*, a pea with foliage like a sheoak.



The other of note was a Solanaceae, *Anthocercis littorea*. Its common name is Yellow tailflower. It grows on coastal limestone, dunes and sand plains. (see frontpage)

When we returned home to our unit Lydia knocked on the door. In tow was a young French guy whose job was caretaker. He inspected the mould issue in our unit, got a list of other issues, phoned his boss and suddenly we were moved across the lawn to Room 31. With the help of the residents in 1 our home @ 4 became @31 and we headed out, to sort out the repack on our return.

And so, off we went, back into the park, to the Z Bend. We could not walk to the bottom and complete the circuit as it was flooded. Given that the Shire Ranger told me this morning that the area had received more than 500mm of rain this month compared to just 180mm for the entire 2023 rainfall, I was not surprised. But the 1.2km return trip to the lookout was more than worth the trip. We found many more orchids which excited everyone and at the lookout there were some lovely fossils.





A most unusual hybrid of *Caladenia flava*





Fossils from another age



Grevillea pinaster





It also proved the perfect place for an early lunch before we returned to town and headed to the coastal sites south of town. That is, after we put in \$99 of diesel into our car!

Our first walk took us to Red Bluff, a walk to the coast and, as it transpired, lots of breaching whales. It also gave us some lovely butterflies, including one that is a possible relative of a Caper White.



Not to mention the scenery.



Our final walk was a 2km loop walk to the Mushroom Rock and around the coastal cliffs, complete with bacterial eating of iron deposits within the sandstone, leaving white circles.



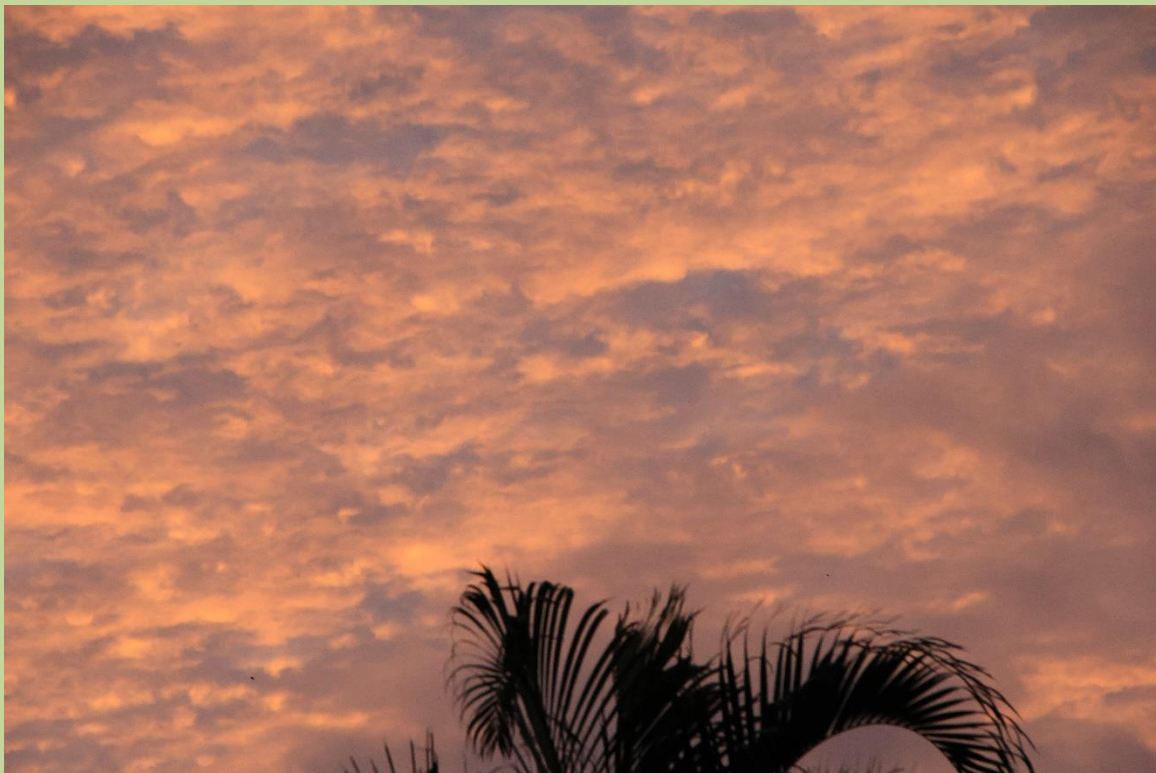
This area is known as Tumblagooda sandstone, deposited 400-500 million years ago. One fascinating aspect are the many fossilised “worm” tunnels.



This final walk was the highlight of the day. The coastal flowers complemented the geological story and the littoral edge gave it a gracious backdrop. Stunning scenery and a lovely day.

Wednesday 7th August 2024

When we woke the sky had an attractive flush of red. By 7.30am, it was raining.



We had a visitor: Common Bronzewing

I managed to persuade the girls to brave the showers and we were soon off, heading east.



Our first stop was the Ross Graham Lookout. As far as lookouts go, it was hard to enjoy it because the showers created a hazy atmosphere. However, we were all able to head

down a comfortable path to the river below and get a close look at the Murchison. Mind you, enough additional rain had fallen to make one section of the track a creek.



Not too far away we then visited another lookout and this one was quite a short walk. It's called Hawks Head Lookout. Here, it started to rain quite heavily but we were under shelter and, naturally, we moved as soon as it eased and we were then blessed with lots of different acacias as well as the view into the valley below. I am sure there are heaps of rock wallabies but so far this trip we have seen just one. The species is the Black-flanked Rock Wallaby.





As we drove back into town, we cruised slowly and we were then able to stop several times along that road to inspect the wildflowers. We finally did find a few banksias in bloom, which cheered me up, but there were other special delights.



Our last stop, and walk, was a 1.5km loop at Meeanarra Hill. It's known as the Malleefowl walk but the track starts at what was once obviously a limestone quarry, before looping around through limestone before touching the edge of perfect malleefowl habitat. Of course we saw no evidence of the bird.





That walk ended our time in the bush today and we all had lunch back in our respective apartments. Faye then tried to clean the interior of the car while Lydia and Suk Kwan put in a large wash. I tried to show Joanne a Singing Honeyeater.

By 3.30 the party all scattered to walk around town, leaving me alone to connect to my RAC AGM.