# Southern Alps Bush Blitz National Herbarium of NSW team

31<sup>st</sup> January – 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023 Submitted: 20 February 2024 Peter Jobson



NSW Flora Team on The Pilot summit: Kayte Wilkie, Peter Jobson, Joel Cohen & Andrew Orme

Nomenclature and taxonomy used in this report is consistent with: The Australian Plant Name Index (APNI)

http://www.anbg.gov.au/databases/apni-about/index.html

The Australian Plant Census (APC)

http://www.anbg.gov.au/chah/apc/about-APC.html

AusMoss

http://data.rbg.vic.gov.au/cat/mosscatalogue

# Contents

Contents2
List of contributors 2
Abstract4
1. Introduction
2. Methods 4
2.1 Site selection
2.2 Survey techniques
2.2.1 Methods used at standard survey sites5
2.3 Identifying the collections
3. Results and Discussion7
3.1 Un-named or not formalised taxa7
3.2 Putative new species (new to science)7
3.3 Exotic and pest species7
3.4 Threatened species 10
3.5 Range extensions 11
3.6 Genetic information 12
4. Information on species lists 12
5. Information for land managers 12
6. Other significant findings 12
7. Conclusions
Acknowledgements
References
Appendix 1. List of NSW flora team recorded during the Southern Alps Bush Blitz 15

# List of contributors

List of contributors to this report.				
Name	Institution/affiliation	Qualifications/area of expertise	Level/form of contribution	
Russell Barrett	National Herbarium of NSW, Botanic Gardens of Sydney	Systematic Botanist; systematics of Australian Flora	Identification	
Joel Cohen	Australian Botanic Gardens, Botanic Gardens of Sydney	Records Manager of Living Collections; Seed and living material collector	Survey participant	

Chris Cole	Australian Botanic Gardens, Botanic Gardens of Sydney	Botanic Gardens, ardens of Sydney Botanic Gardens, and living material collector		
Peter JobsonNational Herbarium of NSW, Botanic Gardens of SydneyIdentification botanist; taxonomy and identification of Australian flora		Survey participant; Identification; report author		
Richard Jobson	on National Herbarium of NSW, Botanic Gardens of Sydney Systematics of Australian Flora		Identification	
Guy Lowe	National Herbarium of NSW, Botanic Gardens of Sydney		Survey participant	
Daniel Ohlsen	aniel Ohlsen National Herbarium of Victoria Identification botanist; Victoria identification of NSW flora		Survey participant; Identification	
Andrew Orme	National Herbarium of NSW, Botanic Gardens of Sydney	Identification botanist; taxonomy and identification of NSW flora	Survey participant; Identification	
Stephen Skinner National Herbarium of NSW, Botanic Gardens of Sydney		Honorary Research Associate; taxonomy and identification of NSW flora (algae)	Identification	
Royal Botanic Gardens,HorKayte WilkieSydney. Botanic Gardens of Sydneyand colle		Horticulturalist; Seed and living material collector	Survey participant	
Karen Wilson	Vilson National Herbarium of NSW, Botanic Gardens of Sydney of A		Identification	
Trevor Wilson	National Herbarium of NSW, Botanic Gardens of Sydney	Systematic Botanist; systematics of Australian Flora	Identification	

# Abstract

Between the 31<sup>st</sup> January and 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023, the NSW flora team visited the Pilot Wilderness Area. A total of 485 specimens representing 241 species (207 angiosperms, 1 gymnosperm, 4 pteridophytes and allies, 5 mosses, and 24 algae) were collected. These specimens shall be housed in the National Herbarium of NSW with duplicates to both the National Herbarium of Victoria (MEL) and the Australian National Herbarium (CANB). Two Hypericum native species collected currently have misapplied names and once current research is completed, will represent three species; a further species - Prunella vulgaris (long spike form) may represent a new native species. Three range extensions (Dianella caerulea var. caerulea, Leionema lamprophyllum subsp. lamprophyllum and Viola hederacea), including a new addition to the NSW flora census were made, and one threatened species (Calotis pubescens) was located. No Weeds of National Significance (WONS) were observed, but 18 weed species were collected; none appeared to be seriously impacting either threatened species or community health. Feral animals (horses and pigs) were observed to be having an impact on swampy heaths and frost-hollow herbfields and continued management of these animals is suggested. A cursory visit to The Pilot, the highest point in the Wilderness Area did not locate any narrow endemics typically found in the higher elevation areas within Kosciuszko National Park.

# 1. Introduction

The Pilot Wilderness Area comprises of over 350,000 ha and is managed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. Much of the survey area is within the Australian Alps bioregion (IBRA – AUA) (Thackway and Cresswell 2005). The Pilot Wilderness Area ranges in altitude from 800 m along the banks of the Murray River to 1830m at the summit of The Pilot. The range of habitats include wet sclerophyll forests, montane and alpine grassy woodlands, alpine heaths, bogs, and swamps (Keith 2004).

Prior to the BushBlitz survey, general collecting and surveys had been limited. The highest concentration of herbarium collections had been made in three field trips – March 1970 (Coveny and Pickard – NSW Herbarium); December 1998 (Whalen, Chandler and Fethers – Canberra Herbarium), and December 2016 (Wright and Miles – Canberra Herbarium). The chief survey in the area was the Canopy Survey of 1999.

The higher peaks along the Main Range within the Kosciuszko National Park contain a high number of narrow endemics due to the elevation and communities present. While the elevation within the Pilot Wilderness is not as high as the Main Range, it was hoped that by sampling as many of the vegetation habitats known or assumed to be present, that range extensions of threatened taxa, and new records for NSW (particularly of Victorian species) would be made.

# 2. Methods

### 2.1 Site selection

Fourteen sites were nominated by the NSW Flora team that ranged across the Pilot Wilderness Area. Previous survey and herbarium collection points were plotted to give a visual representation of the areas with the highest concentration of previous observation/ collections. Overlaying these points onto the satellite maps supplied by the NSW Department of Land and Property Information, it was possible to then select sites that provided habitat, elevation, and geological diversity in areas that lacked any floristic data. A plot within one of the rainforest gully communities recorded by Doherty et al. (2011) was considered but was ultimately

rejected due to the time required to access any of these sites and to the lower number of species recorded for this vegetation.

#### 2.2 Survey techniques

Plant collecting during helicopter drop-offs and road access were opportunistic. The immediate habitat types observed from the helicopter or from the vehicle, and a traverse was made to investigate what species may be present. Priority was given to fertile material (buds, flowers, fruits), but occasionally sterile material would be collected if the taxon suspected was either a listed threatened species, a potential new species or species of interest (range extension or unusual form). Progressively, with respect to road access collecting, sites were selected either for species not previously observed or collected, or were habitats either not previously explored or contained good to high diversity due to condition.

Vascular plant collection involved sampling by secateurs for shrubs and lower branches of trees, trowel for herbs, and extending pole pruners for higher branches of trees. These samples were pressed within a day press between sheets of newspaper and transferred to a standard press back at base camp. These were dried in sunny positions at base camp, with final drying within the drying cabinets at the National Herbarium of NSW at a set temperature of 30°C for up to 7 days.

Plants with delicate floral parts such as orchids or bladderworts (*Utricularia*), and freshwater algae samples were collected in fresh water in the field in plastic sample bottles but were transferred and stored in glass sample bottles containing 70% Ethanol: 30% distilled water.

Bryophyte samples were contained within envelopes made from newspaper or in brown paper bags. These were dried in the drying cabinets in identical conditions to the vascular flora specimens.

#### 2.2.1 Methods used at standard survey sites

The NSW flora team visited Standard Survey Sites 1 and 2 based the centroid coordinates supplied by the BushBlitz team. SSS 1 coordinates were representative of the habitat (a mixed swampy heath and herbfield), but the SSS 2 coordinates supplied were in a habitat (swampy heath) that had been heavily damaged by feral animals and it was necessary to move the plot approximately 30 m further south-east. Unfortunately, the entire area has been degraded by feral animals (horses and pigs) causing erosion, damage to drainage lines, and destruction of canopy of the upper shrub layer.

For both sites, a systematic parallel field transverse was conducted to ensure a complete floristics list. Collection methods were as per Section 2.2. Non-fertile samples were collected to verify identification back at the herbarium.

### 2.3 Identifying the collections

All vascular flora and bryophyte specimens were examined under a dissecting microscope to either identify to species, or to confirm a field identification made on the day of collection. For the algae, a subsample was mounted onto a slide. Using a compound microscope, the slide was examined and the various entities were identified. Below is the list of contributors who identified the survey specimens, and the literature used.

Contributor (all NSW unless specified)	Plant group/ specialty
Russell Barrett	Cyperaceae; Asparagaceae
Peter Jobson	Ferns; Gymnosperms; all angiosperm families not already listed
Richard Jobson	Lentibulariaceae; Hypericaceae
Daniel Ohlsen (MEL)	Bryophytes
Andrew Orme	Myrtaceae; Orchidaceae
Stephen Skinner	Algae
Karen Wilson	Cyperaceae
Trevor Wilson	Lamiaceae

The following literature was used to identify the collections during the survey:

#### Angiosperms:

PlantNET: eFlora of New South Wales Version 2.0

VicFlora: Flora of Victoria

Ausgrass2: Grasses of Australia

EUCLID: eucalypts of Australia 4th Edition

WATTLE: acacias of Australia Version 3

Collins et al (2022): Xerochrysum (Asteraceae)

Nicolle (2022): Native eucalypts of Victoria and Tasmania - South-eastern Australia

Thompson (2006): Senecio (Asteraceae)

Wang & Bean (2019): Lagenophora (Asteraceae)

#### Pteridophytes and Gymnosperms:

PlantNET: Flora of New South Wales Version 2.0

VicFlora: Flora of Victoria

#### **Bryophytes:**

Vicflora: Flora of Victoria

#### Algae:

Entwisle, Sonnerman & Lewis (1997): Freshwater algae in Australia

Algae of Australia: Batrachospermales, Thoreales, Oedogoniales & Zygonemaceae

Ling & Tyler (2000) Australian Freshwater Algae

# 3. Results and Discussion

Appendix 1 lists all flora (vascular and non-vascular) recorded during the Bush Blitz survey. Collections made during this Bush Blitz resulted in 485 specimens representing 239 species (207 angiosperms, 1 gymnosperm, 4 ferns and allies, 5 mosses, and 24 algae) being added to the National Herbarium of NSW (NSW), with any duplicates to be distributed initially to both the National Herbarium of Victoria (MEL) and the Australian National Herbarium (CANB).

#### 3.1 Un-named or not formalised taxa

Richard Jobson (NSW) is currently conducting research into the taxonomy and systematics of *Hypericum* (Hypericaceae) in Australia. He examined and identified the material collected on the survey and for the nature of this report supplied the currently used names, which he knows to be misapplied to Australian material. He has tentatively applied the following names to the survey material as: *Hypericum gramineum* = *H. involutum* (Labill.) Choisy [to be newly applied] and *Hypericum japonicum* = *H. pusillum* Choisy [to be newly applied] or *H. rubicundulum* Heenan [to be newly applied].

Trevor Wilson (NSW) had previously noted the occurrence of a strange alpine form of *Prunella vulgaris*. *Prunella vulgaris* is currently considered to be an introduction from Europe and is common in disturbed areas throughout moister and elevated areas of eastern Australia. This alpine form is different in a number of characters, particularly in its inflorescence shape, and has been recorded in areas that are not considered disturbed. Further study is required to determine the status of this entity.

Table 1. Putatively un-named or not formalised taxa			
Taxon Comment			
Hypericum gramineum	Misapplication of this name		
Hypericum japonicum	Misapplication of this name		
Prunella vulgaris (long spike form)			

#### 3.2 Putative new species (new to science)

No new putative species of vascular plants were encountered and collected on the survey. The aquatic samples of algae were frequently not identified to species. This was either due to the nature of the material collected, or to the absence of any literature. Therefore, for this report, these identifications (including those with a diagnostic identifier) are not treated as putative new species.

#### 3.3 Exotic and pest species

Within the Pilot Wilderness Area, those areas that had been heavily impacted by previous human activities such as habitation (shepherd huts) and areas where stock and horses had been corralled, and trail maintenance to mitigate erosion or slippage, were the areas that had the highest density of weed species. These included the areas immediately around Cascade and Tin Mine Huts, and along the route of Cascade Trail. The species recorded where either well known species associated with pasture improvement, or have been used for erosion mitigation. Away from human disturbance weed species were regularly not observed, or with

few individuals such as the ubiquitous *Hypochaeris radicata* which is a common understory herb and which does not appear to impact threatened taxa where they co-occur.

Of interest was the recording of weed species in a clearing near Pinch River that had occurred as a direct result of the 2019/20 bushfires. Most of the dominant trees had been killed by the fire and had fallen in the subsequent months. These fallen trees had created small clearings throughout the community. It was in one such clearing that two weed species (*Cerastrum vulgare* and *Rumex acetosella*) were recorded. *Rumex acetosella* is commonly encountered in erosion and trail remediation, and in areas of former human activities, but not in understories away from such areas. The presence of *R. acetosella* at the remote site of Pinch River suggests this species is commonly in the seedbank throughout the entire Pilot Wilderness Area but can only become established in extreme environmental events. Fortunately, *R. acetosella* does not appear to impact areas where species of significance co-occur.

At Standard Study Site 2, feral animals had impacted the entire community of the swamp heathland. Here, the shrub canopy had been interrupted, erosion was obvious, and drainage lines had formed as the heavy loam (peat) soil layer degraded. While the species list for SSS 2 is comparable to SSS 1, there is a potential for biodiversity to decrease with further degradation of the site.

Table 3. Exotic and pest species recorded				
Exotic/pest species	Location sighted/observed	Indication of abundance	Comments	
Foeniculum vulgare (Apiaceae)	6.3 km NW of Jindabyne along Alpine way, just W of entrance to property 'The Overflow'. -36.426406; 148.565118	Small patches in roadside that had been extensively cleared	Area already degraded	
<i>Hypocharis radicata</i> (Asteraceae)	Cascade Trail, c. 3 km SSW of Cascade Hut -36.6025; 148.251111 Camp ground around Cascade Hut, c. 10 km S along Cascade Trail from Dead Horse Gap. -36.5829908; 148.2579489	Very common in grassy woodland Very common in grassy herbfield	Apparently not affecting native species	
Onopodium acanthium subsp. acanthium (Asteraceae)	Barry Way, 2.6 km S of Jindabyne -36.426751; 148.608925	Small patch on roadside in heavily disturbed eucalypt woodland	Area already degraded	
<i>Echium vulgare</i> (Boraginaceae)	6.3 km NW of Jindabyne along Alpine way, just W of entrance to property 'The Overflow'. -36.426406; 148.565118	Small patches in roadside that had been extensively cleared	Area already degraded	

<i>Cerastrum vulgare</i> (Caryophyllaceae)	A small clearing, c. 100 m N of Pinch River, c. 3.5 km E of Cascade Trail and 1.1 km N of Tin Mine Trail. -36.633816; 148.289732	Widely scattered in clearing	Only present where canopy is open due to tree fall	
<i>Dianthus armeria</i> (Caryophyllaceae)	c. 400 m E of Murray River and McCarthys Trail. -36.777632; 1 48.112056	Scattered individuals in limestone outcropping	Not spreading beyond the narrow talus	
Saponaria officinalis (Caryophyllaceae)	Jindabyne Aerodrome -36.426944; 148.599444	Single self-contained clump	Regular mowing restricts spread	
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i> (Fabaceae)	Tin Mine Creek, c. 1.1 km E of Cowombat Trail. c. 3.5 km SW of Tin Mine Huts. -36.7271541; 148.2308785	Scattered around the site	Apparently not affecting native species	
Lotus subbiflorus (Fabaceae)	Tin Mine Hut - 36.700278; 148.251944	Uncommon near old buildings		
<i>Trifolium dubium</i> (Fabaceae)	Tin Mine Hut - 36.700278; 148.251944 Tin Mine Creek, c. 1.1 km E of Cowombat Trail. c. 3.5 km SW of Tin Mine Huts. -36.7271541; 148.2308785	Scattered in cleared area Scattered around the site	Apparently not affecting native species	
<i>Trifolium repens</i> (Fabaceae)	saddle SE of The Pilot summit -36.755; 148.206667	Small patch	Apparently not affecting native species	
<i>Hypericum perfoliatum</i> (Hypericaceae)	6.3 km NW of Jindabyne along Alpine way, just W of entrance to property 'The Overflow'. -36.426406; 148.565118	Scattered patches in roadside that had been extensively cleared	Area already degraded	
Callitriche stagnalis	Ingeegoodbee River, c. 200 m E of Tin Mine Huts, c. 3.6 Km S along Cascade Trail from intersection with Tin Mine Trail. 36.623368; 148.250798	Occurring in pools adjacent to river bank	Likely to be spreading during flood periods. Not present in fast flowing water	

Anoxantherum odoratum (Poaceae)	Camp ground around Cascade Hut, c. 10 km S along Cascade Trail from Dead Horse Gap. -36.5829908; 148.2579489	Scattered on edges of cleared area, but dense around the hut	Apparently not affecting native species
	SE of Bob's Ridge off Cascade Trail, near horse enclosure. -36.5576428; 148.267448 start of Cascade Trail at Dead Horse Gap -36.523056; 148.264444	Common Very common on slope	
	saddle SE of The Pilot summit	Patches in sheltered areas	Spreads when ground is disturbed
<i>Rumex acetosella</i> (Polygonaceae)	-36.755; 148.206667 Camp ground around Cascade Hut, c. 10 km S along Cascade Trail from Dead Horse Gap.	Widely scattered throughout community	
	-36.5829908; 148.2579489 A small clearing, c. 100 m N of Pinch River, c. 3.5 km E of Cascade Trail and 1.1 km N of Tin Mine Trail. -36.633816; 148.289732	Widely scattered in clearing	Only present where canopy is open due to tree fall
	Jindabyne Aerodrome -36.426944;	Scattered	Spread to adjacent woodland
<i>Potentilla recta</i> (Rosaceae)	Camp ground around Cascade Hut, c. 10 km S along Cascade Trail from Dead Horse Gap. -36.5829908; 148.2579489	Uncommon	Not spreading into adjacent communities
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i> subsp. <i>thapsus</i> (Scrophulariaceae)	6.3 km NW of Jindabyne along Alpine way, just W of entrance to property 'The Overflow'. -36.426406; 148.565118	Small patches in roadside that had been extensively cleared	Area already degraded
Verbascum virgatum (Scrophulariaceae)	In clearing up hill from the Murray River. -36.7775; 148.1125	Scattered	Not aggressively expanding

### 3.4 Threatened species

Only one threatened listed species was encountered during the survey period. In NSW, *Calotis pubescens* is currently known from approximately 5 localities all within Kosciuszko

National Park, including two from within the Pilot Wilderness Area. The Cascade Hut population was first recorded in 2014. The main population covers an area c. 200 m<sup>2</sup>, with scattered individuals in low numbers present in a buffer zone of a further 100 m. Many individuals were fruiting and there were no obvious signs of threatening processes. Weed species such as *Hypocharis radicata, Anoxantherum odoratum* and *Potentilla recta* were present, but they did not appear to be affecting the viability of *C. pubescens*. Active searching for *C. pubescens* was conducted in similar frost-hollow herbfields such as around the Tin Mine Hut area but was unsuccessful.

Table 4. Threatened species				
Species	Listing status and level (EBPC, State/Territory)	Location sighted/observed	Indication of abundance	
<i>Calotis pubescens</i> (Asteraceae)	Endangered (NSW)	100m East of Cascade Hut, Cascade Trail -36.582773; 148.2585717	Extensive population covering c 200 m <sup>2</sup> Many individuals flowering and fruiting	

#### 3.5 Range extensions

One of the chief aims for the NSW Flora team was to search and find species known to occur in alpine Victoria but were absent from the NSW flora census. One taxon was added to the NSW flora census - *Leionema lamprophyllum* subsp *lamprophyllum*. This subspecies is currently known in Victoria in neighbouring sub-alpine regions.

Two species had range extensions. *Dianella caerulea* currently comprises 8 varieties across eastern Australia and is known to be a species complex requiring further study. *Dianella caerulea* var. *caerulea* is also quite polymorphic and may have undescribed taxa within its current circumscription. While the known distribution is unreliable due to the complexity, it has been observed in montane regions of East Gippsland, Victoria. *Viola hederacea* in its current circumscription (Thiele and Prober 2003) in NSW occurs along the eastern fall of the Great Dividing Range to the Sydney Basin, with a single disjunct occurrence in the Brindabella Ranges near Canberra. This not only is a range extension, it is also an interesting disjunction into higher elevations.

Table 5. Range extensions or significant infill in distribution records for species				
Species	Location sighted/observed	Distance from nearest known record (km)	Comments	
<i>Dianella caerulea</i> var. <i>caerulea</i> (Hemerocallidaceae)	Between water crossing and Bobs Ridge along Cascade Trail, Pilot Wilderness -36.5624278; 148.2594801	Near Mitta Mitta (Vic), 74 km (direct) E		
Leionema lamprophyllum subsp. lamprophyllum (Rutaceae)	Dead Horse Gap, beginning of Cascade Trail -36.5238185; 148.2638356	39 km (direct) SSE from Mt Cobberas (Vic)	1 <sup>st</sup> record for NSW; known in alpine Victoria	

<i>Viola hederacea</i> (Violaceae)	Cascade trail, c. 15 km S of Dead Horse Gap on Cascade Trail.	39 km (direct) SSE from Rams Horn (Vic)	1 <sup>st</sup> record for the greater Kosciuszko National Park
---------------------------------------	--	--	---

#### 3.6 Genetic information

Whenever possible, DNA samples were collected concurrently when herbarium specimens were made. This resulted in 121 samples collected, primarily ferns and angiosperms. Upon returning to the NSW herbarium, these samples were freeze dried at -80°C and then housed in air-tight containers in a humidity and temperature-controlled room. These samples will form part of the NSW Plant Tree of Life Flagship project. The aim of this project is to sample every native vascular plant species of NSW and construct an inferred phylogeny.

### 4. Information on species lists

There were no difficulties in identifying the vascular specimens made during the survey – the flora is well resourced with identification tools, and the descriptions made it possible to align the material with described or known putative new species. There is currently no flora for the bryophytes of NSW and the NSW team relied on the skills of Daniel Ohlsen at MEL and the moss flora of Victoria.

The freshwater algae were identified by Stephen Skinner (NSW) who is a specialist with decades of experience. The identification literature available is very limited and has many cosmopolitan species recorded as occurring in Australia. Future research using molecular data has the potential to reveal a redefining of current species circumscriptions and distributions, and the description of Australian endemic species.

# 5. Information for land managers

The Pilot Wilderness Area is an important extension to the Kosciuszko National Park due to the minimal disturbance when compared with the high impact areas along the Main Range. It forms part of the northern headwater catchment for the Murray and Snowy Rivers. The presence of intact swampy heaths and frost-hollow herbfields containing weedy species with low threatening impacts means the floral diversity is high and stable; the presence of weed species in low numbers in forests that are recovering from the 2019/20 fires shows these communities are recovering naturally.

However, the evidence of feral animals, particularly horses and pigs, show that they are impacting the communities on the plateau, particularly swampy heaths and communities around waterways. The degradation observed will have flow-on effects with diminished water quality in the catchments, erosion, and threats to species diversity. *Almaleea capitata* is poorly known, and with a limited distribution based on herbarium and observation records. Currently the highest number of populations (3 from 5 known populations) in NSW are all within the Pilot Wilderness Area, and all are restricted to swampy heaths. While this species is not currently legislated, it probably warrants listing. Continued degradation of these communities by feral animals will ultimately have an impact on it.

# 6. Other significant findings

Two horticulturalists from the Sydney and Mt Annan sites of Botanic Gardens of Sydney attended the survey and were able to collect propagation material. Twenty-four cuttings from 21 species have been successfully propagated. These species shall be used for planting out

in one of the three gardens within the Botanic Gardens of Sydney, and for future propagation within the Gardens nurseries.

The Pilot at 1830 m is the only high point within the Wilderness Area that had potentially narrow endemics like those occurring on the Main Range. Previously only Rex Filson (MEL) had visited the mountain to collect lichens. 58 species were collected on the Pilot (2 mosses; 3 ferns and allies; 1 gymnosperm; 52 angiosperms); 2 species were weeds, but no observed or collected species were listed as threatened. Horses were observed on the saddle and near the summit, but there appeared to be no evidence of erosion or habitat destruction; any human disturbance was historical and minimal (old wire, rusted drums, and horse shoes).

# 7. Conclusions

Over the two-week period of the Southern Alps BushBlitz survey, 485 specimens, representing 241 species (207 angiosperms, 1 gymnosperm, 4 ferns, 5 mosses, and 24 algae) were added to the National Herbarium of NSW. All but three species are known to occur within the Kosciuszko National Park and neighbouring Wilderness Areas. While it is still not conclusive, it does appear that the narrow endemics seen on the Main Range and associated peaks are absent from the Pilot Wilderness Area. Our cursory visit to The Pilot, the only significant peak within the region, did not locate any such narrow endemics, although the scree area and the southern steep slope were not explored due to time limitations.

Our survey searches were not exhaustive, so the potential for new populations of threatened species, new range extensions and new additions to the NSW flora census are still possible. Locating new records during the survey period suggests that further discoveries are likely.

The Wilderness Area, possibly as a result of limited access for a lengthy period, is remarkably weed free. No Weeds of National Significance (WONS) were observed despite *Pilosella* (*Hieracium*) (Hawkweed) being known to occur within Kosciuszko National Park and the seeds are easily moved by prevailing winds. However, the visual effect of feral animals in frost-hollow herbfields and swampy heaths does require continued land management particularly as these communities were observed to contain threatened listed or potentially threatened species.

# Acknowledgements

The NSW flora team wish to thank BushBlitz for the opportunity to explore an under-collected region of NSW and to improve our understanding of its flora, for their dedication to organising to a very high standard in particular helicopter schedules and safety, and for their tireless efforts to ensure our experience is as successful and enjoyable as can be possible. The interactions and networking made possible between other institutions and organism groups is always invaluable in sharing new ideas and concepts. The open day with the people of Jindabyne and engaging with the teachers under the BHP program allowed us to interact with a variety of people and students, to introduce them to the wonder of botany, and to ultimately hopefully inspire a future generation of biologists.

### References

Collins TL, Schmidt-Lebuhn AN, Andrew RL, Telford IRH, Bruhl JJ (2022) There's gold in them thar hills! Morphology and molecules delimit species in *Xerochrysum* (Asteraceae; Gnaphalieae)and reveal many taxa. *Australian Systematic Botany* 35: 120-185

Doherty MD, Robertson G, Corcoran D, Wright G. (2011) Cool temperate rainforest in the Pilot Wilderness Area, Kosciuzsko National Park, New South Wales: Distribution, composition and impact of the 2003 fires. *Cunninghamia* 12: 119-127

Entwisle TJ, Sonnerman JA, Lewis SH (1997) Freshwater algae in Australia: A guide to conspicuous genera. Sainty and Associates. Sydney

Entwisle TJ, Skinner S, Lewis SH, Foard HJ (2007) Algae of Australia: Batrachospermales, Thoreales, Oedogoniales & Zygonemaceae. Australian Biological Resources Study, Canberra

Keith D (2004) Ocean Shores to desert dunes: The native vegetation of New South Wales and the ACT. Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW). Hurstville, NSW

Ling HU, Tyler PA (2000) Australian Freshwater Algae (exclusive of diatoms) Bibliotheca Phycologica Band 105. J. Cramer, Berlin, Germany

Maslin BR (coordinator) (2018). WATTLE: Interactive Identification of Australian Acacia. Version 3. Australian Biological Resources Study, Canberra

Nicolle D (2022) Native eucalypts of Victoria and Tasmania – South-eastern Australia. Lane Communications, Adelaide.

PlantNET (2023) Flora of New South Wales Version 2.0, Botanic Gardens of Sydney. https://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/ (accessed Apr-Aug 2023)

Simon BK, Alfonso Y (2011) AusGrass2, <u>http://ausgrass2.myspecies.info/</u> (accessed Apr-Aug 2023)

Slee AV, Brooker MIH, Duffy SM, West JG (2020) EUCLID. Eucalypts of Australia. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition <u>https://apps.lucidcentral.org/euclid/text/intro/index.html</u> (accessed Apr-Aug 2023)

Thackway R, Cresswell IR (2005) An interim biogeographic regionalisation of Australia (IBRA). Version 7. <u>https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/land/nrs/science/ibra#ibra</u> (accessed November 2022)

Thiele KR, Prober SM (2006) New species and a new hybrid in the *Viola hederacea* species complex, with notes on *Viola hederacea* Labill. *Muelleria* 18: 7-25

Thompson IR (2006) A taxonomic treatment of tribe Senecioneae (Asteraceae) in Australia. *Muelleria* 24: 51-110

VicFlora (2023) Flora of Victoria, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. <u>https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au</u> (accessed Apr-Aug 2023)

Wang J, Bean AR (2019) A taxonomic revision of *Lagenophora* Cass. (Asteraceae) in Australia. *Austrobaileya* 10: 405-442

Appendix 1. List of	f NSW Flora recorded during the Southern Alps B	ush Blitz			
Family	Species	Putative new species	Threatened (EPBC Act)	Threatened (State Act)	Exotic/ pest
Algae					
<u>CYANOBACTERIA</u>					
Scytonemataceae	Scytonema sp.				
Stigonemataceae	Stigonema ocellatum				
<u>DIATOMS</u>					
Fragilariaceae	<i>Tabellaria</i> sp.				
EUGLENIOIDEA					
Euglenaceae	<i>Euglena</i> sp.				
<u>OCHROPHYTA</u>					
Tribonemataceae	<i>Tribonema</i> sp.				
<u>CHLOROPHYTA</u>					
Characeae	Chara sp.				
Netriaceae	Netrium sp.				
Oedogoniaceae	Oedogonium sp.				
Zygnemataceae	Zygnema sp.				
<u>DESMIDIALES</u>					
Closteriaceae	Closterium sp. "small crescent"				
Closteriaceae	Closterium kuetzingii				
Closteriaceae	Closterium intermedium complex				
Desmidiaceae	Cosmarium sp.				
Desmidiaceae	Euastrum cf longicolle				
Desmidiaceae	Euastrum turneri complex				
Desmidiaceae	Micrasterias jenneri				
Desmidiaceae	Micrasterias truncata - blunt form				
Desmidiaceae	Micrasterias truncata - spiny form				
Desmidiaceae	Micrasterias sp.				
Desmidiaceae	Onychonema sp.				
Desmidiaceae	Pleurotaenium sp.				

Family	Species	Putative new species	Threatened (EPBC Act)	Threatened (State Act)	Exotic/ pest
Desmidiaceae	Staurodesmus sp - classic three-corner hat	•			
Desmidiaceae	Staurodesmus sp decorated arms				
Desmidiaceae	Tetmemorus sp.				
Bryonbytes					
Polytrichaceae	Dawsonia longiseta				
Polytrichaceae					
Sphagnaceae	Sphagnum cristatum				
Bartramiaceae	Bartramia robusta				
Meesiaceae	Meesia muelleri				
Ferns and allies					
Blechnaceae	Blechnum penna-marina subsp. alpina				
Aspleniaceae	Asplenium trichomanes				
Dryopteridaceae	Polytrichum proliferum				
Lycopodiaceae	Lycopodium fastigatum				
Gymnosperms					
Podocarpaceae	Podocarpus lawrencei				
Angiosperms					
Apiaceae	Aciphylla glacialis				
Apiaceae	Aciphylla simplicifolia				
Apiaceae	Foeniculum vulgare				Yes
Apiaceae	Gingidia harveyanum				
Apiaceae	Oreomyrrhis brevipes				
Apiaceae	Oreomyrrhis ciliata				
Apiaceae	Oreomyrrhis eriopoda				
Apiaceae	Oschatzia cuneifolia				
Araliaceae	Hydrocotyle algida				

Family	Species	Putative new species	Threatened (EPBC Act)	Threatened (State Act)	Exotic/ pest
Araliaceae	Hydrocotyle laxiflora				
Araliaceae	Hydrocotyle sibthorpioides				
Araliaceae	<i>Polyscias sambucifolia</i> subsp. Short leaflets (V.Stajsic 196) Vic. Herbarium				
Araliaceae	Trachymene humilis subsp. humilis				
Asparagaceae	Arthropodium milleflorum				
Asphodelaceae	Dianella caerulea var. caerulea				
Asteraceae	Brachyscome aculeata				
Asteraceae	Brachyscome decipiens				
Asteraceae	Brachyscome nivalis				
Asteraceae	Brachyscome spathulata				
Asteraceae	Brachyscome tadgellii				
Asteraceae	Calotis pubescens			Yes (Endangered)	
Asteraceae	Cassinia aculeata subsp. aculeata				
Asteraceae	Celmisia tomentella				
Asteraceae	Chrysocephalum semipapposum subsp. semipap	oposum			
Asteraceae	Coronidium monticola				
Asteraceae	Craspedia aurantia				
Asteraceae	Craspedia canens				
Asteraceae	Craspedia crocata				
Asteraceae	Cymbonotus preissianus				
Asteraceae	Euchiton involucratus				
Asteraceae	Euchiton japonicus				
Asteraceae	Hypochaeris radicata				Yes
Asteraceae	Lagenifera montana				
Asteraceae	Leptinella filicula				
Asteraceae	Leptorhynchos squamatus subsp. alpinus				
Asteraceae	Microseris lanceolata				
Asteraceae	Olearia algida				
Asteraceae	Olearia myrsinoides				

Family	Species	Putative new species	Threatened (EPBC Act)	Threatened (State Act)	Exotic/ pest
Asteraceae	Olearia phlogopappa subsp. flavescens				
Asteraceae	Olearia phlogopappa subsp. serrata				
Asteraceae	Onopordum acanthium subsp. acanthium				Yes
Asteraceae	Ozothamnus alpinus				
Asteraceae	Ozothamnus cupressoides				
Asteraceae	Ozothamnus secundiflorus				
Asteraceae	Picris angustifolia subsp. merxmuelleri				
Asteraceae	Podolepis lacinatus				
Asteraceae	Rhodanthe anthemoides				
Asteraceae	Senecio gunnii				
Asteraceae	Senecio linearifolius var. latifolius				
Asteraceae	Senecio pinnatifolius var. alpinus				
Asteraceae	Solenogyne gunnii				
Asteraceae	Xerochrysum andrewiae				
Boraginaceae	Echium vulgare				Yes
Brassicaceae	Barbarea grayi				
Brassicaceae	Cardamine robusta				
Campanulaceae	Lobelia pedunculata				
Campanulaceae	Lobelia surrepens				
Campanulaceae	Wahlenbergia ceracea				
Campanulaceae	Wahlenbergia gloriosa				
Campanulaceae	Wahlenbergia stricta subsp. stricta				
Caryophyllaceae	Cerastium vulgare				Yes
Caryophyllaceae	Dianthus armeria				Yes
Caryophyllaceae	Saponaria officinalis				Yes
Caryophyllaceae	Scleranthus biflorus				
Caryophyllaceae	Stellaria pungens				
Celastraceae	Stackhousia monogyna				
Crassulaceae	Crassula sieberiana				
Cyperaceae	Carex appressa				

Family	Species	Putative new species	Threatened (EPBC Act)	Threatened (State Act)	Exotic/ pest
Cyperaceae	Carex echinata	•			
Cyperaceae	Carex hypandra				
Cyperaceae	Carex incomitata				
Cyperaceae	Carpha nivicola				
Cyperaceae	Eleocharis gracilis				
Cyperaceae	Isolepis aucklandica				
Cyperaceae	Isolepis fluitans				
Cyperaceae	Isolepis habra				
Cyperaceae	Isolepis montivaga				
Cyperaceae	Lepidosperma curtisiae				
Dilleniaceae	Hibbertia obtusifolia complex				
Droseraceae	Drosera peltata				
Ericaceae	Acrothamnus hookeri				
Ericaceae	Acrothamnus maccraei				
Ericaceae	Epacris celata				
Ericaceae	Epacris gunnii				
Ericaceae	Epacris paludosa				
Ericaceae	Richea continentis				
Fabaceae	Acacia mearnsii				
Fabaceae	Acacia penninervis subsp. penninervis				
Fabaceae	Almaleea capitata				
Fabaceae	Bossiaea distichoclada				
Fabaceae	Bossiaea foliosa				
Fabaceae	Cullen microcephalum				
Fabaceae	Daviesia latifolia				
Fabaceae	Glycine clandestina				
Fabaceae	Hovea montana				
Fabaceae	Lotus corniculatus				Yes
Fabaceae	Lotus subbiflorus				Yes
Fabaceae	Oxylobium ellipticum				

Family	Species	Putative new species	Threatened (EPBC Act)	Threatened (State Act)	Exotic/ pest
Fabaceae	Pultenaea fascicularis				
Fabaceae	Trifolium dubium				Yes
Fabaceae	Trifolium repens				Yes
Gentianceae	Centaurium erythraea				
Geraniaceae	Geranium antrorsum				
Geraniaceae	Geranium homeanum				
Geraniaceae	Geranium potentilloides var. abditum				
Geraniaceae	Geranium potentilloides var. potentilloides				
Goodeniaceae	Goodenia hederacea subsp. alpestris				
Goodeniaceae	Velleia montana				
Haloragaceae	Gonocarpus micranthus subsp. micranthus				
Haloragaceae	Gonocarpus montanus				
Haloragaceae	Gonocarpus tetragynus				
Hypericaceae	Hypericum gramineum				
Hypericaceae	Hypericum japonicum				
Hypericaceae	Hypericum perfoliatum				Yes
Hypoxidaceae	Hypoxis hygrometrica var .splendida				
Juncaceae	Juncus phaeanthus				
Juncaceae	Juncus phaeanthus x vaginatus				
Juncaceae	Juncus vaginatus				
Juncaceae	Luzula densiflora				
Juncaceae	Luzula modesta				
Juncaceae	Luzula novae-cambriae				
Lamiaceae	Ajuga australis				
Lamiaceae	Prostanthera cuneata				
Lamiaceae	Prostanthera lasianthos				
Lamiaceae	Prunella vulgaris (long spike alpine form)				
Lentibulariaceae	Utricularia dichotoma subsp. dichotoma				
Lentibulariaceae	Utricularia dichotoma subsp. monanthus				
Linaceae	Linum marginale				

Family	Species	Putative new species	Threatened (EPBC Act)	Threatened (State Act)	Exotic/ pest
Montiaceae	Montia australasica				
Myrtaceae	Baeckea gunniana				
Myrtaceae	Baeckea latifolia				
Myrtaceae	Baeckea utilis				
Myrtaceae	Callistemon pityoides				
Myrtaceae	Eucalyptus niphophila				
Myrtaceae	Eucalyptus perriniana				
Myrtaceae	Eucalyptus stellulata				
Myrtaceae	Kunzea muelleri				
Myrtaceae	Leptospermum grandifolium				
Myrtaceae	Leptospermum lanigerum				
Onagraceae	Epilobium billardiereanum subsp. cinereum				
Onagraceae	Epilobium billardiereanum subsp. hydrophilum				
Orchidaceae	Chiloglottis valida				
Orchidaceae	Eriochilus magenteus				
Orchidaceae	Genoplesium nudum				
Orchidaceae	Prasophyllum alpestre				
Orchidaceae	Prasophyllum sphacelatum				
Orchidaceae	Prasophyllum tadgellianum				
Orchidaceae	Pterostylis decurva				
Orchidaceae	Pterostylis monticola				
Orchidaceae	Pterostylis squamata				
Orchidaceae	Thelymitra cyanea				
Orobanchaceae	Euphrasia caudata				
Phyllanthaceae	Poranthera oreophila				
Pittosporaceae	Bursaria spinosa subsp. lasiophylla				
Plantaginaceae	Callitriche stagnalis				Yes
Plantaginaceae	Plantago alpestris				
Plantaginaceae	Plantago euryphylla				
Plantaginaceae	Veronica derwentiana subsp. maideniana				

Family	Species	Putative new species	Threatened (EPBC Act)	Threatened (State Act)	Exotic/ pest
Plantaginaceae	Veronica perfoliata				
Plantaginaceae	Veronica subtilis				
Poaceae	Agrostis muelleriana				
Poaceae	Agrostis parviflora				
Poaceae	Agrostis venusta				
Poaceae	Anoxantherum odoratum				Yes
Poaceae	Austrostipa nivicola				
Poaceae	Deyeuxia brachyathera				
Poaceae	Deyeuxia carinata				
Poaceae	Lachnagrostis meioncetes				
Poaceae	Poa clivicola				
Poaceae	Poa fawcettiae				
Poaceae	Poa labillardieri				
Poaceae	Rytidosperma pilosum				
Poaceae	Rytidosperma racemosum subsp. racemosum				
Poaceae	Themeda triandra				
Polygalaceae	Comesperma retusum				
Polygonaceae	Rumex acetosella				Yes
Proteaceae	Grevillea australis				
Proteaceae	Grevillea lanigera				
Proteaceae	Grevillea victoriae subsp. nivalis				
Proteaceae	Hakea microcarpa				
Proteaceae	Persoonia chamaepeuce				
Ranunculaceae	Ranunculus amphitrichus				
Ranunculaceae	Ranunculus graniticola				
Ranunculaceae	Ranunculus producta				
Ranunculaceae	Ranunculus scapiger				
Restionaceae	Baloskion australe				
Rosaceae	Acaena novae-zelandiae				
Rosaceae	Potentilla recta				Yes

Family	Species	Putative new species	Threatened (EPBC Act)	Threatened (State Act)	Exotic/ pest
Rosaceae	Rubus parviflorus				
Rubiaceae	Asperula gunnii (glabrous form)				
Rubiaceae	Asperula gunnii (type form)				
Rubiaceae	Asperula pusilla				
Rubiaceae	Coprosma hirtella				
Rutaceae	Boronia nana var .hyssopifolia				
Rutaceae	Leionema lamprophyllum subsp. lamprophyllum				
Rutaceae	Phebalium squamulosum subsp. squamulosum				
Santalaceae	Exocarpos strictus				
Scrophulariaceae	Verbascum thapsus subsp. thapsus				Yes
Scrophulariaceae	Verbascum virgatum				Yes
Stylidiaceae	Stylidium montanum				
Thymelaeaceae	Pimelea glauca				
Thymelaeaceae	Pimelea ligustrina subsp. ciliata				
Thymelaeaceae	Pimelea linifolia subsp .caesia				
Violaceae	Viola betonicifolia				
Violaceae	Viola fuscoviolacea				
Violaceae	Viola hederacea subsp. hederacea				
Winteraceae	Tasmannia xerophila subsp. xerophila				