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# Mt Wilson Mt Irvine Bushwalking Group

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JINKI RIDGE NEAR MOUNT WILSON

TOPIC

## OUR NOVEMBER WALK

**JINKI RIDGE off the BELLS  
LINE of ROAD near MOUNT  
WILSON**

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

'Jinki' is purported to be Aboriginal for Spirit Place. This walk, along the so named ridge, most certainly lifts the human spirit with its spectacular views, its treasure chest of wildflowers and amazing pagoda formations. Come with us then as we explore this ethereal little corner of the Upper Mountains.

Thirteen walkers gathered just east of Flagstaff Hill in perfect walking conditions. The temperature was mild, the air was still, and light, filmy, broken cloud drifted across the sky; what more could one ask for?

Initially the track takes us through an open field of native grasses, which partly hides a plethora of varied wildflowers. Not to be denied, these blossoms find openings among the grasses to display their charms, illuminated by the soft morning sunlight. First to catch our eye were the clusters of small, bright pink to lilac, almost pea-like flowers of the *Mirbelia rubifolia*. There were little clumps of Pink Kunzea (*Kunzea capitata*) displaying their fluffy pink balls in terminal heads. Contrasting with these spheres of pink were the flowers of several Dwarf Purple Flags or Native Iris



Summer in the Bush

(*Patersonia longifolia*), their three broad purple petals with stubby yellow stamens are short lived, appearing mainly on sunny days.

Nearby, and demanding to be noticed, were the globes of brilliant yellow flowers of the Broad Leaf Drumstick (*Isopogon anemonifolius*). Then, almost hidden in the grass were examples of the Common Fringe Lily (*Thysanotus tuberosus*), their finely-fringed pink to mauve petals are anything but common. Like the Purple Flags these flowers are ephemeral,

opening on sunny days and only lasting for that one day.

Now that we were away from the noise of the passing traffic on the Bells Line, Helen called the group together to report on Cheryl and Wayne Pascoe. As many of you may know after a long period of looking after grand children because of their daughter's serious illness, Wayne became seriously ill. He has had several stays in hospital, but Cheryl messaged us saying they hope to be able to catch up with us all at Merry Garth for the Christmas get together; we certainly hope that comes to pass, it would be great to catch up.

While on health updates, Ray Nesci continues on his path to recovery getting involved with light jobs around the nursery which we are sure would be very therapeutic; our thoughts are with you Ray.

Continuing on we were treated to the crinkly blue flowers of Blue Damperia (*Damperia stricta*) and the slim stems of the Rush Lily or Vanilla Plant (*Sowerbaea juncea*) carrying clusters of pink to lilac flowers with distinctive yellow stamens. Trailing across the ground and hiding in the grass were several examples of the Slender Violet (*Hybanthus monopetalus*), the conspicuous main mauve petal overshadowing the two tiny side petals giving the appearance that there is only one petal, thus the species name. Another tiny bloom striving for recognition among the ground cover was the four-petalled brilliant white flower of the Mitre Weed (*Mitrasacme polymorpha*).

Soon we entered a lightly wooded area, then, through a break in these trees, a magnificent view of Burra Koran Head opened up; the sheer cliffs dropping to the top of the talus slopes above Victoria Creek. The next display by Mother Nature was a swath of Flannel Flowers (*Actinotus helianthi*), their green tipped, pure white bracts surrounding the central head of closely packed tiny flowers; in one case a small black spider was ensconced on a flower head, contrasting markedly with the white bracts. This display however was but a hint of what was to come.

We arrived at a rock outcrop and climbed onto its level top where we paused for morning tea. Michael Ihm distributed his wife Beth's version of Libby's bushwalker cake and very nice it was too; many thanks Beth. From this vantage point we had a great view of the various headlands and cliff lines on the southern side of the Upper Grose Gorge. The view stretches from Valhalla Head, Thor Head, Burra Koran Head past Hanging Rock to Burrarako Head; an impressive vista. The narrow footpad in the foreground, winding through the heath and leading down to the pagodas, put some scale on this expansive scene.

Moving on from this rest spot we passed a small wind-worn cave on the left of the track and descended onto an area of open heath and scattered rock shelves. Here there were examples of Strap-leaf Bloodroot or Blood-lily

(*Haemodorum planifolium*) holding aloft their black flowers on slim dark stems. Also present here, nestled against the rocks, were Small-leaved Boronia (*Boronia microphylla*) displaying their four-petalled pink flowers amongst clusters of conical unopened flower buds. Sighted along this area of track were several specimens of the Nodding Blue Lily (*Stypandra glauca*), their bright blue flowers carrying prominent yellow stamens.

We crossed a couple of rock platforms bordered by Dwarf She Oaks (*Allocasuarina nana*) and arrived at the first of the pagodas. These are most definitely the platey variety of pagodas, having extensive ironstone protrusions.

The patterns formed by these protrusions are amazing. There are thin extended shelves, flutes and furrows, hollows and apertures, and sculptural parapets reaching for the sky. The predominate grey of the ironstone and weathered sandstone is interspersed with patches of gold and ochre where the wind has eroded the softer sandstone; spectacular formations indeed.

We made our way past the first few of these pagodas and were presented with the most beautiful of sights. A huge swath of Flannel Flowers wrapped around the base of a pagoda and continued down the slope toward Dalpura Creek and disappeared up the slope toward Dalpura Ridge; a mantle of white stretching across the landscape.

As is usual with Mother Nature, when she presents these large picturesque displays, nearby you will find a little gem. In this case it was some tiny Narrow-leaf Trigger Plants (*Stylidium lineare*), growing on rock shelves almost devoid of soil. Their slender stems rise from beautiful little golf ball-size basal tufts to carry their deep pink flowers.

Since it was not that long since we had morning tea some decided to explore the nearby area before lunch while others were content to relax on top of a pagoda, taking extreme care not to damage any of the ironstone formations. From my chosen lunch spot I noticed an almost circular aperture on

the edge of the pagoda through which there was a view onto the swath of Flannel Flowers; what a delightful little diorama. Once again we have found an absolutely magical place in which to dine.

And so we retraced our steps back to the cars, once again experiencing the abundance and variety of wildflowers on display; turning occasionally for last glimpses of the majestic cliffs of the Upper Grose Gorge. Jinki Ridge, most definitely a “Spirit Place”.

John Cardy

### **The Future of the Walking Group**

In the last newsletter I advised that this walk would be the penultimate walk for the Group as Helen and I would be hanging up our boots after the December walk. After our lunch I called the walkers together to read to them an Email I received from Peter Raines.

In that Email Peter stated that he felt a lot of the Mt Wilson / Mt Irvine property owners have never ventured out to explore the area around the mounts and there are a lot of new residents that want to explore and learn about the area.

This is a similar situation which existed when the Group was formed by Libby Raines and Mary Reynolds 31 years ago.

Peter said he would be willing to run the walks program – one walk a month – aiming to do a Mt Wilson / Mt Irvine walk every second month and a local area walk – Newnes, Bells Line of Road, Colo area walk, etc on the alternative months.

He was looking for someone to do the administration for the group and it appears he has managed to do that from later information received.

He was also looking at operating under the wing of an existing walking group, possibly the Upper Blue Mountains Group. This would require walkers to become members of the chosen group and membership fees would increase but walkers would be covered under the group insurance.

Those present were very pleased with Peter’s proposal and delighted that he was prepared to take on the leadership of future walks.

Peter has agreed to lead our December walk and hopefully he can fill us in with finer detail of the proposal then.

From Helen’s and my point of view this remains our penultimate walk with the Group and consequently this is my penultimate newsletter. This saddens us both but our bodies are telling us the time has come.

To stay in touch we are still looking into organising getting together say four times a year avoiding the height of summer and the depth of winter, at say Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens, Everglades, Mt Wilson Gardens, Blackheath Rhododendron Gardens, etc as the seasons dictate. We could stroll around the gardens and have a picnic or BBQ lunch.

This plan of action may also entice our ex walkers and armchair walkers to reconnect with the group. I will include a schedule with the January newsletter, which of course will be my last newsletter. There will be no need to book into these gatherings, just turn up on the day at the nominated venue.

## **OUR DECEMBER WALK**

**FRIDAY 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

### **Mt Wilson Rainforest and Waterfalls, Open Woodland and the Throne Rock Formation**

Peter Raines has offered to lead this walk where he will take us through some of the history of the timber milling activities of Mt Wilson. The old dam and pipe work for the steam mill, bullock logging trails, the old mill and The Throne, a high rock point with views across to Wynnes Rocks Lookout.

**Meet at Waterfall Reserve at Mt Wilson at 9.00am**

**Waterfall Reserve is at the end of Waterfall Road. Drive through the village, past St Georges Church and turn right at the Tee intersection, the reserve is at the bottom of the hill.**

A celebratory lunch on the lawn at Merry Garth, thanks to the generous hospitality of Beth Raines, will follow the walk. This will be a mainly self-catering affair bringing your own lunch, drinks, (hot or cold), glasses and mugs, etc. Cake will be supplied and served.

Bring your own fold up chairs or picnic rug.

In the event of wet weather lunch will be held at the Village Hall.

**Ex walkers, armchair walkers, partners and friends are more than welcome at the lunch. Meet at Merry Garth (or the Village Hall) at 1.00 to 1.30pm for lunch.**

**Contact Helen and John Cardy on 9871 3661 or on mobile 0400 444 966**

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### **BUSH CARE**

**Bush Care is held on the second Friday of each month from 9am to Noon. Any help, even for a short time, would be appreciated.**

**Bush Care program could be effected by Covid restrictions, please check with Alice Simpson or the Mt Wilson website.**

**Mt Wilson contact Alice Simpson 0414 425 511 or 4756 2110**

**Council contact Tracy Abbas 0428 777 141**

### **CAROL SERVICE**

The candle lit Carol Service will be held at St Georges Church Mt Wilson commencing at 7.00pm on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Everyone is very welcome to attend this service and experience the ambience of this historic church in a charmingly different light. Supper will follow at the Village Hall.