



## LAKE MACQUARIE: The Bunkers

This week we ended up on a delightful trail which afforded a variety of new experiences. A look at google maps reveals that there are a good number of tracks along the coastline between Caves beach and Catherine Hill Bay. This is the coastal area which is closest to us. So we thought we would aim for a spot that Google called the Bunkers.

We entered firstly some woody scrub but as we slowly descended we saw more and more angophora trees, some of which were very tall but with twisted and winding branches. However, more fascinating were the angophoras merging with other trees, hugging them, who knows. We saw a grove of interesting paperbark, some with many peeling layers. After a fork in the track we happened on the bunkers. There were two of them.

The bunkers formed part of the military installations built in WW2 to protect Newcastle, especially the steel mills. They were well concealed. Although a number of cottages were built nearby they are no longer evident. The igloo shaped huts were bomb proof and were used to receive and transmit radar signals by the RAAF. The area was known as Mine Camp.

When we emerged from the subtropical forest area we could see the coastline and headland covered in dense heath. We admired some attractive native blooms along the gravelly path before we turned for home. (Anne A and John)

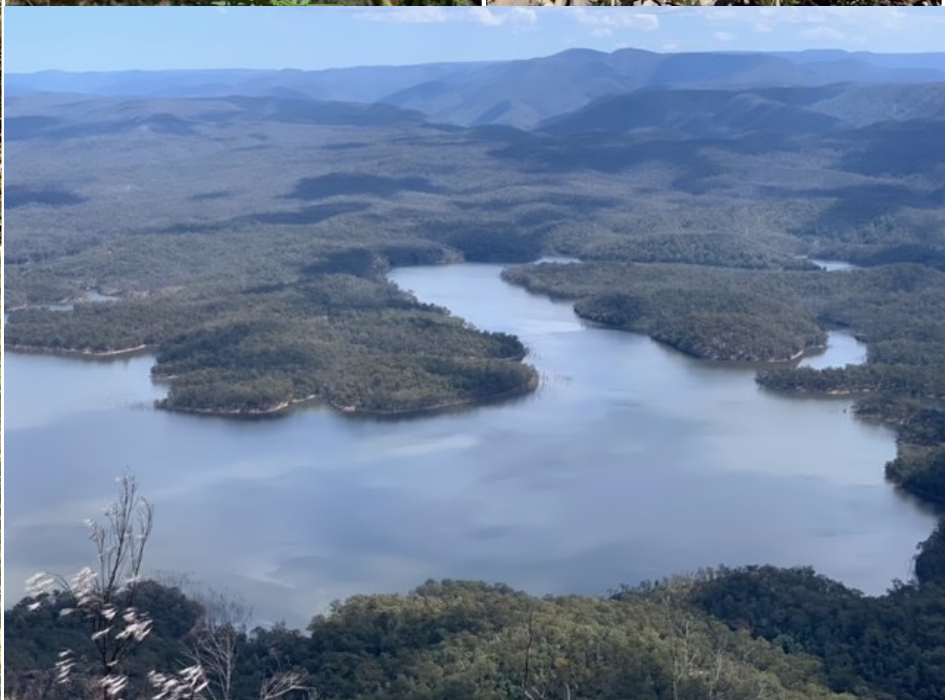






### **McMAHONS POINT: Wilderness threatened by dam raising**

The wildflowers were amazing at McMahoNS Point - carpets of pink and white; Waratahs and flannel flowers in profusion. Looking out over Lake Burrogorang, it was hard to contemplate the damage another 15m added to the dam wall would create. (Katriona)





# Rain in the mountains



Blackheath

**Blackheath.** Five TING walkers accepted an invitation from Katriona and Tim to inspect their lovely garden amid the beautiful *Eucalyptus oreades*. We celebrated our first gathering for three months with a bottle of champagne.



Red triangle slugs are often seen grazing

during rain, but this one was resting. They feed on microscopic algae growing on tree bark.

A pair of Australian Wood Ducks and seven ducklings were grazing on the lawn.



We noticed white foam on many of the Eucalypts.

During a dry spell, chemicals produced to protect the tree accumulate on the bark and leaves. When it rains, they wash down the trunk and foam at the base of the tree. It looked quite spectacular.



## Euroka Clearing, Glenbrook.

A few kookaburras eyed Ron hopefully but otherwise he had it all to himself. Food from picnickers has been scarce in recent months.

Some of us remember, in September 2001, unwillingly sharing a barbeque lunch with the Kamikaze Kookaburras of Euroka. Blink an eye and a kookaburra would swoop past and fly off with your steak in its beak, the rest of the sandwich falling to the ground for the noisy miners. The kookaburra would perch in a tree and roll the flat piece of meat into a tubular shape that could be swallowed whole.

Later that year there was a bushfire and the park was closed for a long time after that. It is unlikely that any of these birds, so reliant on human food, were able to survive.



Glenbrook



**NOVEMBER 2021:** Our virtual walk has come to an end and the seasons move on. Native plants flower in their turn, birds nest and raise their young. We hope you have enjoyed our photos and observations. Slowing down and stopping to observe nature can become a passion which will enrich your life. There is so much that we can learn.



**KANIMBLA VALLEY:** Mena, an orphaned female wombat raised by Rosemary's neighbour, Anna, was recently released. In the wild, wombats stay with their mother for about two years.

**BLACKHEATH:** A juvenile Crimson Rosella wallows in Christine's bird bath—a blur of feathers and water droplets, but with the head not moving.



**BLACKHEATH:** A magpie and its nest at Govett's Leap.



**LEURA:** The Blue Mountains bushland is so beautiful after rain and when it is misty. Among the lovely things are the many spider webs, usually unnoticed, decorated with diamonds of moisture.

**WILD TING** is an activity organised by volunteers who are members of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society. You will find us at [www.bluemountains.org.au/wild-ting.shtml](http://www.bluemountains.org.au/wild-ting.shtml)

“These virtual bushwalks lifted our spirits when we were all missing walking and socialising with our friends. Thank you, TING”. (Doug Nicholls, Bushwalking Convenor, Blue Mountains Conservation Society.)