

30. Langley Flora Reserve



Langley Flora Reserve is one of three crown reserves in the granites and forests of the upper catchment of Mollison Creek between Lancefield and Pyalong. In the Flora Reserve, Messmate forests rise from flat tussocky areas near the road to rocky granite ridges with patches of open rocky scrub and herblands. The diversity of landscapes and plants can be seen on a steep loop track through the Reserve. The two **Langley Bushland Reserves** are further west in Macedon Ranges Shire. They are also Messmate forests with a diversity of habitats and good walking tracks. These Reserves can be approached with a drive through the beautiful granite country west from Pyalong.

These reserves are 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

Scenic drive through the granite country to the Langley Reserves:

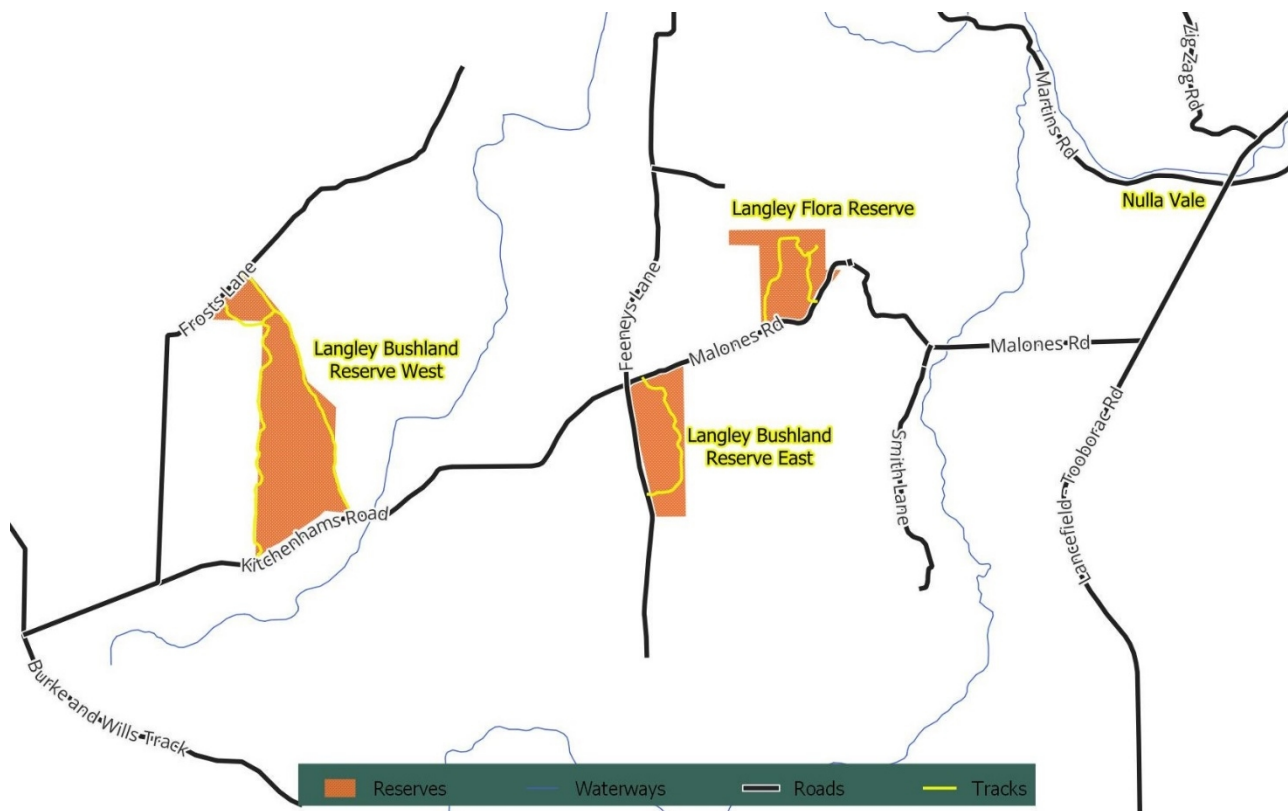
- 0.0 km: Start from the junction of Northern Highway and West Road, Pyalong.
- 3.5 km: The view opens out across the rocky granite hills and Mollison Creek valley. This landscape was heavily cleared and grazed and the trees remaining on hilltops are still visible among the granite tors. Over the recent decades, landowners and Landcare have been transforming the country with corridors of native vegetation.
- 4.8 km Nulla Vale Pyalong West Landcare's Forest Link crosses the road, coming over the hill from Black Spring Bushland Reserve and heading south over the granite country. Several farms in this area have done a lot of revegetation with native species.
- 11.0 km The Rocks, a group of large granite boulders, mark the junction with the Lancefield Tooborac Road. Turn left (south).
- 12.0 km Another crossing of the Forest Link. The roadsides have a diversity of Messmate, Manna Gums and Broad-leaved Peppermint with Blackwood and Silver Wattles (many with Grey Mistletoe).
- 17.6 km At Nulla Vale, the road crosses Mollison Creek with a delightful picnic spot on the corner of Martins Road (right) that has been planted and maintained by Nulla Vale Pyalong West Landcare Group.
- 18.8 km Malones Road. Turn right onto a gravel road.
- 20.2 km Road crosses Big Hill Creek (and more revegetation works on private property). Malones Road leaves the cleared farmlands and winds up to higher forested country dominated by Messmate. Roadsides here have significant vegetation.
- 21.2 km **Langley Flora Reserve** starts after a wide driveway and high fence. Note the steep hills and bluffs of granite covered in shrubs and the old-growth forest with large old trees.
- 21.6 km *East end of loop walk.* The track has no signage and no parking space. The track is steep and any vehicle traffic will cause damage and erosion.
- 22.1 km *West end of loop walk.* The track has no signage but some parking space is available off the road. After a short distance, the track can become wet and then steep, and is unsuitable for other than management vehicles. Start of the *Langley Flora Reserve Loop Walk*.
- 23.0 km **Langley Bushland Reserve East** (aka *Langley Bushland Reserve No.2* or *Langley 197 Bushland Reserve*). Track to the left has space for off-road parking. Start of the *LBRE Loop Walk*.

- 23.1 km Feeneys Lane with Benloch CFA Shed on the corner of the Reserve.
- 25.1 km Todds Creek. This creek runs north then loops back to join Mollison Creek.
- 25.3 km **Langley Bushland Reserve West** (aka *Langley Bushland Reserve No.1* or *Langley 196 Bushland Reserve*). Start of *East Track* and the *LBRW Loop Walk*. Parking is available beside the track.
- 26.1 km Entrance to *West Track*: Minimal space for parking. This track soon becomes very steep and damaged and eroded by vehicles.
- 26.8 km Road junction. Kitchenhams Road ends and Frosts Road swings in from the north
- 27.8 km Junction of Frosts Road and Burke and Wills Track. Turn left down to Lancefield.

An alternative (preferred) entrance to **Langley Bushland Reserve West** is off Frosts Road. At the junction of Kitchenham and Frosts Road, turn right up Frosts Road. From the road junction:

- 2.2 km Northern end of East Track: temporary no firewood collection notice on the track.
- 2.4 km Northern end of West Track: sign for the Reserve, and space for off-road parking and a picnic in the forest with the birds. This is an alternative start for the loop walk.

An alternative approach to all these Reserves is from Lancefield via Burke and Wills Track.



Walking Tracks

Langley Flora Reserve (1.8 km loop): The walk begins at the south-western corner of the Reserve. It passes through a flat and sometimes wet area before climbing through boulder fields to a high saddle between ridges of granite slabs and tors (420m). The track then descends on the grassy northern slopes then loops back to the ridge (1000m). A sidetrack to the left was created to control a small fire on the ridge.

The track then descends beneath the crest of the ridge with good views south of east to the Mount William. This is the site of *Wil-im-ee Moor-ring* or [Mount William Stone Hatchet Quarry](#), a very significant Aboriginal Heritage Site on the lands of the Wurundjeri Woi0wurrung. Further north is the Black Range (a forested ridge near High Camp) and east to Mount Hickey and the Tallarook Ranges in the distance. The track passes patches of scrubland on spring-soaked rock slabs before descending to the right of a rocky bluff and down to Malones Road, (1350m). Return 450m along the road to the west end of the loop.



Warning: This track has been damaged and eroded by vehicles and has puddles and steep sections with loose rocks or sands.

Langley Bushland Reserve East (2.0 km loop): The track begins on Malones Road on outwash slopes, climbs onto the ridgeline with granite boulders, then drops again down to Feeneys Lane (1100m). Return 900m along the road to the start. The track is dry and mostly gentle grades with two short steeper slopes.

Langley Bushland Reserve West (5.0 km loop): This reserve is on the edge of a higher granite plateau with slopes dropping towards Todds Creek. It has two tracks that can be linked by short walks along the roads.

East Track (1710m): Starting from the south-east corner on Kitchenhams Road, the eastern track follows the outwash slopes below the escarpment, with some small soaks featuring dense patches of Saw-sedge and Prickly Moses. It then climbs gradually to a low ridge and then flatter ground through to Frosts Road. Turn left on the road 230m to the West Track.

West Track (2220m): This track runs through undulating forested country with a short link track 130m back to East Track. The track continues to a flat open area sloping to the east and west, and a rock slab area with shrub and herb vegetation. From here, the track gradually rises and falls across three ridges before a steep climb to Kitchenhams Road. Turn left down the hill 740m to the start. These tracks are generally dry and in good condition. East Track may be wet near the small soaks. West track has a steep section onto the Kitchenhams Road.



All tracks have rough and uneven sections and surfaces that are hard gravel and may be covered in sticks and stones. They are not designed for all abilities access. Some have flat to moderate grades that may be accessible to all abilities with assistance.



Driving through the Reserves is discouraged to protect the tracks and vegetation and to control illegal dumping and firewood collection.



The Reserves have no toilets or other facilities.

Landform and Geology

The Reserves are on *Baynton Granodiorite*. Granite ridges and escarpments are central to each reserve, with outwash slopes and wetter areas, probably around small spring soaks typical of the granite country. The soils are typically sandy and very prone to erosion particularly along uncontrolled 4WD tracks.

Langley Flora Reserve and Langley Bushland Reserve East are in the Mollison Creek catchment. The northern part of Langley Bushland Reserve West is on the divide between Pohlman Creek (Campaspe/Lake Eppalock catchment) and Todds Creek running north and east into Mollison Creek (Goulburn Catchment). The rest of the Reserve is on the mid-slopes down to Todds Creek.

Vegetation

All three Reserves are predominantly open [Herb-rich Foothill Forest](#) dominated by Messmate with some Manna Gums and an open understorey of shrubs and tussocks. The vegetation varies widely with aspect and slope. It is more open among the granite boulders on the ridges.

A feature of two of the Reserves is the fascinating [Rocky Outcrop Shrubland/Herbland Mosaics](#) on granite slabs.

Langley Flora Reserve: this is the richest of the reserves with old growth in a diversity of environments. It contains many large Messmates and Manna Gums. There are some but not many large logs on the ground all at risk from firewood collectors. The flatter south-west corner has an understorey of tussock grasses, Little Grass-Trees and Spiny-headed Mat-rush, and damper areas with Prickly Tea-Tree and a few Swamp Gums. This tussocky understorey mixes with Bracken up the south side of the ridge. On the northern slopes, the ground cover changes to a more herb-rich grassland with species such as Weeping Grass and Wallaby Grasses, violets, lilies and pelargoniums, and scattered Silver Wattles.



The south-east area has interesting *Rocky Outcrop Shrubland/Herbland Mosaic* over rocky slabs extending down from the track to the bluffs near the road (see photo on left). Peaty soils over the rocks have many small herbs such as Yellow Star And Early Nancy (and much more during Spring). Between the rocks are thickets of Common Fringe-Myrtle.

Langley Bushland Reserve East: Mostly a dry rocky ridge, with some richer outwash slopes. Most of the Reserve was burnt between the track and the road around 2022/3, with a hot fire on the ridge burning into the canopy and provoking epicormic growths.



Langley Bushland Reserve West: Mostly drier forest with some large Messmates and Manna Gums. The Reserve was burnt a few years ago and there has been good regrowth of Silver Wattles to 5m. The eastern track is along outwash slopes with a few spring-soak areas containing saw-sedge, Prickly Moses, Prickly Tea-Tree and Blackwoods. Open flat areas at the top of the escarpment are more open and grassy. This area has fewer logs possibly because it is used for firewood collection.

West Track passes a large open area with shallow moist soils and rock slabs. The vegetation is typical of *Rocky Outcrop Shrubland/Herbland Mosaic* with shrubs and a diversity of small forbs and mosses.

Plant lists are in preparation.

Wildlife

These Reserves with their old growth trees are likely to be rich in wildlife. The short lists of species suggest they have not been well surveyed (we added black wallabies and other visible species to the list). Visits to the reserves during the day and night would be rewarding, with the possibility of a Powerful Owl and gliders.

Species lists are in preparation.

Aboriginal history

These Reserves are on the land of the Taungurung people.

History after colonisation

This area of the granite country was not part of the older subdivisions that required the clearing of land. It has been divided into relatively small holdings with three areas left as Crown reserves.

Management

Langley Flora Reserve and the two Bushland Reserves are Crown land managed by Parks Victoria. The Flora Reserve has no signage or warnings about firewood collection, and damage is happening. The two Bushland Reserves do have signs and the warnings appear to be respected.

Both Bushland Reserves have burnt in recent years, probably part of a government fuel reduction program in the area.

These Reserves are on the land of the Taungurung People and is Crown land included in the [Land Use Activity Agreement](#), a part of the [Taungurung Recognition and Settlement Agreement](#).

Further information

Parks Victoria: Parks Victoria can be contacted on 13 1963 or go to <https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/contact-us>. Websites for three reserves contains only general information on visiting reserves (at time of publication of this Reserve Note):

www.parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/parks/langley-flora-reserve

www.parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/parks/langley-i97-bushland-reserve

www.parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/parks/langley-i96-bushland-reserve

Taungurung Land and Water Council at <https://taungurung.com.au>. Taungurung Recognition and Settlement Agreement at <https://www.justice.vic.gov.au/your-rights/native-title/taungurung-recognition-and-settlement-agreement>

Goulburn Broken CMA Revegetation Guide: information on different ecological vegetation communities, plant communities and plants in the Pyalong zone at <https://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/revegetation/zones/pyalong>

Acknowledgements

This Reserve Note was prepared by BEAM Mitchell Environment Group, with assistance from Mitchell Shire Council.

Author: Peter Mitchell

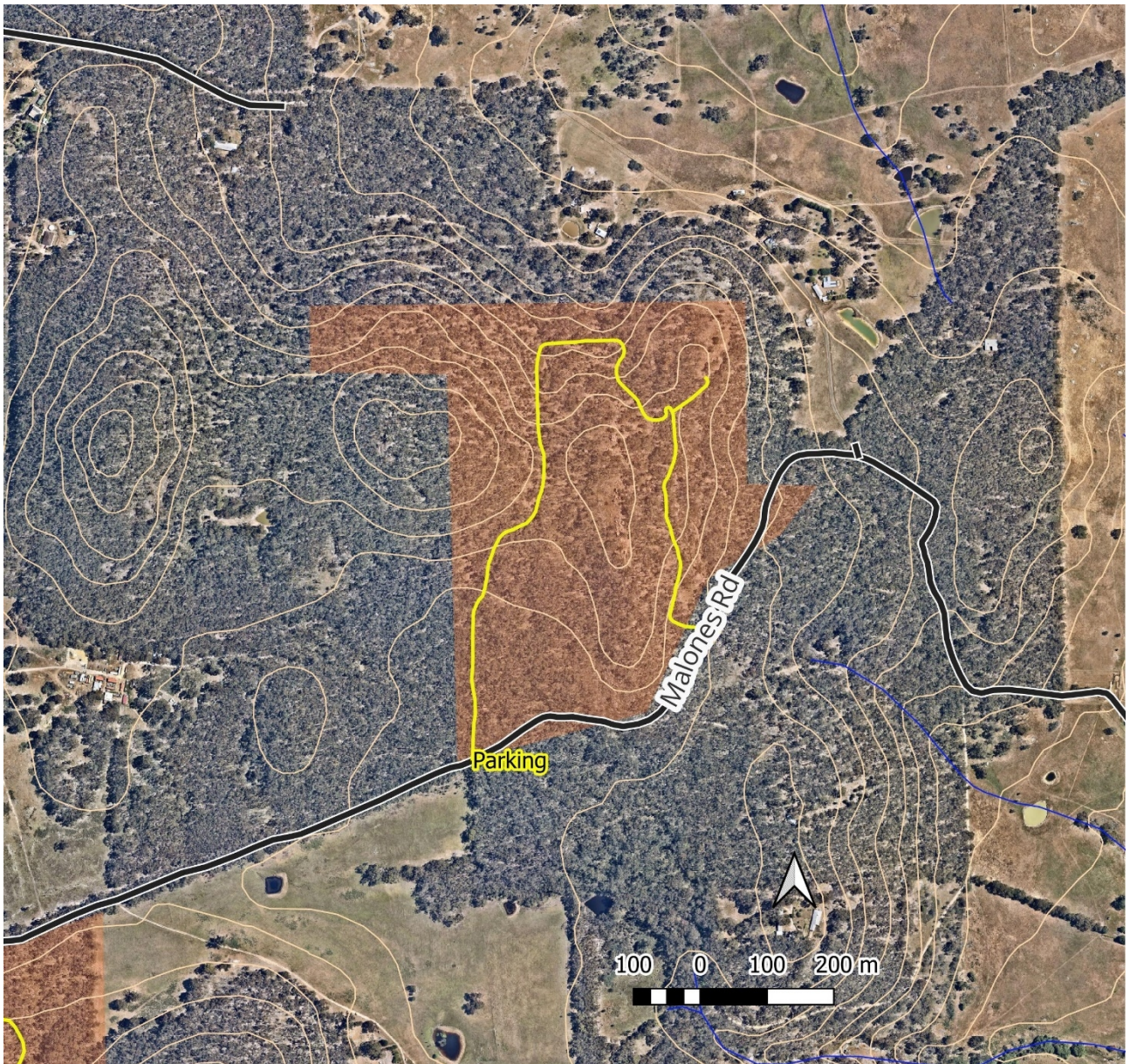
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These notes are a work in progress. If you have any comments or additional information on the nature and ecological history of the Langley Reserves, please contact us at

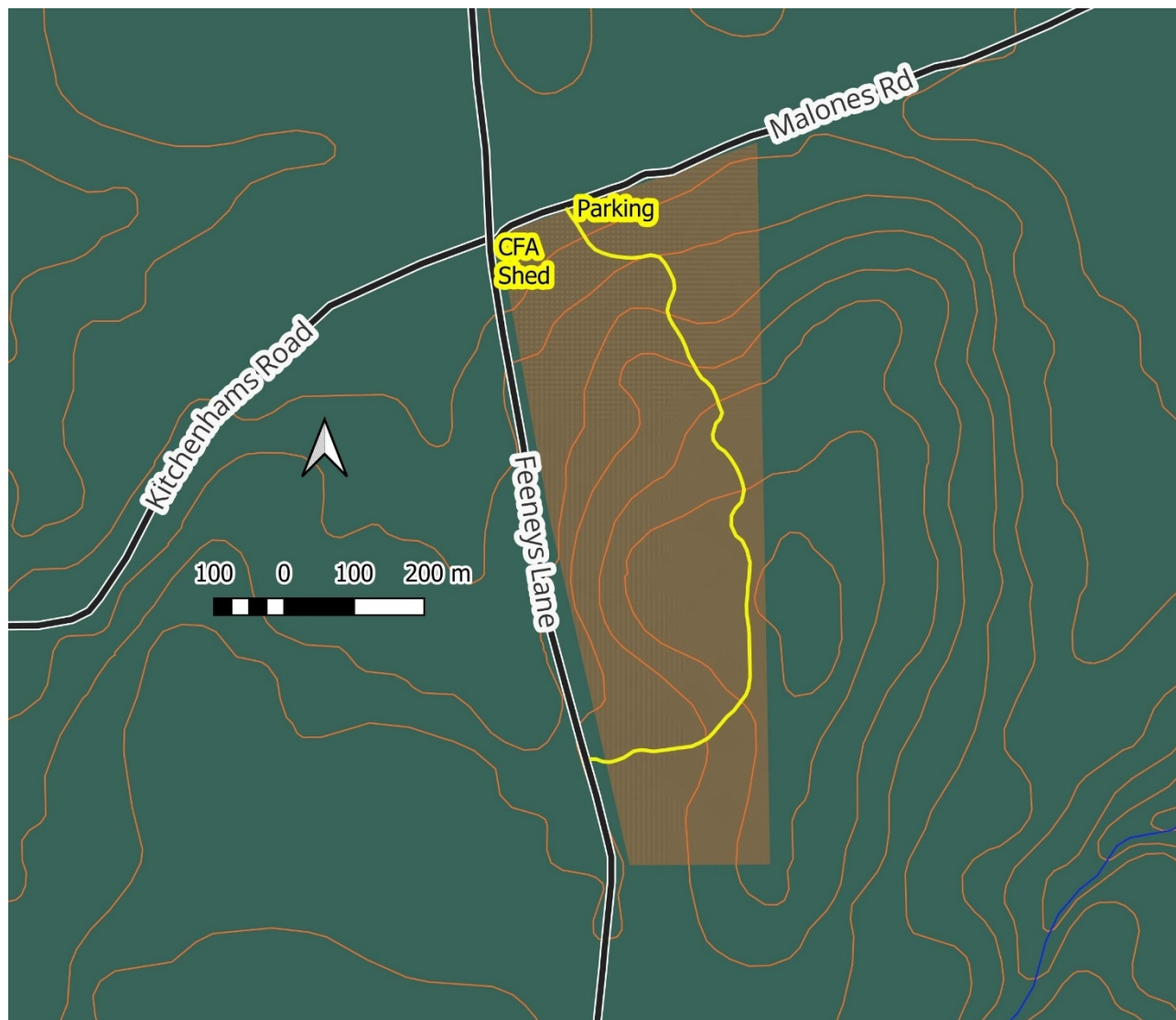
<https://www.beam.org.au/contact>



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Langley Bushland Reserve East



Langley Bushland Reserve West

