

493129

REMARKABLE BANKS

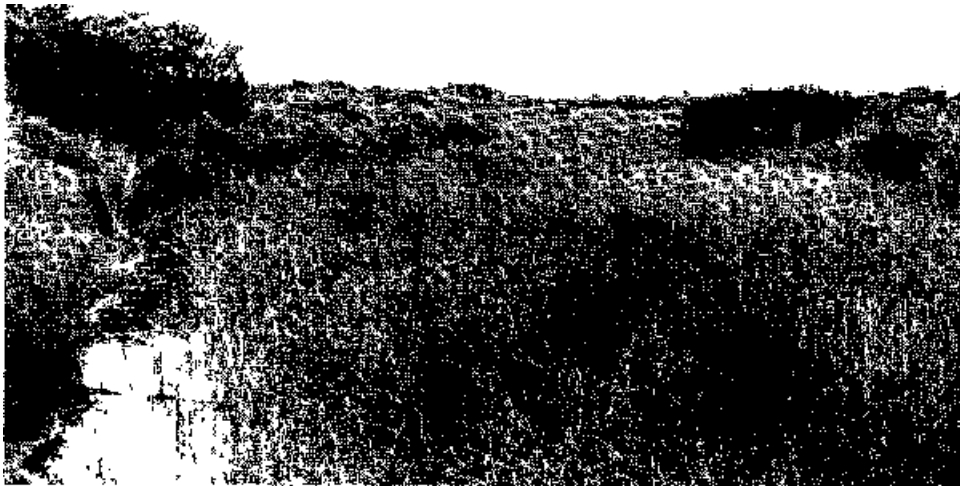
This area of old dunes occupying the centre of Robbins Island consists of a regular parallel arrangement of low dunes and alternating swampy swales trending NW-SE.

The dark B horizon found in profiles of the dune crests sometimes forms a pan at about one metre depth. The swales are swampy and during the survey in May 1979 were mostly covered by water which averaged about 10 centimetres deep but was found up to 40 centimetres in certain places.

The density of vegetation on the crests varies greatly and from sparse to closed communities were observed. The large numbers of dead shrubs found in the swamps in the north-west were probably killed by fire.

The area is grazed but no development, such as clearing or pasture improvement, appears to have taken place and the system mainly serves as a zone of nature conservation.

The location on a small island in the path of the 'roaring forties' confers a significant wind erosion hazard on the sandy soils of this land system.

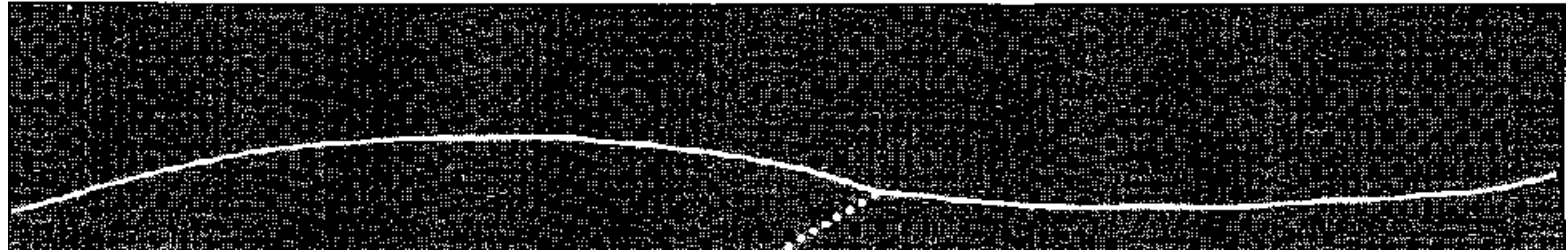


Parallel strips of sedgeland in the swampy swales and dense heath on the low sandy crests

LAND SYSTEM

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Remarkable Banks



COMPONENT	1	2
PROPORTION %	55	45
CLIMATE	Average Annual Rainfall 750-1 000 mm	
GEOLOGY	Quaternary sands	
TOPOGRAPHY	Undulating plain	
Land form	Crest	Swale
Position Average	2	<1
Sideslope ⁰		
NATIVE VEGETATION	Closed heath <i>Leptospermum glaucescens</i> , honeysuckle, Smithton peppermint, manuka	Sedgeland and open heath Tassel cord rush, manuka
Structure		
Association		
SOIL	Greyish brown (10 YR 5/2) sand, very dark B horizon which sometimes forms a pan Peaty sand	Black sandy organic soil, overlying very dark organic sand and then dark brown compacted sand Fine sandy peat
Surface Texture		
Permeability		High
Average Depth m		>1.8
PRESENT LAND USE	Nature conservation	
HAZARDS	Moderate wind erosion	High waterlogging