

Buffalo National Park – effects post fire.

Spring/summer 2003/4

Lilies did well (Fringed lily [*Thysanotus tuberosus*], Vanilla lilies [*Arthropodium milleflorum*], Milkmaids [*Burchardia umbellata*])
Flax Lily [*Dianella tasmanica*]: plants flourished early but few flowers
Hyacinth orchids [*Dipodium roseum*]– not seen (but were present in other burnt areas)
Prasophyllum genus orchids did well (*P. brevilabre* and *P. alpestre*)
Rorippa [*R. dictyosperma*] flowered in large quantities on the plateau – we had not noted it before
Holly Lomatia [*Lomatia ulicifolia*] flowered en masse (only non-flowering plants seen before)
Bluebell species [*Wahlenbergia ceracea* and *W. gloriosa*] seemed to do well on the plateau
Fairies aprons [*Utricularia dichotoma*] were present in large numbers. Perhaps two strains were present, with a second flowering occurring when the first flowering had finished.
Triggers [*Styldium aff. graminifolium*]: some nice patches
Billy Buttons [*Craspedia* sp] were a little better than normal, and Scaly buttons [*Leptorrhynchus squamatus*] did well
Podolepis [*P. robusta*] and Orange Everlastings [*Bracteantha subundulata*], dominant in late summer, did very well.
Grasses flowered well
Pelargonium [*P. australe*] was very evident.
Matrush [*Lomandra* sp] was seemed more prominent.
Seedlings of Hop-Bitter-pea [*Daviesia latifolia*] and Handsome Flat-pea [*Platylobium formosum*], wattles, especially Hickory wattle [*Acacia obliquinerva*] were evident.
Moist tea-tree swamps were not re-sprouting as they did after the 1985 fire, and seedlings of tea-tree and Alpine Ash were not evident until after our December meeting.
The Himalayan Honeysuckle [*Leycesteria formosa*] has grown back strongly and presents a management problem.

Birds and animals: (as discussed at our meeting on December 16)

Many birds are returning. Pardalotes, Honey-eaters and Tawny Frogmouths were mentioned. Lyrebirds were initially very visible, but then became less so. However, there are now plenty around again.
There are a few wombats – some after the fire were noted to be badly affected by mange. A wallaby was seen at Lake Catani – apparently they are seen occasionally and Clyde has seen a Grey Kangaroo on one occasion.
A recent search found 2 male spotted tree frogs in Buffalo Creek, but no other frogs. Water at Harrierville after a recent downpour was badly discoloured, and this happens to the Buckland also, but the streams on the mountains seem quite clear and the frogs here seem prolific and some (introduced) fish are present despite the lack of vegetation cover.
Rabbits, cats and foxes have been seen, but not many. Dingoes have been seen and heard. The Alpine Dingo can be a very attractive animal. Deer are quite a problem as they have congregated in un-burnt areas, and cause damage to both the soil and the vegetation.
Lizards and snakes are visible including the friendly Black Rock Skinks at Mt. Dunn. The Bogong Moths have not yet arrived and seem late this year. However, the cicadas are particularly noisy this year.

Observations made at meeting 8 Dec 2004

Last summer, the lilies continued to be prominent – Vanilla lily (*Arthropodium milleflorum*) covering large areas later in the season.

Orange Everlastings (*Bracteantha subundulata*) seemed particularly spectacular in February, along with Billy buttons (*Craspedia* sp.).

This spring, the side of the mountain has been white with *Pimelia linifolia* (Slender rice flower) and *Stackhousia monogyna* (creamy candles) The yellow *Stackhousia vimina* (Slender *Stackhousia*) seems much more widespread. Other bushes seem to be recovering well; at the bend above the Font, *Kunzea parvifolia* (Violet *Kunzea*), the endemic *Grevillea alpivaga* and *Calytrix tetragona* (Fringe Myrtle) thrive. *Goodenia elongata* (Lanky *Goodenia*) is flourishing on the thin layer of soil on granite at the Font and on the walk above Mackays Lookout.

The Alpine Ash forest at McKinnons Corner is now a mass of pea plants and small Ash seedlings. The seedlings are even on areas where the ground is quite compacted by management tracks.

Small birds are more apparent as the shrubs provide more protection for them.

Wombats seem to be present in numbers and lyre-birds are quite evident still.

At the Buffalo Creek section of the park, Waxlips (*Glossodia major*) were particularly common, as was *Tetratheca ciliata*, but this was in country unburnt in Jan 2003.