

# Rocky Outcrop Shrubland / Herbland Mosaic

Threatened in the Goulburn Broken Catchment

40% of Rocky Outcrop Shrubland / Herbland mosaic have been cleared.



Figure 1. An example of Rocky Outcrop Shrubland / Herbland mosaic in healthy condition.

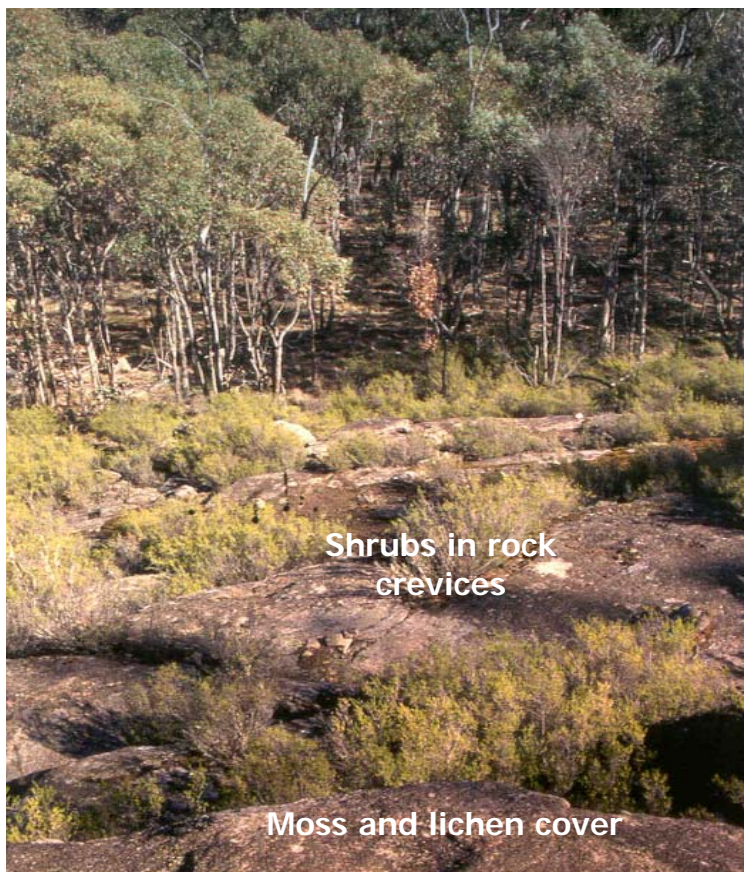


Figure 2. An example of Rocky Outcrop Shrubland / Herbland mosaic in healthy condition.

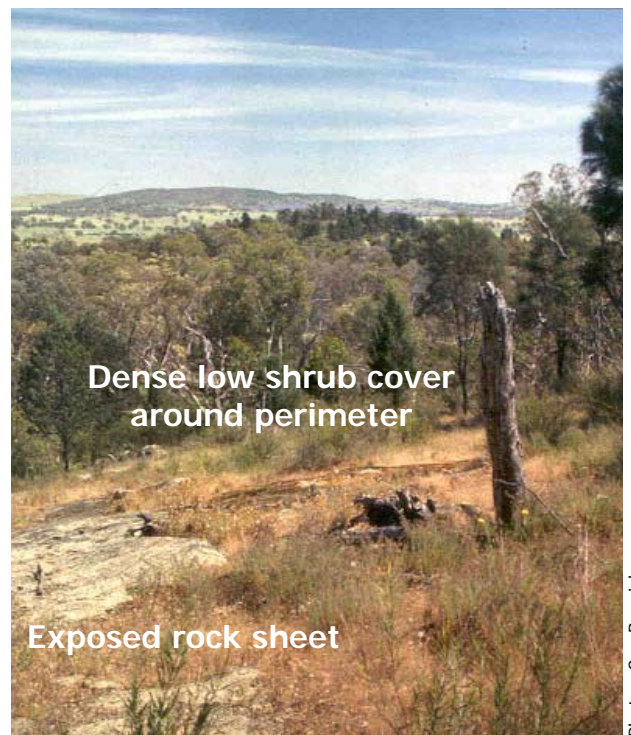


Figure 3. An example of Rocky Outcrop Shrubland / Herbland mosaic in healthy condition.

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## Description

Rocky Outcrop Shrubland / Herbland mosaic occurs on sites of exposed sheets of rock with no soil and low moisture availability (except in the cracks between rock surfaces).

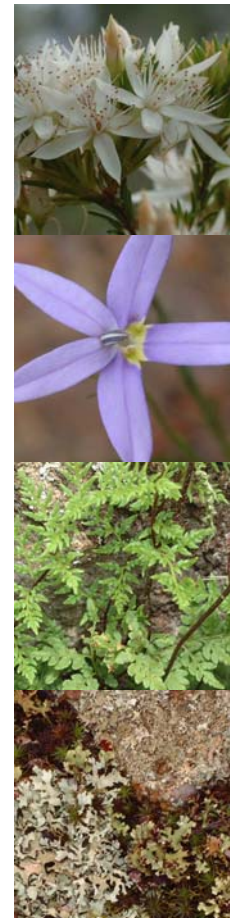
Vegetation comprises a dense and diverse low shrub layer (particularly in sites with minimal exposed rock) comprising of Common Fringe-myrtle, Daphne Heath, Nodding Blue-lily and Varnish Wattle and occasional eucalypts (usually Blakely's Red Gum).

There is also a sparse cover of Green Rock Fern, Rock Isotome (a key feature), Common Centaury, Creeping Cudweed, Austral Cranesbill, Common Raspwort, Small St. John's Wort and Spoon Cudweed. There is usually a high moss and lichen (briophyte) cover on the rock.

## Species To Look Out For

**Flora:** Dookie Daisy (v), Hairy Hop-bush (r), Spur-wing Wattle (r) (in east of catchment), Crimson Spider-orchid (Ve), Yellow Hyacinth-orchid (e) and Grey Rice-flower (v).

**Fauna:** Powerful Owl (v), Bandy Bandy (n), Carpet Python (e) (Warby Ranges and Mt. Meg) and Turquoise Parrot (n) (Warby Ranges and Mt. Meg).



Figures 7-10.  
Common Fringe-myrtle, Rock Isotome, Green Rock Fern, and mosses and lichens.

Photos: Mary Titcumb



Figure 4. Bandy Bandy  
Photo: Jerry Alexander



Figure 5. Carpet Python  
Photo: DSE/McCann



Figure 6. Turquoise Parrot  
Photo: Len Robinson c/o Viridans

## Why Rocky Outcrop Shrubland / Herblands are Threatened

More than 40% of Rocky Outcrop Shrubland / Herbland Mosaics in the Goulburn Broken Catchment have disappeared since European settlement. Many of the plants and animals that rely on this habitat are now also threatened, and some are extinct. Over 27% of this remains on private land. Therefore, the support of private landholders is essential for the ongoing conservation of Rocky Outcrop Shrubland / Herbland Mosaic.

Current threats include, **isolation** (restricted movement of fauna, difficult to maintain healthy gene pool), lack of native **understorey** and **ground layer** (which attracts insect eating birds helping keep the overstorey healthy, and improve soil health through fixing nitrogen), lack of natural **regeneration**, **soil disturbance** (eg. ploughing and pugging, favouring weed species), **weed invasion**, **pest animals** and loss of **tree** and **ground habitat** (through timber harvesting, tidying-up of fallen timber and firewood collection).

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**Management Tips**



Install nest boxes in surrounding woodland

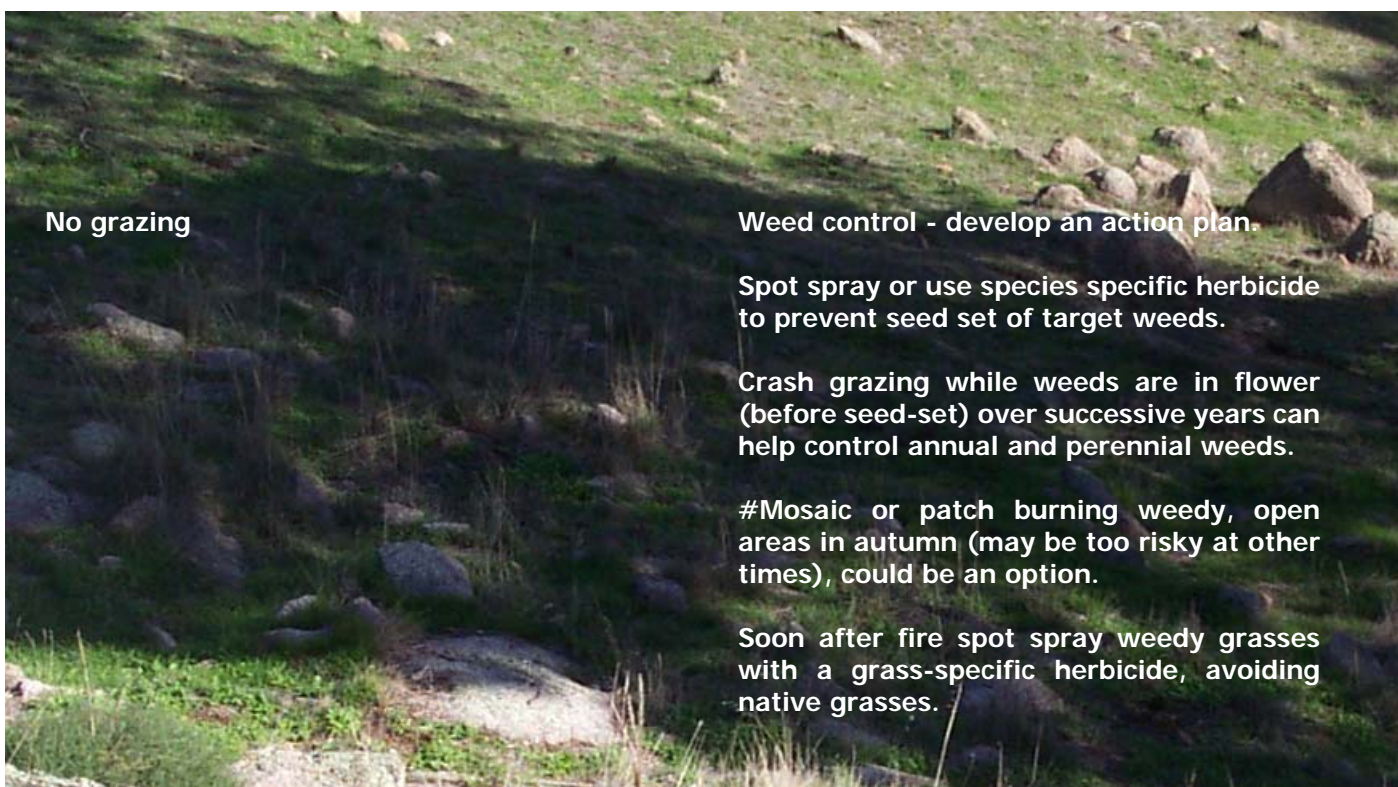
Leave fallen timber and loose rocks for reptiles and other fauna

Revegetate around remnants to buffer from pasture and link to other remnants

#Restore native understorey by replanting in crevices

Encourage natural regeneration by controlling rabbits and removing stock

Figure 11. An example of a degraded Rocky Outcrop Shrubland / Herbland. Exotic perennials dominate the crevices between the rocks.  
# May require expert input in decision making and planning. See your local DSE or CMA representative for further advice.



No grazing

Weed control - develop an action plan.

Spot spray or use species specific herbicide to prevent seed set of target weeds.

Crash grazing while weeds are in flower (before seed-set) over successive years can help control annual and perennial weeds.

#Mosaic or patch burning weedy, open areas in autumn (may be too risky at other times), could be an option.

Soon after fire spot spray weedy grasses with a grass-specific herbicide, avoiding native grasses.

Figure 12. Another example of Rocky Outcrop Shrubland / Herbland Mosaic in degraded condition  
# May require expert input in decision making and planning. See your local DSE or CMA representative for further advice.



# Conservation Status

Rocky Outcrop Shrubland / Herbland Mosaic is **threatened** in the Goulburn Broken Catchment  
 Central Victorian Uplands bioregion : **Least Concern**  
 Northern Inland Slopes bioregion : **Vulnerable**  
 Highlands - Northern Fall bioregion : **Rare**  
 Victorian Alps bioregion: **Rare**

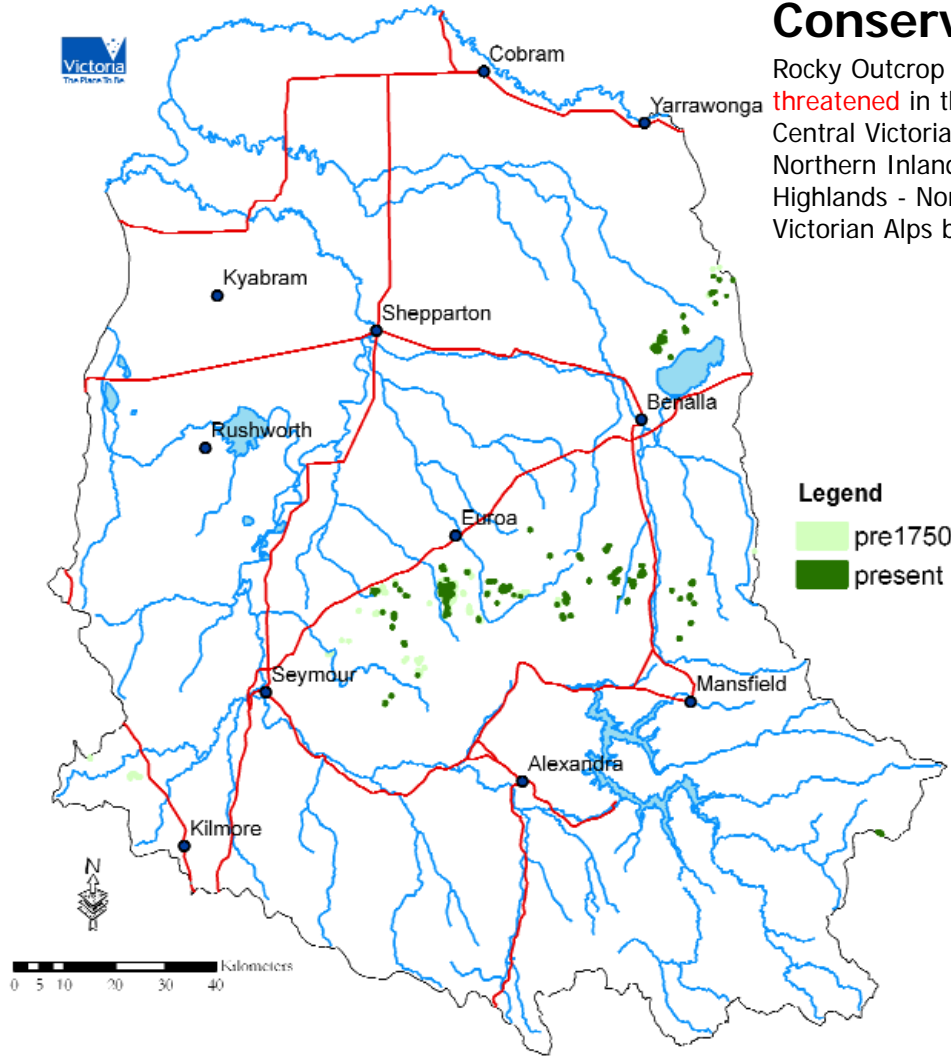


Figure 13. A representation of the pre-1750 and present day distribution of Rocky Outcrop Shrubland / Herbland Mosaic and its other mosaics and complexes in the Goulburn Broken Catchment. The boundaries of the vegetation have been exaggerated to allow for the small scale of the map. The map was produced from Base Data from DSE Corporate Library. The State of Victoria does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of information on this map. Any person using or relying upon such information does so on the basis that the State of Victoria shall bear no responsibility or liability whatsoever for any errors, faults, defects or omissions in the information.

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