

WARANGA NEWS

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Wildflower hunters brave the chill



The crowd gathers for the popular guided botanical walk.

The annual Rushworth Wildflower Hunt was again held on Sunday 27 August. The weather was cold and windy but that didn't stop a record 200 people taking part in the event. There were many wildflowers out in bloom including the leopard orchid or golden guinea, brachycome, everlastings, grevilleas and egg and bacon. Particularly impressive this year was the sea of yellow from the many wattles in full bloom.

The guided botanical walk was well attended where participants were particularly impressed with the wildflower diversity in the Growlers Hill Wildflower Sanctuary. Also popular again was the tea and coffee stand at the half way point where many old friends who had not seen each other for quite a while caught up over a hot beverage.

Numbers this year were bolstered by over 50 members of various native plant societies in the region from as far afield as Echuca, Mitchell, Euroa and Wangaratta.

Many participants also attended guest speaker Paul Foreman's very interesting

presentation at the shire hall afterwards on Ironbark biogeography including broad and fine scale vegetation patterns, vegetation evolution and environmental change and how to repair damage done.

The high attendance at this year's event was also a boon for local businesses with many attendees frequenting the cafes before and afterwards for beverages and lunch.

Thank you to all those attendees who came and supported the event and the positive feedback the organising committee has received. A special thanks to all the volunteers and guides who through their unpaid efforts and time made this event possible and the Echuca Moama Australian Plant Society for organising the guest speaker Paul Foreman and putting the Rushworth Wildflower Hunt on



Our local flora brings out the camera enthusiasts.

the agenda of the many native plant societies in the region.

Look out for next year's event which will be held at Whroo taking in again the many wildflowers on display in that area as well as its many historic sights.