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Each author is responsible for the opinions and facts expressed in his article.  
Editor.

## TASMANIAN WILDERNESS SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

In early August the Tasmanian Wilderness Society announced that it was preparing to challenge the intention of the State Government to proceed with the Gordon below Franklin Hydro-Electric power scheme by Non-Violent Action.

The Society emphasised that participants should be committed to a philosophy of non-violence, and to ensure that they have confidence in their ability to remain non-violent and make sensible decisions under pressure a series of Non-Violent Action workshops are being organised in several cities and towns. These workshops cover Non-Violent Action theory, consensus decision making and meeting procedure, and give practice in handling provocative or potentially explosive situations in a peaceful manner.

Whether or not we, as individuals, support the broad aims of the Tasmanian Wilderness Society we should commend it for its emphasis on Non-Violent Action.

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## VASCULAR PLANTS OF THE DENISON RANGE AND VALE OF RASSELAS

M.J. Brown, F. Duncan, W.D. Jackson,  
S.J. Jarman, J.B. Kirkpatrick and R.G. Tyson

National Parks and Wildlife Service, Hobart  
(MJB, FD, RGT) and  
University of Tasmania, Hobart (WDJ, SJJ, JBK)

### INTRODUCTION

This paper reports the presence of 220 species of vascular plants in the vicinity of the Denison Range and Vale of Rasselas, within the Southwest Conservation Area. The checklist was compiled from information gathered during a two-day helicopter survey of the vegetation in the area during October 1981, in association with the Tasmanian Fire Services, the Forestry Commission and Australian Newsprint Mills. The survey team included all of the authors, excepting JBK who provided a supplementary species list from an earlier survey of alpine vegetation in the area.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 220 vascular plants from 142 genera and 62 families were recorded, of which 99 are endemic to Tasmania (Table 1).

Table 1: Summary of species recorded.

Plant Group	No. families	No. genera	No. species	No. endemic	% endemic
<i>Pteridophyta</i>	9	14	20	1	5
<i>Gymnospermae</i>	3	5	6	5	83
<i>Angiospermae:</i>					
<i>Dicotyledoneae</i>	39	87	149	79	53
<i>Monocotyledoneae</i>	11	36	45	14	31
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>45</b>

The habitats examined during the survey included alpine, buttongrass moorland, scrub, woodland and forest. In addition, three specialized habitats were noted and their flora recorded: lowland aquatic areas, rock outcrop and erratics on the lower to upper midslopes of the Denison Range and a sink-hole. A breakdown of the species richness, degree of habitat specificity and richness of Tasmanian endemic flora for each habitat is given in Table 2.

Table 2: Species richness, habitat specificity and richness of Tasmanian endemic flora in the sampled habitats.

Habitat	No. species	No. specific	% specific	No. Endemics	% endemics
buttongrass	53	10	19	14	26
scrub	59	2	3	21	36
woodland	57	7	12	17	30
forest	75	16	21	25	33
alpine	130	72	55	73	56
rock outcrop	29	2	7	14	48
aquatic	13	9	69	2	15
sink hole	19	0	0	0	0

This table shows that the alpine flora is the most diverse and includes the largest number of endemic species. The transitional nature of the scrub and woodland and habitats is also emphasized; relatively more of the species in these habitats are shared, either with each other or with the buttongrass moorland and forest communities.

The appendix presents a checklist of all the species observed during the surveys. With the possible exception of *Restio monocephalus* var. *glabrum*, of which few records are available, all of the species encountered have known occurrences in one or more of the larger State Reserves. However several unusual occurrences were noted during the survey. The filmy fern *Apteropteris applanata* commonly occurs on King Billy pine, but in this instance it was found growing in the shaded crevices of a rocky outcrop in buttongrass moorland. According to Curtis and Morris (1975), *Boronia rhomboidea* occurs on the Central Plateau mountains, in the heaths of the Northwest and at Longley. Its occurrence in the lowland scrub and woodland communities of the Vale of Rasselas indicates that there is not such a great disjunction between the Longley and Central Plateau populations. *Epacris navicularis* is an endemic species of Southwestern mountains and has only recently been described (Jarman and Crowden 1978). Two other epacrids found during the survey are interesting variants, which may prove to be specifically distinct on further study. The *Cyathodes* aff. *petiolaris* variant is referred to by Curtis (1963) and is recognised also by Jarman and Crowden (1977). The variety *Monotoca* aff. *linifolia* has flowers which have five perianth parts, the typical flowers of *Monotoca linifolia* have only four (Jarman and Crowden 1977).

The particular aims of the survey were to establish the fire-history of the vegetation in the area, and its implications for possible future prescribed burning. A report on this facet of the investigation is currently in preparation. However it is worth making some immediate observations about the susceptibility and sensitivity of the plant species to fire.

Many of the alpine species in particular are extremely sensitive to fire and do not recover readily. Such species are placed at risk by fires occurring at too-frequent intervals, and Macphail (1981) has noted in his pollen record for the Denison Range that "none of local small trees, *Athrotaxis*, *Diselma* or *Nothofagus gunnii*, survived long after the central 'cluster' of 'closely' spaced fires". The restriction of *Athrotaxis* and *Nothofagus gunnii* to areas topographically protected from fire seems to bear out this observation in the present day.

## REFERENCES

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## APPENDIX

Checklist of vascular plants from the Denison Range and Vale of Rasselas. Occurrence by habitat is indicated by Alpine (A), Aquatic (Aq), buttongrass moorland (B), forest (F), Rock (R), Scrub (S), sink hole (Sh) and woodland (W). Endemic species are asterisked.

- Pteridophyta**
- Aspidiaceae**  
*Polystichum proliferum* (R. Br.) Presl. AFSH
- Aspleniaceae**  
*Asplenium flabellifolium* cav. Sh W
- Blechnaceae**  
*Blechnum nudum* (Labill.) Mett. ex Luerss. F.  
*B. penna-marina* (Poir) Kuhn AF  
*B. watsii* Tindale AFRShW
- Dennstaedtiaceae**  
*Histiopteris incisa* (Thunb.) J. Sm. AF  
*Hypolepis rugosula* (Labill.) J. Sm. F  
*Pteridium esculentum* (Forst. f.) Cockayne F S W
- Gleicheniaceae**  
*Gleichenia dicarpa* R. Br. BFSW  
*Sticherus tener* (R. Br.) Ching W
- Grammitidaceae**  
*Grammitis billardieri* Wildl. A
- Hymenophyllaceae**  
\**Apteropteris appianata* A.M. Gray & R.G. Williams R  
*Hymenophyllum flabellatum* Labill. ASL  
*H. marginatum* Hook. et Grev. AR
- Lycopodiaceae**  
*Huperzia selago* (L) Bernh. ex Schrank & Marto A  
*Lycopodium fastigiatum* R. Br. A  
*L. myrtifolium* Forst. f. R  
*L. scariosum* Forst. f. AB  
*L. laterale* R. Br. AB
- Schizaeaceae**  
*Schizaea fistulosa* Labill. B
- Gymnospermae**
- Cupressaceae**  
\**Diselma archeri* Hook. f. A
- Podocarpaceae**  
\**Microcachrys tetragona* (Hook.) Hook. f. A  
\**Phyllocladus aspleniifolius* A & L. C. Rich (A) FSW  
*Podocarpus lawrencii* Hook. f. A
- Taxodiaceae**  
\**Athrotaxis cupressoides* D. Don A  
\**A. selaginoides* D. Don A
- Angiospermae: Dicotyledonae**
- Apiaceae**  
*Actinotus bellidioides* (Hook. f.) Benth B  
\**A. moorei* Rodw. A B R  
*A. suffocata* (Hook. f.) Rodw. A.  
\**Dichoscladium ranunculaceum* (F. Muell) Domin A  
\**Diplaspis cordifolia* Hook. f. A  
*Hydrocotyle muscosa* R. Br. Aq  
*Hydrocotyle* sp. FW
- Asteraceae**  
\**Abrotanella scapigera* (F. Muell.) Benth. A.  
\**Aciphylia procumbens* (F. Muell.) Benth. A  
*Celmisia longifolia* Cass. A  
\**C. saxifraga* Comber A  
*Erigeron pappochroma* Labill. A  
\**E. stellatus* (Hook. f.) W.M. Curtis A  
\**Ewartia meredithae* (F. Muell.) Beauv. A  
*Gnaphalium* sp. W  
\**Helichrysum backhousii* (Hook. f.) F. Muell. ex Benth. A  
\**H. ledifolium* (DC.) Benth. A  
\**H. milliganii* Hook. f. A  
\**H. pumilum* Hook. f. ABR
- \**Olearia ledifolia* (DC.) Benth. A  
\**O. persoontoides* (DC.) Benth. AF  
\**O. ptilifolia* (Hook. f.) Benth. A  
\**O. tasmanica* W.M. Curtis A  
\**Pterygopappus lawrencii* Hook. f. A  
*Senecio leptocarpus* DC. A  
*S. pectinatus* DC. A
- Casuarinaceae**  
*Casuarina monilifera* L. Johnson SW
- Cruciferae**  
\**Cheesemania radicata* (Hook. f.) O.E. Schulz A
- Cunoniaceae**  
\**Anodopetalum biglandulosum* A. Cunn. ex Hook. f. AFS  
*Bauera rubioides* Andr. A B F S Sh W
- Dilleniaceae**  
*Hibbertia procumbens* (Labill.) D.C. A B R S Sh
- Donatiaceae**  
*Donatia novae-zelandiae* J.R. & G. Forst. A
- Droseraceae**  
*Drosera arcturi* Hook. AB  
*D. pygmaea* DC. B
- Epacridaceae**  
\**Archeria comberi* Melville A  
\**A. hirtella* (Hook. s.) Hook. f. A  
\**A. serpyllifolia* Hook. f. A  
\**Cyathodes dealbata* R. Br. A  
*C. juniperina* (Forst.) Druce A F R W  
\**C. parvifolia* R. Br. A  
\**C. sp. aff. C. petiolaris* (D.C.) Druce\* AR  
\**Dracophyllum milliganii* Hook. f. AR  
\**D. minimum* F. Muell A  
\**Epacris corymbiflora* Hook. f. B  
\**E. gunnii* Hook. f. W F  
*E. impressa* Labill. A B F R S Sh W  
*E. lanuginosa* Labill. B S W  
\**E. navicularis* S.J. Jarman A  
*E. obtusifolia* Sm. B  
*E. serpyllifolia* R. Br. A F  
*Leucopogon collinus* (Labill.) R. Br. A B F R S Sh  
*L. ericoides* (Sm.) R. Br. S W  
\**L. milliganii* (F. Muell.) Rodw. A  
\**Monotoca glauca* (Labill.) Druce F S W  
\**M. sp. aff. M. linifolia* (Rodw.) W.M. Curtis A F W  
\**M. submutica* Benth. F R S W  
*Pentachondra pumila* (Forst.) R. Br. A R  
\**Prionoxeris cerinthoides* (Labill.) R. Br. A F  
\**Richea curtisiae* A.M. Gray A  
\**R. milliganii* (Hook. f.) F. Muell. A F  
\**R. pandanifolia* Hook. f. A F  
\**R. procer* (F. Muell.) F. Muell. F S W  
\**R. scoparia* Hook. f. A  
\**R. sprengeioides* (R. Br.) F. Muell. A  
*Sprengelia incarnata* Sm (alpine and lowland forms) A B R S Sh W  
\**Trochocarpa cunninghamii* (DC.) W.M. Curtis A  
\**T. gunnii* (Hook. f.) Benth. F
- Ericaceae**  
\**Gaultheria depressa* Hook. f. A  
*G. hispid* R. Br. A
- Escalloniaceae**  
\**Anopterus glandulosus* Labill. FW  
\**Tetracarpaea tasmanica* Hook. f. A

- Eucryphiaceae**  
\**Eucryphia lucida* (Labill.) Baill. F  
\**E. milliganii* Hook. f. A F
- Euphorbiaceae**  
\**Amperea xiphioclada* (Sieb. ex Spreng.) Druce F S W
- Fabaceae**  
*Aotus ericoides* (Vent.) G. Don B F S W  
*Dillwynia glaberrima* Sm. F R S W  
*Oxylobium ellipticum* (Labill.) R. Br. A F R S W  
*Pultenaea dentata* Labill. B  
*P. juniperina* Labill. F S W
- Fagaceae**  
*Nothofagus cunninghamii* (Hook.) Oerst. A F  
\**N. gunnii* (Hook. f.) Oerst A
- Gentianaceae**  
*Gentianella diemensis* (Griseb.) J.H. Willis A  
*Villarsia* sp. Aq
- Haloragaceae**  
*Gonocarpus micranthus* Thunb. Aq F  
*Myrtiophyllum pedunculatum* Hook. f. Aq
- Lobeliaceae**  
*Isotoma fluviatilis* (R. Br.) F. Muell. ex Benth. Aq
- Loganiaceae**  
\**Mitrasacme archeri* Hook. F. A  
*M. montana* Hook. f. A B
- Mimosaceae**  
*Acacia dealbata* Link F  
*A. mucronata* Willd. ex H. Wendl. F S W
- Monimiaceae**  
*Atherosperma moschatum* Labill. F
- Myrtaceae**  
*Baeckea gunniana* Schauer ex Walp. AFRS  
\**B. leptocaulis* Hook. f. B S  
\**Callistemon viridiflorus* (Sims.) Sweet F S W  
\**Eucalyptus amygdalina* Labill. F S W  
\**E. coccifera* Hook. f. A  
*E. dalrympleana* Maiden F  
*E. delegatensis* R.T. Baker F  
*E. nitida* Hook. f. F S W  
*E. ovata* Labill. W  
\**E. rodwayi* R.T. Bak & H.G. Sm. W  
\**E. subcrenulata* Maiden & Blakely S  
\**E. vernicosa* Hook. f. A  
\**Leptospermum glaucescens* S. Schauer B F R S W  
*L. lanigerum* (Ait.) Sm. B F S W  
*L. nitidum* Hook. f. B S Sh  
*L. scoparium* J.R. & G. Forst. B F S Sh W  
*Melaleuca squamea* Labill. A B S  
*M. squarrosa* Donn ex Sm. B F S W
- Onagraceae**  
*Epilobium* sp. A
- Oxalidaceae**  
*Oxalis lactea* Hook. A
- Pittosporaceae**  
*Billiardiera longiflora* Labill. A F W R
- Plantaginaceae**  
\**Plantago daltonii* Dcne. A Aq  
\**P. paraluxa* Hook. f. Aq
- Proteaceae**  
\**Agastachys odorata* R. Br. A B F R S W  
*Banksia marginata* Cav. B F S W  
\**Cenarrhens nitida* Labill. S  
*Hakea microcarpa* R. Br. W  
\**Lomatia polymorpha* R. Br. A F S W  
\**Lomatia tinctoria* R. Br. F  
\**Orites diversifolia* R. Br. A  
\**O. milliganii* Meisn. in Hook. A  
\**O. revoluta* R. Br. A  
\**Persoonia gunnii* Hook. f. A R S  
\**Telopea truncata* (Labill.) R. Br. S F
- Ranunculaceae**  
\**Anemone crassifolia* Hook. A  
*Ranunculus rivularis* Banks & Sol. ex DC Aq
- Rhamnaceae**  
*Pomaderris apetala* Labill. F
- Rosaceae**  
*Acaena novae-zelandiae* Kirk W F  
\**Rubus gunnianus* Hook. A F
- Rubiaceae**  
*Coprosma nitida* Hook. f. A Sh  
*C. quadrifida* (Labill.) Robinson F
- Rutaceae**  
*Boronia citriodora* Gunn ex Hook. f. A B F R S Sh W  
*B. parviflora* Sm. B  
*B. pilosa* Labill. B S  
*B. rhomboidea* Hook. S W  
*Phebalium squameum* (Labill.) Enler F
- Santalaceae**  
\**Exocarpos humifusus* R. Br. A B
- Scrophulariaceae**  
\**Euphrasia gibbsiae* Du Rietz A  
\**E. hookeri* Wettst. A  
\**E. striata* R. Br. B R  
*Mimulus repens* R. Br. Aq
- Stylidiaceae**  
\**Forsteria bellidifolia* Hook. f. A R  
\**Phyllachne colensoi* (Hook. f.) Bergg. A  
*Styloidium graminifolium* Swartz A B S Sh
- Thymelaeaceae**  
\**Pimelea lindleyana* Meisn. B F R S W
- Tremandraceae**  
*Tetradlea pilosa* Labill. B
- Violaceae**  
*Viola hederacea* Labill. F
- Winteraceae**  
*Drimys lanceolata* (Poir.) Baill. A F
- Angiospermae: Monocotyledonae**
- Centrolepidaceae**  
\**Centrolepis monogyna* (Hook. f.) Benth. A  
\**Gatardia fitzgeraldii* F. Muell. & Rodway A
- Cyperaceae**  
*Carpha alpina* R. Br. A  
*Gahnia grandis* (Labill.) S.T. Blake A F S W  
*Gymnoschoenus sphaerocephalus* (R. Br.)  
Hook. f. A B S Sh W
- Lepidosperma filiforme* Labill. A B S W  
\**Oreobolus acutifolius* S.T. Blake A  
*O. distichus* F. Muell. A  
*O. pumilio* R. Br. A  
*Schoenus tenuissimus* Benth. A B Sh  
*Scirpus subtilissimus* A  
*Tetraria capillaris* (F. Muell.) J.M. Black B  
*Uncinia compacta* R. Br. A  
*U. tenella* R. Br. F
- Gramineae**  
*Deyeuxia monticola* (Roem. & Schult.) Vickery A  
*Hierochloa fraseri* Hook. A  
\**Microlaena tasmanica* (Hook. f.) Benth. A B S W  
*M. stipoides* (Labill.) R. Br. W  
\**Poa gunnii* Vickery A  
*Tetrarrhena distichophylla* (Labill.) R. Br. F
- Iridaceae**  
\**Campynema lineare* Labill. R  
\**Diplarrena latifolia* Benth. A B F  
*D. moraea* Labill. F  
\**Isophysis tasmanica* Hook. A B R  
*Paterosmia fragilis* Druce B S
- Juncaceae**  
*Juncus gregiflorus* L.A.S. Johnson Aq (F)  
*Luzula* sp. A

## Juncaginaceae

*Triglochin procera* R. Br. Aq

## Liliaceae

*Astelia alpina* R. Br. A R W\**Blandfordia punicea* Sweet A F S W*Dianella tasmanica* Hook. W*Dryomphila cyanocarpa* R. Br. F Sh W\**Milligania densiflora* Hook. A

## Orchidaceae

*Caladenia lyalli* Hook. f. B

## Restionaceae

\**Calorophus elongatus* Labill. S W*Empodisma minus* (Hook. f.) L.A.S. Johnson & Cutler  
ABFRShW*Leptocarpus tenax* (Labill.) R. Br. B S W*Lepyrodia tasmanica* Hook. f. B S*Restio australis* R. Br. A*R. complanatus* R. Br. A B S Sh\**R. monocephalus* R. Br. B S\**R. monocephalus* var. *glabrum* Rodway A*R. tetraphyllus* Labill. Aq F S

## Xyridaceae

\**Xyris marginata* Rendle B S

## Zannichelliaceae

*Lepilaena* sp. Aq

## COLOUR - DYED WADERS

In August and September, 1982, a team of nearly 60 people participated in the Australasian Wader Studies Group North-west Australia Expedition. This month-long research expedition was centred in the Broome-Port Headland area in northern Western Australia, where over 150,000 migratory waders spend the summer months. On this expedition, four thousand waders were colour-dyed on the underparts with Picric Acid. This is a bright yellow dye which fades to orange after a week or so, and lasts up to four months. People visiting coastal areas or areas where waders are present anywhere in Australia and New Zealand, are asked to watch for colour-dyed birds and report the details of any sightings to the addresses below. Date, place (lat & long if possible), number of birds, size of flock and habitat should be noted. The colour dyeing involved all species of waders.

The Secretary,  
Australian Bird Banding Scheme,  
CSIRO Division of Wildlife Research,  
P.O. Box 84,  
Lyneham, 2602, A.C.T.  
AUSTRALIA

OR Australasian Wader Studies Group,  
c/o Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union,  
21 Gladstone Street,  
Moonee Ponds, 3039, Victoria.  
AUSTRALIA

BRETT A LANE

Australasian Wader Studies Group,  
National Co-ordinator

P.S. One Red-necked Stint, colour-dyed on this expedition, has been reported from  
S. Tasmania. (Editor).

## CLUB EXCURSIONS

Mt. Field National Park. 6 - 7 March, 1982.

Prof. W. Jackson, of the Botany Dept. of The University of Tasmania, was leader of a party visiting this national park. On Saturday, 6 March, the first stop was at the park entrance where we walked to Russell Falls taking particular note of the ferns lining the track. Then taking the road to Lake Dobson the party stopped at several places to note the different plant communities at increasing altitudes, and finally some time was spent on the sub-alpine Wombat Moor. The night was spent at Pandanni Hut where one of the highlights was the observation of Native Cats (*Dasyurus viverrinus*).

The following morning was spent in the upper part of the Broad River Valley before proceeding to the slopes of Mt. Mawson and the Tarn Shelf where the alpine plant communities were observed in some detail.

**Woodbridge Marine Study Centre, 1 April, 1982.**

A visit to this Education Dept. Study Centre was arranged by courtesy of the master-in-charge, Mr. Alistair Martin. We were able to look through the laboratories and to hear of the activities available to visiting school classes - a worthwhile insight into a little publicised special school which has a very beneficial impact on all participants.

**Pawleena, 3 July, 1982.**

L.E. Wall led this excursion with the main purpose of seeing a small stand of one of Tasmania's rare and endemic eucalypts, *Eucalyptus cordata*, about three kilometres north of the reservoir. Some specimens of *E. tenuiramis* were also in that vicinity. The bird list for the day was:-

White-backed Magpie, Noisy Miner, New Holland Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Yellow-throated Honeyeater, Grey Shrike-thrush, Grey Butcherbird, Laughing Kookaburra, Black-headed Honeyeater, Brown Thornbill, Golden Whistler, Grey Fantail, Crescent Honeyeater, Goldfinch, Yellow-tipped Pardalote, Common Bronzewing, Spotted Quail-thrush, Clinking Currawong, Spur-winged Plover, Black Duck, Hoary-headed Grebe, Coot, Black Swan, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Tasmanian Native Hen.

A Bettong (*Bettongia gaimardi*) was flushed from the scrub on the edge of the reservoir in the late afternoon.

## A NEW MOSS RECORD FOR TASMANIA

*Ischyrodon lepturus* (Tayl.) Schelpe

by

S. Harris, National Parks and Wildlife Service, and  
D.A. Ratkowsky 117 York St., SANDY BAY

A single collection on Tasman Island is the first and only Tasmanian record of the moss *Ischyrodon lepturus* (Tayl.) Schelpe. (Family Fabroniaceae). The moss was one of a collection of plants made by one of us (S.H.) during a helicopter visit to the island on 17th June, 1982.

The species is found in New Zealand and South Africa and is common (Scott et al 1976) in Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales.

The specimen was found on shallow, well-drained dolerite soil on the steep eastern slope of the island in the vicinity of the old haulageway. Scott et al. (1976) claim that the moss is "quite common in dry stony and sandy soils".

The species is superficially similar to *Brachythecium albicans* (Hedw.) B.S.G., but microscopic examination reveals that although that species has square cells in the leaf base, these are confined to the alar groups, whereas in *Ischyrodon lepturus* the square cells reach, and overly, the midrib. The specimen is lodged with the Tasmanian Herbarium (HO).

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are indebted to Dr. G.A.M. Scott for confirming the determination of the specimen.

### REFERENCE

Scott G.A.M., Stone I.G. and Rosser, C. 1976. *The Mosses of Southern Australia*. Academic Press. London.

## THE BEREAVEMENT OF A BANDICOOT

Georgina Davis

A pair of Brown Bandicoots (*Isoodon obesulus*) was seen on the road approaching Swan Point, West Tamar, at about 1900 on 30 July, 1982.

The male of the pair was dead on the road, with the distressed female standing alongside, raised on her hind legs, when first observed. She bent over her mate and with fore-arms and paws appeared to be trying to drag him off the road. Unsuccessful at this she then hugged and nudged her mate. Becoming frustrated and further distressed she then scratched and bit the dead bandicoot vigorously before leaping in the air a couple of times and wandering off to the roadside. She moved slowly along the road as we watched. (Barred Bandicoots *Perameles gunnii*) have also been seen in the vicinity on two recent occasions.)