

BURNS ROAD, GLENBURN BOTANICAL ASSESSMENT – 2016/17



Picture 1: Dipodium roseum (Hyacinth Orchid)



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SUMMARY

Burns Road contains almost continuous vegetation cover along its length with significant flora values. A vulnerable listed Ecological Vegetation Class of Swampy Riparian Complex with a wide diversity of over 140 indigenous species in the immediate area interspersed with indigenous, native, and exotic plantings. Relatively free of woody or shrubby weeds with predominantly grassy weeds.

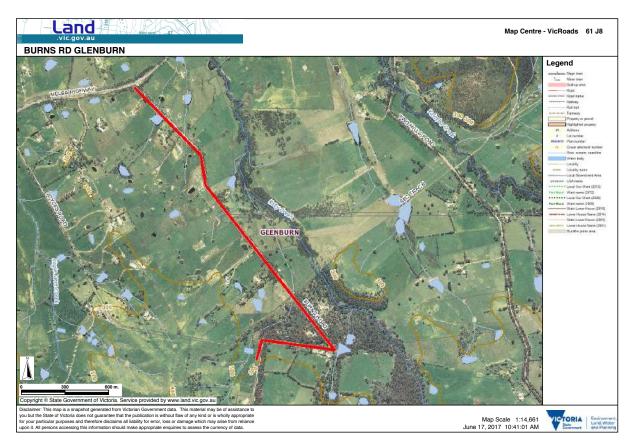


Figure 1: Burns Road, Glenburn (marked in Red)

AIM

The aim of this investigation is to better understand the botanical values of this roadside. This evidence may assist future management decisions and support the protection and enhancement of the natural landscape of Burns Road, Glenburn.

INTRODUCTION/ASSESSMENT PURPOSE

This is the first known botanical assessment of this estimated two hectares of Glenburn roadside vegetation. The assessment includes vegetation structure, species composition, EVC's, locations of any significant or rare plant species, locations of high threat weed species, and quality assessment. The assessment is sponsored by the Upper Goulburn Landcare Network (UGLN) as part of the Ribbons of Remnant Roadside funding by the Victorian State



Government. This program seeks to generate better ecological understanding of roadside vegetation and habitat values.

BACKGROUND

LOCATION

The Glenburn District is set in the southern slopes of the Great Dividing Range in central Victoria with a population of 360 according to the 2011 census.

Located in this small, scattered settlement of Glenburn, Burns Road is off the Melba Highway which connects it by road to nearby Yea township 27 km to the north, Flowerdale 22 km to the northwest, Castella 18km south, Toolangi 21 km south/southeast, Kinglake township 25 km to the south/southwest, and Yarra Glen 32 km to the south.

Burns Road runs 2.8 km from Melba Highway in the northwest ending at private property to the southeast. The road runs broadly parallel (100-350m) distance from Katy Creek to its north and crosses a northeast-southwest electric utility track/easement towards the southeastern end of the road.

Close to state forests of Toolangi, Murrindindi, and Black Range, and near Kinglake National Park.

Glenburn altitude varies from 220m at Devlins Bridge, Yea River up to 400 m above sea level at the highest points. Burns Road is approximately 300m ASL. Mean annual rainfall from 1936-2016 was 836.6 mm (Glenburn rainfall statistics - BOM 2017).

HISTORY

Glenburn district is within the traditional land of the Taungurung clan of the **Kulin Nation** with Wurundjeri clan to the south, so would possibly have been within an area of interaction between the two peoples. Their specific habitation of this area is still yet to be made known or understood other than it would have been a desirable place to visit at certain times of the year possibly for trading, ceremonies, and use of much of the flora (and fauna) for food, clothing, medicine, weapons, and possibly traditional firestick farming as practised widely. In fact, recent bushfires across Victoria have revealed previously unrecorded tracks and evidence of habitation that have yet to be properly assessed. There is much conjecture on the lost opportunities to learn from Aboriginal fire management and the abrupt changes imposed by white settlement, which, it is claimed, have lead to less regular but more intense fires, now being exacerbated by climate change.

To increase awareness of the cultural value and history of indigenous flora and fauna the author takes this opportunity to include the known Koori (Aboriginal) use of many of the plants in this area. See Appendix 4 (Koorie/Aboriginal Use of Flora) for more detail. Early white settlement in the district in the mid nineteenth century consisted initially of mainly agriculture based large rural properties, which were broken up into smaller properties in subsequent years. Bushfires are part of the history of the landscape including the recent 2009 fires, which swept devastatingly through neighbouring areas but bypassing Burns Road.



FLORA VALUES

Glenburn is situated on the northern slopes of the Great Dividing Range, which influences the vegetation communities contained within. Burns Road sits in the *Highlands Northern Fall* Bioregion between the *Highlands Southern Fall* and *Central Victorian Uplands* of the 28 Bioregions as defined by the Victorian State Government. Bioregions are a landscape-scale approach to classifying the environment using attributes such as climate, geomorphology, geology, soils and vegetation (see Fig. 2 below). Within these bioregions, further classifying areas into Environmental Vegetation Classes (EVC's) can assist with flora identification.

Desktop assessment using the Department of Environment Land Water & Planning's (DELWP) *Biodiversity Interactive Maps* (BIM) online tool suggested that there were two EVCs present in the area; Swampy Riparian Complex (EVC 126), and Herb rich Foothill Forest (EVC 23) see Fig. 3 &4 below.

While EVCs act as a useful guide, land use history and major disturbances such as logging, agriculture, mining, human habitation and intense bushfires complicate this process of classifying vegetation communities.

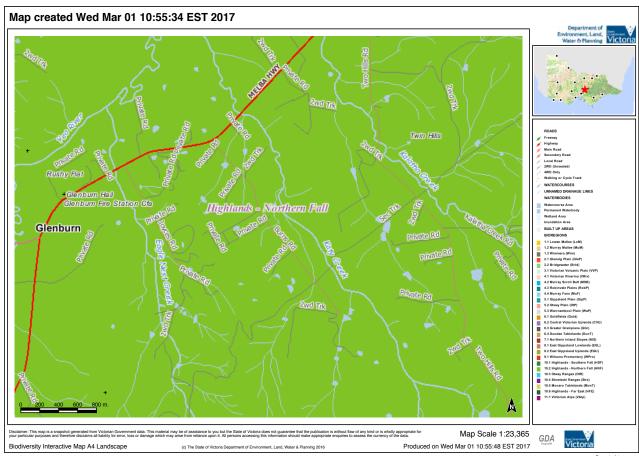


Figure 2: BIM of Burns Road within Highlands Northern Fall Bioregion

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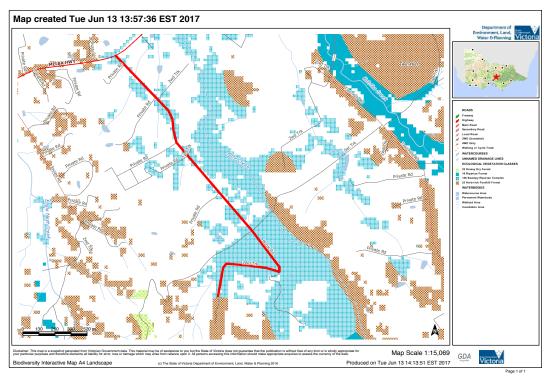


Figure 3: BIM of Burns Rd 2005 EVC's. Blue hatch Swampy Riparian Complex, brown hatch Herbrich Foothill Forest

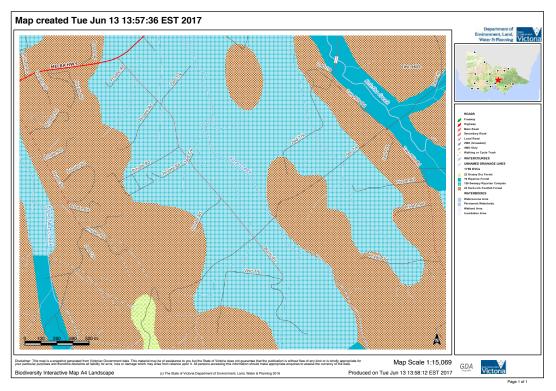


Figure 4: BIM of Burns Rd area pre 1750 EVC's. Blue hatched is Swampy Riparian Complex



RELEVANT AUTHORITIES AND STRATEGIES

Local Government

Glenburn district is within the boundaries of and thus administered by Murrindindi Shire Council (MSC). The MSC listing of Burns Road as a roadside worthy of this botanical assessment gives it significance within their priorities and is intended to make residents and visitors aware of the values.

Clause 21.05 of the Murrindindi Planning Scheme sets the priorities for environmental protection in the shire. Objective 3 of this local planning policy *Biodiversity and Native Vegetation* includes the strategy to "retain, protect and enhance native vegetation, including roadside vegetation, remnant vegetation areas, large old paddock trees and revegetation areas." This is supported by the MSC Rural Roadside Management Plan (2014-18) of which guidelines are available.

Water Catchment

Glenburn District is within the catchment of Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) and thus within the GB Regional Catchment Strategy 2012-19.

GBCMA seeks partnership in waterway management with the community and all levels of government such as the Shire of Murrindindi and local residents and is ultimately responsible/accountable to the State Government

State Government

Indigenous vegetation is protected by State Government on public land through the Fauna and Guarantee Act, 1988 (FFG), with special consideration for rare or threatened species and more broadly through the Planning and Environment Act. Clause 12.01 of the P&E Act seeks to assist the protection and conservation of Victoria's biodiversity (including native vegetation) by ensuring that clearing of vegetation and habitat which impacts on biodiversity is regulated through permitted clearing regulations. The FFG and the Native Vegetation Clearing Regulations are currently under review and their linkages to the Victorian Planning Provisions and the draft Victorian Biodiversity plan

Federal Government

The Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999 (EPBC), contains protections for matters of national environmental significance including certain vegetation communities, fauna, and flora. This includes Nationally Threatened *Pomaderris vacciniifolia* which has implied legal responsibilities for protection by private land owners and government agencies, which in the Glenburn district includes MSC, GBCMA, DELWP, and Parks Victoria.

METHODS

This report was compiled by fieldwork mainly in late Summer and Autumn 2017 using visual assessment, field guides research, and report writing. Additional information was gathered via interviews and personal communications with residents, including a former



long term resident, and other stakeholders. Vegetation Quality Assessments were assisted by using VicRoads Roadside Vegetation Assessment sheets.

As is a common practice, locations of flora and fauna are not always made clear to avoid potential unlawful or destructive removal.

Disclaimer

Plant identification by flowers was mainly during late Summer and Autumn which covered some species although follow up is suggested during Spring and early Summer flowering for many other species including some tree species which may be more difficult due to height, lack of flowers and fruit, and the ever present possibility of hybrids.

RESULTS

This botanic assessment identified over 140 indigenous and 30 exotic flora species from trees through shrubs, ground flora, grasses, ferns, and fungi in a structure broadly fitting this roadside EVC of a Swampy Riparian Complex. 116 indigenous species have been observed along the road with another 29 within those 1 kilometre immediate surrounds where three residents or former residents provided records. The presence has been confirmed of many FFG Protected Flora, particularly Orchids. A relatively light to medium occurrence of noxious and environmental weeds are probably due in part to MSC specialist contractors, Landcare and community work activities.

Towards the end of this assessment, historic flora records by common names were provided by a former resident listing twenty one Orchids and their flowering times over a period of time pre 2000. Eight apparently confirmed our more recent observations and thirteen were other than those listed during this assessment so could not be assumed to still exist in this area.

This report attempted to place species names to those thirteen common names eg Golden Moths (*Diuris chryseopsis*), Pink Fingers (*Caladenia carnea*), Fringed Spider-orchid (*Caladenia thysanochila/tentaculata?*), Tiger Orchid (*Diuris sulphurea*), Parsons Bands (*Eriochilus cuculiatus*), Waxlip Orchid (*Glossodia major*), Slender Onion-orchid (*Microtis parviflora*), Alpine Greenhood (*Pterostylis alpina*), Trim Greenhood (*Pterostylis concinna*), Blunt Greenhood (*Pterostylis curta*), Salmon Sun-orchid (*Thelymitra rubra*), Slender Sun-orchid (*Thelymitra pauciflora*), and Spotted Sun-orchid (*Thelymitra ixioides* var *ixioides*).

For the difference in species observed over recent years/decades, allowance could be made for one of the current assessment periods only covering part of the peak orchid flowering period, inability to determine all flora characters from some photographic records from another resident contributor, misapplied species names to common names provided, and changed or misapplied names of species over time.

Other detailed records provided confirmed current flora observations with a few additions. Although within the 1 kilometre radius catchment of this assessment, aquatic and semi aquatic species around nearby dams and creeks were not added to the list. These included Water Ribbons, Swamp Lilies, Spike Rushes, Nardoo, Austral Brooklime, etc as the focus was



on flora of the roadside and those plants nearby which may have historically been found on or could return to the roadside remnants.

A full list of recorded flora species is provided alphabetically and by botanical family names in Appendix 1.

Vegetation Quality Assessment

VicRoads Roadside Vegetation Quality Assessment (VQA) sheets assist in indicating the high, medium and low quality indigenous vegetation sections of roadsides. Because this road falls within a Vulnerable EVC (Swampy Riparian Complex), it could be rated as high quality throughout and indicated by a continuous green line on Fig. 5. However, the broken green line reflects some fragmentation of the EVC in the western section as shown on the earlier 2005 EVC Map. This results in some slight variation of the high quality assessment along the western section between medium and high quality, reflecting the actual roadside vegetation condition in some patches.

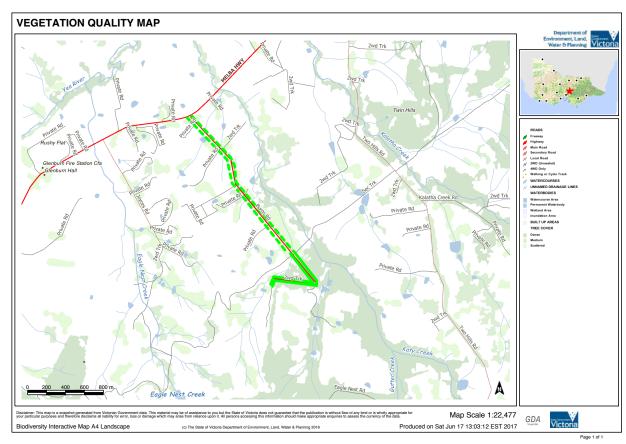


Figure 5: Burns Rd area Tree Cover BIM overliad with the VQA (green line)

Connectivity

The connectivity of the roadside to the adjacent rural properties, Reserves, and National Park/State Forests adds to the habitat and biodiversity value as can be seen from the aerial photo in Fig. 5. This shows the vegetation cover is close to total for most of the roadside,



particularly where vegetation has been retained on adjacent properties at the eastern end, but, less where there has also been extensive clearing over time of the adjoining properties, particularly at the western end. This connectivity tends to reduce the deleterious fragmentation and edge effects including increased risk of losing sensitive flora (and fauna), reductions in genetic diversity of those sensitive species, increased predation, and competition from species favoured by the disturbance.

Biodiversity

As can be seen by the attached detailed lists of over 140 observed indigenous species, this road and immediate surrounds is deservedly considered an area of medium/high biodiversity with remnants of the original vegetation believed to have existed before white settlement less than 200 years ago. The fragmentation of the pre 1750 Swampy Riparian Complex EVC can be seen by comparing it with the 2005 BIM and is reflected in the VQA. Although not the focus of this report, earlier studies have also observed a wide range of, for example, bird, fungi, and butterfly species (former resident Alan Reid et al).

Structure

Along most of its length there are tall trees, abundant tree and shrub regrowth, and a diversity of ground flora, gradually lessening in diversity and quality towards the more open and cleared middle section. This multi-layered structure provides diverse habitat and opportunities for use by a larger number of fauna species.

Interruptions to the roadside habitat corridor include clearings around driveway entrances, and the electricity transmission easement, which crosses the eastern end of the road. Such easement clearing for safety reasons often enables mid and understory to thrive as it does here where indigenous grasses, tea-tree, and post-slashing wattle regrowth have burgeoned and complemented by (presumed) plantings of pink-flowering bottlebrush.



Figure 6: *Callistemon* sp. under electricity transmission line

The abundance of teatree, particularly Burgan in sections of the roadside is common in the district and can crowd out those mid and ground storey species that appear to be more attractive to grazing fauna. Although the 2009 fires narrowly avoided this road, regrowth vegetation in surrounding areas has been significant and the period from 7-10 years is considered by ecologists (Tolhurst pers comm and Lindenmayer) to be a danger period for another intense fire because of increased fuel loads in these types of vegetation communities.

EVCs

Located within the Highlands Northern Falls Bioregion, Burns Road is identified within Swampy Riparian Complex EVC adjacent to Herb-rich Foothill Forest (as documented via Biodiversity Interactive



Maps Figures 2, 3 & 4), as well as having Riparian Forest and Grassy Dry Forest within a 2km vicinity.

Trees

Trees line the road for most of its length with evidence of some removal (stumps) and fallen trees (see fig. 7). Mostly Eucalyptus species including E. camaldulensis (Red Gum - possibly planted), E. crenulata (Buxton Gum/Swamp Gum hybrid?), E. elata (River Peppermint), E. melliodora (Yellow Box), E. obliqua (Messmate), E. ovata (Swamp Gum), Figure 7: Fallen Eucalypt at eastern end of Burns Rd. E. radiata (Narrow-leafed Peppermint), E.



rubida (Candlebark), and E. viminalis ssp viminalis (Manna Gum).

Eucalyptus dives (Broad-leafed Peppermint), E. goniocalyx (Long-leaf Box), and E. cypellocarpa (Mountain Grey Gum) are also reported to be growing within a kilometre alongside dams and waterholes. The wattles are usually categorised under Shrubs (below).



Figure 8: Good habitat - old large stag (4.5m circumference) at eastern end of Burns Road





The large old stag in the eastern end of the road (Fig. 8) provides prime habitat for indigenous fauna and should be protected. At least one other large roadside stag has apparently been pillaged by roaming firewood seekers according to residents.



Figure 10: Eucalyptus crenulata, Buxton Gum hybrid



Figure 11: Flowering Bursaria spinosa

Shrubs

There is a range of shrubs including scattered *Bursaria spinosa* (Sweet Bursaria), *Callistemon* sp (Pink Bottlebrush planted?), *Cassinia aculeata* (Dogwood), *Cassinia arcuata* (Drooping Cassinia), *Coprosma hirtella* (Rough Coprosma), *Coprosma quadrifida* (Prickly Currant-bush), *Daviesia* spp (Bitter-pea), *Exocarpos cupressiformis* (Wild Cherry/Cherry Ballart), *Dillwynia cinerascens* (Grey Parrot-pea), *Gompholobium huegelii* (Common Wedge-pea), *Goodenia ovata* (Hop Goodenia), *Hakea ulicina* (Furze Hakea), extensive clumpings of *Kunzea* sp Upright form (Forest Burgan), *Leptospermum* spp (Tea-trees), *Lomatia ilicifolia* (Holly-leaf Lomatia), *Melaleuca ericifolia* (Swamp Paperbark), *Melicytus dentatus* (Tree Violet), *Olearia lirata* (Snowy Daisy-bush), *Ozothamnus ferrugineus* (Tree Everlasting), *Platylobium obtusangulum* (Common Flat-pea), *Polyscias sambucifolia* (Elderberry Panax), *Pomaderris aspera* (Hazel Pomaderris), *Pomaderris racemosa* (Slender Pomaderris), *Prostanthera lasianthos* (Victorian Christmas Bush), *Rubus parvifolius* (Native Raspberry), *Senecio spp* (Fireweed) and *Solanum laciniatum* (Large Kangaroo Apple). Also, Wattle species *Acacia dealbata* (Silver Wattle), *Acacia mearnsii* (Black Wattle), *Acacia mucronata* (Narrow-leaved



Wattle), *Acacia paradoxa* (Hedge Wattle), *Acacia pravissima* (Ovens Wattle), *Acacia verticillata* (Prickly Moses), and the abundant *Acacia melanoxylon* (Blackwood).



Figure 12: Acacia melanoxylon (Blackwood)



Figure 13: Acacia paradoxa (Hedge Wattle)



Figure 14: Acacia dealbata (Silver Wattle)



Figure 15: Leptospermum lanigerum (Woolly Tea-tree)



Figure 16: Cassinia aculeata (Dogwood)



Figure 17: *Goodenia ovata* (Hop Goodenia)



Groundflora

Diversity includes Orchids Caladenia moschata (Musky Caladenia), Caladenia sp (Caladenia), Caleana major (Flying Ducks), Calochilus robertsonii (Purple Beard-orchid), Chiloglottis valida (Common Bird Orchid), Dipodium spp (Hyacinth Orchids), Diuris pardina (Leopard Orchid), Diuris spp (Donkey Orchids), Gastrodia spp (Potato Orchids), Pterostylis spp (Greenhoods), and *Thelymitra spp* (Sun-orchids).

Also, Acaena novae-zelandae (Bidgee-widgee), Acrotriche spp (Honey-pots), Bossiaea prostrata (Creeping Bossiaea), Brunonia australis (Blue Pincushion), Burchardia umbellata (Milkmaids), Cynoglossum suaveolens (Sweet Hound's Tongue), Dichondra repens (Kidneyweed), Drosera spp (Sundews), Epacris impressa (Common Heath), Geranium potentilloides (Soft Crane's-bill), Grevillea rosmarinifolia (Rosemary Grevillea), Euchiton sp (Cudweed), Hovea spp (Hovea), Hydrocotyle sp (Pennywort), Hypericum gramineum (Small StJohns Wort), Kennedia prostrata (Running Postman), Oxalis exilis (Shady Wood-sorrel), Pimelea spp (Riceflowers), Rumex brownii (Swamp Dock), Stackhousia monogyna (Creamy Candles), Stylidium armeria (Thrift-leaved Triggerplant), Utricularia dichotoma (Fairies Aprons), Viola

spp (Violets), and Wahlenbergia spp (Bluebells).



Figure 18: Calochilus robertsonii (Purplish Beard-orchid)



Figure 19: Caladenia moschata (Musky Caladenia)



Figure 20: Caleana major (Flying



Figure 21: Brunonia australis (Blue Pincushion)



Figure 22: Chiloglottis gunnii (Bird Orchid)



Figure 23: Thysanotus junctifolius (Branching Fringe-lilies)





Figure 25: Utricularia dichotoma (Fairies Aprons)



Figure 26: Xanthorraea minor (Small Grass-tree)

Figure 24: Epacris impressa (Common Heath)

Grasses, Rushes, Sedges, Lilies, and Grass-like Lifeforms



Figure 28: Dianella revoluta (Black-anther Flax-lily)

Recorded grasses include Austrostipa spp (Tall Spear Grasses), Microlaena stipoides (Weeping Grass), Poa spp (Tussock Grasses), Rytidosperma (Wallaby spp Grasses). Themeda triandra (Kangaroo Grass), and Tetrarrhena juncea (Forest Wire-grass). Other rush, sedge, lilies, and grasslike life include forms noted Arthropodium milleflorum (Pale Vanilla Lily), Arthropodium strictum (Chocolate Lily), Bulbine bulbosa (Bulbine Lily), Cynogeton procerum (Water Ribbons), Gahnia spp (Sawsedges), Juncus

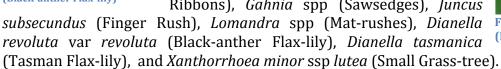




Figure 27: Bulbine bulbosa (Bulbine Lily)



Climbers

Climbers found along Burns include Billardiera Road mutabilis (Common Appleberry), Comesperma volubile (Love Creeper), Hardenbergia violaceae (Purple Coral-pea). and Pandorea pandorana ssp pandorana (Wonga Vine).



Figure 30: Comesperma volubile (Love Creeper)



Figure 29: *Billardiera multabilis* (Common Appleberry)

Ferns

The only Burns Road fern species recorded was *Pteridium esculentum* (Austral Bracken).

Fungi, lichens, mosses, and mistletoes

Amyema pendula (Drooping Mistletoe) fig. 32 and Amyema miquelii (Box Mistletoe). These life forms are often cryptic to identify and not always found or easily identified on roadsides. All deserve further exploration at a more appropriate time of year such as around May/June for Fungi. Calocera sp (Jelly Fungus) was sighted and an



Figure 32: Unidentified fungus

unidentified fungus observed during the study is shown above. A resident/enthusiast has made observations of fungi in the general district, including photographs, which deserve a separate closer study.

Habitat

The habitat at this site is sufficient to allow for a diversity of wildlife including Wombats, Echidnas, Bandicoots, Possums as well as exotic species like Foxes and Rabbits. Residents also report a wide diversity of birdlife and historically Platypus around the dams and waterways. Local birds would be attracted by the diversity for pasting. Provious studies have identified many bird and



Figure 31: *Amyema pendula* (Drooping Mistletoe)

of food, shelter, and foliage for nesting. Previous studies have identified many bird and butterfly species using these habitat corridors.



Fauna

Fauna sightings were not aims of the assessment, but, flora as habitat is important so it is worthwhile to include known or opportunistic sightings (see Appendix 2 Fauna Species). An earlier resident of Burns Road had recorded observations from 1994-2000 of twelve commonly sighted Butterflies including Painted Lady and Admiral. His mist netting and banding of "Bush Gully Birds" birds at Burns Road every July for over 30 years from 1967-2000 numbered 317 birds of 30 species of Robins, Whistlers, Thornbills, Thrushes, Wrens, Treecreepers, and Bell Miners, including twelve species of Honeyeaters.

DISCUSSION

RARE OR THREATENED SPECIES

Several of the species along this road are listed as Protected Flora in Victoria under the FFG Act, including all Orchid species, and all *Asteraceae* species (here *Cassinia, Olearia, Euchiton, Ozothamnus, Senecio* spp), although this limited protection applies mainly to public land. *Pomaderris vaccinifolia* (Round-leaf Pomaderris) was declared as a Nationally Threatened Species in 2008 after concern over its possible demise during the construction of the North-South Pipeline through the nearby Castella/Toolangi district where it was believed the last 150 plants were known to exist. The 2009 Bushfires appear to have promoted the growth of *Pomaderris vaccinifolia* to where it has not been identified previously, particularly in the Kinglake district. No known occurrences yet in this area.

LAND USE THREATS & OPPORTUNITIES

The significant fragmentation of bushland since white settlement, consequent disturbances such as weed invasions, probable changed fire regimes leading to more severe bushfires as in 2009 have all contributed to the changes to the vegetation community of the area. However, the roadside vegetation that has survived these processes has confirmed the biodiversity of sections of this roadside.

Local residents/landowners

Surveys in and around the district over the years, including since the 2009 bushfires, have expressed strong residents' desire to live here for the rural lifestyle and natural landscapes. This is in reality usually tempered by practical considerations of fire protection, space for workshops, sheds, domestic animals, driveways, water tanks, etc. Burns Road residents and landowners were not surveyed formally, but, those with a known interest were approached (such as Landcare/Land for Wildlife members) and those that approached us or who we met as we surveyed the roadside. The level of awareness by local residents/landowners varies. Most people approached or contacted during site assessments usually appear pleasantly surprised at the biodiversity of the site when discussed and often express interest in further knowledge.

Fencing off of public roadside for private grazing of livestock was evident by ample horse manure in a section along the middle of the southern roadside and the biodiversity had been



seriously impacted according to regular observers. Several patches of, for example, Acrotriche spp (Honeypots) had been observed in that section and some only appeared to avoid destruction from grazing due to protecting trees, shrubs, and logs.

Pest Plants

Although roadsides can themselves be important to the spread of weeds (by roadside slashing, fauna etc), high threat weed species for this district have included Broom, Blackberry, Spanish Heath, and Holly. Increased attention by Landcare members/residents, and MSC specialist contractors in recent years have drastically reduced or eradicated some high threat weed species eg Broom and Holly on the Burns Roadside. Occasional reemergent Blackberry was observed, and Broom and Spanish Heath in the district needs to be monitored, controlled, and prevented. Japanese Honeysuckle is a serious threat in the middle and eastern end of the road. Two Willows occur in the middle western section and, although considerably cut back, should be neutralised.

Vegetation regrowth including weeds can vary considerably from year to year, and, for example, dry Spring/Summers like 2015 can lull vegetation managers into a false sense of security compared with the same period in other years.

Pest Animals

Rabbits, Foxes, and Deer, are all seen frequently in the Glenburn district, also feral cats, and even wild dogs. All are threats by degradation of indigenous flora, the spread of weeds, and as predators of indigenous fauna, and to livestock eg with regular losses of lambs in the district.

Erosion

No serious erosion sighted except at the sides of a shallow creek tributary/drainage crossing under the road approx half a kilometre from the western end of Burns Road (see Fig. 33)

Dumping

Roadside dumping appears to be minimal or very limited. Possibly because distance from population and tourist centres and being a no through road reduces the people traffic and the throwaway rubbish, although even roadside stops on the busier nearby highway are sometimes adversely affected by green waste, building waste, food cartons, beverage bottles and cans etc.

Damaging Herbicide Spraying

No direct evidence sighted although one roadside patch Figure 33: Roadside erosion at creek appeared to have had most life forms eradicated apart from the remaining trees. Also, some apparent evidence of



crossing



herbicide spraying of *Daviesia* sp under the electricity transmission lines (mistaken as weedy Broom?)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Community/residents

As reported, the level of awareness of their vegetation community by local residents/landowners appears to be varied, but, this assessment revealed interest in further knowledge. As local community groups are the closest organisations to the people by their very nature, so workshops on "your local environment" with advice to residents re value of their roadsides should be considered.

It is suggested that State and local government give increased support to community groups such as Landcare that currently help to protect and enhance the ecology of the area.

Local Government

Local government is the closest level of government to the people and of the district and is the managing authority of local roads such as Burns Road.

In recent years, it is considered that MSC has had a greater awareness and made progress in initiating and/or upgrading road maintenance, and particularly with weed control through specialist contractors with working knowledge of indigenous and weedy species. There appears to be a need for further cooperative advice to residents through more workshops, sponsoring community activities such as Landcare workshops, and botanical tours to raise the level of awareness of local residents.

Limited green waste delivery at Transfer Stations at peak bushfire periods is a positive for the area by reducing the illegal dumping of green waste. Consideration could be given to an all year round free service to further reduce illegal dumping and also reduce unnecessary resident burn offs.

State Government

Recent changes to legislation in Victoria have transferred the responsibility for noxious weeds on roadside to Local Government from a former State responsibility. However, this transfer of responsibilities has not apparently been accompanied by sufficient resources to enable that to happen, especially for rural shires with large areas of responsibility and limited growth areas compared to many urban local governments.

DELWP/Parks Victoria's management of nearby National Parks and Forests and a scarcity of resources for community education, weed control etc. has a limiting effect on their ability to more effectively protect and enhance the flora and fauna of the district, and thus indirectly connectivity with Burns Road.

Most State agencies are administered from outside the District which, combined with funding restraints, can limit their local activities and enforcement of the FFG Act etc.

Road maintenance, and particularly limited funding of vegetation maintenance of the adjoining VicRoads (Melba Highway) can also affect Burns Road including its habitat connectivity.



APPENDIX 1 - FLORA SPECIES (Alphabetical by species and also by family)

Alphabetical by species

Indigenous Flora

Acacia dealbataSilver WattleAcacia mearnsiiBlack WattleAcacia melanoxylonBlackwood (A)

Acacia mucronata Narrow-leaved Wattle

Acacia paradoxa Hedge Wattle

Acacia pravissima Ovens Wattle (introduced?)

Acacia verticillata Prickly Moses
Acaena novae-zelandiae Bidgee-widgee

Acrotriche prostrata Trailing Ground-berry

Acrotriche serrulataHoney PotsAmyema miquelii#Box MistletoeAmyema pendulaDrooping Mistletoe

Arthropodium milleflorum#

Arthropodium strictum#

Austrostipa densiflora?

Austrostipa rudis ssp rudis#

Drooping Mistletoe
Pale Vanilla Lily
Chocolate Lily
Dense Spear-grass
Veined Spear-grass

Austrostipa sppTall Spear-grassesBillardiera mutabilis#Common Apple-berryBossiaea prostrata#Creeping BossiaeaBrunonia australisBlue PincushionBulbine bulbosaBulbine Lily

Burchardia umbellata Milkmaids
Bursaria spinosa Sweet Bursaria
Caladenia moschata# Musky Caladenia

Caladenia sp# Caladenia
Caleana major# Flying Ducks

Callistemon sp Pink Bottlebrush (planted?)
Calochilus robertsonii# Purplish Beard-orchid

Cassinia aculeata Dogwood/Common Cassinia

Cassinia arcuata Drooping Cassinia
Chiloglottis valida Common Bird Orchid

Comesperma volubile
Coprosma hirtella#
Coprosma quadrifida
Cynoglossum suaveolens

Comesperma volubile
Love Creeper
Rough Coprosma
Prickly Currant-bush
Sweet Hound's Tongue

Daviesia latifolia Hop Bitter-pea

Daviesia leptophylla

Dianella revoluta var revoluta Black Anther Flax-lily (syn D. admixta)

Dianella tasmanica Tasman Flax-lily

Narrow-leaf Bitter-pea



Dichondra repens
Dillwynia cinerascens
Dipodium punctatum
Dipodium roseum#
Diuris pardina#
Diuris spp

Drosera aberrans# Drosera auriculata Epacris impressa

Eucalyptus camaldulensis Eucalyptus crenulata? Eucalyptus cypellocarpa#

Eucalyptus dives# Eucalyptus elata

Eucalyptus goniocalyx#
Eucalyptus melliodora
Eucalyptus obliqua
Eucalyptus ovata
Eucalyptus radiata
Eucalyptus rubida

Eucalyptus viminalis ssp viminalis

Euchiton sp

Exocarpos cupressiformis

Gahnia radula#
Gahnia sieberiana
Gastrodia procera#
Gastrodia sesamoides
Geranium potentilloides
Gompholobium huegelii#

Goodenia ovata

Grevillea rosmarinifolia

Hakea ulicina

Hardenbergia violaceae Hovea heterophylla Hydrocotle sp

Hypericum gramineum Kennedia prostrata Kunzea sp Upright form Juncus subsecundus

Leptospermum continentale Leptospermum lanigerum

Lomandra filiformis ssp filiformis Lomandra longifolia var longifolia Kidney-weed Grey Parrot-pea

Purple Hyacinth Orchid Rosy Hyacinth Orchid

Leopard Orchid Donkey Orchids Scented Sundew Tall Sundew Common Heath

River Redgum (planted)

Buxton Gum/Swamp Gum hybrid?

Mountain Grey Gum Broad-leaf Peppermint River Peppermint Long-leafed Box Yellow Box Messmate

Swamp Gum

Narrow-leafed Peppermint

Candlebark Manna Gum Cudweed

Wild Cherry/Cherry Ballart

Thatch Saw-sedge Red-fruited Saw-sedge Tall Potato-orchid Cinnamon Bells Soft Crane's-bill Common Wedge-pea

Hop Goodenia

Rosemary Grevillea

Furze Hakea Purple Coral Pea Common Hovea Pennywort

Small StJohns Wort Running Postman

Burgan (A)
Finger Rush
Prickly Tea-tree
Woolly Tea-tree

Wattle Mat-rush

Spiny-headed Mat-rush (Karawun)



Figure 34: The abundant *Kunzea* sp. Upright Form (Burgan)



Lomatia ilicifolia# Melaleuca ericifolia Melicytus dentatus Microlaena stipoides

Olearia lirata Oxalis exilis

Ozothamnus ferrugineus#

Pandorea pandorana ssp pandorana

Pimelea humilis

Pimelea linifolia ssp linifolia # Platylobium obtusangulum

Poa ensiformis Poa labillardieri Poa morrisii Poa tenera#

Polyscias sambucifolia# Pomaderris aspera Pomaderris racemosa Prostanthera lasianthos Pteridium esculentum Pterostylis melagramma

Pterostylis nutans

Pterostylis pedunculata

Pterostylis spp Rubus parvifolius# Rumex brownii

Rytidospermum pallidus Rytidosperma spp Senecio quadridentatus

Senecio sp

Solanum laciniatum Stackhousia monogyna Stylidium armeria# Tetrarrhena juncea# Thelymitra aristata# Thelymitra spp Themeda triandra

Thysanotus racemoides# Thysanotus patersonii# Utricularia dichotoma# Viola betonicifolia # Viola hederacea

Wahlenbergia ceracea#

Holly-leaf Lomatia Swamp Paperbark Tree Violet

Weeping Grass Snowy Daisy-bush Shady Wood-sorrel

Tree Everlasting Wonga Vine

Small Riceflower

Slender Rice-flower

Common Flat-pea

Purple-sheathed Tussock-grass

Common Tussock Grass Velvet Tussock -grass Slender Tussock-grass **Elderberry Panax** Hazel Pomaderris

Slender/Clustered Pomaderris

Victorian Christmas Bush

Austral Bracken Tall Greenhood **Nodding Greenhood** Maroon Greenhood

Greenhoods

Native Raspberry/Small-leaf Bramble

Swamp Dock/Slender Dock Red-anthered Wallaby Grass

Wallaby Grasses Cotton Fireweed Groundsel

Large Kangaroo Apple

Creamy Candles

Thrift-leaved Triggerplant

Forest Wire-grass Great Sun-orchid Sun-orchids Kangaroo Grass **Branching Fringe-lily** Twining Fringe-lily **Fairies Aprons**

Mountain Violet/Showy Violet

Ivv-leaf Violet Waxy Bluebell



Figure 35: Pimelea humilis (Small Riceflower)



Wahlenbergia stricta# Tall Bluebell Wahlenbergia sp Bluebell

Xanthorrhoea minor ssp lutea Small Grass-tree

Unidentified mosses, lichens, and fungi such as Calocera sp (Branched Jelly Fungi).

Exotic Flora

Agrostis capillaris Browntop Bent
Anagallis arvensis Pimpernel

Anthoxanthum odoratumSweet Vernal GrassBriza spQuaking GrassCentaurium erythreaCommon Centaury

Cotoneaster spCotoneasterCirsium vulgareSpear Thistle

Cynodon dactylon var dactylon Couch

Cynosurus echinatus
Cyperus eragrostis
Drain Flat-sedge
Dactylis glomerata
Cocksfoot (A)
Hypochaeris radicata
Clean
Clea

Lonicera japonica Japanese Honeysuckle
Paspalum dilatatum Caterpillar Grass

Phalaris sp Canary Grass

Plantago lanceolata
Narrow Plantain/Ribwort
Plantago major
Greater Plantain
Quercus robur
English Oak

Prunella vulgaris Self-heal Frunus spp Fruit trees

Rubus fruticosus spp agg European Blackberry spp

Salix sp Willow

Solanum nigrum Black-berry Nightshade

Sonchus sppSow-thistleSporobolus africanusParamatta GrassStellaria mediaChickweed

Taraxacum officinaleDandelionTrifolium angustifolium var angustifoliumNarrow-leaf CloverTrifolium subterraneumSubterranean Clover

Alphabetical by Family

FERNS AND ALLIES

Pteridium esculentum Austral Bracken



MONOCOTYLEDONS

Asphodelaceae

Bulbine bulbosa

Dianella revoluta var revoluta Dianella tasmanica

Xanthorrhoea minor ssp lutea

Asparagaceae

Arthropodium milleflorum#

Arthropodium strictum#

Lomandra filiformis ssp filiformis

Lomandra longifolia var longifolia

Thysanotus racemoides # Thysanotus patersonii

Colchicaceae

Burchardia umbellata

Cyperaceae

*Cyperus eragrostis Gahnia radula#

Gahnia sieberiana

Juncaceae

Iuncus subsecundus

Loranthaceae

Amyema miquelii#

Amyema pendula

Orchidaceae

Caladenia moschata#

Caladenia sp#

Caleana major# Calochilus robertsonii#

Chiloglottis valida

Dipodium punctatum

Dipodium roseum#

Diuris pardina#

Diuris spp

Gastrodia procera#

Gastrodia sesamoides

Pterostylis melagramma

Pterostylis nutans

Pterostylis pedunculata

Pterostylis sp#

Thelymitra aristata#

Thelymitra spp

Bulbine Lily

Black-anthered Flax-lily (syn *D. admixta*)

Tasman Flax-lily

Small Grass-tree

Pale Vanilla Lily

Chocolate Lily

Wattle Mat-rush

Spiny-headed Mat-rush (Karawun)

Branching Fringe-lily

Twining Fringe-lily

Milkmaids

Drain Flat-sedge

Thatch Saw-sedge

Red-fruited Saw-sedge

Finger Rush

Box Mistletoe

Drooping Mistletoe

Musky Caladenia

Caladenia

Flying Ducks

Purplish Beard-orchid

Common Bird Orchid

Purple Hyacinth Orchid

Rosy Hyacinth Orchid

Leopard Orchid

Donkey Orchids

Tall Potato-orchid

Cinnamon Bells

Tall Greenhood

Nodding Greenhood

Maroon Greenhood

Greenhoods

Great Sun-orchid

Sun-orchids



Poaceae

*Agrostis capillaris **Browntop Bent** *Anthoxanthum odoratum **Sweet Vernal Grass** Austrostipa densiflora Dense Spear-grass Austrostipa rudis ssp rudis# Veined Spear-grass Austrostipa spp Tall Spear-grasses **Ouaking Grass**

*Briza sp

Couch *Cynodon dactylon var dactylon *Cynosurus echinatus Rough Dogs'-tail * Dactylis glomerata Cocksfoot (A) Microlaena stipoides Weeping Grass *Paspalum dilatatum Caterpillar Grass

*Phalaris sp **Canary Grass** Purple-sheathed Tussock-grass Poa ensiformis Poa labillardieri Common Tussock Grass Velvet Tussock -grass Poa morrisii

Poa tenera# Slender Tussock-grass Rytidosperma pallidus Red-anthered Wallaby Grass

Rytidosperma spp Wallaby Grasses *Sporobolus africanus Paramatta Grass Tetrarrhena juncea# Forest Wire-grass Themeda triandra Kangaroo Grass

DICOTYLEDONS Aquifoliaceae

*Ilex aquifolium Holly

Araliaceae

Hydrocotyle sp Penny-wort Polyscias sambucifolia# **Elderberry Panax**

Asteraceae

Cassinia aculeata Dogwood/Common Cassinia

Drooping Cassinia Cassinia arcuata Spear Thistle *Cirsium vulgare Euchiton sp Jersey Cudweed

*Hypochaeris radicata Cat's-ears

Olearia lirata Snowy Daisy-bush

Ozothamnus ferrugineus# **Tree Everlasting** Senecio quadridentatus Cotton Fireweed Senecio sp Fireweed/Groundsel

* Sonchus spp. Sow-thistle Dandelion

*Taraxacum officinale **Bignoniaceae**

Pandorea pandorana ssp pandorana Wonga-vine



Boraginaceae

Cynoglossum suaveolens Sweet Hound's Tongue

Campanulaceae

Wahlenbergia ceracea# Waxy Bluebell Wahlenbergia stricta# Tall Bluebell Wahlenbergia sp Bluebell

Caprifoliaceae

*Lonicera japonica Japanese Honeysuckle

Carophyllaceae

*Stellaria media Chickweed

Celastraceae

Stackhousia monogyna **Creamy Candles**

Convolvulaceae

Dichondra repens Kidney-weed

Droseraceae

Scented Sundew Drosera aberrans# **Tall Sundew** Drosera auriculata

Ericaceae

Trailing Ground-berry Acrotriche prostrata

Honey Pots Acrotriche serrulata Common Heath Epacris impressa

Fabaceae

Bossiaea prostrata# Creeping Bossaiea Daviesia latifolia Hop Bitter-pea

Daviesia leptophylla Narrow-leaf Bitter-pea

Dillwynia cinerascens Grey Parrot-pea Gompholobium huegelii# Common Wedge-pea Purple Coral Pea Hardenbergia violaceae Hovea heterophylla Common Hovea Kennedia prostrata **Running Postman** Platylobium obtusangulum Common Flat-pea *Trifolium angustifolium var angustifolium Narrow-leaf Clover

*Trifolium subterraneum Subterranean Clover

Fagaceae

*Quercus robur **English Oak**

Gentianaceae

Common Centaury *Centaurium erythrea

Geraniaceae

Geranium potentilloides Soft Crane's-bill

Goodeniaceae

Blue Pincushion Brunonia australis Goodenia ovata Hop Goodenia



Hypericaceae

Hypericum gramineum Small StJohns Wort

Lamiaceae

Prostanthera lasianthos Victorian Christmas Bush (Coranderrk)

*Prunella vulgaris Self-heal

Lentibulariaceae

Utricularia dichotoma# Fairies Aprons

Mimosaceae

Acacia dealbataSilver WattleAcacia mearnsii#Black WattleAcacia melanoxylon(A)Blackwood

Acacia mucronata Narrow-leaved Wattle

Acacia paradoxa Hedge Wattle

Acacia pravissima Ovens Wattle (introduced?)

Acacia verticillata# Prickly Moses

Myrtaceae

Callistemon sp Pink Bottlebrush (planted?)
Eucalyptus camaldulensis River Redgum (planted)

Eucalyptus cypellocarpa# Mountain Grey Gum

Eucalyptus crenulata?

Buxton Gum/Swamp Gum hybrid?

Eucalyptus dives# Broad-leaf Peppermint Eucalyptus elata River Peppermint

Eucalyptus goniocalyx#Long-leafed BoxEucalyptus melliodoraYellow BoxEucalyptus obliquaMessmate

Eucalyptus ovata Swamp Gum

Eucalyptus radiata Narrow-leafed Peppermint

Eucalyptus rubida Candlebark
Eucalyptus viminalis ssp viminalis Manna Gum

Kunzea sp Upright FormBurgan (A)Leptospermum continentalePrickly Tea-treeLeptospermum lanigerumWoolly Tea-treeMelaleuca ericifoliaSwamp Paperbark

Melaleuca ericifolia
Oxalidaceae

Oxalis exilis Shady Wood-sorrel

Pittosporaceae

Billardiera mutabilis# Common Apple-berry

Bursaria spinosa Sweet Bursaria

Plantaginaceae

*Plantago lanceolata Narrow Plantain/Ribwort

*Plantago major Greater Plantain

Polygalaceae

Comesperma volubile Love Creeper



Polygonaceae

Rumex brownii Swamp Dock/Slender Dock

Primulaceae

*Anagallis arvensis Pimpernel

Proteaceae

Grevillea rosmarinifolia Rosemary Grevillea

Hakea ulicina Furze Hakea

Lomatia ilicifolia# Holly-leaf Lomatia

Rhamnaceae

Pomaderris aspera Hazel Pomaderris

Pomaderris racemosa Slender/Clustered Pomaderris

Rosaceae

Acaena novae-zelandae

*Cotoneaster sp

Cotoneaster

*Prunus spp

Bidgee-widgee

Cotoneaster

Fruit Trees

*Rubus fruticosus agg European Blackberry Species

Rubus parvifolius# Native Raspberry/Small-leaf Bramble

Rubiaceae

Coprosma hirtella# Rough Coprosma Coprosma quadrifida Prickly Currant-bush

Thymeleaceae

Pimelea humilis Small Riceflower
Pimelea linifolia ssp linifolia # Slender Rice-flower

Salicaceae

*Salix sp Willow

Santalaceae

Exocarpos cupressiformis Wild Cherry/Cherry Ballart

Solanaceae

Solanum laciniatum Large Kangaroo Apple
*Solanum nigrum Black-berry Nightshade

Stylidiaceae

Stylidium armeria# Thrift-leaved Triggerplant

Violaceae

Melicytus dentatus Tree Violet

Viola betonicifolia# Mountain Violet/Showy Violet

Viola hederacea Ivy-leaf Violet

Unidentified mosses, lichens, and fungi such as Calocera sp (Branched Jelly Fungi).

* - Exotic Flora A - Abundant # - Found within 1 km of Burns Road



APPENDIX 2 – FAUNA SPECIES

Indigenous Fauna

Australian White Ibis Bassian Thrush **Bush Rat** Cattle Egret Common Brushtail Possum Crested Pigeon Crimson Rosella **Dusky Moorhen** Eastern Rosella Galah Flame Robin King Parrot Kookaburra Long-nosed Bandicoot Magpie Purple Swamphen Raven Ringtail Possum Rufous Fantail Straw-necked Ibis

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo White-eared Honeyeater Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoo

Many more species listed in historic records *Timelines Australia* (see

Exotic fauna

References).

Indian Mynah Rabbit Red Fox Deer



Figure 36: Bassian Thrush



Figure 37: Swamp Wallaby



Figure 38: Long-nosed Bandicoot

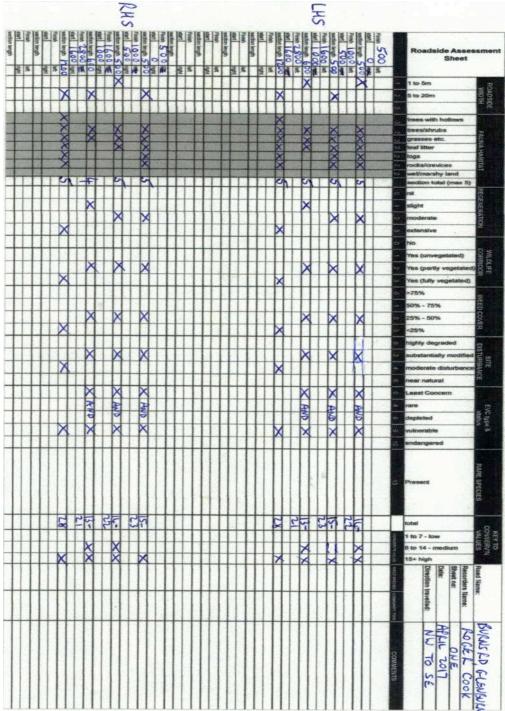


Figure 39: Wombat



APPENDIX 3 – VICROADS ROADSIDE VEGETATION ASSESSMENT SHEET

The roadsides were assessed and rated high (15+), medium (10-14), and low (1-7) quality roadside vegetation, reflecting the various characters shown on the attached sheet including diversity of indigenous flora species (also see Vegetation Quality Assessment).





APPENDIX 4 – KOORIE (Aboriginal) USE OF FLORA

Many of the plants found in Burns Road are species used by Aboriginal people across Victoria including **for fibre**, **adhesives**, **and implements**. From Beth Gott in Flora of Victoria Volume 1 is explained the following uses of these local species:

Acacia dealbata resin for adhesives, inner bark for string, bark for buckets, and wood for axe handles, Acacia melanoxylon inner bark for string, wood for woomeras, shields, and throwing sticks, and bark infusion for rheumatic joints, Acacia verticillata bark for string fishing lines, *Banksia* spp. cones for fire carriers, *Eucalyptus* spp. (especially stringybarks) inner bark for string, bags, and nets, *Hedycarva angustifolia* (Dielwuck) wood for firedrills and spear ends, *luncus* spp. stems for baskets and string, *Lepidosperma* spp. leaves for baskets, Lomandra longifolia leaves for baskets and net bags, Melaleuca spp. paperbark for swaddling, Poa ensiformis leaves and stems for string and baskets, Pomaderris aspera wood for pegs stretching animal skins, *Prostanthera lasianthos* (Coranderrk) stems for fire drill; and food and medicine from all parts of plants including seeds, flowers, roots, and leaves - Acacia dealbata gum for food and also applied to sores and wounds, and bark infusion for indigestion, Burchardia umbellata tubers for food, Eucalyptus spp. flowers for nectar and seed, and gum for toothache, Geranium spp. tubers, Lomandra spp. flowers for nectar, Orchidaceae tubers of most species, Pteridium esculentum rhizomes (and in Qld young stem for insect bites), Rubus spp. fleshy fruits, Solanum spp. ripe berries, and Urtica *incisa* poultices of leaves and stems for sprains(and in NSW as a poultice for rheumatism).

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Timelines Australia files and *Naturenotes* made available by former resident Alan Reid. 1967-2000.

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Figure 40: Kennedia prostrata (Running Postman)