
Mangroves, Merrett Rifle Range (former)

Location

Kororoit Creek Road, WILLIAMSTOWN VIC 3016 - Property No L10027

Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

Level of significance

Local

Heritage Listing

National Trust

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 3, 2004

The Merrett Rifle Range area is classed as being of scientific interest due to the community of white mangroves (*Auicennia marina*) and salt marshes which are to be found there. This community is one of the few undisturbed remnants of coastal vegetation to be found close to Melbourne, and provides a habitat for a number of water birds some of which use the area as a breeding ground. For example Banded Plover (*Vanellus tricolour*), Spur-winger Plover (*Vanellus miles*), Richard's Pipit (*Anthus noraesee landiae*), White-faced heron (*Ardea novaehollandiae*) and Red-necked Stints (*Calidris ruficollis*).

The present progression is:

Salt-water - Port Phillip Bay

Black Silt containing pollen spores

Mangroves

Basalt Boulders covered with orange lichen

Salt Marsh

Marsh Sedge

Salt Bush

Mosses

Dry Black Silt and Shingle

Mesembryanthemum

Grasses

Reeds (almost extinct)

Grey Basaltic Soil and Peat

Sundew (*Drosera*) (almost extinct)

Grey Clay Soil with limestone and basaltic bounders

Mat grasses

Melaleuca (almost extinct).

The exposed basaltic lava is of geomorphological interest as it shows a number of structural features including a lava blister. To the western end of the site, fossils and emerged shellbeds are to be found with an Aboriginal midden behind the second stop-butt. The area is of considerable value therefore because of the role it could play in nature conservation, scientific study and education.

It is an area suffering from neglect, but which is of biological and geomorphological interest. The area is at present restricted land with limited access, and unsuitable for uses apart from its present use, and recreation, because of geological factors and its depth below flood level.

LOCATION:

The Recorded area lies behind the stop-butts in the southern section of the rifle range which is located in Kororoit Creek Road, Williamstown.

The area consists of a narrow belt of approximately 30 metres wide (varying at certain points) which runs from the drain east of Maddox Street, eastward to the City of Williamstown stormwater drain which lies west of Bayview Street.

The narrow belt extends from and includes the basaltic rock platform to the low water mark.

Note: Classified boundary varies from Jawbone Marine Sanctuary boundary.

Recorded 03/05/1982.

Other Names Jawbone Conservation Reserve, Jawbone Marine Sanctuary,

Hermes Number 70294

Property Number

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>