

Wednesday 8th October 2027

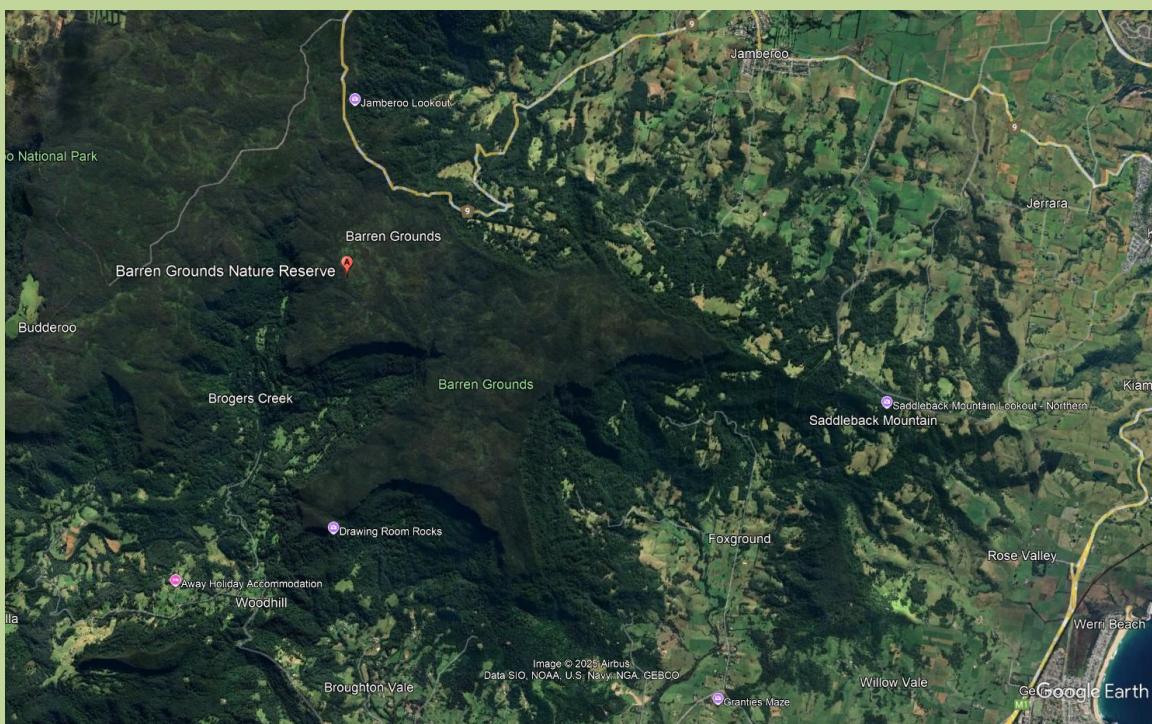
Barren Grounds Nature Reserve

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!





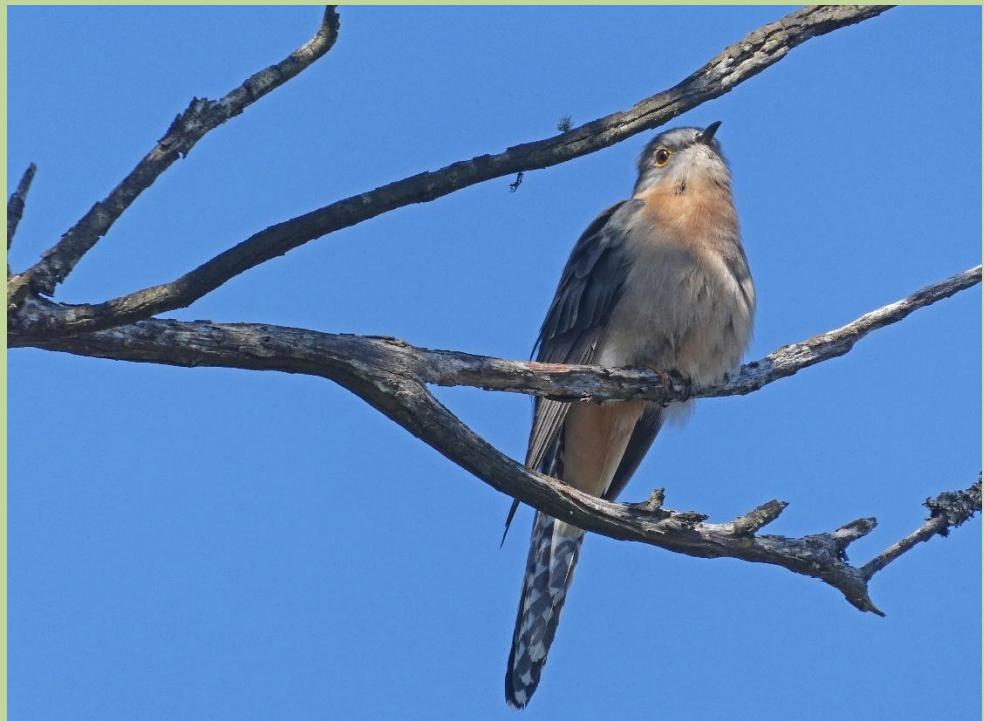
Leionema diosmeum



Drosera binata - Forked Sundew¹



¹ *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*

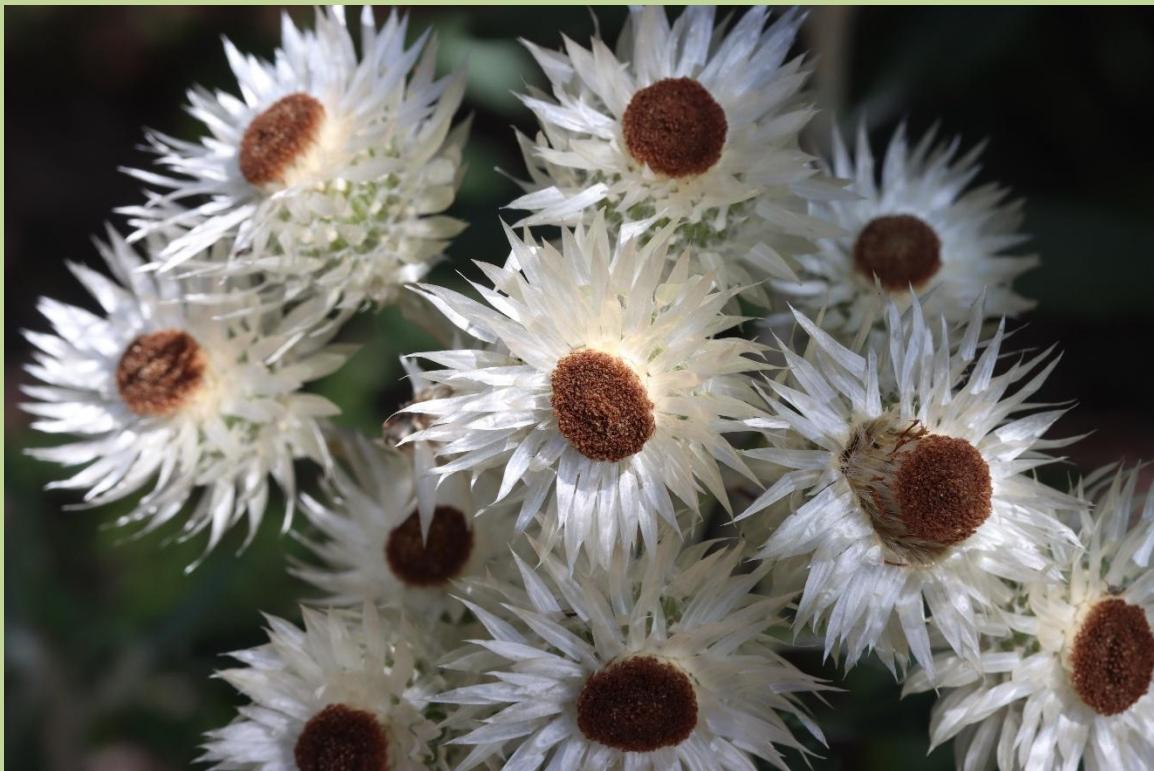




And much to Elaine's relief, Faye finds a field of Caladenia. With all the suggestions of C alata but with hints of some dalliance!



Isopogon anethifolius



Helichrysum elatum



Goodenia ovata



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

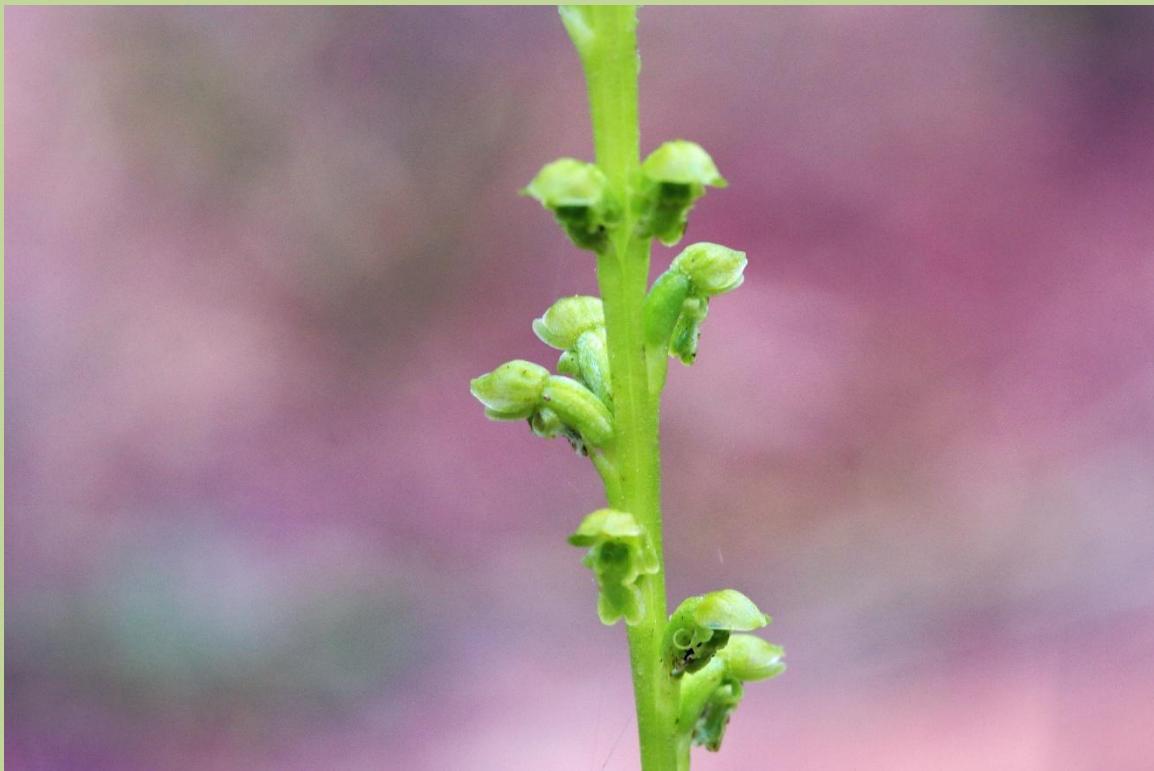
With a side trip on the way home (Woronora Dam Road)



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