

PLANT COMMUNITY FIELD GUIDE



Tomago Sand Swamp Woodland and Heath



Map
Unit
36



HCCREMS Extant Vegetation Mapping

Vegetation communities this guide have been classified and mapped according to Hunter Central Coast Regional Environment Management Strategy (HCCREMS) Vegetation Survey, using Mapping Units (MU). For more comprehensive and up-to-date information on this survey please contact HCCREMS.

<http://www.hccrems.com.au>

When you are starting out regenerating a bushland site, it may be that you don't know a lot of native species, but if you can provide a council vegetation officer, community support officer or local native plant nursery with some of the information from the Field Data sheet, it is likely that they would be able to identify the broader vegetation community.

The Site Orientation Booklet in this series has a useful contact list including:

Coastcare Officers

Landcare and Community Support Officers

National Parks Officers

Land Managers

Field Data Sheet

Habitat Type: <i>please circle</i>			
River bank	Wetland	Floodplain	Drainage line
Open Forest	Closed Forest	Rainforest	Disturbed / Grazed (Livestock)
Shrub(2-4m)	Heath (< 2m)	Grassland	Other:
Position on Slope : <i>please circle</i> Watercourse Flat Lower Slope Upper Slope Crest Dune			Altitude in metres
Geology		Aspect: <i>please circle</i> N NE E SE S SW W NW	
Soil Description			
Colour	Type	pH	Sand Clay Loam
Vegetation Description			
Vegetation community, association, type		Weed Invasion: <i>please circle</i> High Medium Low	
Dominant upper storey species		Species diversity: <i>please circle</i> High Medium Low	
Dominant middle storey species		Species diversity: <i>please circle</i> High Medium Low	
Dominant lower storey/groundcover species		Species diversity: <i>please circle</i> High Medium Low	

Common swamp/wetland forest communities in the lower hunter

If this information is expanded to the other most common wetland forest communities in the Lower Hunter, a little bit of knowledge and access to the appropriate support officers should allow you to increase your knowledge of your site, and therefore manage your site better.

To do this, you need to be able to identify the dominant species by at least their common names. In a Swamp Forest community, the dominant species would be the tall trees. Swamp Oak (MU40 and MU41), Broad-leaved Paperbark, Swamp Mahogany, Forest Redgum (MU40, MU41 and MU37).

Melaleuca quinquenervia
Broad-leaved Paperbark



Casuarina glauca
Swamp-Oak

Eucalyptus robusta
Swamp Mahogany



Eucalyptus tereticornis
Forest Redgum

On many sites, there may be some overlapping of these species and other species. You need to make a decision as to which species is most numerous on the site. If you are not sure, then take a photo and collect some foliage (not just one leaf) and capsules, and consult your support network.

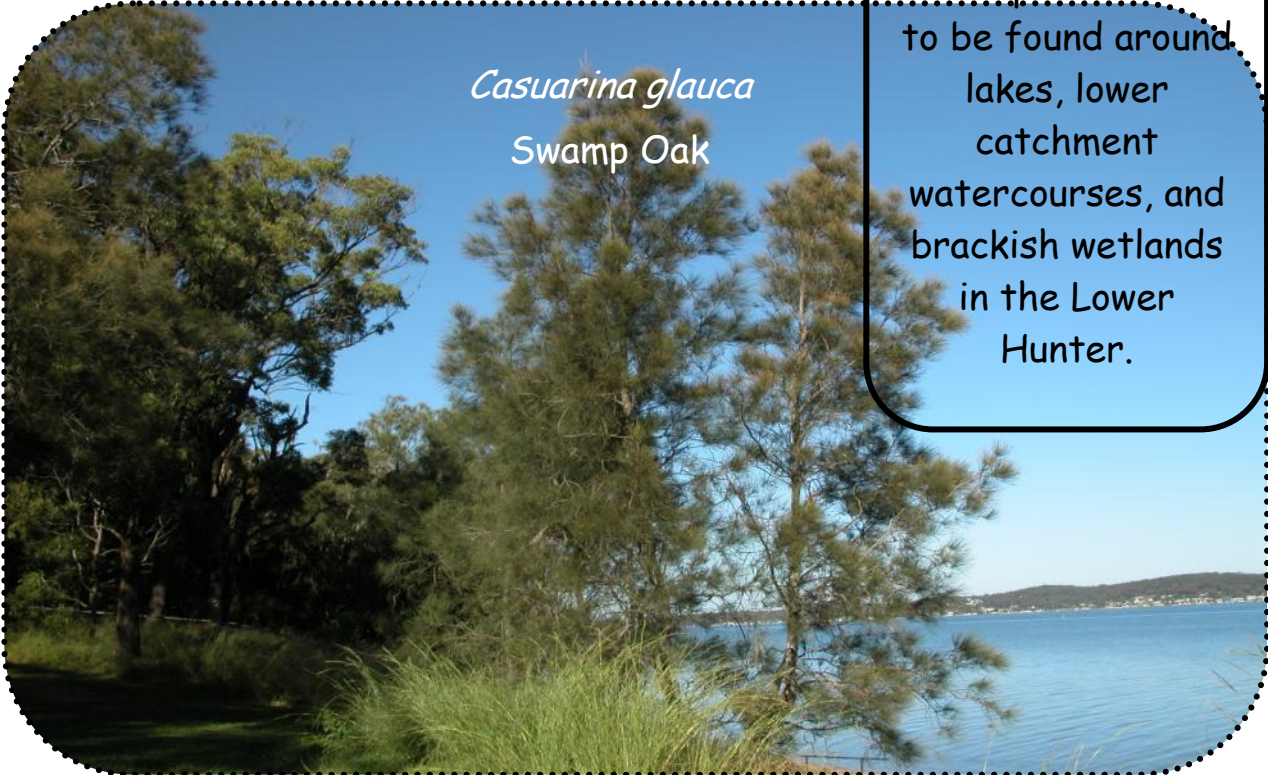


Eucalyptus robusta
Swamp Mahogany



Eucalyptus robusta
Swamp Mahogany

If you have She-oaks on site this is also another good indicator. Swamp Oak tends to be found around lakes, lower catchment watercourses, and brackish wetlands in the Lower Hunter.



Casuarina glauca
Swamp Oak

A description of a plant community

Abridged from http://www.lhccrems.com.au/biodiversity/mu35_37.html

MU36. Tomago Sand Swamp Woodland

MU36a. Heath

Canopy Label:

E. parramattensis subsp decadens, *Leptospermum polygalifolium*

Structural Classification (Specht): Open Forest - Woodland, Heathland

Description

Tomago Sand Swamp Woodland occurs on Quaternary sands of the Tomago Sandbeds, in areas where the sand is poorly drained. Structurally, this community ranges from a low open forest to a wet heath or sedgeland. Variation in this community is dependent on soil drainage, with changes in structures occurring repeatedly over several hectares *Eucalyptus parramattensis subsp decadens* is the most common tree with local abundance of *Eucalyptus signata* in the western end of the sandbeds.

A dense layer of shrubs common to moist sandy soils predominate in the mid-storey or as the canopy, including *Leptospermum polygalifolium*, *Melaleuca nodosa*, *Personia lanceolata*, *Hakea teretifolia* and *Melaleuca sieberi*.

Low heath - sedgeland structure delineated from aerial photo interpretation has been mapped as a structural sub unit MU36a, notably on Tilligerry Peninsula.

The understorey is usually comprised of rushes, small shrubs, grasses and herbs. Rushes commonly include *Leptocarpus tenax*, *Baloskion tetraphyllum subsp meio-stachyum* and *Schoenus brevifolius*. Small shrubs include *Melaleuca thymifolia*, *Baekkea ramosissima subsp ramosissima*, *Aotus ericoides*, *Leucopogon ericoides* and *Petrophile pulchella*, while the more commonly occurring grasses and herbs are *Trachymene incisa subsp incisa*, *Entolasia stricta*, *Dampiera stricta* and *Hibbertia fasciculata*.

This community merges with and relates to Map Unit 34: Coastal Sand Wallum Heath- Woodland, which tends to occur where drainage is improved and the presence of moisture tolerant species is less apparent. At the other extreme this community merges with Map Unit 44: Coastal Wet Sand Cyperoid Heath where drainage is further impeded. The density and abundance of sedges in this community distinguishes it from Map Unit 34. Unmapped patches of Map Units 34 & 44 are expected within this community.

NPWS (1999(a)) has not described sand and swamp communities. Survey work by Myercough and Carolin (1986) for the Eurunduree Sand Mass describes similar wet heath communities although description of *E. parramattensis subsp. decadens* and *E. signata* is noticeably absent.

MU36. Tomago Sand Swamp Woodland

MU36a. Heath

Stratum	Scientific name	% in community	Common name	
Tallest	<i>Eucalyptus parramattensis</i> <i>subsp decadens</i>	50		
	<i>Eucalyptus signata</i>	16		
	<i>Eucalyptus globoidea</i>	16		
Mid	<i>Leptospermum polygalifolium</i>	100		
	<i>Melaleuca nodosa</i>	100		
	<i>Persoonia lanceolata</i>	83		
	<i>Acacia longifolia</i>	66		
	<i>Banksia oblongifolia</i>	66		
	<i>Bossiaea heterophylla</i>	66		
	<i>Acacia ulicifolia</i>	50		
	<i>Dillwynia retorta</i>	50		
	<i>Leptomeria acida</i>	50		
	<i>Hakea teretifolia</i>	83		
	<i>Melaleuca sieberi</i>	83		
	Lowest(<1m)	<i>Leptocarpus tenax</i>	100	
		<i>Melaleuca thymifolia</i>	100	
		<i>Baeckea ramosissima</i> subsp <i>ramosissima</i>	66	
		<i>Entolasia stricta</i>	66	
		<i>Hibbertia fasciculata</i>	66	
		<i>Aotus ericoides</i>	50	
<i>Baloskion tetraphyllum</i> <i>subsp meiotachyum</i>		50		
<i>Burchardia umbellata</i>		50		
<i>Dampiera stricta</i>		50		
<i>Gonocarpus micranthus</i> <i>subsp ramosissimus</i>		50		
<i>Leucopogon ericoides</i>		50		
<i>Patersonia sericea</i>		50		
<i>Petrophile pulchella</i>		50		
<i>Schoenus brevifolius</i>		50		
<i>Trachymene incisa</i> subsp <i>incisa</i>		83		
Rare/endangered Species : <i>Eucalyptus parramattensis</i> subsp <i>decadens</i>				

A picture guide to plants in
MU36. Tomago Sand Swamp Woodland
MU36a. Heath

Mid storey



Persoonia lanceolata
Geebung



Acacia longifolia
Sydney Golden
Wattle



Banksia oblongifolia
Rock Banksia



Bossiaea
heterophylla
Variable Bossiaea



A picture guide to plants in
MU36. Tomago Sand Swamp Woodland

MU36a. Heath



Mid storey

Acacia ulicifolia

Prickly Moses



Dillwynia

retorta

Eggs and Bacon



Leptomeria

acida

Acid Drops,

Native

Current



Hakea

teretefolia

Dagger Hakea



A picture guide to plants in
MU36. Tomago Sand Swamp Woodland

MU36a. Heath

Lowest storey <1m



Melaleuca thymifolia
Thyme Honeymyrtle



Petrophile pulchella
Conesticks



Burchardia umbellata
Milkmaids

Entolasia stricta



A picture guide to plants in
MU36. Tomago Sand Swamp Woodland
MU36a. Heath

Lowest storey <1m



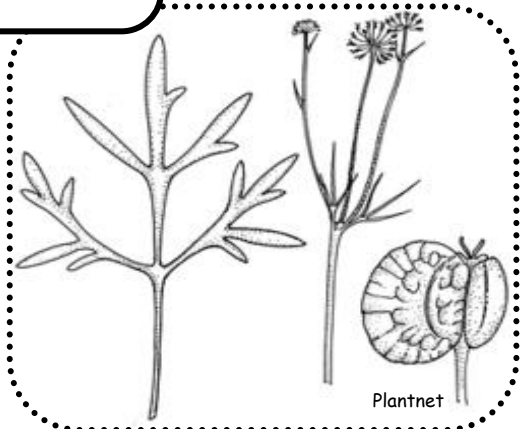
*Dampiera
stricta*



*Patersonia
sericea*
Silky Purple
Flag



*Trachymene
incisa
subsp incisa*



References

Hunter Councils Inc (2003) Lower Hunter and Central Coast Regional Environmental Strategy http://www.lhccrems.com.au/biodiversity/mu35_37.html (Accessed 12.05.07)

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Image Credits

All plant photographs unless otherwise stated are by Peter Saunderson, TIN volunteer.

Bush Regeneration photos are from the TIN collection unless otherwise stated.

Cover - Botanical Clip Art -Down Under Collection Deluxe CD-New Horizons Educational Software .www.nh.com.au

Page 7 Eucalyptus parramatensis photo D. Hardin , illustration D Mackay

<http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=in&name=Eucalyptus~parramattensis+subsp.~decadens> (accessed 9/8/07)

Page 11 Trachymene incisa illustration <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=in&name=Trachymene~incisa+subsp.~incisa> (accessed 9/8/07)

Page 11 Trachymene incisa photos <http://www.bio.usyd.edu.au/staff/wardle/students/yvonne/yvonne.htm> (accessed 9/8/07)

Useful people

The Site Orientation Booklet in this series has a useful contact list including

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