

LCC SW, District 2 - 1979 comment on base report

WANNON RIVER PARK

Introduction: The area under consideration extends from the Wannon Falls Public Reserve some 20 miles upstream to Diprose Bridge. Substantial Crown Reserves exist at Wannon Falls, Nigretta Falls, Four Posts (and midway between Nigretta to Four Posts), "The Rapids", Ballintubber-Sawpit Creek area and Diprose Bridge. Between these areas are many smaller Crown frontage lands containing vegetation in a near-natural state - valuable relics of the original flora. As well, there are extensive frontage reserves - often the river gorge is 1 km. wide - fenced off and containing native vegetation in a natural state but apparently freehold land. These areas connect the Crown Reserves together. Typical examples are: frontage opposite Hewett Park; West bank downstream from Nigretta; West bank upstream and downstream from Four Posts. According to the provisions of the Water Act, the bed and banks of the river are still Crown Land, since in all cases here the river forms the boundary between all allotments sold prior to 1881 (after 1881 Crown frontages exist between sold allotments and the river).

The 1977 report of the Standing Consultative Committee on River Improvement ("Management Strategy for the Wannon River") stresses the importance of retaining and regenerating vegetation on the river banks and controlling grazing on the frontages so that river bank erosion is minimised along the Wannon. In most cases the river banks are long and steep and, due to their inherent infertility, have little grazing value. The frontage owners have mostly recognized this and have fenced the bank high on the top - this has materially prevented gully erosion, although the frontages receive some grazing.

Collectively these frontages and Reserves should be managed by one authority to ensure that they retain and enhance their natural values and to prevent further erosion and siltation of the Wannon. At present neither conservation of the flora or the landscape is being satisfactorily managed - yet this wooded area of the Wannon is all that is left of the river environment. We have repeatedly asked the Lands Department to cancel the annual grazing licenses on sensitive areas which contain important floristic elements - in particular the Wannon Township Reserve, the West bank of the Nigretta Reserve and the Crown frontage upstream from Nigretta. Despite the obvious damage being done to these areas - and for no substantial reason - we have had no success in our submissions. In view of this, we do not consider that a Frontage Reserve managed by the Lands Department would be any improvement on the present unsatisfactory situation. On present form, that would merely perpetuate the present circumstances where tourism goes unsupervised, grazing is rampant, and a steady deterioration of a unique landscape continues. The obvious course is for the National Parks Service to take control, with one full-time Ranger to look after the area.

The Wannon Falls and Nigretta Falls alone are sufficient reason for calling for adequate day-to-day management of these National assets. On weekends, more than 500 visitors daily may call at these scenic spots. The "ad hoc" Lands Department Committee of Management system is incapable of protecting the environment here or providing adequate services for the tourists. Apart from both spectacular Falls, the natural bush land and grasslands found at these Reserves - and along the river frontages - is the only such land left near Hamilton. At the Wannon Reserve alone there are c. 239 species of flora - and there are many species along the river which have special significance (see later).

The entire frontage has an impressive list of plants (c. 332 native indigenous species) and is a very valuable repository

of plants - there is no other similar area near Hamilton representative of this flora. The manna gum - redgum woodland/heath provides habitat for Koala, Kangaroos, Feathertail gliders (*Banksia* grove in 1), Sugar gliders, Echidna, Swamp rat, Platypus and Water rat (along the river), Ring-tailed - and brush-tailed possums. No *Antechinus* spp. or *Rattus fuscipes* (Bush rat) have as yet been found (there have been no surveys done), but it is possible that *Antechinus flavipes* (yellow footed Phascogale), *A. stuartii* (Brown Phascogale), *Sminthopsis crassicaudata* (Fat-tailed Dunnart), *S. murina* (Common Dunnart), *Cercatatus nana* (Eastern Pigmy Possum), *Perameles gunnii* (Barred bandicoot), *Isodon obesulus* (Short-nosed bandicoot), and *Phascogale tapoatafa* (Juan) have survived in the very varied habitats along these frontages. These habitats include: dense *Gahnia* swamps, thick *Poa* tussock grassland in swampy areas, *Acacia verticillata*, woolly tea-tree thickets on seepage areas, bracken dominant slopes under Manna gums, open grasslands dominated by *Themeda* and *Danthonia*, sandy heathland with Shooby tea trees and heath species, Sheoak and *Banksia* groves, River redgum and Swamp gums lining the water course. The bird list for this frontage area comprises some 138 species. The Wannon valley contains many reptiles but these have not been documented.

The creation of such a River Park would not pose immense difficulties, despite the long river frontages. The acquisition of some freehold frontage that has high conservation value is a necessity for the future. In the short term, at least, other arrangements could be made with landowners - e.g. long term lease of the frontage by the State. There are a number of unused roads leading to strategic parts of the frontages - these could be used for management access and for walkers. There are relatively few farms with frontages along the river.

We do not envisage that all of the Park would be thrown open to the public. The very isolation of some beautiful areas is one feature that must be preserved - e.g. the spectacular "Rapids" area which has *Eriostemon angustifolius*, *Myoporum viscosum*, *Dodonea cuneata*, *Pimelea stricta* and *Acacia verniciflua* - outliers of a Mallee-type vegetation cut-off here on the Wannon in one small rocky section. We see the Wannon Falls, Nigretta Falls, Four Posts and Diprose Bridge providing developed facilities - and a gateway for walkers along other parts of the river. One example is an eight-mile walk down the Wannon from Nigretta to the Wannon Falls. This must be one of the most enjoyable "country walks" - along rocky rhyolite banks, through stately River Redgums, past rolling pastoral scenes on the East bank and natural vegetation on the West bank. Bird life in abundance and absolute tranquility. Another example is a walk in to "The Rapids" - this turbulent section is virtually unknown (except to fishermen) and equals that of Nigretta Falls in scenic appeal and flora. Flame heath and Common Heath occur along this section of the Wannon - and on one small section of a road verge east of "The Rapids" - but nowhere else near Hamilton. There is an atmosphere of complete isolation - a primeval quality - when walking along the gorge of this section of the Wannon. Thickets of Woolly tea tree, River tea tree and Wild Cherry trees are found amidst pools of water and giant Redgums. From the high banks one may peer into this world from an unusual angle, or wander along the river bed unaware of farm land nearby.

We believe that the most immediate need for management lies in six major aspects.

- (i) Restriction of grazing - a vital concern for the retention of indigenous flora (especially on Areas 2B, 3A, 8B, 10B, 20A, 20B to 23A, 23B), see map.

- (ii) Control of vehicles - this is lacking at the Wannan Falls Reserve (2A) and Nigretta (8A). The area around the oval (2A) is being denuded by a multiplicity of tracks and illegal camps; similarly at Nigretta a very large eroded and bare area has developed as a result of vehicles spilling over a wide area and compacting the soil. Onion grass dominates there. Motor vehicles also are not controlled at Four Posts (13) or Hewett Park (14B) either. Restricted access to vehicles must be implemented as a priority.
- (iii) Picnic and Camping amenities - at present these are not adequate. Rubbish disposal at Wannan Falls and Nigretta is via a bulldozer cut in the reserves. Rubbish blows from these uncovered tips at will. Camping is not permitted, but camps are set up at Wannan Falls off the roads in the bush area. This is most undesirable - there is already sufficient pressure on the plant communities there without that. A Mt. Arapiles-style campsite and picnic site should be provided at the Wannan Falls under the pine plantation near the present facilities. These facilities should be basic but not elaborate and would not provide power. Much more could be done with the pine trees that (regrettably) were planted here years ago. A camp site is an ideal (and safe) use for such an area. There is no such camp site near Hamilton - a much missed feature. The Wannan Reserve setting near the river above the Falls is ideal for use by campers.
- (iv) Weed Control - pine seedlings, introduced Acacia species (not natural to the area), suckers of Poplars and deciduous trees, Genista sp., Briar and Blackberry bramble flourish at Wannan and Nigretta reserves. These should be eradicated as a matter of urgency. Much voluntary work has been done, but it is a daily task.
- (v) Information - this should be provided, particularly with regard to the significance of the scenic attractions - geological, historical, flora, fauna.
- (vi) Vandalism - evidence of this is widespread, e.g. Four Posts, Wannan Reserve trees are mutilated, sand removed, rubbish dumped, etc.

II. Characteristics of the Wannan Frontage Areas (see also map)

- (1) Wannan Falls Public Reserve (map area 1, 2A, 2B) within the Parish of Wannan and bounded by Redruth (West) and Bochara (East). The reserve is c. 115 acres on East bank (c. 30 acres of Pinus radiata), 21 acres Flora reserve (across the road from "Boomerang gate" - acquired about 1960), and 17 acres on West bank across the Falls in the "U" bend of the river. A Lands Department Committee of Management controls the area, but the Flora Reserve has been actively managed by the Hamilton Field Naturalists since 1961. This small Flora reserve contains some 166 species, including a superb grove of Silver banksia. Species not found elsewhere along the Wannan include Prickly cryptandra, gorse bitter-pea and Hybanthus floribundus (shrub violet). Isopogon ceratophyllus here is commonplace, but only one other plant of this species has been seen elsewhere along the Wannan. Orchids are commonplace here as are peaflowers of the Dalwynnia and Platylobium species.

Problems have been referred to earlier - e.g. indigenous flora is gradually being displaced by aliens (A. longifolia, Pinus radiata seedlings, deciduous suckering trees in the gorge); grazing of the 17 acre area (2B);

uncontrolled vehicle movement in the middle sections of 2A. Tree ferns once graced the spray-zone under the Falls - they were removed years ago. Other ferns too have suffered but several species still survive in isolated and small areas (e.g. Blechnum spp. found on the extreme downstream end of 2B; Pellaea falcata and Doodia caudata near the Falls). Other plants of note here are Lemna minor (Common Duckweed) growing in seepage pools behind the waterfall; Inland pigface, Austral and Magenta Storksbill, and nodding saltbush, all on the rock faces; Coprosma quadrifida (Prickly currant bush), Dianella tasmanica (Flax lily), Sweet bursaria, and Small-leaf bramble along the water edges. A large area of Poa tussocks is also to be found. Higher slopes contain many orchids beneath the manna gums.

(2) Frontage from Wannon Falls to 1 km. upstream from Railway Bridge (3).

Parishes of Wannon, Redruth and Bochara - includes a small reserve (c. 5 acres) between the two vehicle bridges and 1½ chain frontage on both banks as far as the boundary of the Wannon township (which is just downstream from the Railway bridge). Upstream the East bank for c. 1 km. from the Railway bridge is fenced, with some native vegetation. The other bank is unfenced and grazed. In parts, the 1½ chain frontage has been fenced out (e.g. near the Falls) and elsewhere is grazed under license by horses and cattle. This is most regrettable, but we have not been able to have this policy changed. Exploitation of the area for sand still goes on. On balance, this area has the capacity to regenerate; it still has plentiful taller species such as Leptospermum obovatum, Acacia verticillata and E. camaldulensis. Birdlife here is notable. The total area of this Crown frontage is c. 40 acres.

Recently a section of frontage near the Wannon-Nigretta Road has been illegally fenced and efforts to have this fence removed have not been successful.

A point of interest is an area of Triodia irritans (Porcupine grass) at the junction of the Railway line and the Wannon-Nigretta Road (this is believed to be perhaps the most southerly occurrence of this species).

(3) Wannon upstream to near Nigretta (4-7)

Parishes of Redruth and Toolka (West bank) and Bochara (East bank).

The drainage Reserve is extensive but unfenced; the River plain has had a drain across the centre put in. There are now two channels (c. 1 km. apart) through the silty soil which easily erodes. The area is heavily grazed.

Upstream from the confluence of the channels, the West bank is fenced close to the water, but the East bank has no fence until about 1 km. upstream. Here the landowner has fenced close to the water for about 1½ km. upstream. Where this fence begins, the Western bank frontage widens to enclose a swamp of impressive nature. This is Crown frontage and the waterfowl there are prolific. This fenced reserve continues up to "Mercer's Jungle" (6B). The West bank is steep and fenced high on the slope leaving a wide strip of well-vegetated bank (up to ¼ mile wide), comprising at least 60 acres.

"Mercer's Jungle" (c. 150 acres) is an arm of L. lanigerum - A. verticillata along the hill to the North. The swampy valley is fenced on both sides to about $\frac{1}{2}$ km. width and includes native grasslands and wooded copses. Kangaroos abound here and shelter in the dense thickets of tea tree and Gahnia clarkei. The acquisition of the land should be sought as a priority. There are at least 152 native flora species here, one being Lycopus australis, a rare species, but abundant.

Between Mercer's Jungle and Nigretta Falls, the frontage is freehold and fenced high on the bank; the vegetation is in a near natural condition but receives some grazing. An unused road gives access to this area. Some banksias and Sheoak occur along the bank, as do various species of Greenhood orchids.

The Eastern bank has long been cleared of all vegetation other than E. camaldulensis of which there are many fine old trees on the river. There is Crown land access to the river (8 chain frontage) opposite Mercer's Jungle, from the Wannon-Nigretta Road.

A proposition for the future is the acquisition of the West bank frontage that is freehold; the options should be made now. The land is too steep and infertile to be of much use for agriculture, and it is very erosion-prone. A continuous strip of well-vegetated frontage would act as a valuable fauna and flora reserve and corridor.

The eastern bank should remain in the present state, as a contrast, but some arrangement should be made with the owner (s) for a walk-track along the bank (theoretically still under Crown control anyway). The walker can see the natural bush across the river, view its birds and scenery and enjoy a leisurely walk through a pastoral countryside that few city people ever have the opportunity to traverse. One can be a part of both worlds there - the farm and the bush. The Reserve would not suffer from people and would be easy to manage. Such a proposition appeals to Englishmen; perhaps it will become more a part of the Australian way of life in the future, too.

- (4) Nigretta Reserve (8A, 8B) - Parishes of Toolka and Bochara. The West bank (c. 30 acres) is currently leased for grazing. This is regrettable since it has aided the incursion of weeds following trampling, pugging, defoliation of seedling trees (esp. Casuarina and Eucalypt) and camping around trees. Part of the Western fence (c. 150 m) has fallen down and needs repair. This area still contains at least 102 species of flora, including Clematis, Helmet orchids, Brunonia australis (Blue Pincushions), Sambucus, Diuris longifolia, P. nutans, P. curta, Caladenia carnea, (Pink fingers), Xanthorrhoea minor, Hop Goodenia, Cherry ballart, and an excellent copse of silver banksia in the sandy northern stretch of the river (8B). The area provides one of the last large areas of native grasslands in this part of the Western District, and it should be treated with the respect it deserves. The low level of fertility of this soil, together with relative freedom from visitor pressure (the Wannon makes an effective barrier), makes the prospect of rehabilitation attractive.

The Eastern bank is controlled by Lands Department Committee of Management. Only in very recent time (1974) has grazing been barred in the reserve and only now is the benefit showing, with the grassland flora (chocolate

lily, Thelymitra pauciflora, Running Postman, Convolvulus erubescens, Onion Orchid, etc.) much in evidence in spring. A serious weed problem exists due to past history of management. Unregulated vehicle movements are another problem, causing compaction of the soil and erosion over a large area near the river. The other major problem lies in the suckers from deciduous trees and the continued planting of trees not endemic to the area.

Plants of note in the Eastern bank of the Reserve are Mimulus repens (Creeping Monkey Face) on the salty beds, Dillwynia hispida (Showy Parrot Pea) near the Falls, Casuarina stricta, Goodenia pinnatifida and Goodenia humilis below the Falls. Goodenia ovata on the face of the Falls; magnificent red gums below.

The geological and scenic significance of the Reserve remains the most important feature. As with the Wannon Falls, there are no interpretative aids for visitors and the general management leaves much to be desired.

(5) River frontage between Nigretta and Four Posts (9-12) -
Parishes of Toolka and Bochara.

The 1½ chain Crown frontage on the East bank starts about 30 chains upstream from Nigretta Reserve and extends about 50 chains further upstream (portion of original Reserve). This section is fenced but leased for grazing. The river is no barrier to cattle in summer, and these utilize the the opposite bank - parts of which form a large Crown frontage. Evidence of their damage is extensive and regrettable. The solutions must be to ban stock on all fenced sections of the river in an effort to conserve the natural beauty and life of this area.

The West bank is fenced from Nigretta through to Four Posts bridge. At least the central section is reserved - about 55 chains long and up to ten chains wide, about 50 acres. It runs into similar fenced areas on each side (presumably freehold) but there are no fences running down to the river to delineate boundaries or to control stock. This bank has a wealth of native flora (116 species), including Tree everlasting, Bossiaea prostrata, Bossiaea riparia, and much of the Wannon 18 acre reserve flora. The birdlife, too, is varied; the Leptospermum thickets harbour kangaroos, and the water the platypus and water rat. There is a strong case to be made here for the acquisition (if the frontage is not already Crown Land) of the fenced and natural frontage land on the Western bank. Thus, Aristida ramosa grassland occurs towards Four Posts (11B) - this is the most southerly occurrence of this mallee species in Victoria.

The Eastern bank is fenced along the northern sections as far as the old Hamilton City quarry (12A), apart from isolated stock watering "inlets". As mentioned above, this land, if not already Crown Land, should be purchased to protect the whole area from grazing and degeneration. One farmer has used the river bank as a rubbish dump at one point.

Public access to this area is very restricted - that is not a bad thing, and in future the only access provided should be a walk-way.

The Themeda dominated Western bank above the Pistol Club at Four Posts is freehold land. Hopefully this too could one day be added to the Park.

- (6) Four Posts Reserve and Crown Frontage (13, 14B). - parishes of Toolka and Bochara. The East bank Reserve of around 12 acres extends from the bridge to Kerr's bluestone quarry upstream. It contains a fine stand of Drooping Sheoak, a few specimens of Astroloma conostephioides (flame heath), Thelymitra pauciflora, T. rubra, T. ixioides, and many other native species. The Flameheath record appears to be the nearest yet found to Hamilton. The bank there is steep, infertile, and dominated by grassland flora, notably Themeda. It is not grazed.

The West bank contains a narrow Reserve frontage between the road and Hewett Park (ex Reserve, ex quarry) and a wide Crown frontage around Hewett Park (c.50 acres). The area contains Brunonia australis, Dondonea cuneata (Hop bush), Senecio spp. Goodia medicaginea and a host of other shrubs and, when Hewett Park recovers from gravel stripping, the whole area will, to some extent at least, regain its former significance. Regeneration of redgum, Acacia, Banksia and tea tree is substantial.

Current problems are unmanaged tourism, rubbish dumping, sand removal, trail bike riding on the steep banks and vandalism to trees.

- (7) River frontage opposite Hewett Park. (14A, 15A) - Parish of Bochara. This bank (East) is part of the deep gorge of the Wannon and consequently the depth of the fenced portion is up to 400 m. There are two large creeks entering the river, one through a rhyolite "fall" - a picturesque setting with gnarled old redgum on the top of the stream.

The area contains a relatively undisturbed flora, notably with a large grove of Silver Banksia and heath vegetation in patches, Woolly tea tree along the river, grassland in other areas. The area is fenced down to the river some distance upstream from Hewett Park and the total area is c. 100 acres. The area may be freehold title, but if not, it should be made a priority for purchase. Like the area across the Falls at Nigretta, it will be a most valuable - and naturally protected - flora and fauna reserve. Currently it receives sporadic grazing by sheep, but there is little grazing value on these infertile soils.

The scenic attraction of the Gorge is high, as is the conservation value.

- (8) River frontage from Hewett Park to Horseshoe Bend. (15-17) Parishes of Toolka (West) and Jerrywarook (East). The river banks on both sides as far as the Horseshoe bend may be freehold, but they are fenced along the top of the bank and contain natural vegetation. Because of the steepness of the valley, a considerable area of bank surface is involved (c. 200 acres). Eryngium vesiculosum (Prickfoot) occurs near the Horseshoe bend.

The East bank (riverflat - sandy) of the Horseshoe bend is Crown frontage (c. 40 acres), the notable shrub species being Leptospermum myrsinoides (Silky tea tree), Dillwynia hispida, D. glaberrima, Thelymitra ixioides, Bossiaea riparia, Brachyloma, Flame heath, and associated heath vegetation. Potato orchid (Gastrodia sesamoides), Comesperma volubile (Love creeper), and many-stemmed form of Stackhousia monogyna (Candles) also occur here. This is one of the few areas of undisturbed sandy heath left on the Wannon and must be preserved. It is fenced at present, but has been grazed.

The opposite bank of the Horseshoe contains redgum, mannagum, some Banksia, tree violet, bursaria and one of the few occurrences of Goodenia ovata (hop goodenia) found on the Wannan.

- (9) River frontage and Reserves between "Horseshoe Bend" and "The Rapids". (18-20) - Parishes of Toolka, Bulart and Jerrywarook. The East bank (18A) is virtually cleared and grazed to the water's edge from Horseshoe bend to Fern Hill creek. Crown frontage begins (fenced) a little upstream and leads up to "The Rapids". Notable flora on this bank are Acacia verniciflua (Casterton variety of Varnish wattle, not found elsewhere in our region), Flame heath, Hop bush, Blue pincushions, Pimelea humilis as well as P. stricta, Eriostemon angustifolius (Wax flower). The latter two species are unknown elsewhere in our area and their presence here is most interesting. The shrubs grow amidst the rhyolite rocks of the rapid's banks, as also does Myoporum viscosum (Stickyboobialla) and Dianella tasmanica.

The West bank is fenced throughout and in places very broad with islands, pools, and towards the Rapids, steep banks with magnificent scenic appeal. In the solitude of these places, there is the feeling of a primaeval world. The shaded pools are frequented by Sacred Kingfishers, and Kangaroos inhabit the thickets of Cherry Ballart, Redgum, Swamp gum, tangled dodder laurel, and tea tree over which one may gaze from the steeper Western bank. Banksia groves, Austral Bugles (Ajuja australis), Pratia, Lobelia and Mimulus repens occur along these reaches. We found the smallest flowering plants in the world, Wolffia australiana and Lemna trisulca, during summer in one pool amidst tall bulrush.

At "The Rapids", the river in full flood creates a spectacle that rivals the Nigretta Falls as it crashes through a narrow gap in the rhyolite lava barrier that has partly blocked the river. The rocky section extends for c. 1 km.

The whole section is noted for the ground flora species; and for this reason it is not envisaged that the place should be opened up for tourism. Regrettably, grazing by sheep and pugging by cattle has already caused damage along this section. Vehicles on 20 A. have created a proliferation of tracks. Access to the area may be made via unused road reserve from the West.

The area around the Rapids itself is a Reserve of considerable size (c. 100 acres), but it is not delineated in any way from contiguous frontage areas. The frontage areas in both directions along the river are Crown Land and of considerable width, with many pools and bends, and flora in near natural condition. The Reserve appears to have been encroached on the West (20B) by farmland, but there appears to have been some compensation made by fencing the frontage downstream fairly high on the hill.

- (10) River frontage between Rapids and Ballintubber (21-22). Parishes of Bulart and Jerrywarook. The whole of this region is fenced on both banks and contains riverflats, pools, islands, and thickets of L. myrsinoides interspersed with grasslands. It is a superb area of natural bushland and it is Crown frontage of c. 200 acres. In some instances (West bank) some farm land (c. 50 acres) appears also to have recently been fenced into the Crown frontage area.

This should be acquired, if possible. There is much evidence of grazing activity by cattle. Portion of the East bank (21A) has been encroached upon. Access is gained along an unused road from Ballintubber (down the creek).

Due to its isolation, this area contains quite a number of Kangaroos that frequent the thickets of tea tree and Poa tussocks. It is possible that other species of animals may be found here, including the bandicoot and Antechinus spp.

The river plain here is very wide, with numerous islands, and the Crown land water area is large. Huge old redgums are found along the river.

Notable flora include a few Epacris impressa, Astroloma conostephioides, Pterostylis nutans, P. pedunculata, Corybas dilatatus, Pultenea dentata (rare).

- (11) River frontage from Ballintubber to Sawpit Creek (23). Parishes of Bulart and Jerrywarook. There is a Crown frontage on both banks (c. 40 acres). On the Eastern and wider bank (23A) notable species include a large stand of Epacris impressa (White form) together with flame heath, Beard heath and Cranberry heath. Orchids, too, are in evidence. Towards Sawpit Creek, a few Banksia marginata occur. The rocky section near the creek has been fenced out and grazed. This is a pity since it is a particularly attractive area. Stock could be given access to the river over a much smaller frontage area than is presently used. The frontage at Sawpit Creek is freehold.

The remarkable feature of this section is the presence of a heath association including Common Heath. This is the only area this side of Cavendish and Heywood that it is found. It is an interesting relic population. Unfortunately, the area appears to suffer some grazing.

- (12) River frontage from Sawpit Creek to Diprose Bridge (24). Parishes of Bulart and Jerrywarook. There is Crown frontage of 1½ chains only on the West bank (24B). In most of the course up to the Reserve at Diprose Bridge, the frontage has been encroached upon by farming, but much natural vegetation remains. Grazing appears to be practised on the frontage and this is despoiling the vegetation and creating erosion problems in the silty soils.

The East bank is farmland but contains many fine redgums and swampy areas.

- (13) Diprose Reserve and Crown Frontage upstream to "U" Bend (25A, 26). Parishes of Bulart and Jerrywarook. There is Crown frontage on both banks upstream from the bridge and contain both swampy and well-drained ground which is fairly well wooded but heavily grazed. The Eastern bank reserve has been alienated to some extent by cultivation and grazing, but regeneration of prickly tea tree is prolific. This side is not now fenced, although it appears to have once been fenced. The total area involved on both banks is c. 100 acres. Notable species here include Mimulus repens, tall Spike rush (Eleocharis sphacelata), Feather heads (Ptilotus macrocephalus), Dianella tasmanica and D. laevis. Tiger and Copperhead snakes also were seen here.

These areas should be adequately fenced and have sheep and cattle excluded, even if only to protect the river from incipient erosion problems.