

## Glenbrook

At home, friendly Mrs Butcherbird visits for a snack every morning and now brings her two babies—who aren't quite as tame yet.

On the path to Elizabeth Lookout, I thought the shadows of the trees made a lovely pattern.

Happy lock-down to all. (Jenny)



## Blackheath - Centennial Glen and Mount Blackheath

How lucky we are to live in the Blue Mountains with diverse walks right on our doorstep: to be able to set off on foot, explore and discover more about our backyard and environment.

I want to add these two walks to our list of ambles during isolation. The Centennial Pass/Walls Ledge one-hour circuit is perhaps my favourite walk. It zigzags west of Blackheath across open heathland with stunted hakea and banksia and, at this time of the year, migratory birds flock to feast on nectar.

The precipitous cliffs of Walls Ledge, golden in the light, and the views over Kanimbla Valley are magnificent. The upgraded track passes under hanging cliffs and through shady gullies, with water cascading over mossy rocks and the vegetation changing from magnificent Mountain Ash (*Eucalyptus oreades*) to tiny ferns in shadowy grottos. I also love it because it's a dog friendly walk and you can watch rock climbers from all over the world. Their clubs help take care of the area.

Taking the scenic route to a Mount Blackheath walk with Don, we stopped to explore a short track into the bush, spying recent evidence of wombats. Moss and lichen-covered cliffs fell off to the valley floor and, on the other side of the road, soft tree ferns covered the hillside.

Mount Blackheath offers spectacular views over the Kanimbla Valley and surrounding cliffs. We didn't see paragliders: it is spectacular to watch them soaring effortlessly over the valley. However along the road leading from Shipley Plateau there were stands of golden wattle (*Acacia terminalis*) in full bloom. We saw kangaroos and alpacas resting in the wintry sunshine: would've loved to explore some of the side tracks. (Marilyn K)







## Blackheath - Porters Pass

Beautiful waterfalls, epacris and lovely wattles from my walk around Porters Pass with my friend Mary. (Katriona)

Flowering plants are:

*Epacris reclinata*

*Acacia terminalis*

Mountain Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus deanei*)  
at Else-Mitchell Park.



## Springwood — Else-Mitchell Park

This park is a stone's throw from the village – a nice spot to spend awhile. Morning tea or a sandwich lunch, Sydney Morning Herald, plus anybody who wishes to strike up a conversation with an 83 year-old, suspicious-looking, but harmless old git with a tooth missing at the front. (That's where the mask does me a favour.)

Rae Else-Mitchell's obituary in The (London) Times described him as being "among Australia's cleverest post-war judges and administrators, accomplishing two distinguished careers of almost equal length".

Else-Mitchell lived in Springwood and loved the magnificent Blue Gums across the street from his home. He was shocked when one day, in the early 1950s, he found the land owner showing logging contractors around the property. He was determined to save the trees and so he donated enough money to Council to purchase the blocks of the land for a public park. A neighbouring landowner, Mr Miller, donated part of his property and Else-Mitchell Park was created. (Ron )





## Woodford waterfalls

Today was a glorious early spring day - quiet, still & sweetly warm !

Deb & I walked from her Woodford street home (8.1kms from me), to Hazel Falls (via Mable & Edith Falls).

Much was in flower - Deb's close-up shows the intricate structure of the flowers of a shrub that flanked us along most of our way. Can someone out there interpret for us? (Bernadette)

Plant identification:  
*Leucopogon setiger*.  
Thank you Sue.



## Wentworth Falls - Undercliff Track

Yesterday Mary M and I walked the Undercliff Track at Wentworth Falls, so I thought I'd share a shot of it with you since I've really enjoyed the photos folks from the group have sent in.

It was my first bushwalk for two years and it was wonderful! (Robin)







## Mount Victoria - Victoria Falls fire trail

The views were extensive, but the bushland had been burned as far as the eye can see in every direction. In a gap between Mount Banks and the golden cliffs of the Grose Valley, we could just make out the ghostly shapes of Sydney skyscrapers, 90 kilometres and a world away.

It was quiet - no flowers, no bird song. Then we came to a stand of scribbly gums which had somehow been spared from the wildfire. A little flock of birds was foraging in their branches. Sue was very excited when she identified them as Sittellas. (Christine)

## Leura Cascades - The patterns and constructions made by humans and nature. (Cathy)

