

Attention Redbank Plains Boulderers - Rare Plant Awareness

please be aware of this rare plant and avoid damage to it

What's the deal?

Queensland climber and botanist, Dr Mike Olsen, has recently made ACAQ aware of the fact that the White Rock Conservation Estate is home to a rare plant that grows in and around the rocky areas frequented by boulderers. It looks like this -



Plectranthus habrophyllus

To date, we have found plants at **Slab Land** and the **Underground**.

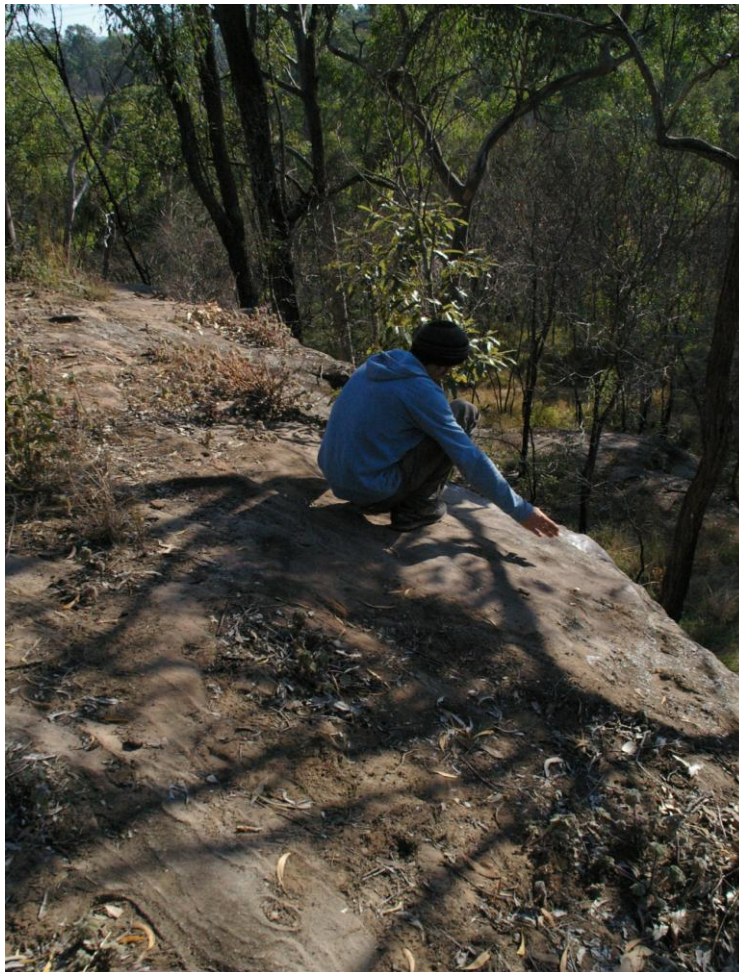
Why should we be concerned?

Some of the areas where we boulder are located on the White Rock Conservation Park, which is part of the NPRSR protected estate. Other areas are on land owned by ICC, and managed as part of the ICC conservation estate. Whilst it is clear that the NPRSR estate is to be managed under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 (NCA) by the ICC acting as trustees for QPWS, it is not at all clear what corpus of legislation, if any, applies to the ICC estates.

What is clear, however, is that all of these estates are seriously degraded due to the invasion of feral vegetation. Hopefully, ICC will find the political will to engage the decades-long management program that will be necessary to reverse the damage. In the meantime, the climbing community can be doing its bit. Here is a chance for us to bring some stewardship to this neglected public asset. Here is a chance for us to help mitigate species loss while this area is being restored to its natural state. And, at the same time, we will be adding recreational value. Under the frame of reference of the NCA, this is a win-win situation whereby both presentation and preservation are being enhanced.

What do we need to do?

The plant is easily recognized, so all we need to do is avoid trampling it, and avoid topping out of climbs where damage would ensue.



Here we see the plant growing in clumps across the top of a boulder.

A good trick would be to mark a single exit track from the top of the boulder using small logs to avoid multi-tracking