798221

VALE OF RASSELAS

This land system is situated in the valley of the upper Gordon River and covers some flats around Lake Gordon (eastern edge), Adamsfield and a restricted area around Maydena. It consists of undulating country with river terraces or raised surfaces typical of other older, broad valleys in the South West. These terraces probably formed during Pleistocene times. Well drained knolls support taller vegetation (scrub to forest) than surrounding plains. They (knolls) typically have a relatively shallow peat over a deep gravelly mineral soil. Small pools are scattered through this land system and could be associated with occurrences of Ordovician limestone, although this does not always appear to be a controlling factor. They are common through a range of sites from poorly drained riverine position where they sometimes have the appearance of oxbow lakes, to well drained 'raised surfaces'.

Large areas of the valley are underlain by alluvium and quartzitic gravels, with some yellow brown clay deposits. Dolerite gravels were observed in a soil profile near Gordon Bend and probably originated from the upper reaches of the Gordon River which emanates from dolerite country of the Central Plateau. Approximately 2 km north of Gordon Bend there is a minor occurrence of laterite. Western parts of the land system have outwash gravels derived from the Denison Range during Pleistocene glacial regression.

Organic surface horizons are widespread under a range of vegetation types. Sedgeland/heath dominates the land system, often with pure stands of *Gymnoschoenus sphaerocephalus.* Boron/a *rhomboidea*, which is typically found in the north west of the State, occurs in the sedgeland/heath to the east of the Gordon River. Tall forests characteristically grow in riverine locations (see river flats component) on deep alluvial soils, and have a mixed tall understorey in comparison to other forested locations (not on land system diagram) where Casuarina *monilifera, Banksia marginata* and *Pultenaea juniperina are* typical. Well drained creek sides often support scrub or woodland with *Eucalyptus nitida, Banksia marginata, Leptospermum lanigerum* and *Melaleuca squarrosa* common. Sphagnum moss beds are sometimes found in scrub or woodland which are poorly drained. They occur around the perimeter of the forest at Gordonvale and extend onto poorly drained flats near creeks. Around Maydena *Leptospermum lanigerum* thickets are typical of this land system.

Recreation, notably bush walking, is one of the main pastimes in this historic area where Ernie Bond ran a farm during the middle of this century. It is one of the only agricultural enterprises which have been attempted in the South West. Unfortunately due to a lack of maintenance the only building left is a small shed with a caved in roof.

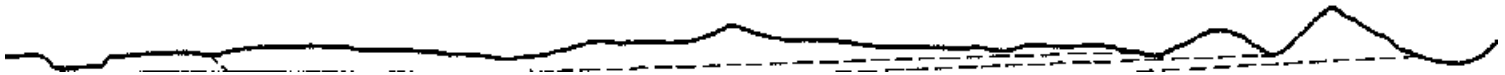
The area west of the Gordon River is part of the South West Conservation Area but to the east the land is designated State Forest. Hazard reduction burns in the Vale of Rasselas have escaped destroying peat and conifer stands in the Denison Range.

LAND SYSTEM

VALE OF RASSELAS

798221

Area(ha): 20582



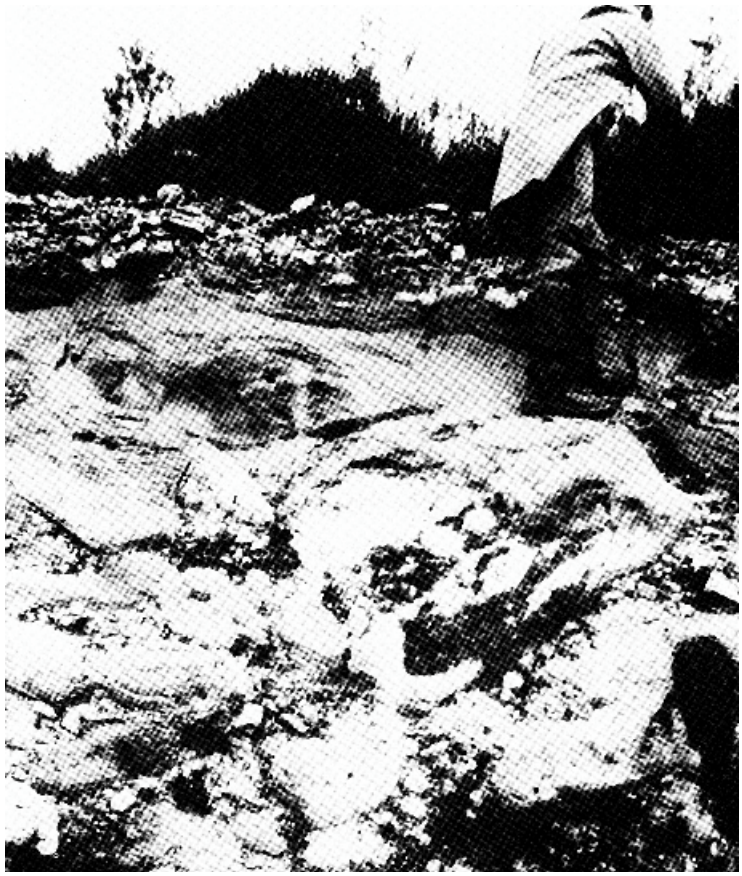
ALTITUDINAL RANGE (m)	300-600	APPROXIMATE ANNUAL RAINFALL (mm) 1500-2000			
SITE NO.	94/450/-	(92/485/-) (96/450/-	95/450/-	93/475/E	91/485/-
(m) /ASPECT					
TOPOGRAPHY		Undulating plains			
Position	River flats	Flats, slopes and minor ridges	Small knolls	Well drained ridges	Creek banks
Typical Slope( )	0-3	0-3	0	0-3	0-3
Proportion (%)	15	65	5	10	5
GEOLOGY		Peat over alluvium, gravels and Ordovician limestone			
NATIVE VEGETATION	Open to tall	Open to closed	Open forest	Tall open forest	Scrub to woodland
Structure		Sedgeland/heath			
	Eucalyptus nitida	Gymnoschoenus	Eucalyptus nitida	Eucalyptus nitida	Eucalyptus nitida
Floristic	Banksia marginata	Lepyrodia tasmanica	Leptospermum scoparium	E. obliqua	Banksia marginata
Association	Leptospermum	Sprengelia incarnata	Aotus ericoides	Nothofagus	Leptospermum lanigerum
(See Appendix 1	L. scoparium	Restio australis	Boronia citriodora	Pomaderris apetala	Melaleuca squamea
for common	L. riparium	R. complanatus	Stylidium	Dinksonia antarctica	Gymnoschoenus
names)	Monotoca glauca	R. monocephalus	Empodisma minus		Bauera rubioides
	Acacia mucronata	Xyris sp.	Hibbertia procumbens		Restio tetraphyllus
	Lomatia	Empodisma minus	Epacris lanuginosa		Empodisma minor
	Pittosporum	Bauera rubioides	Gahnia grandis		
	Eucryphia lucida	Boronia rhomboidea	Lepidosperma fi1iforme		
	Gahnia grandis	Schoenus tenuissimus	Bauera rubioides		
		Monotoca submutica			
		Actinotus suffocata			
SOIL Surface(A or P horizon)Colour	Very dark grey (10 YR 3/1) fibrous peat	Black (7. 5 YR 2/0) fibrous peat (0. 25 m) over a black muck	Gravelly black (5 YR 2. 5/1) fibrous peat	Very dusky red (2. 5 YR 2. 5/2) fibrous peat	Black (10 YR 2/1) fibrous peat over a black (10 YR 2/1) sandy
Subsoil (B horizon) colour (moist) and texture	Dark yellowish brown (10 YR 4/6) clay to dark yellowish brown sand at the base.	Brown (10 YR 5/3) or dark reddish brown (5 YR 3/2) clay loam or sandy clay loam over gravel	Reddish grey (5 yr 5/2) loamy sand over a dark brown (10 YR 3/3) clay loam mottled dark yellowish brown	Dark greyish brown (2. 5 Y 4/2) to dark yellowish brown (10 YR 4/6) medium to light clay	Gravelly very dark brown (10 YR 2/2) to light olive brown (2. 5 Y 5/6) clay loam to clayey sand
Primary Profile form	Complex (alluvium)	Organic	Gradational	Uniform	Complex (alluvium)
Depth surface horizon(m)	0. 05	0. 10-0. 25	0. 20	0. 10	0. 15
Typical total depth(m)	0. 70	0. 50-0. 75	0. 65	>0. 50	>0. 50
Permeability	High to moderate	High	High	Moderate	High
LAND USE			Recreation, nature conservation		
HAZARD			Moderate track erosion and bifurcation		

Photo 47

Well drained knoll near Gordon Bend supporting *Eucalyptus nitida* forest (land system 798221)

Photo 48

The ruins of a homestead built by Ernie Bond at Gordonvale (land system 798221)



Deep dolerite tills on Scotts Peak Road. This is overlain by poorly sorted angular to subangular quartzitic gravel which in turn is covered by peat (798222)