

841351

MT HEEMSKIRK

Extensive areas of mountainous terrain have developed on outcrops of Lower Carboniferous, Upper Devonian granite in the Mt Heemskirk-Mt Agrew area near the west coast. Towards the southern end of this occurrence jointing has resulted in a parallel arrangement of steep-sided rocky ridges. A much larger body incorporating the Meredith Range covers a strip of country 20 km long and more than 5 km wide. Lack of access prevented field examination of a fundamentally different type of granite round High Tor and Granite Tor at the headwaters of the Sophia, Fury and Bluff Rivers but it has been included within this land system.

The soils are mainly organic and peat forms a surface layer even on those profiles dominated by the mineral fraction. The gradational soil in

component 2 only becomes a heavy clay loam to a light clay within the B horizon and, in common with the other soils, is highly permeable.

A low heath and sedgeland grows on the peaty sites, while a closed scrub has developed on the relatively deep gradational soils. Prominent among the sedge species are *Leptocarpus tenax* and *Restio oligocephalus*, while the heath associations comprise mainly *Leptospermum nitidum*, *Sprengelia incarnata* and honeysuckle. *Leptospermum nitidum* also dominates the scrub community, where it is associated with prickly mimosa and native laurel. Tree species include myrtle and Smithton peppermint but these are rather diminutive in size and represent only a minor part of the scrub vegetation.

These areas serve mainly as zones of nature conservation.

Granitic soils are typically highly erodible, and this danger is augmented by the steep slopes.

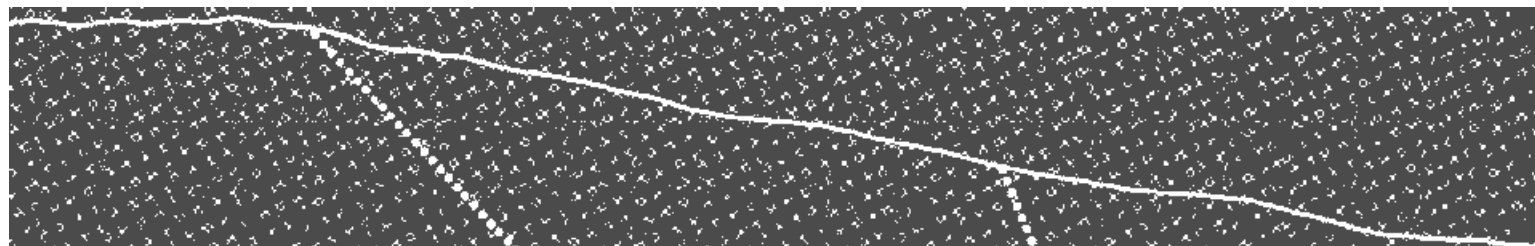


Mt Heemskirk land system with Granite Creek land system occupying the gentle topography in the foreground.

LAND SYSTEM

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Mt Heemskirk



COMPONENT	1	2	3
PROPORTION %	20	45	35
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 2 000-2 500 mm		
GEOLOGY	Lower Carboniferous-Upper Devonian granite		
TOPOGRAPHY	Mountains		
Land form	Mountains		
Position	Crests	Steep sideslopes	
Average Sideslope °	6	20	
NATIVE VEGETATION	Open heath and sedgeland		
Structure	Open heath and sedgeland	Tall closed scrub	Open heath
Association	<i>Leptocarpus tenax, Sprengelia incarnata, Restio oligocephalus, Leptospermum nitidum</i>	<i>Leptospermum nitidum, prickly mimosa, myrtle, native laurel, Smithton peppermint</i>	<i>Leptospermum nitidum, honeysuckle Sprengelia incarnata</i>
SOIL	Gravelly, black peat, rock outcrop common	Gravelly brown (7-5 YR 5/2) to yellowish brown (10 YR 5/8) gradational soil	Stony black peat
Surface Texture	Peat	Gravelly peat	Peat
Permeability	High		
Average Depth m	Skeletal	0.8	0.5
PRESENT LAND USE	Nature conservation		
HAZARDS	Moderate sheet and rill erosion	High sheet and gully erosion	