Another interesting feature is the authors' choice to focus on the 54 endemic trees and shrubs from the Hunter region only. By doing so, they have been able to give these often-overlooked species an in-depth treatment and in some cases shed light on species very poorly known or recently described for the first time. Easily cross referenced with other available, more comprehensive guides that cover the Hunter and adjoining regions, this guide really does complete the picture of the region's unique diversity in a very thorough manner of which the authors should be proud.

I for one am already looking forward to the second volume covering the Hunter's smaller shrubs, cycads, orchids and forbs which is to follow soon. Be it for field identification, research or merely to appreciate the art, this book and the coming second volume are ones to add to the must-have list.

Gavin Phillips, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney

## Plants of the Victorian High Country – A Field Guide for Walkers Second Edition

John Murphy, Bill Dowling

Paperback. October 2018. \$39.99. ISBN: 9781486309016. 168 pages. 215 x 148 mm. Publisher: CSIRO Publishing

This is a great field guide for those who are new to alpine flora. It's very functional in terms of looking up species and it has really great pictures. I feel like I have been waiting for a book like this for a long time! Compared to the Kosziousko Alpine Flora, the size of this book makes it much more user-friendly, as a field guide. All species are organised into five broad plant functional groups. At the start of each functional group, there is a simple straight forward botanical key. This is great, because it makes it easy to search in the book and identify plants if you don't know the common or the scientific name of a plant. Species information is succinct and informative,



the book briefly describes lifeform and the elevation zone where you may find the plant, as well as details of floristic characteristics.

I have enjoyed taking it on camping trips and getting my less botanically inclined friends hooked into alpine plants. I think it gives a nice focus in a group when you are just hanging back at a camp site and having a go at the ongoing plant quiz.

All in all, this is definitely a long-waited product and well worth your money and the space on your shelf.

Khorloo Batpurev, Arthur Rylah Institute

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