

Day Outing Saturday 22 July 2023
McAfee's Lookout to Enoggera Creek
Leader David Bouchard

Nine Nats members took part in this excursion on a faultless July day. McAfee's Lookout along the Mt Nebo road just happened to be a checkpoint this day for a trail running event which started from Mt Coot-tha. Fortunately the runners were not on the ridge we descended to the creek. This report will predominantly focus on the plants, though white cockatoos, yellow faced and scarlet honeyeaters were often heard in the background. The ridge is clothed in tall eucalypt forest, common species were grey gum, iron bark and brush box, often with rainforest species as an understory. Due to past logging disturbance, lantana was a very common shrub. As we neared the creek the eucalypt forest was replaced by a drier rainforest with emergent hoop pine. The creek itself was lined with weeping lillipilly *Waterhousia floribunda*.

We saw a number of the interesting things on the ridge. A very large woody vine about 20cm diameter and no easily observable leaves had us perplexed. Upon closer examination we noticed a few thorns and realised it was a very old cockspur thorn *Maclura cochinchinensis*. We also found the vulnerable plant, *Sophora fraseri*. This plant has yellow pea flowers and pods that are highly constricted between seeds, unfortunately we were a few months too early to see the flowers. A native ginger with its leaves scalloped possibly by leaf cutter bees caught our eyes. And quite common was the native holly *Alchornea ilicifolia*, so named because the resemblance of its foliage to the European holly, *Ilex*.

Six of us then continued to Enoggera Ck, which after record flooding in 2022 had since dried to a stony bed and shallow pools. Here we got a good look at a "smell of the bush" plant *Mallotus claoxyloides* which is more often smelt than seen. Judy Haines then kindly took five of our group back up the ridge to a rapturous welcome at the top by the trail running officials while four of us continued beside Enoggera Ck through the "dry" rainforest, and returned by the fire break. Along the way we saw a python tree probably *Gossia bidwillii* with smooth mottled bark and a large spreading root system, while in contrast on a shaded creek bank was the tiny fern ally *Selaginella brisbanensis*.



Smell of the Bush Plant *Mallotus claoxyloides*



Selaginella brisbanensis on shaded creek bank

Photos: Cathie Duffy, Evan Wilesmith



Native Holly *Alchornea ilicifolia*



Native Ginger *Alpinia caerulea* leaves
scalloped by (possibly) leaf cutter bees