

## Lane Cove Bushland Park walk

Saturday 24 April 2021

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Eleven Parra Hills members gathered for this walk in an amazing pocket of bushland only 10 kilometres from the Sydney CBD. The park is very small (9 hectares) and is mostly covered by warm temperate wet sclerophyll forest. In some sections only 10% of sunlight reaches the understorey. The park is very steep and surrounded by urban areas. You are completely unaware of the houses in the surrounding streets once you descend into the gully. The gully flows into Gore Creek which flows into Sydney Harbour less than one kilometre from the park.

We decided to visit the park because we had heard Ray Kearney give a talk about the fungi in the park at one of our meetings in 2019. His observations in the park had led to the discovery of fungi from the Hygrophoraceae family particularly the *Hygrocybe* species.

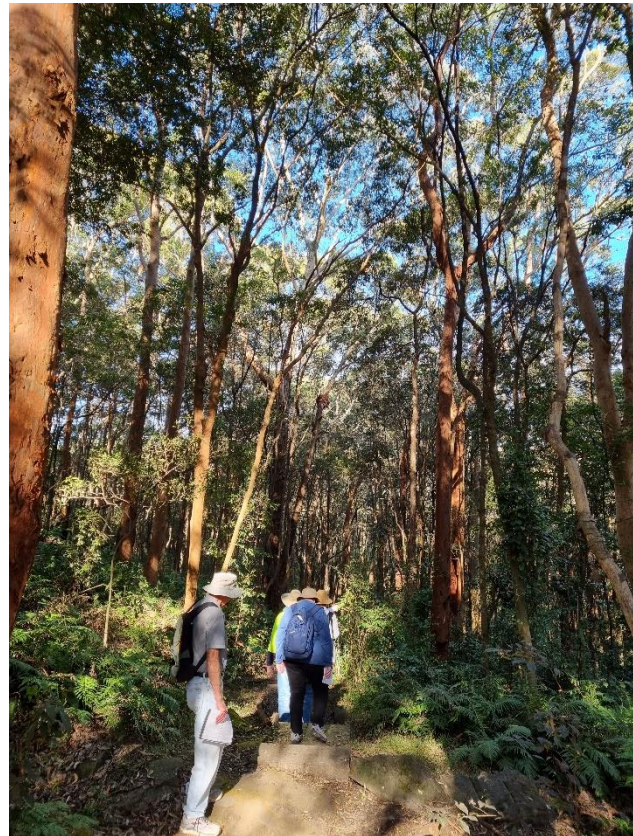
We did find fungi on the walk but not the rare species.

Quite a few specimens were looking a bit dessicated as

there had not been any rain for quite a few days. Ron Gornall, one of our members who lives in Lane Cove and has been to the reserve with Ray Kearney pointed out the area where the fungi occurred near the creek and warned us that they are very small.

*Omphalotus nidiformis* (Ghost Fungus):

a colourful lichen on bark:



However, there were plenty of other interesting plants to see. Many ferns flourish in the moist shady environment. I was particularly fascinated by one of the ground ferns, *Hypolepis muelleri*, which creeps over rocks with very slender rhizomes.

Most of our walks are in the local Hawkesbury sandstone country so it was a challenge for us to see so many rainforest plants. Fortunately we have members who were able to help with the identification of these species. Some of these were Cabbage Tree Palms (*Livistona australis*), Native Guava (*Eupomatia laurina*) with fruits, creepers such as *Smilax australis*, *Tylophora barbata*, *Geitonoplesium cymosum* and Native Passionfruit (*Passiflora herbertiana*).

Tony Maxwell again prepared plant lists for the walk and we were able to add some additional species to these lists.

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