

## 741131

### GRANITE CREEK

Two strips of low hills each averaging about 3 km in width have developed on exposures of granite along the west coast. The first is in the foothills of Mt Heemskirk and Mt Agnew and extends from Trial Harbour, north to Granville Harbour. The other strip lies further north, beginning at Ahrberg Bay, south of the Pieman River and stretching to 6 km north of Lagoon River.

The stony or very gravelly, dark coloured organic soils found on the southern strip during the current survey conform closely with those described by Nicolls (1957) when reporting on a visit he made to the northerly strip. This same strip lies within the area described in reference 27.

The typical vegetation over most of the area is heath or sedgeland. The principal species on the crests and slopes are *Leptospermum nitidum*,

*Epacris lanuginosa*, honeysuckle and manuka with button grass and *Restio oligocephalus*. Along drainage lines button grass is dominant and its chief associates are *Calorophus lateriflorus*, *Leptocarpus tenax* and *Sprengelia incarnata*.

A belt of forested country, probably dominated by Smithton peppermint, occurs on the northern strip, between the Pieman and Interview Rivers. According to Nicolls (1957) the granite beneath the timber is more deeply weathered and the soils have freer internal drainage and less organic matter than the non-timbered areas. Isolated patches of deeper soil were also noted in the current survey. These were black loamy sands but still only supported a heath vegetation.

Granite Creek land system mainly serves as a Zone of nature conservation.

Even though slopes are not excessive, the character of the soils indicates a moderate soil erosion hazard.

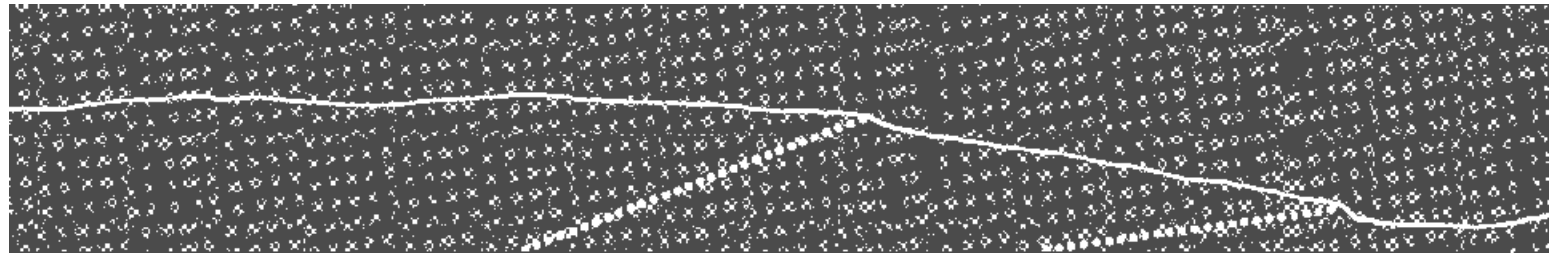


*Exposures of granite surrounded by the typical heath and sedgeland vegetation (See also plate 66).*

LAND SYSTEM

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Granite Creek



COMPONENT	1	2	3
PROPORTION %	55	30	15
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 1 500-2 000 mm		
GEOLOGY	Lower Carboniferous-Upper Devonian granite		
		Stony colluvium	
TOPOGRAPHY	Low hills		
Land form			
Position	Crests, gentle upper slopes	Steeper midslopes	Drainage lines
Average Sideslope °	4	7	3
NATIVE VEGETATION			
Structure	Open heath		Closed sedgeland
Association	<i>Leptospermum nitidum</i> , <i>Epacris lanuginosa</i> , honeysuckle, manuka, button grass, <i>Restio oligocephalus</i>		Button grass, <i>Calorophus lateriflorus</i> , <i>Leptocarpus tenax</i> , <i>Sprengelia incarnata</i> , <i>Leptospermum nitidum</i>
SOIL	Very gravelly, dark grey (10 YR 4/1) "organic soil, scattered rock outcrop	Stony organic soil, scattered rock outcrop	Very gravelly, very dark grey (5 YR 3/1) organic soil
Surface Texture		Peat	
Permeability		High	
Average Depth m	0.5	0.7	0.5
PRESENT LAND USE	Nature conservation		
HAZARDS	Moderate sheet, rill and gully erosion		