

Flora and Vegetation of Lake Clifton
Townsite Reserve

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

VEGETATION

The area is dominated by a long limestone ridge running the length of the area, down the eastern side. The ridge is dominated by tall heath and shrubland, while the flats are covered by woodlands of Tuart or Jarrah.

The central area of the ridge is a tall mid dense heath of *Dodonaea aptera* (30% CC), *Acacia truncata* (20%), *Melaleuca acerosa* (10%), *Hakea trifurcata* (20%), *Melaleuca huegelii* (10%), and *Leucopogon parviflorus* (10%); where the soils are skeletal *Jacksonia forcellata*, *Dryandra sessilis* replace *Dodonaea* and *Acacia*. The ridge valleys have a closed shrubland of *Melaleuca huegelii* to 3m, with a mossy herb understory.

Along the ridge flanks where the sands are deeper there are bands of *Melaleuca acerosa* dominated heath, which merges into Tuart woodland over heath (mainly *Grevillea thelemanniana*, *Hibbertia hypericoides*, *Acacia pulchella*, *Phyllanthus calycinus* and *Rhagodia baccata*.

The flats are dominated by tall open Tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) woodland over scattered low shrubs.

In low valleys where the soils are deeper Jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) low open woodland over *Agonis flexuosa* and *Banksia grandis*.

FLORA

Our brief survey recorded 114 species of vascular plants were present in the area (Table 1), obviously many more would be recorded in Spring.

In general the plants recorded were typical of the vegetation and soil types found in this area. Several of the species recorded on the limestone ridge *Triglochin trichophora*, *Hibbertia spicata* ssp. *leptotheca*, *Petrophile serruriae* ssp. *nov* and *Trymalium albicans*) are on the eastern margins of their ranges.

One very unusual record, *Lepidium ?puberulum* was located under the *Melaleuca huegelii* shrubland on the ridge. If this record is confirmed in Spring, it represents the only mainland record for this species (listed as rare by Hewson, 1982 - Flora of Australia, Vol 8 page 278). The only other possibility is *Lepidium pseudotasmanicum*, which is currently regarded as extinct on the Swan Coastal Plain, being only known from an old record from Yanchep.

CONCLUSION

The vegetation of the area is in very good to excellent condition. The ridge contains a diversity of heath and shrubland communities, and may contain a population of a very unusual herb *Lepidium puberulum*.

The area would be a useful addition to McLarty State Forest.

TABLE ONE
FLORA LIST OF LAKE CLIFTON TOWNSITE

GYMNOSPERMS

ZAMIACEAE

Macrozamia riedlei

MONOCOTYLEDONS

ANTHERICACEAE

Corynotheca micrantha

Sowerbaea laxiflora

Thysanotus sparteus

Tricoryne elatior

COLCHICACEAE

Burchardia umbellata

Wurmbea monantha

CYPERACEAE

Isolepis marginatus

Lepidosperma angustatum

Schoenus clandestinus

S. grandiflorus

S. curvifolius

Mesomelaena pseudostygia

Tetraria octandra

DASYPOGONACEAE

Acanthocarpus preissii

Lomandra caespitosa

L. hermaphrodita

L. suaaveolens

HAEMODORACEAE

Anigozanthos humilis

A. manglesii

C. aculeata

C. setigera

IRIDACEAE

**Freesia refracta*

Patersonia occidentalis

JUNCAGINACEAE

Trigochin trichophora

POACEAE

**Aira caryophyllea*

Amhipogon turbinatus

Neurachne alopecuroides

Stipa drummondii

S. flavescens

**Briza maxima*

PHORMIACEAE

Dianella revoluta

RESTIONACEAE

Hypolaena exsulca

Loxocarya cinerea

L. flexuosa

L. fasciculata

Lyginia barbata

DICOTYLEDONS

AIZOACEAE

**Carpobrotus edulis*

AMARANTHACEAE

Ptilotus manglesii

APIACEAE

Homalasciadium homalocarpum

Trachymene pilosa

T. caerulea

Xanthosia huegelii

ASTERACEAE

Asteridea pulverulenta

Lagenifera huefelii

Quinetia urvillei

**Ursinia anthemoides*

BRASSICACEAE

Lepidium ?puberulum

CAMPANULACEAE

Wahlenbergia preissii

CASUARINACEAE

Allocasuarina humilis

CARYOPHYLLACEAE

**Cerastium glomeratum*

CHENOPODIACEAE

Rhagodia baccata

CRASSULACEAE

Crassula colorata

DILLENIACEAE

Hibbertia hypericoides

H. spicata ssp. *leptotheca*

H. subvaginata

DROSERACEAE

Drosera ?glanduligera

EPACRIDACEAE

Astroloma ?pallidum
Conestephium pendulum
C. preissii
Leucopogon australis

EUPHORBIACEAE

Phyllanthus calycinus
Poranthera microphylla

GOODENIACEAE

Lechenaultia linearoides
Scaevola canescens
S. paludosa

LOGANIACEAE

Mitrascme paradoxa

MIMOSACEAE

Acacia cochlearis
A. pulchella
A. rostellifera
A. saligna
A. stenoptera
A. truncata
A. willdenowiana

MYRTACEAE

Agonis flexuosa
Calytrix ?angulata
Eucalyptus gomphocephala
E. marginata
Hypocalymma robustum
Melaleuca acerosa
M. huegelii

OXALIDACEAE

Oxalis perennenans

PAPILLIONACEAE

Bossiaea eriocarpa
Gompholobium tomentosum
Daviesia divaricata
D. triflora
Hovea trisperma
Isotropis cunefolia
Jacksonia furcellata
J. sternbergiana
Hardenbergia comptoniana
Kennedia prostrata

PROTEACEAE

Banksia grandis
Dryandra nivea
Petrophile serruriae ssp. nov
Grevillea thelemanniana
Hakea trifurcata

Dryandra sessilis
Persoonia saccata
Stirlingia latifolia

PRIMULACEAE

**Anagallis arvensis*

RHAMNACEAE

Trymalium albicans

RUBIACEAE

Opercularia vaginata
**Galium murale*

RUTACEAE

Eriostemon spicatus

SAPINDACEAE

Dodonaea aptera
Scrophulariaceae
**Dischisma capitatum*

STYLIDIACEAE

Stylidium brunonianum
S. calcaratum

THYMELEACEAE

Pimelea rosea

URTICACEAE

Parietoria debilis

VIOLACEAE

Hybanthus calycinus