

Vegetation and Landscapes of the Corinella area



Vegetation communities

- How do we classify vegetation?
- In Victoria, **Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs)** are the standard method of vegetation classification
- Developed in the early 1990's in East Gippsland as part of the RFA study to document age classes, disturbance history and floristic composition of forests in East Gippsland
- An EVC consists of one or more floristic communities that exist under a common regime of ecological processes within a particular environment.
- EVC is thus defined by life form, floristics and ecological attributes
- Approximately 300 EVCs described for Victoria

EVC: Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland



woodland to open forest dominated by
overstorey trees such as Coast Manna Gum

large shrubs present

diversity of grasses and herbs

fertile, well-drained loamy or sandy topsoils over clay

EVC maps

- 2 types:
 1. 'Extant' EVC map
 - ie. showing present day vegetation
 2. Pre-1750/pre-European settlement map
 - interpretation of vegetation prior to European settlement, ie. modelled vegetation
- EVC maps used in Victoria for assessing the conservation status of vegetation communities by comparing extant vs modelled pre-1750 distribution
- Used by land managers for management of public land

Using EVC maps

Nature does not fit neatly into boxes

Drawing a line on a map is only indicative

Ecotones, ie. transitions between vegetation communities, can be from a few metres to a kilometre or more

EVC species lists

- DELWP EVC benchmark flora lists:
- Need to visit a site to determine the EVC without relying only on the EVC mapping which is broad-scale mapping
- Only use species lists in EVC benchmarks as a guide as they represent species typical of only part of the EVC range within a bioregion (Gippsland Plain bioregion extends from approximately Lakes Entrance through to Melbourne)
- Access local vegetation reports

Landforms and EVCs

Types of landforms in Corinella area:

- Coastal basaltic cliffs/bluffs
- Beaches
- Mud flats
- Undulating rises
- Coastal plain (former swamps and lagoon deposits)



Corinella

Image © 2017 DigitalGlobe

Google Earth
Earth Point

2007

Imagery Date: 9/20/2016 38°25'25.70" S 145°27'15.66" E elev 6 m eye alt 7.08 km



raised beach

ferruginised Brighton Group
faulted against Older Volcanics tuff
and basalt

raised beach

friable, deeply weathered tuff & basalt

cobble beach of basalt corestones

1. Coastal cliffs/bluffs

- Main associated EVC in Corinella area:
 - Coastal Headland Scrub

Main EVCs on exposed cliffs on south coast of Phillip Island:

- Coastal Headland Scrub
- Coastal Tussock Grassland
- Spray-zone Coastal Shrubland

Coastal Headland Scrub



Coastal Headland Scrub: south coast of Phillip Island



Coastal Tussock Grassland: south coast of Phillip Island



Spray-zone Coastal Shrubland: south coast of Phillip Island



2. Beaches/dunes

- Associated EVCs:
 - Coast Banksia Woodland
 - Berm Grassy Shrubland

Coast Banksia Woodland



Berm Grassy Shrubland



Coastal Dune Scrub: south coast of Phillip Island



3. Mud flats

- Main Associated EVCs:
 - Coastal Saltmarsh
 - Mangrove Shrubland

Coastal Saltmarsh



Mangrove Shrubland



4. Undulating rises

- Main Associated EVCs:
 - Grassy Woodland
 - Heathy Woodland

Grassy Woodland



Grassy Woodland



Heathy Woodland



5. Former swamp and lagoon deposits

- Main Associated EVC:
 - Swamp Scrub

Swamp Scrub



Pre-European settlement vegetation

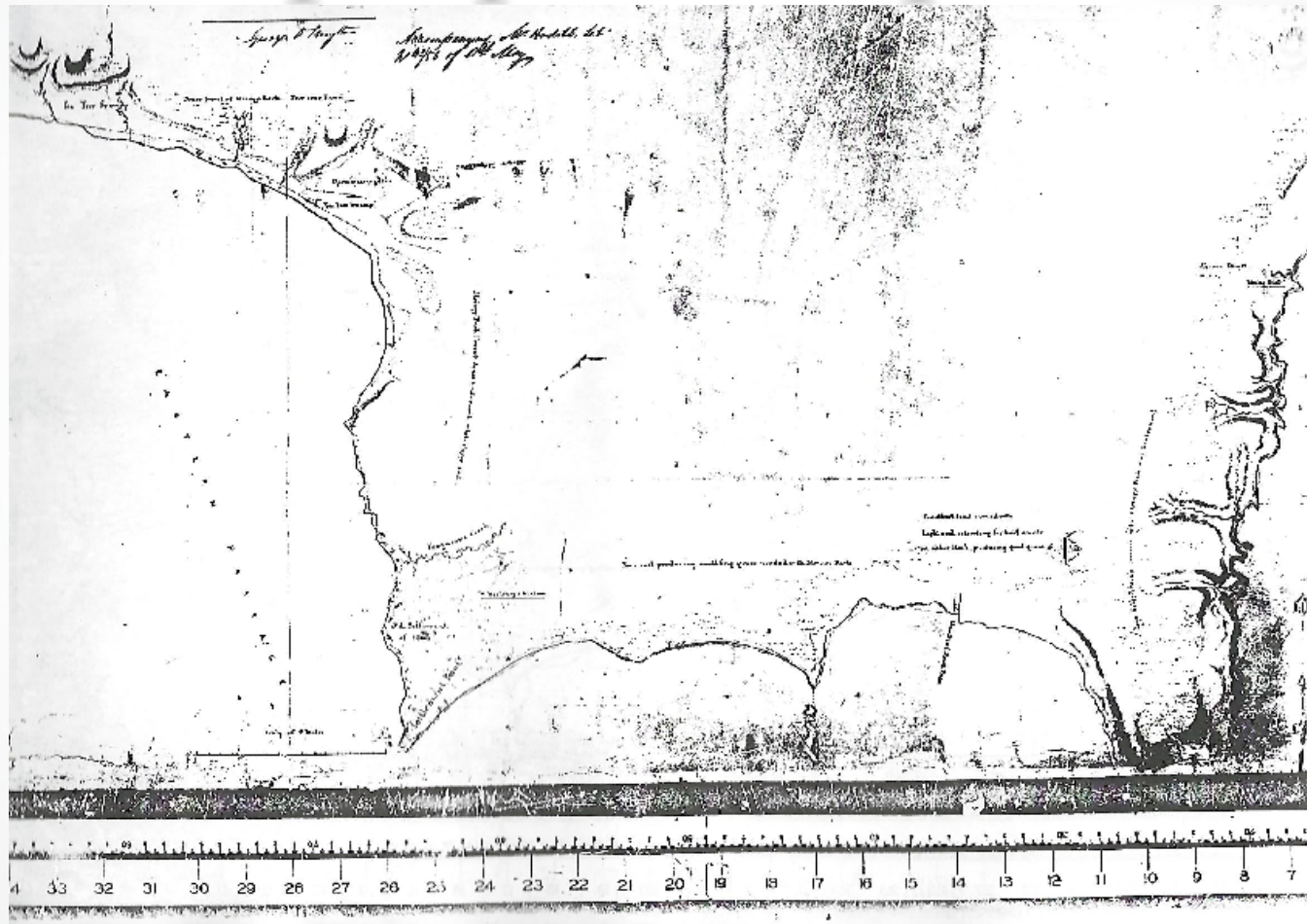
What tools can assist us in determining what to plant in cleared landscapes?

- Historical sources
- Vegetation maps
- Remnant vegetation in paddocks, on roadsides etc.
- Geology/Soils
- Landform
- Aspect

Historical maps/reports

- Often general annotations of the vegetation with common names of plants that could refer to a number of plant species
 - eg. 'dense scrub of gum and prickly tea-tree'
 - 'open grass and low scrubby country'

Early surveyors maps/parish plans



Historical paintings



Historical photographs



Historical photographs



The Oval at Corinella circa 1937



Corinella Oval today



Remnant vegetation on roadsides



Remnant trees in paddocks



Narrowing the options on the ground

- What **landscape** am I in? - coast, plain
- **Where** is the vegetation placed? – cliffs, dunes, plateau etc.
- What is the **structure** of the vegetation – woodland, shrubland, grassland etc.
- What are the dominant (most diverse) **understorey life forms** - shrubs, grasses, sedges, herbs
- Other **site attributes** (where known) - aspect, geology, soils, exposure

Summary

- Vegetation (EVC) mapping is only a guide to what plants are growing in an area due to the broad scale of the mapping
- Determine what remnant vegetation exists in the area on a similar landform and soil type
- Access local vegetation reports containing EVC species lists
- Contact your local Landcare Group for advice on what species to plant