

12. Tyak Flora Reserve



Tyak Flora Reserve is a small but rich and largely intact remnant of Grassy Dry Forest with small but old trees and a great display of native grasses and wildflowers. Coming from Broadford, the Reserve is on the corner of Strath Creek Road and Cunninghams Road. Dabyminga Creek (or Reedy Creek above the bridge) is at the bottom of the hill.

This Reserve is on the land of the Taungurung People. We acknowledge their Elders past and present and emerging, and their care of Country over many millennia. We ask that all people respect this ancient heritage and care for the land we now share.

Directions

From Broadford, turn at the High Street T-intersection opposite the service station into Short Street. This becomes Strath Creek Road. Cunninghams Road is 7.4 km from High Street. Park near the water tanks.

Walking Tracks

The Reserve is fenced with no gates. There are no regular walking tracks, so care is needed not to damage the wildflowers.



The Reserve has no easy access



No toilets

Landform and Geology

The Reserve is on a rise formed from different layers of sandstone, siltstone and claystone laid down in the sea then uplifted and contorted around 380 million years ago. The Reserve is on a dry rise above Reedy Creek/Dabyminga Creek, and the road cutting on the southern side shows the types of rock beneath the Reserve.

Vegetation

The Reserve is a relatively intact example of [Grassy Dry Forest](#) with small trees and a rich diversity of grasses, orchids, lilies and other wildflowers. The Reserve has a mix of Red Box, Long-leaved Box and Red Stringybark with a few Yellow Box in moister areas. There are occasional understory trees and shrubs such as Black Wattle, Sweet Bursaria and Narrow-leaved Bitter-pea. However, it is the ground flora that has the greatest diversity. Tussock grasses (Grey Tussock-grass, Kangaroo Grass, Red-anthered Wallaby-grass and other Wallaby-grasses) dominate. Gaps between the tussocks are filled with many prostrate woody shrubs, orchids, lilies, sedges and many small herbs including at least one threatened species. Rosemary Grevillea and Willow-leaf Hakea are not local species and are a threat to the Reserve. Plant list is in preparation.

Grassy Dry Forest is classed as depleted in the bioregion, and most sites across the Shire have been cleared and grazed. So this site is of particular value for species conservation. It is also adjacent to Dabyminga Creek that is a riparian link between the Mount Disappointment and Tallarook Forests.

Wildlife

Apart from birds, few species have been seen or reported in the Reserve. Species list is in preparation.

Aboriginal history

The Reserve is on the land of the Taungurung people. While the Reserve is a dry site with little to offer, Aboriginal People would have moved along the nearby Dabyminga Creek and visited the dry lands around the Reserve.

History after colonisation

The Reserve is a remnant of the natural vegetation on a road reserve, with an old road around the north and the current road cutting through the south side. The two-acre site was brought to the attention of the Native Plants Preservation Society in 1957 and the area was protected by a rabbit-proof fence. In 2004, Mitchell Shire Council voted to declare the site as a Flora and Fauna Reserve with Council as the Committee of Management, and the site was officially removed from the road reserve in 2006. In 2005, BEAM, CFA and Dabyminga Catchment Collaborative (Landcare) were funded to replace the fence.

Management

The Reserve is crown land separated by fences from the surrounding road reserves managed by VicRoads and the Council. Although this is not recognised in title maps, it is zoned as Public Conservation and Resource Zone. Mitchell Shire Council and Dabyminga Catchment Collaborative (Landcare) work together to protect this Reserve.

Further information

Goulburn Broken CMA Revegetation Guide: information on different ecological vegetation communities, plant communities and plants in the Sugarloaf zone at

<https://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/revegetation/zones/sugarloaf>

Acknowledgements

This Reserve Note was prepared by BEAM Mitchell Environment Group. Thanks to Mitchell Shire Council for their assistance and support. Information was obtained from environmental assessment reports to Mitchell Shire Council by David Laurie and Peter Mitchell.

Author: Peter Mitchell

Version: 1 19 May 2024

These notes are a work in progress. If you have any comments or additional information on the nature and ecological history of Tyaak Flora Reserve, please contact us at <https://www.beam.org.au/contact>,



Tyak Flora Reserve



Legend:

- Tyak Flora Reserve
- Dabyminga Creek
- Roads
- Vehicle Tracks