

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2027**

## **Barren Grounds Nature Reserve**

**Party:** Brian Everingham (i/c), Faye Bingham, Louis Petrucco, Elaine Yeoh and Gina Svolos

**Distance:** 9km

**Ascent:** 200m

**Grade:** 3



Having met at Heathcote Railway Station, we reduced the cars in use to a comfortable two and then headed south, to Jamberoo and then up through the escarpment! We had escaped the traffic chaos in the northern lane where one lane had been wiped out by an earlier accident. The tail-back extended a long, long way!!!!

And so, we began! Sadly, we did not see any of the three iconic birds. No Ground Parrot. No Eastern bristlebird. No Pilotbird! We had even extended our advertised walk to search out some of the heath to the west but despite it looking positive, we were forced to enjoy the wildflowers! Well, “forced” is a bit much. The plateau was ablaze.

Especially noticeable today had to be boronia! A number of species were present and the flowering was profuse!







*Leionema diosmeum*





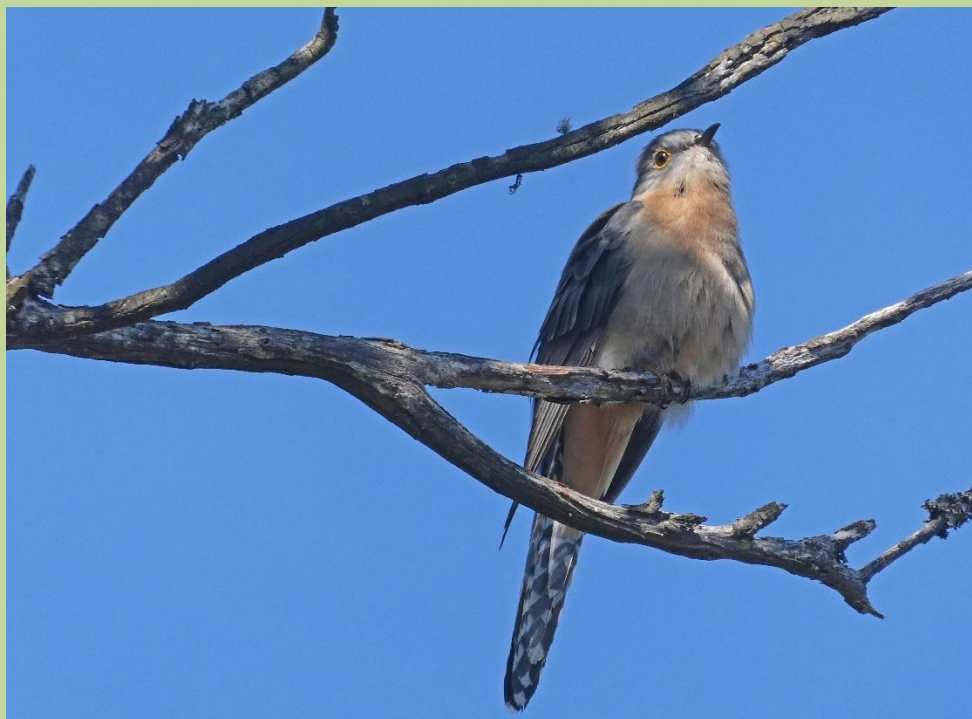
*Drosera binata* - Forked Sundew<sup>1</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> Drosera... from Greek drosos, dew or dewdrops, a reference to the glandular hairs on the foliage





Our most obvious bird today: Fan-tailed Cuckoo











An abstract painting





*Zieria smithii*







*Persoonia levis*



New growth – The red colour in new growth leaves is primarily due to anthocyanins, which are pigments that protect the developing photosystems from sunlight damage.





*Dampiera purpurea*



Hakea (probably *salicifolia* but maybe *dactyloides*)





Another plant that looks much more like *Hakea dactyloides*







And much to Elaine's relief, Faye finds a field of *Caladenia*. With all the suggestions of *C. alata* but with hints of some *dalliance*!





*Isopogon anethifolius*





*Helichrysum elatum*



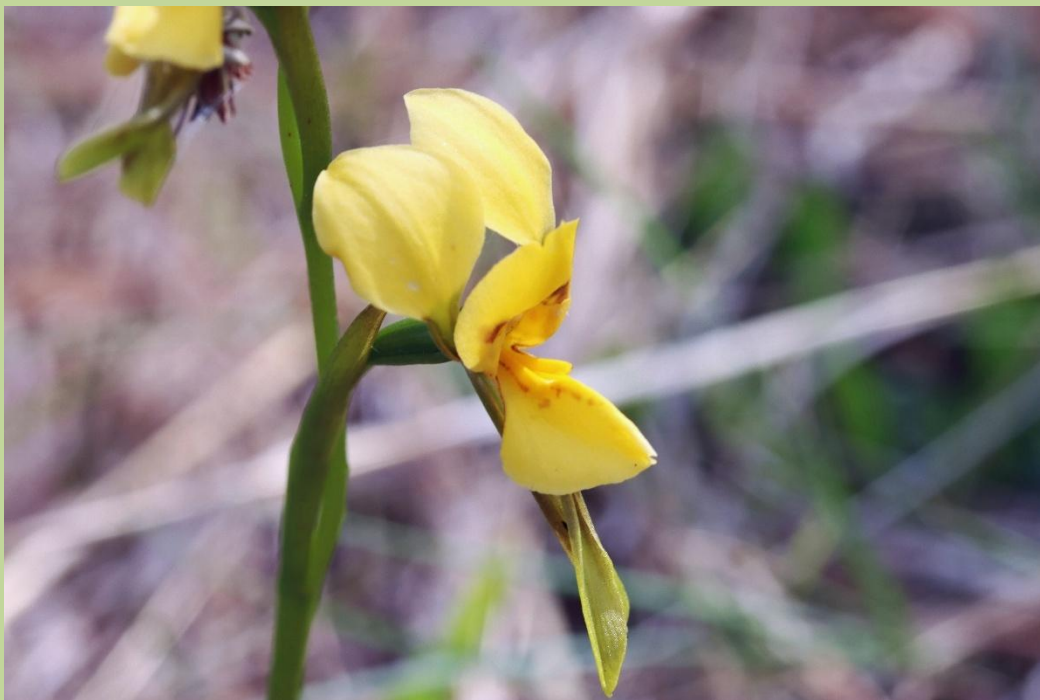
*Goodenia ovata*





And with a slow look over towards Lake Illawarra and the coast, we retreat to the cars

With a side trip on the way home (Woronora Dam Road)



*Diuris aurea*





*Calochilus campestris*





Microtis sp (possibly parviflora looking at the wavy margins)



*Prasophyllum elatum*





Caladenia (and another that looks like some dalliance has been happening!

And with that, the day ends!

*Brian Everingham*