

Granitic Hills Woodland

DEPLETED in the Goulburn Broken Catchment

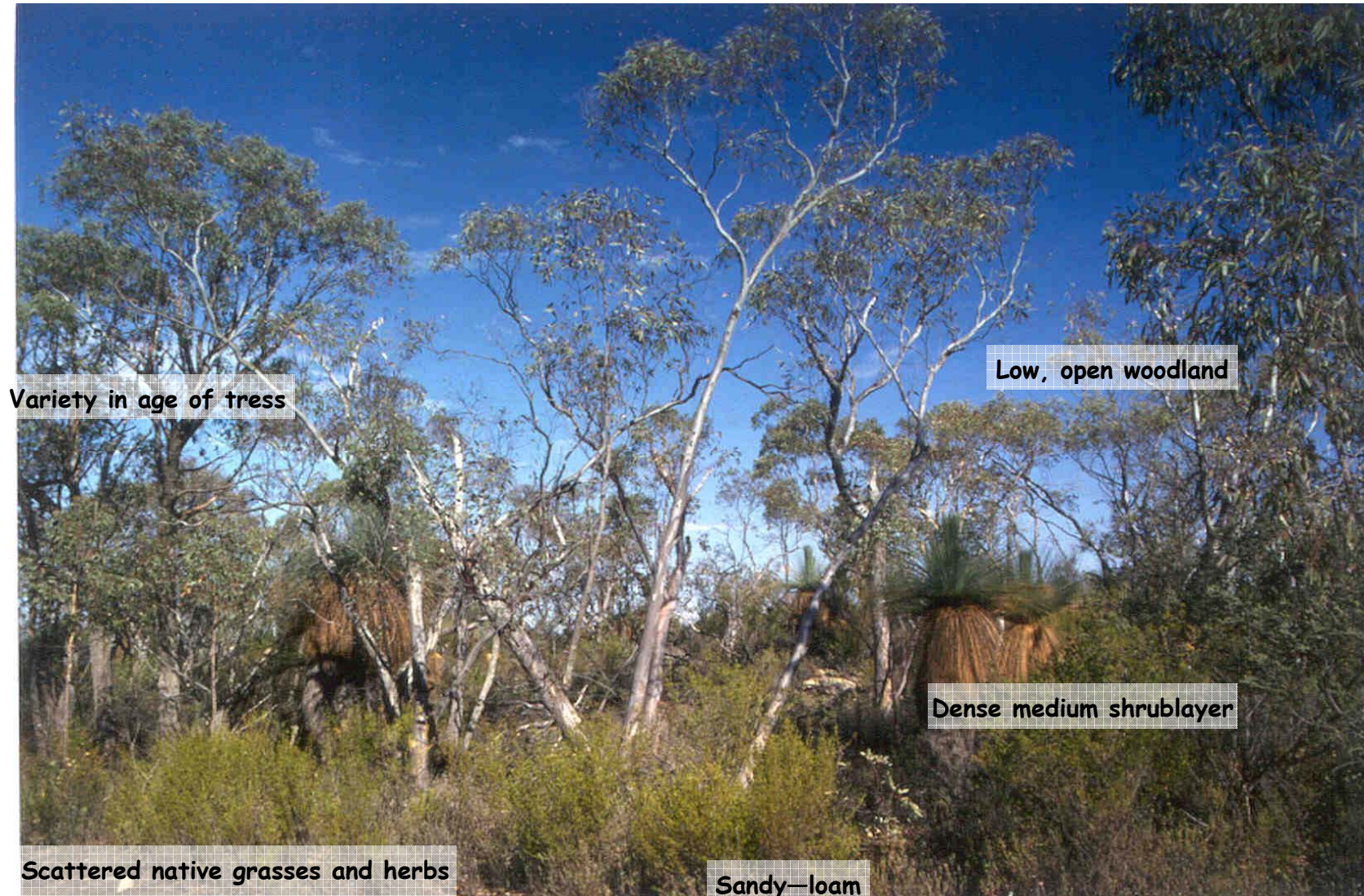


Photo: Sue Berwick

Figure 1 A healthy example of Granitic Hill Woodland in the Warby Ranges, with important diagnostic and habitat features noted.

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43% of this vegetation type remains uncleared, 55% (2,652ha) of which is on private land.

Description

This type of vegetation occurs on **granite country** with **outcropping rocks** and sandy to sandy-clay soils which typically have low water holding capacity at elevations between 150–450m, and an annual rainfall of 400–750mm. Rocky Outcrop Shrubland / Herbland is often interspersed amongst this vegetation type. The **low woodland overstorey** is usually dominated by Hill Red Gum, with Red Stringybark, Red Box and Long-leaf Box. The **dense shrublayer** is often dominated by Common Fringe-myrtle and includes species such as Drooping Sheoke, Lightwood, Box-leaf Wattle and Varnish Wattle. White Cypress Pine can also be found in this vegetation community, usually in uncleared and fire sheltered rock areas. **Ground layer** species include Nodding Blue Lily, Austral Carrot, Raspwort, Cotton Fire-weed, Green Rock Fern and Austral Stonecrop.

Current Threats

- Loss of tree and ground **habitat** (through **timber harvesting**, "tidying-up" and **firewood collection**), threatens associated native fauna.
- Inappropriate **grazing regimes** cause loss of native species, hinder native plant regeneration, disturb the soil and increase nutrient levels.
- Inappropriate **fire regimes** (too frequent/infrequent fire) can hinder shrub regeneration leading to eventual loss of species, and changes the structure of the remnant.
- **Weeds**, particularly by St. Johns Wort and Large Quaking Grass, compete with natives.
- **Pest animals** defoliate vegetation, disturb the soil and threatens native fauna as prey 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, **threatens the viability of the remnant**.



Figure 2 Distribution of Granitic Hills Woodland in the Goulburn Broken Catchment.

Significant Species

Flora: Hickory Wattle (Longwood area), Hairy Hop-bush (Warby Ranges and Mt. Meg), Crimson Spider-orchid and Grey Rice-flower (eastern area).

Fauna: Powerful Owl, Bandy Bandy, Carpet Python (Warby Ranges and Mt. Meg), Turquoise Parrot (Warby Ranges and Mt. Meg) and Tuan.

Management Tips

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

- **Fence** sites and **exclude grazing** to allow flowering and seed set of native plants.
- **Control** weeds (particularly St. Johns Wort and annual grasses) and pest animals (particularly rabbits).
- Encourage **natural regeneration** by **controlling rabbits**, **reducing competition** with grasses prior to seed fall and **removing stock** until seedlings are well established.
- **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.
- **Plant understorey** for remnants with no native shrubs or ground layer.
- **Monitor** your site and **adapt management** practices as required (help is available to assist and set up monitoring).