

15. Fleming Drive Flora Reserve



Fleming Drive Flora Reserve in Broadford is one of the smallest of the Natural Treasures in Mitchell Shire. Despite this, it is a valuable grassland remnant of a threatened vegetation community and has a variety of species, some rarely seen elsewhere. The Reserve is on the corner of the Broadford Wandong Road and Fleming Drive in Broadford.

This reserve is on the land of the Taungurung People and is on the edge of the [Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity](#) area along the nearby Sunday Creek. 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

The Reserve is on the corner of Broadford Wandong Road and Fleming Drive in the southern parts of Broadford.

Walking Tracks

The grasslands are occasionally slashed for ecological management but there are no defined tracks and no facilities.

Landform and Geology

The Reserve is in a wide swale at the bottom of a gentle slope. It can become waterlogged in wet periods.

Vegetation

The central swale of the Reserve is [Plains Grassy Woodland](#) with species that thrive in this damper environment. The area is occasionally slashed to prevent trees and shrubs from over-running and dominating the ground cover. Red Gums are the main trees in the Reserve. Kangaroo grass dominates the ground cover but there is a surprisingly big variety of small plants in the Reserve including small woody plants, orchids, lilies, daisies and other forbs. Tiny styleworts are a feature in the wettest sites.



The adjoining road reserve is on a slightly higher ridge with a wide diversity of Red Box, Grey Box, Yellow Box and Red Gum, and a patchy understorey of Golden Wattles, Sifton Bush and smaller shrubs. Again, it is the ground cover that has the greatest diversity with a mix of grasses and wildflowers. This corridor extends north along the Broadford Wandong Road past Fleming Drive and Horwood Road with the richest area adjacent to the golf course. It is a very significant roadside area.

Plant species list is in preparation.

Wildlife

Kangaroos are a regular feature of the grassland despite the surrounding housing and roads. Bearded Dragons are occasionally seen in the Reserve.

Birds are common along the open grasslands and old growth corridors. A few different species occur here compared with the birds seen in the more forested and drier Colin Officer Flora Reserve, including Eastern Rosellas and Yellow-rumped Thornbills.

Broadford Wandong Road has a wide roadside corridor of older trees with hollows and a diverse range of understorey plants. The corridor extends south and north beside the golf course and provides habitat for arboreal mammals and birds.

Aboriginal history

The Reserve is on the land of the Taungurung people. The Reserve is on the edge of the [Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity](#) area along the nearby Sunday Creek.

History after colonisation

This rich patch of vegetation persists despite the influx of sheep and cattle from the late 1830s, the removal of timber for buildings and firewood, and the subdivision of the land for low density housing. In 1985, Dr Colin Officer invited Dr Jim Willis from the Herbarium of Victoria to inspect the site. His plant lists and recommendations were used to set aside the land as part of the subdivision. Dr Willis also identified the values of the road reserve near the golf course and the upper part of Horwood Road/Water Trust Road (see Colin Officer Flora Reserve).

Management

The land is owned and managed by Mitchell Shire Council.

Further information

Mitchell Shire: <https://www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au/our-region/parks-and-playgrounds/fleming-drive-flora-reserve>

Taungurung Land and Water Council at <https://taungurung.com.au>

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

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



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 Fleming Drive Flora Reserve  Broadford Golf Course  Roads