

## Report on last outing

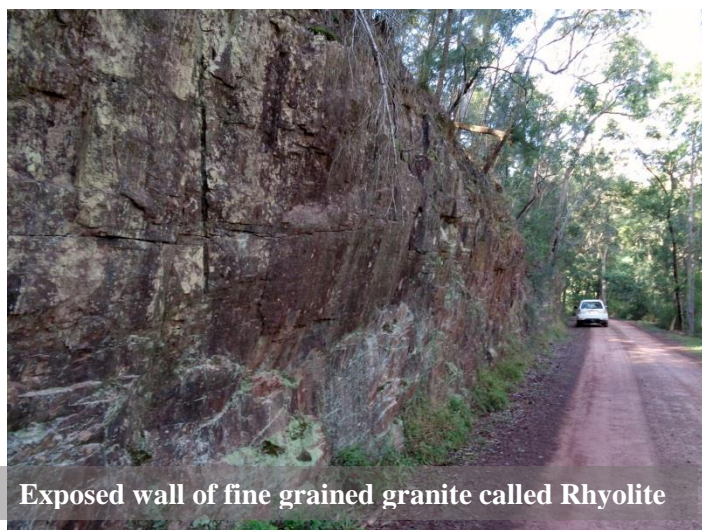
### Reedy Creek Road Discovery Day on Sat.13<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Our latest foray into the bush took us west from Bodalla along Eurobodalla and River Roads, to the picturesque and fascinating area of Reedy Creek Road.

The day started off cool, so at the first patch of sun, we stopped for morning tea, and to enjoy the bucolic scenery of the many dairy farms along the Tuross River.

Show and Tell consisted of a bouquet of lovely pink flowers from Jenny John's garden, including a range of *Hakeas* and *Thryptomene*, which Jenny described as one of her favourite and hardiest plants.

Denise & Graeme Krake brought along some *Hakea* and *Grevillea* plants, which he described as some of the best garden plants for our conditions, and which were offered to members. Very generous. Some needed little invitation, (guilty) whilst others needed convincing, but eventually most plants found new homes. This is what APS should be encouraging, members propagating and growing plants for others to try. What a generous gesture. Thanks Graeme. Needless to say, in the presence of many enthusiasts, the conversation turned to the Proteacea family and its varied attributes. Graeme, Phil, Mark, & John were very willing to share their abundant and diverse knowledge on one their favourite subjects.



Exposed wall of fine grained granite called Rhyolite



Ruth questions our logic. Are we really going up there?

The procession along Reedy Creek Road was a matter of the convoy of cars stopping regularly to inspect the roadside geology and diverse vegetation.

Around every corner the scenery changed from the views down onto the creek's edge, with stands of majestic *Eucalyptus elata* and *E. baueriana* prominent, with a varied understorey which in parts was dominated by *Allocasuarina littoralis*. There were pockets of rainforest in the rocky gullies, then into areas of wooded grasslands. The pink colouring of the old road cuttings made a lovely contrast to the varying shades of green of the many ferns, mosses, lichens and grasses that adorned it.

Delicate foliage growing out of the tiny cracks in the hard rock surface was a delight to see.



After scrambling up through the beautiful dark red rock outcrops, we were rewarded with the rediscovery of an unusual variation of *Grevillea irrassa* ssp *didymochiton*, as well as many other species, including highlights of both terrestrial and epiphytic orchids.

We were able to observe more of the history of this roadway in the form of the rock walling used to shore up the edges where the road crossed the many gullies leading into the creek.

Thankfully our chosen lunch spot, in the middle of the Reedy Creek Road, wasn't disturbed by any other traffic and the sharing and comparing of ideas on our native flora continued.

The layered and misty mountain views from Mort's Folly Road were in complete contrast to those of the creek area, but equally stunning. The vegetation on the ridges changed, yet again. The regrowth stands of young *Eucalyptus*

*sieberi* were very evident, with their spindly trunks, shading from a black base through the soft grey-brown trunk to the beautiful honey-gold of the upper trunk and branches, are always an appealing sight. In spring, the bronze tips and red stems of the new growth, then the glaucous grey-blue wash over the older growth is the reason why, in my opinion, they should never be taken for granted. The understorey in the many colours of the Australian bush was equally appealing but unfortunately we had run out of time for any further exploration. We did note that the vegetation on this side of the range was probably affected by rain shadow, as the trees were sparser, the understorey drier and dominated by *Macrozamia communis*, Burrawang and *Acacia obtusifolia*, a scrubby bush that rarely sets seed but does sucker. Here also we observed the uncommon *Stypandra glauca* Nodding Blue Lily.

This excursion into our beautiful environment was definitely worthwhile, not just to marvel at the construction of this scenic and historically significant roadway, but to enjoy the bush experience with other likeminded Australian native plant enthusiasts. And who could forget the wonderful pepperminty scent of the *Eucalyptus elata*, which was so prominent that everyone commented upon it.

**Amanda Marsh**

Whilst preparing for this excursion, we wondered at the naming of Mort's Folly Road. All our questions were answered when long standing member **Christina Kennedy** presented the following information. Christina is a descendant of Mr. Mort, and kindly asked the right questions of local historian Laurelle Pacey.

Laurelle is an Agricultural Scientist and well respected local journalist but it is her other hat as Historian that I best remember her. She has written a number of books on the history of Narooma and its surrounding districts, including her 2010 work, **Bodalla and the Mort's**

This is a fascinating history of how Sydney entrepreneur Thomas Mort set up the Bodalla Estate in the 1860's and how he made it a showplace for the colony's industrial enterprise by producing cheese to rival English imports. The book tells of the estate's changing fortunes over its 130 year history.

First, let us begin with Christina's recollections.

Years ago we used to camp at my grandfather's property at Brou, near where the tip is now. His name was **Jack Laidley Mort**, and he was the grandson of **Thomas Sutcliffe Mort**. (abbreviated to TSM for this report)

He grew up there in a magnificent big house, complete with a billiard room, schoolhouse, Chinese servants, golf course, polo field etc. The house was demolished after the family left, and he built a cabin there in his old age, returning for periods of time at Bodalla. I remember finding some of that mythical tramline but now am not so sure if it is in my imagination, or was real, as I have no idea where it was. It is interesting that TSM was also a great gardener. He had a big estate in Darling Point called Greenoakes, and it covered the side of a hill from St Marks Church down to Double Bay. His gardener was Guilfoyle, (Director of Melbourne Botanic Gardens following Ferdinand von Mueller) and I have a medal which was presented to him from The Horticultural Society.

I did try to find out why my ancestors called the road Mort's Folly.

The best information comes from Laurelle Pacey who wrote a book about the family and the area.

She supplied this information from Barcelona whilst on holiday.

"I am not sure about Mort's Folly Road, it is puzzling. In the late 1850's, Mort apparently talked about a possible tramway to Wagonga, referring to Wagonga Inlet. The tramway as we know was built after TSM died in the 1880's, and went down to where part of the Mill Bay boardwalk is now. I have not come across any reference to him or the estate ever putting that road through, although that is not to say there isn't a reference somewhere.

When the Bodalla bridge collapsed in the early 1890's, I remember Grierson was somewhat loathe to ship anything via the upper reaches of Wagonga Inlet. Instead they shipped again from the company's wharf (where part of the boardwalk is today) close to the entrance. I think they punted goods across to the Noorooma wharf which was where Rotary Park is now. So far as I can determine, the Bodalla Company and certainly TSM do not appear to have used Mort's Folly Road.

SO.... My gut feeling is that over time people may have confused the route of the 1880's tramway because it went from Bodalla to 'wagonga'

I was often told by some locals that TSM had put a tramway in along that road to the upper reaches of Wagonga Inlet, but we know that is not the case. The tramway was a bit of a folly perhaps because it had a few problems, but that was further downstream. It is amazing how names get attached to maps. Someone could have once told someone from the Central Mapping Authority in the area that is what it was called, and the name stuck. It is amazing how this happens. The real folly is perhaps that it does not appear to have anything whatever to do with TSM or any of the other Mort's, although I cannot say that definitively.

Thanks Christina.



## Plants recorded along Reedy Creek roadsides.

These are combined records for the 5 sites visited. Members are free to request lists for individual sites.

<i>Acacia</i>	<i>floribunda</i>	White Sally
<i>Acacia</i>	<i>irrorata</i>	Green Wattle
<i>Acacia</i>	<i>mabellae</i>	Mabel's Wattle
<i>Acacia</i>	<i>silvestris</i>	Bodalla Silver Wattle
<i>Acacia</i>	<i>terminalis</i>	Sunshine Wattle
<i>Acacia</i>	<i>ulicifolia</i>	Prickly Moses
<i>Adiantum</i>	<i>formosum</i>	Black Stem Maidenhair
<i>Adiantum</i>	<i>aethiopicum</i>	Maidenhair
<i>Adiantum</i>	<i>aethiopicum</i>	Maidenhair
<i>Allocasuarina</i>	<i>littoralis</i>	Black Sheoak
<i>Amperea</i>	<i>xiphoclada</i>	Broom Spurge
<i>Aotus</i>	<i>ericoides</i>	Common Aotus
<i>Aphanopetalum</i>	<i>resinosum</i>	Gum Vine
<i>Arthropodium</i>	<i>milleflorum</i>	Vanilla Lily
<i>Asplenium</i>	<i>flabellifolium</i>	Necklace fern
<i>Austrodanthonia</i>	<i>linkii</i>	Wallaby Grass
<i>Backhousia</i>	<i>myrtifolia</i>	Grey Myrtle
<i>Banksia</i>	<i>spinulosa</i>	Hairpin Banksia
<i>Blechnum</i>	<i>cartilagineum</i>	Gristle fern
<i>Blechnum</i>	<i>nudum</i>	Fishbone Water Fern
<i>Boronia</i>	<i>microphylla</i>	Small-leaved Boronia
<i>Bossiaea</i>	<i>obcordata</i>	Spiny Bossiaea
<i>Breynia</i>	<i>oblongifolia</i>	Coffee Bush
<i>Callitris</i>	<i>rhomboidea</i>	Port Jackson Pine
<i>Calochlaena</i>	<i>dubia</i>	False Bracken, Rainbow Fern
<i>Cassinia</i>	<i>aculeata</i>	Dolly Bush
<i>Cassinia</i>	<i>longifolia</i>	Shiny Cassinia
<i>Cheilanthes</i>	<i>austrotenuifolia</i>	Rock fern
<i>Cheilanthes</i>	<i>austrotenuifolia</i>	Rock Fern
<i>Choretrum</i>	<i>candollei</i>	White Sourbush
<i>Cissus</i>	<i>hypoglauca</i>	Giant Water Vine
<i>Clematis</i>	<i>aristata</i>	Travellers Joy
	<i>reflexa</i> var <i>reflexa</i>	
<i>Correa</i>		Native Fuchsia
<i>Corymbia</i>	<i>gummifera</i>	Red Bloodwood
<i>Cryptostylis</i>	<i>leptochila</i>	Small Tongue Orchid
<i>Cyathea</i>	<i>australis</i>	Rough Tree Fern
<i>Cyathochaeta</i>	<i>diandra</i>	Bristle Sedge
<i>Cymbidium</i>	<i>suave</i>	Snake Orchid
<i>Cyrtostylis</i>	<i>sp</i>	Mosquito Orchid
<i>Daviesia</i>	<i>ulicifolia</i>	Gorse Bitter Pea
<i>Desmodium</i>	<i>varians</i>	Slender Tick-trefoil
<i>Dianella</i>	<i>caerulea</i>	Paroo Lily
<i>Dichondra</i>	<i>repens</i>	Kidney weed
<i>Dodonaea</i>	<i>triquetra</i>	Common Hop Bush
<i>Doodia</i>	<i>aspera</i>	Prickly Rasp Fern
<i>Eleaocarpus</i>	<i>reticulatus</i>	Blueberry Ash
		Wiry, or Right Angle
<i>Entolsaia</i>	<i>stricta</i>	Panic

### *Grevillea irrassa*

When Don McGillivray completed his monumental 1993 work on the Genus *Grevillea*, there were many unanswered questions on the placement of many *Grevillea* species found in the south east of NSW.

Because of the difficulty with classification, many similar, but obviously different plants were lumped within the *G. victoriae* and *G. miqueliana* groups. Differences between these 2 groups were discernable on the leaf upper surface, which in the *G. victoriae* group is smooth, and in the *G. miqueliana* group is rough to the touch.

When reviewing the placement of various species within these groups, Peter Olde and Neil Marriott concluded in their 1995, 3 volume set "The *Grevillea* Book", that the south east NSW forms of the Yowaka region described by McGillivray as *G. victoriae* (*race l*) were better regarded as a distinct taxon, and a second population further north at Yowrie was also sufficiently distinct to warrant being raised to species level.

Subsequent work by Bob Makinson, Australian National Herbarium, in preparing *Grevillea* for publication in the Flora of Australia series, (see Vol 17a( Proteaceae 2) *Grevillea*) agreed with Peter and Neil, and included both populations under a new species, *Grevillea irrassa*, assigning the Yowaka form as *G. irrassa ssp irrassa*, and the Yowrie form as *G. irrassa ssp didymochiton*.



***Grevillea irrassa ssp didymochiton* growing along Reedy Creek.**

**Photo by Mark Noake**

The type specimens for both was collected in 1997, and the new names adopted in 2000. I had previously collected both forms in 1995, first the Yowrie form with ANBG nurseryman

<i>Epacris</i>	<i>impressa</i>	Common Heath
<i>Eucalyptus</i>	<i>baueriana</i>	Blue Box
<i>Eucalyptus</i>	<i>cypellocarpa</i>	Mountain Grey Gum
<i>Eucalyptus</i>	<i>elata</i>	River peppermint
<i>Eucalyptus</i>	<i>globoidea</i>	White Stringybark
<i>Eucalyptus</i>	<i>viminialis</i>	Ribbon Gum
<i>Eustrephus</i>	<i>latifolius</i>	Wombat Berry
<i>Exocarpus</i>	<i>cuppressiformis</i>	Cherry Ballart
<i>Exocarpus</i>	<i>cupressiformis</i>	Cherry Ballart
<i>Geitonoplesium</i>	<i>cymosum</i>	Scrambling Lily
<i>Glycine</i>	<i>microphylla</i>	Small leaf Glycine
<i>Gonocarpus</i>	<i>teucrioides</i>	Raspwort
<i>Goodenia</i>	<i>ovata</i>	Hop Goodenia
<i>Grevillea</i>	<i>irrassa ssp didymochiton</i>	Yowrie Grevillea
<i>Hakea</i>	<i>dactyloides</i>	Finger Hakea
<i>Hardenbergia</i>	<i>violacea</i>	False Sarsaparilla
<i>Hibbertia</i>	<i>aspera</i>	Rough Guinea Flower
<i>Hibbertia</i>	<i>dentata</i>	Twining Guinea Flower
<i>Hibbertia</i>	<i>obtusifolia</i>	Grey Guinea Flower
<i>Hierochloa</i>	<i>rariflora</i>	Scented Holygrass
<i>Imperata</i>	<i>cylindrica</i>	Blady Grass
<i>Jacksonia</i>	<i>scoparia</i>	Dogwood
<i>Lagenifera</i>	<i>stipitata</i>	Blue Bottle-daisy
<i>Lepidosperma</i>	<i>laterale</i>	Variable Sword-sedge
<i>Lepidosperma</i>	<i>urophorum</i>	Rapier Sedge
<i>Leptospermum</i>	<i>continentale</i>	Prickly Teatree
<i>Leptospermum</i>	<i>trinervium</i>	Flaky Bark Teatree
<i>Leptospermum</i>	<i>trinervium</i>	Flaky-barked Teatree
<i>Leucopogon</i>	<i>lanceolatus</i>	Lance-leaf Beard Heath
<i>Lindsaea</i>	<i>linearis</i>	Screw Fern
<i>Lomandra</i>	<i>confertifolia ssp confertifolia</i>	Slender Mat-rush
<i>Lomandra</i>	<i>ssp rubiginosa confertifolia</i>	Red Stem Mat Rush
<i>Lomandra</i>	<i>ssp rubiginosa</i>	Red Stem mat-rush
<i>Lomandra</i>	<i>longifolia</i>	Spiny-headed Mat-rush
<i>Lomandra</i>	<i>multiflora</i>	Many-flowered Mat-rush
<i>Lomatia</i>	<i>ilicifolia</i>	Holly-leaf Lomatia
<i>Lomatia</i>	<i>myricoides</i>	River Lomatia
<i>Marsdenia</i>	<i>rostrata</i>	Common Milk Vine
<i>Melicytus</i>	<i>dentatus</i>	Tree Violet
<i>Microlaena</i>	<i>stipoides</i>	Weeping Grass
<i>Monotoca</i>	<i>scoparia</i>	Prickly Broom-heath
<i>Morinda</i>	<i>jasminoides</i>	Morinda
<i>Olearia</i>	<i>erubescens</i>	Silky Daisy-bush
<i>Oplismenus</i>	<i>imbecillis</i>	Creeping Beard Grass
<i>Pandorea</i>	<i>pandorana</i>	Wonga Vine
<i>Parsonsia</i>	<i>straminea</i>	Common Silkpod
<i>Patersonia</i>	<i>glabrata</i>	Purple Flag

Paul Carmen, which is found growing in ERBG on the path from the carpark to the Visitor Centre bridge, and the *Grevillea sp. nov* 'Belowra' with members of the Grevillea Study Group. This form was also brought into cultivation at the ERBG, and was planted in the carpark bed adjacent to the bus lane. The 2 forms are quite distinct. The Yowrie plants are strong growing large shrubs of 3m with grey foliage, whilst the plants from Reedy Creek are more slender, open plants but may be either erect or procumbent in habit.

It is almost 20 years since I visited the site, so the excursion with APS members was to an area which now looks quite different.

*Grevillea irrassa ssp didymochiton* grows along the roadside adjacent to Reedy Creek, which is some distance below the road. The plants occur in a very narrow range, on a western aspect, but well protected from the elements. The area on the hillside is subject to bushfire, with evidence that a burn went through within the last 2 years. The plants on the creek side of the road had not been affected, and were surrounded by lush green vegetation. These were all upright plants, and we spent some time combing the drier hillside looking for plants of the open, procumbent form which displays its flowers away from the foliage on pendant stalks. We did manage to find a few plants on rocky ground in an area which is recovering after fire. None however were the really low form I in particular was looking for.

One thing that was noticeable is that the plants regenerate well after fire, as many seedlings were found. Interestingly, a number of plants were also resprouting from the base, suggesting that the plant can reproduce from suckers as well as seed.

Observing plants in their natural habitat gives good clues as to how they might perform in cultivation. These of Reedy Creek are quite happy in shade, were flowering in June, and will continue to do so for some months.

The Yowrie plants are much more dense and vigorous, but seem to prefer a sunny, well-drained to dry aspect.

***Grevillea irrassa*** is named for the granular upper leaf surface, which is noticeably rough when gently stroked. *irrassa* = unshaven, and the *ssp* epithet *didymochiton* refers to the 2 types of hairs on the undersurface *didyos* = double, and *chiton* = tunic, literally clothed with 2 types of hairs.

**John Knight**

<i>Pellaea</i>	<i>falcata</i>	Sickle Fern
<i>Persoonia</i>	<i>linearis</i>	Narrow-leaf Geebung
<i>Philotheca</i>	<i>trachyphylla</i>	Rock Wax Flower
<i>Pimelea</i>	<i>linifolia</i>	Slender Rice-flower
<i>Pimelea</i>	<i>linifolia</i>	Slender Riceflower
<i>Pittosporum</i>	<i>revolutum</i>	Yellow Pittosporum
<i>Pittosporum</i>	<i>undulatum</i>	Pittosporum
<i>Platysace</i>	<i>lanceolata</i>	Lance-leaf Platysace
<i>Poa</i>	<i>labillardieri</i>	Tussock Grass
		Fine-leaved Snow
<i>Poa</i>	<i>meionectes</i>	Grass
<i>Podolobium</i>	<i>ilicifolium</i>	Native Holly
<i>Polyscias</i>	<i>sambucifolius</i>	Elderberry Panax
<i>Pomaderris</i>	<i>aspera</i>	Hazel Pomaderris
<i>Pomaderris</i>	<i>sp like andromedifolia</i>	
<i>Pomaderris</i>	<i>sp round leaf like Spyridium</i>	
<i>Pratia</i>	<i>purpurascens</i>	White Root
<i>Prostanthera</i>	<i>incana</i>	Velvet Mint Bush
		Victorian Christmas
<i>Prostanthera</i>	<i>lasianthos</i>	Bush
<i>Prostanthera</i>	<i>sieberi</i>	Sieber's Mint-bush
<i>Pseuderanthemum</i>	<i>variabile</i>	Pastel Flower
<i>Pteridium</i>	<i>esculentum</i>	Bracken
<i>Pterostylis</i>	<i>parviflora</i>	Tiny Greenhood
<i>Pyrrosia</i>	<i>rupestris</i>	Rock Felt Fern
<i>Rubus</i>	<i>rosifolius</i>	Forest Bramble
<i>Sanantha</i>	<i>pluriflora</i>	Tall Baeckea
<i>Senecio</i>	<i>linearifolius</i>	Fire Groundsel
<i>Smilax</i>	<i>australis</i>	Sarsaparilla
<i>Solanum</i>	<i>pungentum</i>	Eastern Nightshade
<i>Stylidium</i>	<i>graminifolium</i>	Grass Triggerplant
<i>Stylidium</i>	<i>graminifolium</i>	Grass Triggerplant
<i>Synoum</i>	<i>glandulosum</i>	Scentless Rosewood
<i>Tetradlea</i>	<i>thymifolia</i>	Black-eyed Susan
<i>Thelychiton</i>	<i>speciosus</i>	Rock Lily
<i>Themeda</i>	<i>australia</i>	Kangaroo Grass
<i>Tristaniopsis</i>	<i>collina</i>	Hill Tristania
<i>Tristaniopsis</i>	<i>laurina</i>	Water Gum
	<i>hederacea</i>	
<i>Viola</i>	<i>form</i>	Native Violet
<i>Xanthorrhoea</i>	<i>resinosa</i>	Spear Grasstree
<i>Xanthosia</i>	<i>atkinsoniana</i>	Tufted Xanthosia
<i>Zieria</i>	<i>smithii</i>	Sandfly Zieria

**An easy stroll along Reedy Creek Road, eyes right looking for more Grevillea plants**



**It wasn't really that steep, but a few had issues with stability.**

**Note the Rock Lily, *Thelychiton speciosus* growing on exposed rock facing west. A clue as to where they should be grown in the garden. They need plenty of light to flower well, but don't like frost.**