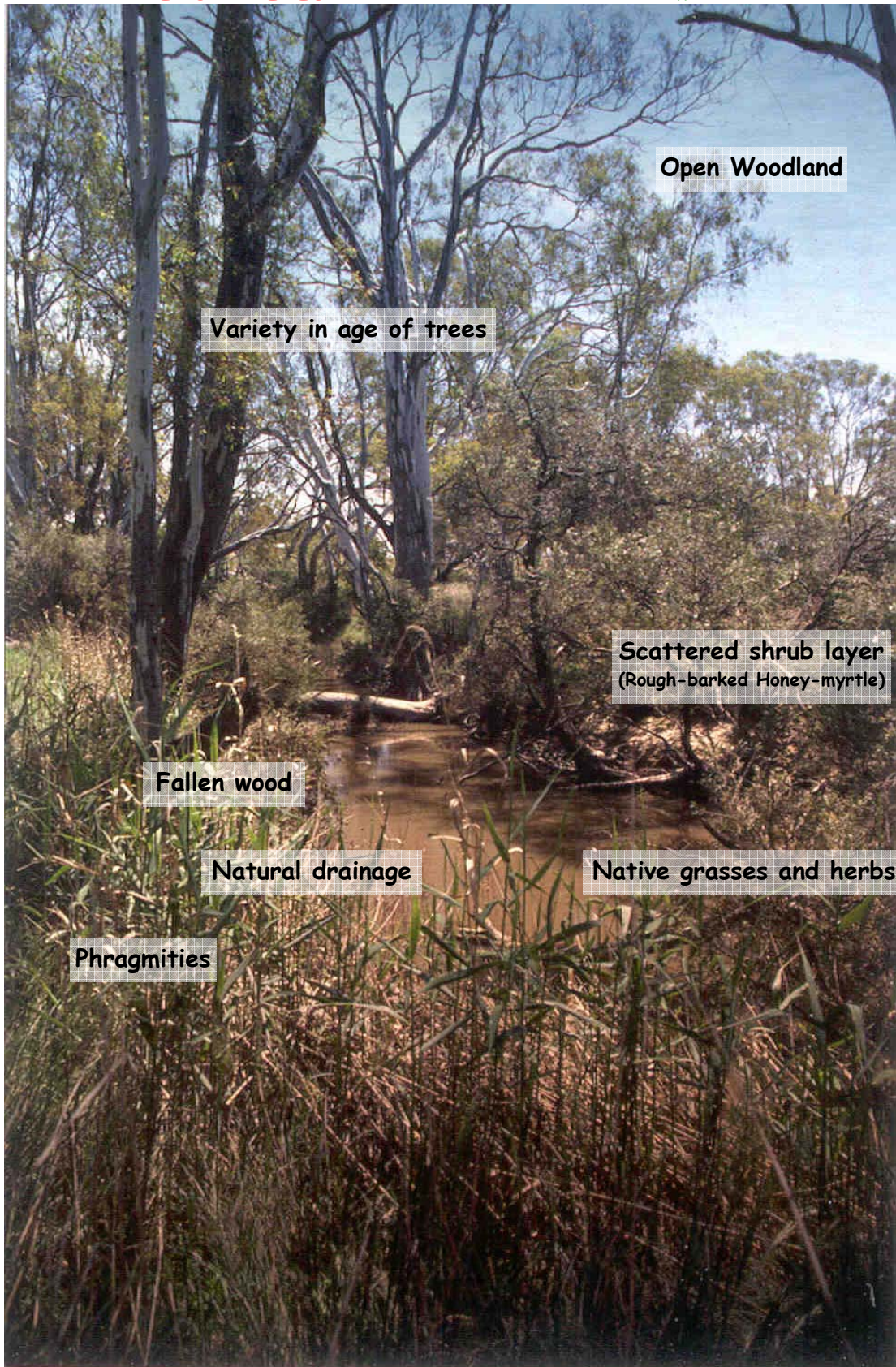


Creekline Grassy Woodland

ENDANGERED in the Goulburn Broken Catchment



(Photo: Sue Berwick)

Figure 1 A healthy example of Creekline Grassy Woodland near Costerfield, with important diagnostic and habitat features noted.

Creekline Grassy Woodland

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16% of this vegetation type remains uncleared, 33% (894ha) of which is on private land.

Description

Creekline Grassy Woodlands occur along the banks of many of the **smaller ephemeral (seasonal) streams** on the plains and lower slopes of foothills at elevations of 100–200m with an annual rainfall of 400–700mm. These **open woodlands** have an **overstorey** usually dominated on the plains by River Red Gum. Mountain Swamp Gum and Blue Gum may occasionally be found on the lower slopes of the foothills. There is usually a **medium to tall open shrublayer** of Silver Wattle, Blackwood, and Wirilda. Rough-barked Honey-myrtle may occur in some areas. Seasonal inundation provides good moisture availability to fertile soils supporting a grassy **groundlayer** of Common Tussock-grass, Weeping-grass and Common Wheat-grass with rushes and sedges.

Current Threats

- Inappropriate **grazing regimes** causes soil compaction and bank erosion; hinder native plant regeneration; increase nutrient levels and cause loss of native species through selective grazing and trampling.
- Loss of tree and ground **habitat** (through **timber harvesting** and **firewood collection**, and "tidying-up" of fallen sticks), threatens associated native fauna.
- **Weeds**, particularly Willows, Phalaris and Blackberries, compete with native species for nutrients, light and space.
- **Pest animals** defoliate vegetation, disturb the soil and threaten native fauna as predators and by competing for food.
- **Isolation** of remnants makes it difficult to maintain a healthy gene pool and to recolonise with native species following disturbance, and restricts the movement of native fauna.
- Lack of native **understorey** and **groundlayer** plants, which: attract insect eating birds, helping keep the overstorey healthy; and improve soil health through fixing nitrogen.
- Lack of **natural regeneration** of plants, which therefore threatens the future of remnants.



Figure 2 Distribution of Creekline Grassy Woodlands in the Goulburn Broken Catchment.

Significant Species

Flora: Rough-barked Honey-myrtle.

Fauna: Carpet Python, Barking Owl and Tuan.

Management Tips

Management which **maintains** and **enhances** the remnant vegetation / habitat, including:

- **Maintain** or restore the natural water flow and drainage regimes.
- **Fence** sites to **exclude grazing**, particularly in spring and early summer to allow flowering and seed-set of native plants. Retain access for **controlled grazing** to manage weeds such as Phalaris, where necessary.
- **Develop and implement** a plan to control weeds and pest animals.
- Encourage **natural regeneration by controlling rabbits**, **reducing competition** from grasses prior to seed fall, and **removing stock** until seedlings are well established.
- **Plant understorey** for remnants with no native shrubs or ground layer.
- **Revegetate** around remnants to buffer from pasture and link to other remnants.
- **Retain** dead & hollow-bearing trees (for sites without, erect nest boxes) and **leave** fallen timber and branches.
- **Monitor** your site and **adapt management** practices as required (help is available to assist with monitoring).