# Oxley Wild River garden (s331) – Northern Tablelands

Notes taken during a walk led by Toby Golson for Flora drivers on 29 November 2018. Notes by Jill More and checked by Toby. This area can be seen from Flora Explorer.

The walk focussed on **key partnership messages** (especially with Bush Blitz), as well as some **propagation/growing themes**.

The walk began at s331 which starts below the road just above the Eastern Mallee. It was set up in 1970 as a taxonomic section, which explains why there are some old Myrtaceae and acacias still standing. Later turned into RF and RF verge plantings.

Top section of the valley (Eastern Mallee to bottle trees) was s217, planted with WA plants – hakeas and eucalypts.

David Taylor and Toby Golson joined the **Bush Blitz trip to Oxley NP** near Armidale November 2015. This area had been burnt lots of times, lots of dry RF, lots of rare endemic flora. This provided the material for the ANBG Oxley River garden. The 2015 trip was very successful.

A decision was made on return from the trip to excise a new section from s217 to hold these collections and others from the surrounding NSW Northern Tablelands (NNT) as this area has good solar access and drainage that many of these plants need.

Oxley Wild River fits in with our theme of dry RF and rainforest verge ecotone (transition area between two biomes - where two communities meet and integrate). Some early plantings from WA are still there.

Planting priorities: **threatened plants**.

**Additional notes for guides and Flora drivers**

This is an example of:

* Conservation and co-operation – a successful trip with Bush Blitz.
* Importance of the Seedbank

*Conservation:* Long-term storage of conservation seed collections, with a particular focus on rare and threatened flora, flora of the Southern Highland grasslands and Alpine flora.

*Propagation:* Experimenting with seed germination and seedling establishment protocols which supports the work on the propagation of native plants in the ANBG’s nursery and contributes to national knowledge on the germination requirements of Australian flora

*Research:* 1. Researching seed biology to contribute to knowledge about Australia’s flora. 2. Undertaking and supporting research undertaken by ANBG, CANBR, and relevant partners and associates

*Supply:* Supplying seed to conservation and research institutions through ANBG’s plant release program.

After David and Toby’s first trip, another group went back with plants propagated in ANBG for re-introduction to the New England area – recognising importance of co-operation.

There are currently no paths in the area because it is not safe – dangerous trees. The *E.* *macrorhynca* there did not like the increased water, many have died. The area will need to grow for 5-10 years before open to public.

In flower Nov-Dec:

Derwentia (Veronica)

Soil on Black Mountain is normally dry.

The *Brachychton rupestris* (bottle trees) further up the road in s220 arrived as small plants, now nearly 50 yo. Were moved to their current spot as mature trees. Came from same collection as the round one at the top of the road in s42.

**Some of the plants:**

*Grevillea beadleana* (near road) – washed pink flowers. Flowered for first time in 2018 from cuttings made in 2015. Planted Aug 2016. Not watered over winter. SPRAT listed (Species Profile and Threats Database).

*Prostanthera sp. aff. howelliae* – rare NSW plant, flowered heavily in October (first time) This collection’s taxonomy not stable and it may be a new species.

*Phebalium grandulosum subsp. eglandulosum* – small (only recently planted), below the bank.

*Pimelea cremnophila*

*Ozothamnus adenat*a

Grevillea guthrieana - a tall shrub of the wet country on the Cattai plateau. SPRAT listed.

Cages: *Pimelea venosa* – down to last 10-12 in the wild. Has been eaten by animals, but doing well and some now out of cages (can see damage by animals). Small, prolific, very hardy. White flowers. SPRAT listed.

*Ajuga australis –* eaten by wallabies

Note: some Black Mountain plants have grown up among plantings. Toby is leaving them, e.g. Goodenia, Dodonaea. Looks more natural and the plants have affinity with the NNT here.

The full **Plant list** which Toby prepared is below.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Acc No** | **Genus** | **Species** | **Infrasp Name** | **Count** |
| 732822 | Acacia | brunioides | brunioides | 2 |
| 71877 | Acacia | urophylla |  | 1 |
| 884506 | Ajuga | australis |  | 1 |
| 894293 | Asterolasia | asteriscophora |  | 1 |
| 891785 | Cadellia | pentastylis |  | 4 |
| 884554 | Derwentia |  |  | 1 |
| 884588 | Dianella |  |  | 3 |
| 9702782 | Diplolaena | microcephala |  | 2 |
| 884523 | Dodonaea | serratifo lia |  | 5 |
| 9807040 | Eucalyptus | griffithsii |  | 1 |
| 602410 | Eucalyptus | kessellii | eugnosta | 1 |
| 632926 | Eucalyptus | macrorhyncha |  | 9 |
| 632923 | Eucalyptus | mannife ra |  | 3 |
| 9806165 | Eucalyptus | megacornuta |  | 2 |
| 7901011 | Eucalyptus | megacornuta |  | 2 |
| 7702232 | Eucalyptus | suffulgens |  | 3 |
| 740711 | Eucalyptus | tenuipes |  | 2 |
| 9804854 | Eucalyptus | uncinata |  | 1 |
| 662467 | Exocarpos | cupressiformis |  | 1 |
| 884547 | Grevillea | beadleana |  | 10 |
| 884569 | Grevillea | guthrieana |  | 24 |
| 9903199 | Hakea | commutata |  | 1 |
| 9903176 | Hakea | erecta |  | 1 |
| 9903179 | Hakea | ferruginea |  | 1 |
| 9903189 | Hakea | pandanicarpa | pandanicarpa | 1 |
| 884572 | Jasminum |  |  | 3 |
| 9710015 | Lechenaultia | biloba |  | 1 |
| 884537 | Logania | albiflora |  | 4 |
| 884526 | Ozothamnus | adnatus |  | 7 |
| 893497 | Petalostigma | triloculare |  | 1 |
| 893498 | Petalostigma | triloculare |  | 1 |
| 645648 | Phebalium | glandulosum | eglandulosum | 4 |
| 884578 | Phebalium | squamulosum | verrucosum | 17 |
| 894295 | Phebalium | verrucosum |  | 17 |
| 675121 | Pimelea | cremnophila |  | 33 |
| 891773 | Pimelea | venosa |  | 2 |
| 891772 | Pimelea | venosa |  | 14 |
| 884571 | Pimelea |  |  | 14 |
| 884581 | Pomaderris | eriocephala |  | 12 |
| 884527 | Prostanthera | howelliae |  | 13 |
| 884533 | Prostanthera | howelliae |  | 20 |
| 865793 | Prostanthera | sp. Mt Kaputar (W.Schofield NE92414) |  | 3 |
| 884504 | Teucrium | corymbosum |  | 4 |
| 896049 | Westringia | amabilis |  | 18 |
| 889482 | Zieria | arborescens | decurrens | 1 |

Many thanks to Toby for leading this tour – one less mystery in the Gardens.