

## Site 34. Blind Creek Billabong & Quarry, Ferntree Gully

A small strip of riparian vegetation with a shallow billabong, and adjoining vegetation beside a quarry. Melway ref. 64 H11.

### Site Significance Level: State

- Contains vegetation belonging to four regionally Endangered vegetation types (Wetland, Swampy Riparian Woodland, Swampy Woodland and Valley Heathy Forest), some of which is in good ecological condition;
- The Swampy Woodland is particularly rich in plant species;
- Six plant species recorded from the site are Critically Endangered in Knox, and another eleven are either Endangered or Vulnerable in Knox;
- The bird fauna is rich for metropolitan Melbourne, and a statewide-vulnerable Grey Goshawk was observed.



*Aerial photograph taken February 2007*



Scale 1:4,000  
0 20 40 60 80 100m

## Boundaries

This 4.63 ha site is outlined in red and marked 'Site 34' on the aerial photograph on the previous page. The south-southwestern edge skirts the clay pit (as observed in June 2008) and partly follows the alignment of a series of survey pegs along the pit edge. The remaining boundaries coincide with property boundaries, except for straight lines that have been drawn across Blind Ck between corners of properties.

The site originally described in 2004 for the first edition of this report included an additional 0.65 ha of Valley Heathy Forest that has since been excavated, including all of the hatched area on the aerial photograph above.

**Land use & tenure:** Public reserve along the creek and a fenced bushland area within the fence around the quarry site. Council manages some of the fenced bushland and the remainder is the responsibility of the quarry owner.

## Site description

This site includes some swampy vegetation along Blind Ck and some Valley Heathy Forest on a hillside inside the fence adjacent to a quarry, from which clay is periodically taken for brickmaking.

Elevations range from 89 m on the bank of the creek to 95 m in the southeastern corner. The slope is very shallow in the area labelled 'Swampy Woodland' on the aerial photograph (being a floodplain), and becomes progressively steeper to the south. Contours run generally east-west, the main exception being the billabong marked on the aerial photograph. There are also small depressions and shallow drainage excavations in the vicinity of the quarry pit.

The Swampy Woodland and Swampy Riparian Woodland are on alluvial soil (or probably colluvium near the southern edge) and the Valley Heathy Forest is on shallow, light grey loam. The subsoil is clay throughout, derived from decomposition of the underlying Lower Devonian sedimentary rocks of the Humevale formation.

The most significant vegetation is in three areas:

- The western third of the billabong;
- In a small patch beside the creek; and
- In the northwest corner of the fenced bushland.

The last of these areas retains large old trees and very rich understorey.

Other parts of the site have been ecologically degraded to varying degrees by weed invasion, past clearing, drainage works and dumping of overburden from the quarry. However, recent efforts by Knox City Council and the Friends of Blind Creek Billabong to rehabilitate the vegetation have been very successful and the ecological condition is steadily improving. There is extensive natural regeneration where slashing has ceased.

A more detailed (if dated) description of most of the site can be found in the 1997 report, '*A Management Plan for Blind Creek Billabong, Ferntree Gully*', prepared for Knox City Council by J.C. Reid, G.S. Lorimer and H. Moss.

## Relationship to other land

The site is part of the Blind Creek habitat corridor, and is treated here separately from Site 33 only because its vegetation stands out for its breadth, ecological condition, abundance of uncommon species and separate management regime.

The treed residential neighbourhood to the north forms Site 103 (see the aerial photograph above) represents an extension of the site's habitat for some wildlife, such as rosellas and Tawny Frogmouths. Land south of Blind Ck provides much less ecological linkage except for the Norvel Road Reserves (Site 35).

**Bioregion:** Gippsland Plain

## Habitat types

Perennial Stream (No EVC number), barrel-drained but with parts of the original watercourse retained.

**Wetland** (the billabong – EVC 74, **regionally Endangered**): Estimated in c. 2003 to cover 1,000 m<sup>2</sup>, comprising 350 m<sup>2</sup> in good ecological condition (rating B), 350 m<sup>2</sup> in fair ecological condition (rating C) and 300 m<sup>2</sup> in poor ecological condition (rating D). However, intervening drought has badly reduced the ecological condition (hopefully a temporary situation). 9 indigenous plant species were recorded in 1997.

Trees, vines and ferns: Absent.

Shrubs: Some *Melaleuca ericifolia* extend into the billabong.

Aquatic and semi-aquatic flora: Dominated by *Carex appressa* and rushes. *Baumea rubiginosa* is a character species.

**Swampy Riparian Woodland** (EVC 83, **regionally Endangered**) tending toward Riparian Forest (EVC 18): Estimated to occupy 4,400 m<sup>2</sup>, comprising 500 m<sup>2</sup> in good ecological condition (rating B), 1,500 m<sup>2</sup> in fair ecological condition (rating C) and 2,400 m<sup>2</sup> in poor ecological condition (rating D). These figures do not include recent revegetation.

Dominant canopy trees: *Eucalyptus ovata*, *E. obliqua*, *E. cephalocarpa*, *E. viminalis*, *E. melliodora*.

Dominant lower trees: *Acacia melanoxylon* and *Acacia mearnsii*.

Shrubs: The presence of *Bursaria spinosa* is typical of Swampy Riparian Woodland, whereas the presence of *Prostanthera lasianthos* reflects the tendency toward Riparian Forest (in combination with the *Eucalyptus viminalis* and *E. melliodora* at the edge of the site).

Ground flora: Includes species of wet soil such as *Lepidosperma elatior* as well as species of drier soil such as *L. gunnii*.

Swampy Woodland (EVC 937, **regionally Endangered**): Estimated to occupy 22,000 m<sup>2</sup>, comprising 2,000 m<sup>2</sup> in good ecological condition (rating B), 19,500 m<sup>2</sup> in fair ecological condition (rating C) and 500 m<sup>2</sup> in poor ecological condition (rating D). 95 indigenous plant species were recorded by the author, plus three others recorded by Mr Andrew Paget in May 1985.

Dominant canopy trees: *Eucalyptus ovata* and *E. cephalocarpa* with rather less *E. obliqua*.

Dominant lower trees: *Acacia melanoxylon* and *Acacia mearnsii* with rather less *Exocarpos cupressiformis*.

Shrubs: Patchy, becoming quite dense in places (particularly due to *Bursaria spinosa* and *Leptospermum scoparium*). Fairly rich in species. *Goodenia ovata*, *Ozothamnus ferrugineus*, *Prostanthera lasianthos* and *Pultenaea gunnii* are also abundant. *Coprosma quadrifida* and *Melaleuca ericifolia* are dense in small parts of the site.

Vines: *Billardiera mutabilis*, *Clematis aristata* and *Cassytha melantha* are present.

Creepers: Creepers are represented by no fewer than nine species, of which *Poa tenera* and *Centella cordifolia* are the most abundant. The ecological indicator species, *Gonocarpus micranthus*, *Goodenia elongata*, *Gratiola pubescens* and *Hemarthria uncinata* are all present.

Ferns: *Lindsaea linearis* is abundant and *Pteridium esculentum* rather less so. One *Cyathea australis* was found.

Ground flora: Moderately to very dense, dominated by *Gahnia radula*, *Microlaena stipoides* and *Rytidosperma* species. Other abundant species are *Deyeuxia quadriseta*, *Eragrostis brownii*, *Gonocarpus tetragynus*, *Juncus planifolius*, *Schoenus apogon*, *Austrostipa rudis* and *Themeda triandra*. The ecological indicator species, *Baumea rubiginosa*, *Empodisma minus*, *Schoenus tesquorum*, *Triglochin striatum* and *Villarsia reniformis* are also present.

Valley Heathy Forest (EVC 127, **regionally Endangered**): Estimated to occupy 6,000 m<sup>2</sup>, comprising 5,000 m<sup>2</sup> in fair ecological condition (rating C) and 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> in poor ecological condition (rating D). 59 indigenous plant species recorded by the author, plus one other recorded by Mr Andrew Paget in May 1985.

Canopy trees: Dominated by *Eucalyptus cephalocarpa* and *E. radiata*.

Lower trees: Scattered *Acacia melanoxylon*.

Shrubs: Low to moderate density, the most abundant species being *Acacia myrtifolia*, *A. stricta*, *Bursaria spinosa* and *Cassinia aculeata*. The locally rare species, *Viminaria juncea*, germinated at the edge of the quarry in c.1995 but was bulldozed in 1997 (along with the locally rare wildflower, *Wahlenbergia multicaulis*).

Vines: *Billardiera mutabilis* is fairly abundant.

Ferns: Small amounts of *Lindsaea linearis*.

Ground flora: Grassy but with the characteristic heathy elements of *Hibbertia riparia*, *Acrotriche serrulata*, *Epacris impressa*, *Dillwynia cinerascens*, *Lepidosperma gunnii*, *Platylobium obtusangulum* and *Xanthosia dissecta*. Dominant graminoids include *Gahnia radula*, *Microlaena stipoides*, *Austrostipa rudis* and *Themeda triandra*. Other species that help to characterise the vegetation include substantial numbers of *Dianella longifolia* and *Gonocarpus tetragynus*, as well as small numbers of *Leptorhynchus tenuifolius*.

## Plant species

The following plant species were observed in the years indicated. 1985 records are from Mr Andrew Paget and the remainder are from the author. The column headed 'Risk' indicates the indigenous species' risk of extinction in Knox as follows: 'C'=Critically Endangered; 'E'=Endangered; and 'V'=Vulnerable. In addition, the species with names in bold are rare throughout the Melbourne region.

Risk	Indigenous Species	Year	Risk	Indigenous Species	Year
	<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	1985		<i>Arthropodium strictum</i>	2001
V	<i>Acacia mearnsii</i>	2005		<i>Austrostipa pubinodis</i>	1997
V	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	2005		<i>Austrostipa rudis</i> subsp. <i>rudis</i>	2009
E	<i>Acacia myrtifolia</i>	2001	C	<b><i>Baumea acuta</i></b>	1997
E	<i>Acacia stricta</i>	1997	C	<b><i>Baumea rubiginosa</i></b>	1997
V	<i>Acacia verticillata</i>	2005		<i>Billardiera mutabilis</i>	2005
	<i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i>	2005		<i>Bossiaea prostrata</i>	2005
	<i>Acrotriche serrulata</i>	2005		<i>Burchardia umbellata</i>	2005
C	<i>Amyema pendula</i>	2001		<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	2005

Risk	Indigenous Species	Year	Risk	Indigenous Species	Year
V	<i>Caesia parviflora</i>	1997	E	<i>Juncus procerus</i>	2005
	<i>Carex appressa</i>	1997		<i>Juncus sarophorus</i>	1997
	<i>Carex breviculmis</i>	2005	E	<i>Juncus subsecundus</i>	1997
	<i>Cassinia aculeata</i>	2005		<i>Kunzea ericoides</i> spp. agg.	2001
	<i>Cassinia arcuata</i>	2001		<i>Lachnagrostis filiformis</i>	2005
V	<i>Cassinia longifolia</i>	2005	E	<i>Lagenophora stipitata</i>	2001
E	<i>Cassytha melanantha</i>	1997		<i>Lepidosperma elatius</i>	1997
E	<i>Cassytha pubescens</i>	1985		<i>Lepidosperma gunnii</i>	2005
E	<i>Centella cordifolia</i>	2001	V	<i>Leptorhynchus tenuifolius</i>	1997
C	<i>Centrolepis strigosa</i>	1997		<i>Leptospermum continentale</i>	2005
V	<i>Clematis aristata</i>	2001	E	<i>Leptospermum lanigerum</i>	1997
V	<i>Coprosma quadrifida</i>	2005	E	<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	1997
E	<i>Cyathea australis</i>	1997	V	<i>Lindsaea linearis</i>	2005
E	<i>Daviesia latifolia</i>	2001	E	<i>Lobelia anceps</i>	2005
	<i>Deyeuxia quadriseta</i>	2001		<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>	2005
	<i>Dianella admixta</i>	1985		<i>Lomandra filiformis</i> subsp. <i>coriacea</i>	1997
V	<i>Dianella longifolia</i> s.l.	2005		<i>Lomandra filiformis</i> subsp. <i>filiformis</i>	1997
V	<i>Dianella tasmanica</i>	2005		<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	2001
	<i>Dichondra repens</i>	2005	V	<i>Lythrum hyssopifolia</i>	2001
V	<i>Dillwynia cinerascens</i>	1997	E	<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i>	2009
E	<i>Dipodium roseum</i>	1997		<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	2005
C	<i>Diuris</i> sp.	2001		<i>Microtis parviflora</i>	2001
V	<i>Drosera peltata</i> subsp. <i>auriculata</i>	1997	C	<i>Muellerina eucalyptoides</i>	1997
V	<i>Drosera whittakeri</i>	2001	V	<i>Olearia lirata</i>	2001
V	<b><i>Empodisma minus</i></b>	2005	V	<i>Opercularia ovata</i>	2001
V	<i>Epacris impressa</i>	2005	V	<i>Opercularia varia</i>	2005
	<i>Eragrostis brownii</i>	2005		<i>Oxalis exilis/perennans</i>	2005
V	<i>Eucalyptus cephalocarpa</i>	2009	E	<i>Ozothamnus ferrugineus</i>	2005
V	<i>Eucalyptus melliadora</i>	1997	E	<i>Pentapogon quadrifidus</i>	1997
V	<i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i>	2005		<i>Persicaria decipiens</i>	1997
V	<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>	2009	V	<i>Pimelea humilis</i>	2001
E	<i>Eucalyptus radiata</i>	2005	V	<i>Platylobium formosum</i>	1985
E	<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i> ssp. <i>viminalis</i>	1997	V	<i>Platylobium obtusangulum</i>	2005
V	<i>Euchiton collinus</i>	2001	E	<i>Poa labillardierei</i> var. <i>labillardierei</i>	2005
E	<i>Euchiton involucratus</i>	1997		<i>Poa morrisii</i>	2005
V	<i>Exocarpos cupressiformis</i>	2005	E	<i>Poa tenera</i>	2005
	<i>Gahnia radula</i>	2005	E	<i>Polyscias sambucifolia</i>	2001
E	<i>Gahnia sieberiana</i>	1985		<i>Poranthera microphylla</i>	2005
C	<i>Gonocarpus micranthus</i>	1997	E	<i>Prostanthera lasianthos</i>	2005
	<i>Gonocarpus tetragynus</i>	2005		<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	2001
C	<b><i>Goodenia elongata</i></b>	2001	V	<i>Pultenaea gunnii</i>	2005
E	<i>Goodenia humilis</i>	2005		<i>Rytidosperma laeve</i>	1997
	<i>Goodenia lanata</i>	1985		<i>Rytidosperma pallidum</i>	2005
	<i>Goodenia ovata</i>	2009		<i>Rytidosperma penicillatum</i>	1997
C	<b><i>Gratiola pubescens</i></b>	1997		<i>Rytidosperma racemosum</i>	2001
V	<i>Helichrysum luteoalbum</i>	2009	E	<i>Rytidosperma semiannulare</i>	1997
V	<i>Helichrysum scorpioides</i>	2001		<i>Rytidosperma setaceum</i>	2001
V	<i>Hemarthria uncinata</i>	1997		<i>Rytidosperma tenuius</i>	1997
E	<i>Hibbertia riparia</i>	2005		<i>Schoenus apogon</i>	2005
E	<i>Hypericum gramineum</i>	2005	C	<b><i>Schoenus lepidosperma</i></b>	2001
C	<i>Hypoxis hygrometrica</i>	1997	C	<b><i>Schoenus tesquorum</i></b>	1997
E	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	1997		<i>Senecio glomeratus</i>	2005
E	<i>Isolepis cernua</i> var. <i>platycarpa</i>	1997		<i>Senecio hispidulus</i>	2001
V	<i>Isolepis inundata</i>	2005	E	<i>Senecio minimus</i>	1997
E	<i>Isolepis marginata</i>	1985		<i>Senecio quadridentatus</i>	2001
	<i>Juncus amabilis</i>	2005	C	<i>Solanum aviculare</i>	2005
	<i>Juncus bufonius</i>	1997	V	<i>Solanum ?laciniatum</i>	1997
	<i>Juncus pallidus</i>	2005	E	<i>Stylidium armeria/graminifolium</i>	2001
E	<i>Juncus pauciflorus</i>	1997		<i>Tetrarrhena juncea</i>	1985
E	<i>Juncus planifolius</i>	1997	V	<i>Thelymitra</i> sp.	2001

Risk	Indigenous Species	Year	Risk	Indigenous Species	Year
	<i>Themeda triandra</i>	2005	C	<i>Viminaria juncea</i>	1997
	<i>Tricoryne elatior</i>	2001	E	<i>Viola hederacea</i>	2005
E	<i>Triglochin striata</i> (flat leaf variant)	2005	C	<i>Wahlenbergia multicaulis</i>	1997
E	<i>Typha domingensis</i>	2001	E	<i>Wurmbea dioica</i>	2001
V	<i>Veronica gracilis</i>	2001	V	<i>Xanthorrhoea minor</i>	1985
C	<i>Villarsia reniformis</i>	2005	E	<i>Xanthosia dissecta</i>	2005

#### Introduced Species

<i>Acacia elata</i>	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>
<i>Acacia floribunda</i>	<i>Cyperus eragrostis</i>	<i>Paspalum dilatatum</i>
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	<i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i>
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	<i>Danthonia procumbens</i>	<i>Phalaris aquatica</i>
<i>Aira caryophylla</i>	<i>Echinochloa crus-galli</i>	<i>Pinus radiata</i>
<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	<i>Ehrharta erecta</i>	<i>Pitiosporum undulatum</i>
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	<i>Ehrharta longiflora</i>	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	<i>Erica lusitanica</i>	<i>Plantago major</i>
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	<i>Erodium moschatum</i>	<i>Poa annua</i>
<i>Arctotheca calendula</i>	<i>Freesia alba</i> × <i>leichtlinii</i>	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>
<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>	<i>Fumaria muralis</i>	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>
<i>Asparagus scandens</i>	<i>Galium aparine</i>	<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>
<i>Aster subulatus</i>	<i>Gamochaeta purpurea</i>	<i>Romulea rosea</i>
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	<i>Rubus anglocandicans</i>
<i>Briza maxima</i>	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	<i>Rumex crispus</i>
<i>Briza minor</i>	<i>Gladiolus undulatus</i>	<i>Setaria parviflora</i>
<i>Bromus catharticus</i>	<i>Grevillea rosmarinifolia</i>	<i>Sisyrinchium iridifolium</i>
<i>Centaurium erythraea</i>	<i>Hedera helix</i>	<i>Solanum nigrum</i>
<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>
<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i> ssp. <i>monilifera</i>	<i>Homalanthus populifolius</i>	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> spp. agg.
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	<i>Hypochoeris radicata</i>	<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>
<i>Conyza bonariensis</i>	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	<i>Trifolium campestre</i>
<i>Coprosma repens</i>	<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
<i>Cordyline australis</i>	<i>Juncus tenuis</i>	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	<i>Leontodon taraxacoides</i>	<i>Veronica arvensis</i>
<i>Cotoneaster glaucophyllus</i>	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	<i>Vicia sativa</i>
<i>Cotoneaster pannosus</i>	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	<i>Watsonia meriana</i> var. <i>bul-</i>
<i>Cotoneaster simonsii</i>	<i>Lotus subbiflorus</i>	<i>billifera</i>
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>
<i>Crococsmia</i> × <i>crococsmiiflora</i>	<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	

Notes concerning some of the locally threatened plant species

*Wahlenbergia multicaulis* (Tadgell's Bluebell) – Found beside the quarry in 1997 and subsequently destroyed.

*Viminaria juncea* (Golden Spray) – Found beside the quarry in 1997 and subsequently destroyed.

#### Fauna of special significance

Grey Goshawk – listed as Vulnerable in Victoria. Seen incidentally during fieldwork. It is not known how frequently the bird visits the site but a much larger area is required to meet the needs of such a species over its lifecycle.

#### Fauna habitat features

- There are large eucalypts with hollows that provide suitable roosting or nesting sites for certain fauna;
- Some large Manna Gums (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) may provide nest sites for bird species that only breed in particularly tall trees;
- Patches of scrub provide habitat for small insect-eating birds such as wrens;
- Mistletoe was seen harbouring a colony of Imperial White Butterflies, which are reliant on mistletoes for larval food;
- The ground layer of dense grasses and sedges in much of the site is excellent habitat for butterflies and probably skippers that rely on such plants. A survey for skippers would be worthwhile.

#### Significance ratings

The following is an assessment of the site's significance against the Department of Sustainability & Environment's standard criteria (Amos 2004).

### Ecological Integrity and Viability

Criterion 1.1.1 attributes **Local** significance to ‘All parts of riparian systems with riparian vegetation present’, which applies to this site.

### Endangered Vegetation Types

All the EVCs present in the site are listed as regionally Endangered. It follows from Appendix 3 of *Victoria’s Native Vegetation Management - a Framework for Action* (NRE 2002a) that the site’s vegetation is of at least High conservation significance. This, in turn, gives the site **State** significance under criterion 3.2.3.

### Rare or Threatened flora

Many of the locally threatened plant species listed above have viable populations, thereby meeting criterion 3.1.5 for a site of **Local** significance.

### Rare or Threatened Fauna

Criterion 3.1.2 confers at least **Local** significance on sites that provide habitat for species that are threatened in Victoria. This applies to the present site if it is deemed to provide habitat for the Grey Goshawk that was seen during fieldwork. One cannot be sure that the sighting was not just of a vagrant, but taking into account the nature of the vegetation and its known fauna, it is prudent to treat the site as habitat for the goshawk.

### Threats

- Clay extraction and ancillary activities;
- Invasion by environmental weeds, particularly Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*), Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*), Blackberry (*Rubus discolor*) and Bulbil Watsonia (*Watsonia meriana*);
- Slashing in inappropriate areas or at an inappropriate frequency or time of year, although this appears to have been corrected in recent years;
- Rubbish dumping by local people;
- Children cutting and damaging vegetation such as paperbarks;
- Foxes (observed), which eat wildlife and spread weeds.

### Management issues

- Management of most of the public land in this site is discussed in the 1997 report, ‘*A Management Plan for Blind Creek Billabong, Ferntree Gully*’ by J.C. Reid, G.S. Lorimer and H. Moss for Knox City Council;
- Ongoing weed control is the main priority for vegetation management in this site.

### Administration matters

- It would be desirable to have an expert on skippers (insects that are intermediate between butterflies and moths) survey the site in spring and summer, due to the distinct possibility that rare species are present;
- This site is highly worthy of inclusion within the proposed Environmental Significance Overlay, ESO2, because of its State significance, the endangered EVCs, the areas of native vegetation with all strata present, the large number of significant plant species, the richness of the site’s native vegetation and the habitat that it provides for fauna;
- A strip along the creek is zoned Urban Floodway Zone (UFZ) and the rest of the site is zoned Special Use 2 (SUZ2);
- Most of the site is included under the existing Vegetation Protection Overlay Schedule 1 of the Knox Planning Scheme, but not a strip along the creek (which is more biologically significant than much of the rest of the site). This is a result of the cursory and factually inaccurate treatment of this area in the study by Water Ecoscience (1998, see their Sites 269 and 286).

### Information sources used in this assessment

- The 1997 report, ‘*A Management Plan for Blind Creek Billabong, Ferntree Gully*’ by J.C. Reid, G.S. Lorimer and H. Moss for Knox City Council, along with the supporting field data, including six lists of indigenous and introduced plant species for various parts of the site, a quadrat in the Swampy Woodland, incidental fauna observations, and checks for fauna habitat, ecological threats and management issues;
- The 1997 report, ‘*Vegetation Survey of Linear Reserves – A Management Strategy for Riparian and Flood Plain Vegetation*’, by Reid, Moss and Lorimer for Knox City Council, along with the supporting field data. This included the same sorts of data as above (except for the absence of a quadrat) for parts of the site that were outside the area covered by the management plan just cited;
- Site inspections (without collecting species data) by Dr Lorimer in 2007 and on 7/6/08, including mapping of the interface between the clay pit and native vegetation;

- Data from three quadrats north of the former quarry fence (DSE numbers N13171-N13173) and five quadrats south of that fence (DSE numbers N13275-N13279), compiled by Mr Andrew Paget in May 1985;
- Aerial photography from February 2001, April 2003 and February 2007;
- Satellite imagery of the district;
- The Department of Sustainability & Environment's BioMaps of the area;
- Maps of geology and topography produced by agencies of the Victorian government.