



Newsletter of the
Friends of
Baluk Willam
Nature Conservation Reserve

June 2016

Text & photos by Reiner Richter

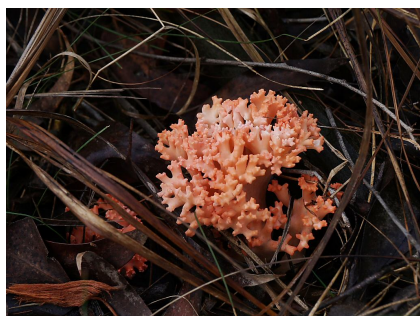
Report for May Weeding Activity

We were greeted by a lovely, sunny morning with little wind, although it had rained recently (so the grass was wet) but the forecast showers didn't arrive until the afternoon so our tops stayed dry even if our feet were a little damp.

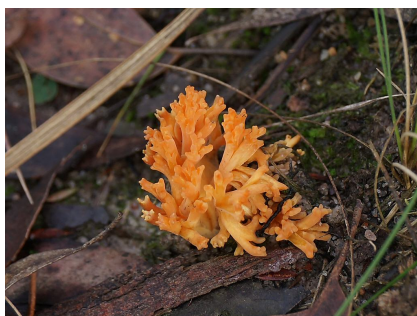
We only had a short meeting before heading off for some weeding, so unfortunately we missed at least one latecomer. We walked around the south of the hill (east of Courtneys) but, like most areas (excluding gullies) within the reserve, found relatively few weeds.

We found some **boneseed** (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera* subsp. *monilifera*), **sallow wattle** (*Acacia longifolia* var. *longifolia*), **sweet pittosporum** (*Pittosporum undulatum*) and **blackberry** (*Rubus* sp, probably *R. discolor*). Areas worked were sectors **F, G & M**, which are based on the map produced by Peter Uhlherr & Bruce Fuhrer (of fungi fame) for their 1984 orchid list. <http://fobw.rnr.id.au/history/Uhlherr%20Fuhrer%202.png>

We did see **small tongue orchid** (*Cryptostylis leptochila*) leaves in that area, many more than I expected. Although this area isn't visited much, I don't recall having seen so many there. We also saw some **nodding greenhoods** (*Pterostylis nutans*) in advanced bud and some early **cobra greenhoods** (*Pterostylis graniflora*) in flower. We discussed that it seemed early for them to be flowering but, on reviewing my records, I have previously seen them on 19 May 2007 (in Baluk Willam) and 16 May 2012 (in The Gurdies), so these new sightings turned out not to be as statistically significant as first thought.



*Ramaria botrytoides*¹



Ramaria cf anziana



Ramaria lorithamnus

1 These used to be called *R. botrytis*, which Dr A Young has determined does not occur in Australia.

We also sighted quite a lot of fungus, particularly interesting were the different corals, mostly still fairly young and fresh. I think the second one might be *Ramaria anziana* but its a bit young for me to be confident about that identification.



Entoloma rodwayi

An especially interesting find was a single *Entoloma rodwayi*. This is not a very common species so its great to have a record for the reserve. Unlike in plants, it is quite rare for fungi to be green. Unlike vascular plants, there has not been a thorough survey of fungi in the reserve.

New Species for Baluk Willam

During the morning we observed several *Hibbertia* plants in flower. I commented that these seemed out of season as I'd normally expect them to be out in spring. Unfortunately I only took one photo on the day and when I asked for a second opinion it wasn't good enough for species confirmation. So I returned a few days later before work (hence the dew) and took some more photos, including of the underside of the leaves. All these photos were taken on 2 June, 2016.



Hibbertia riparia



Hibbertia sericea



Thanks to Tamara Leitch for identifying these on [Bowerbird](#). Graeme Lorimer did not record *Hibbertia sericea* during his work in the reserve as it is missing in his 2003 species list (second edition), which makes this a new vascular plant species for the reserve.

More Flowers

Baluk Willam is a good place to see the state's floral emblem, the common heath *Epacris impressa*. From the car park in the morning we enjoyed a good view of numerous plants flowering in the sunshine.

The flower colors can vary between plants from a vibrant pinkish-red to pure white. In the reserve we have mostly pink to white variations with few of the darkest red forms.

On 2nd June, when I returned to get better photos of the *Hibbertia*, I also stumbled across some yellow rice flowers *Pimelea flava* in bloom. These normally flower in spring so some have started a couple of months early this year.



Epacris impressa



Pimelea flava

Upcoming Activities for 2016

| Date & Time | Activity |
|--------------------|--|
| Mon 20 June* 10:30 | Baluk Willam planning workshop at Parks Vic office in Lysterfield. Contact Sandie. *Date yet to be confirmed. |
| Sat 25 June 9:00AM | Regular working bee. Meet in Orchid Rd car park as usual. |
| Sat 23 July 9:00AM | Regular working bee. |