

HFNC Excursion to Balmoral SF on Glenelg River

Report for Sat 16 July 2011

Rod Bird

We had 11 adults and 2 children on this excursion on a fine but cool day (around 10 degrees). We met Hilary and George (with his 2 boys) at Balmoral and Hillary showed us the best way into the State Forest near the Golf Course. The track we took is on the west side of the forest block that contains the Golf Course. We drove a couple of km along this track to the river.

We took a walk there and looked for wildflowers and birds. Among the *Astroloma conostephiodes* (Flame Heath) were a few flowering *Acacia gunnii* (Ploughshare Wattle) and we found many leaves of *Corysanthes incurvus* (Slaty Helmet Orchids) and a few in flower, along with leaves of Gnat Orchids. After driving a little further down river we stopped at a boggy-looking section and turned back.

Hillary pointed out some trees adjacent to the Golf Course entrance that we identified as *E. willisii*. These are growing on a sandy gravel soil. The Turners has found this stand many years ago. We also found some excellent Ploughshare Wattles in flower on the roadside adjacent to the Golf Course. Other things of note here were the large specimens of Horse Dung fungi along the edge of the road.

We continued on and turned down the channel track (across an open paddock) and entered the forest reserve below the Rocklands-Toolondo channel. After an inspection of the deep channel we continued down to the river where we met Reto & Yvonne, who had been up to Youngs SF to retrieve the cameras set previously. Reto showed us some of the results from the cameras during lunch. After lunch by the river we had a short walk to inspect the frontage and the channel (there is also a concreted diversion channel there into the river). Meanwhile Reto and some others continued on to the Bear area to set up the cameras there. The rest of us returned to Hamilton, satisfied with an interesting day.

