

495167

BACK BANKS

The Back Banks which form the western half of Ransonnet Bay of Robbins Island, and Rookery Beach on Walker Island, are characterised by a strip of seriously wind eroded, high sand dunes aligned at right angles to the coast.

The pale calcareous sand soils and the general land form are very similar to certain parts of Yellow Rock land system, which comprises the western side of King Island. Yellowish staining and only slightly decomposed shells were found at about one metre depth in the swale situation. A non-calcareous, pale

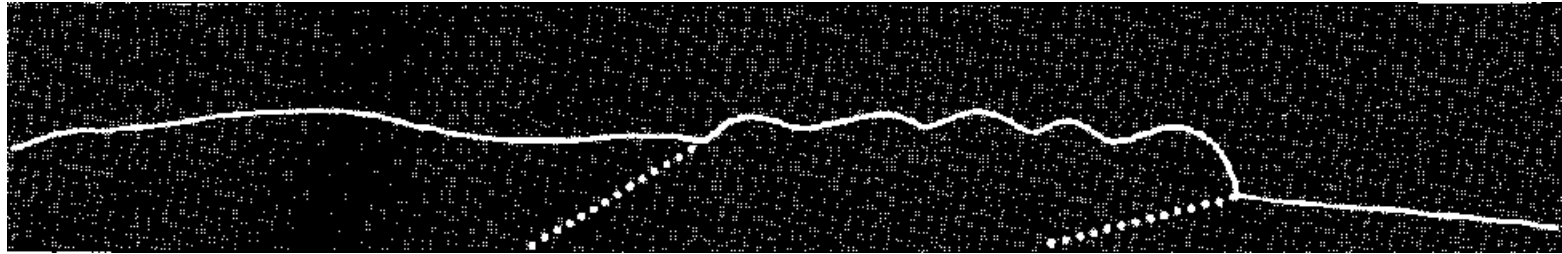
coloured sand complete with an organically stained surface was observed in a blow-out dune about five metres below the present dune crests. The beach sand was not probed beyond half a metre due to breakage of the soil auger.

These areas are principally used for grazing and recreation, and only incidentally serve as zones of nature conservation. The native scrub has been seriously degraded and a large proportion of the system is devoid of any vegetation. This is particularly so on the north-western half of the Back Banks. The resultant actively windblown sand is smothering the remaining vegetation on this land system and on adjacent areas.

LAND SYSTEM

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Back Banks



COMPONENT	1	2	3
PROPORTION %	45	35	20
CLIMATE	« Average Annual Rainfall 750-1 000 mm		
GEOLOGY	Quaternary coastal calcareous sands		
TOPOGRAPHY Land form Position Average Sideslope ⁰	Actively eroding dunes 12	Coastal sand dunes and beaches Vegetated dunes 18	Beach 1
NATIVE VEGETATION Structure Association	Bare	Closed scrub <i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i> , coast wattle, <i>Banksia</i> sp., white gum, <i>Lepidosperma gladiatum</i> , sagg	Bare
SOIL	Undifferentiated light grey (2.5 Y 7/2) calcareous sand		Undifferentiated grey (10 YR 6/1) cal- careous sand soil
Surface Texture Permeability Average Depth m	Sand High >2.0		>0.5
PRESENT LAND USE	Grazing, recreation, nature conservation		
HAZARDS	High wind erosion		High wave, wind erosion