

# MU 28 SANDSTONE PLATEAU AND RIDGE SCRIBBLY GUM – SILVERTOP ASH SHRUBBY WOODLAND

## □ CORRESPONDING CLASSIFICATIONS

Regional: DSF136 Blue Mountains Ridgetop Forest

State: Sydney Montane Dry Sclerophyll Forest

Number of Sites: 5

Average number of identified native species per plot: 31.0

## □ DESCRIPTION

A community found on the shallow soils and rocky sites across the upper Blue Mountains sandstones. It is usually an open forest or woodland community that is characterised by a diverse midstratum that may be quite dense. The shrub layer is a diverse range of species from legumes (*Acacia* and *Bossiaea*) and epacrids (*Leucopogon* and *Monotoca* mainly) to Proteaceae (*Hakea*, *Persoonia* and *Lomatia*) and Myrtaceae (especially *Leptospermum*). *Boronia microphylla* is a common member of the community and with the other species a springtime flowering in this community is a spectacular sight. The canopy is dominated by silvertop ash (*E. sieberi*) and scribbly gum (*E. sclerophylla*), although other species are occasionally present. The groundcover is also quite diverse, and is dominated by legumes and graminoids, particularly sedges and flag iris (*Patersonia*).



The soils are usually shallow, with sandy loams and earthy sands dominating. The underlying substrates are almost invariably the Triassic era Narrabeen series, with sandstones being the main lithology. The elevation range is between 680 metres and 1140 metres above sea level, although the majority of the community is above 1000 metres above sea level. The precipitation is between 730 millimetres and 1050 millimetres *per annum*. The community is part of the Blue Mountains Ridgetop Community of Tindall *et al.* (2004) and is an element of the Sydney Montane Dry Sclerophyll Forests of Keith (2004). It is well conserved throughout the Blue Mountains and Wollemi National Parks.

## □ STRUCTURAL SUMMARY

Stratum	Count	AvLowHt	AvHt	maxHt	AvCover	SDcover	minCover	maxCover
T	3	6.67	16.33	20	26.67	2.89	25	30
M1	3	1.83	4.67	6	7.67	6.43	3	15
M2	1	0.50	4	4	70		70	70
L1	3		0.93	1	53.33	20.21	30	65

Note that not all sites in the mapping unit had structural data available.

## □ FLORISTIC SUMMARY

### Trees

*Eucalyptus radiata*, *E. sclerophylla*, *E. sieberi*

### Low Trees and Shrubs

*Acacia terminalis*, *Allocasuarina nana*, *Banksia ericifolia*, *Boronia microphylla*, *Bossiaea heterophylla*, *Hakea dactyloides* (including *H. laevipes*), *Isopogon anemonifolius*, *Leptospermum arachnoides*, *Leptospermum trinervium*, *Lomatia silaifolia*, *Monotoca elliptica*, *Monotoca scoparia*, *Persoonia levis*, *Petrophile canescens*, *Petrophile pulchella*, *Pomaderris andromedifolia*

## Ground Covers

*Amperea xiphioclada*, *Caustis flexuosa*, *Dianella revoluta*, *Entolasia stricta*, *Gahnia filifolia*, *Goodenia bellidifolia*, *Hibbertia rufa*, *Hovea heterophylla*, *Lomandra glauca*, *Mirbelia platyloboides*, *Patersonia glabrata*, *Patersonia longifolia*, *Patersonia sericea*, *Phyllota squarrosa*, *Platysace linearifolia*, *Rhytidosporum procumbens*, *Stylidium lineare*

## Vines & Climbers

*Cassytha racemosa*

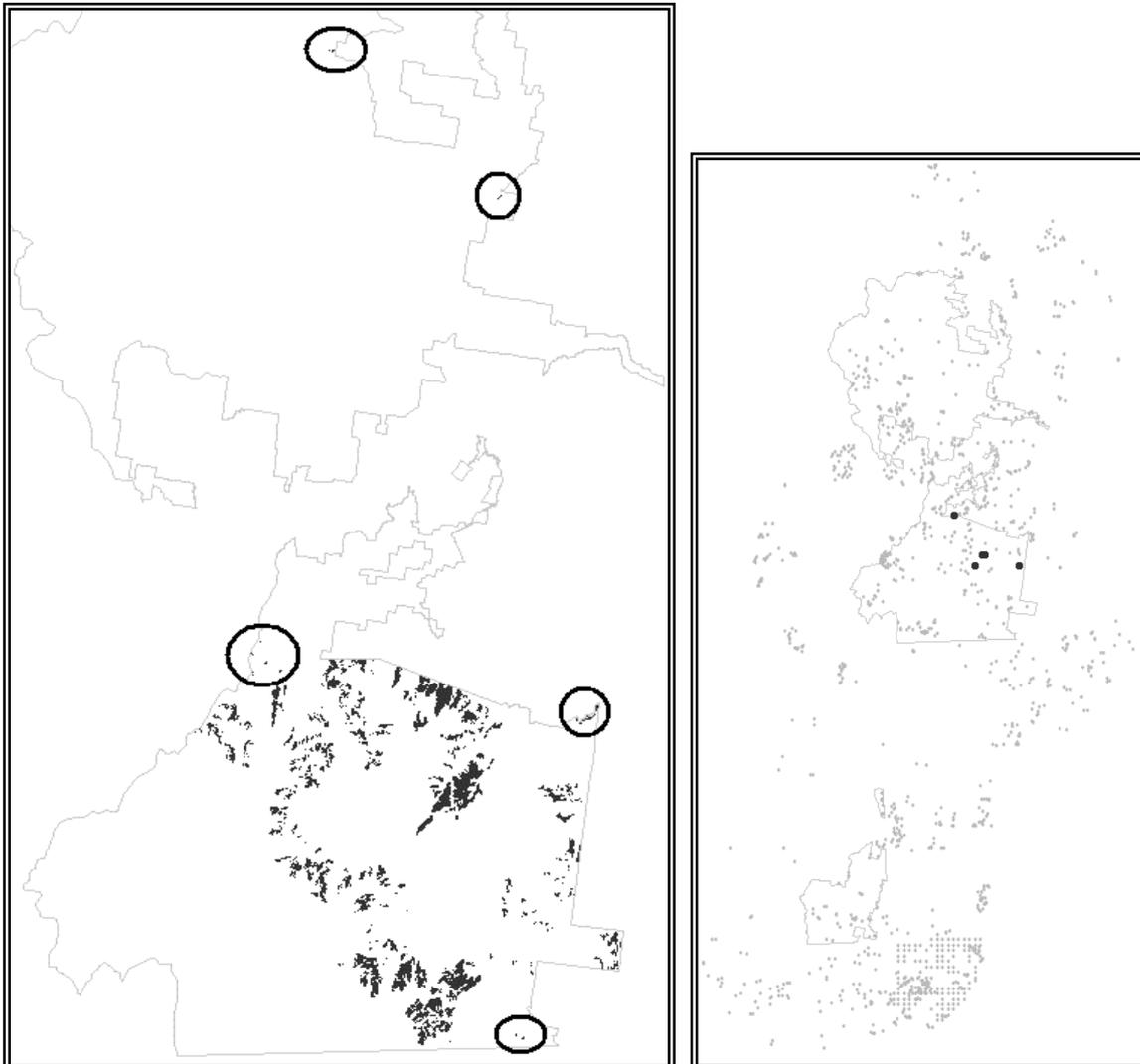
### □ KEY IDENTIFYING FEATURES

**Easily recognisable features to assist in identifying this map unit are:**

- An open forest or woodland community of the Narrabeen ridges, with silvertop ash (*E. sieberi*) and scribbly gum (*E. sclerophylla*) dominating. The understorey is diverse and shrubby, although it varies in density from open to quite dense – probably as a result of disturbance history.
- Sydney Peppermint (*E. piperita*) is usually absent from the unit, and brown stringybark (*E. blaxlandii*) is very uncommon.
- The soil is typically quite shallow, and loose rock may be present on the surface.

### □ EXAMPLE LOCATIONS

Throughout the Newnes Plateau and Ben Bullen State Forest, with small outliers near Glen Davis and Glen Alice.



□ **CONDITION ASSESSMENT**

Disturbance Class	Area (ha)	Proportion Extant (%)
A Low	1038	32.04
B Medium	1328	41
C High	873.34	26.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>3239.34</b>	<b>100</b>

□ **THREATENED PLANT SPECIES**

Definite: *Derwentia blakelyi*

Possible: *Acacia flocktoniae*, *Astrotricha crassifolia*, *Atkinsonia ligustrina*, *Leucopogon fletcheri* subsp. *fletcheri*, *Persoonia hindii*, *Persoonia hirsuta*

□ **DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES**

Species Name	Group Score	Group Freq (%)	Non Group Score	Non Group Freq (%)	Fidelity Class
<i>Acacia terminalis</i>	2	52.94	2	12.01	positive
<i>Austrostipa pubescens</i>	2	35.29	2	3.76	positive
<i>Baloskion gracile</i>	2	5.88	0	0	positive
<i>Banksia spinulosa</i>	2	58.82	2	6.29	positive
<i>Banksia spp.</i>	1	5.88	0	0	positive
<i>Boronia microphylla</i>	2	58.82	2	4.58	positive
<i>Bossiaea heterophylla</i>	2	47.06	1	3.11	positive
<i>Caustis flexuosa</i>	2	47.06	2	5.64	positive
<i>Conospermum ericifolium</i>	2	5.88	0	0	positive
<i>Dampiera stricta</i>	2	70.59	2	7.76	positive
<i>Drosera burmannii</i>	1	5.88	0	0	positive
<i>Epacris rigida</i>	1	5.88	0	0	positive
<i>Eucalyptus sclerophylla</i>	3	52.94	2	0.98	positive
<i>Eucalyptus sieberi</i>	3	58.82	3	14.13	positive
<i>Goodenia bellidifolia</i>	2	52.94	2	10.46	positive
<i>Haemodorum tenuifolium</i>	1	5.88	0	0	positive
<i>Hakea dactyloides</i>	2	82.35	2	10.21	positive
<i>Isopogon anemonifolius</i>	2	100	1	6.45	positive
<i>Leptospermum trinervium</i>	3	82.35	2	7.68	positive
<i>Lepyrodia scariosa</i>	2	41.18	2	2.61	positive
<i>Lindsaea linearis</i>	2	35.29	1	3.19	positive
<i>Lomandra glauca</i>	2	76.47	2	24.92	positive
<i>Mirbelia platylobioides</i>	2	47.06	1	1.39	positive
<i>Orthoceras strictum</i>	1	5.88	0	0	positive
<i>Patersonia glabrata</i>	2	52.94	2	5.64	positive
<i>Patersonia longifolia</i>	2	58.82	2	4	positive
<i>Patersonia sericea</i>	2	52.94	2	12.42	positive
<i>Persoonia laurina</i>	2	35.29	1	5.56	positive
<i>Petrophile pulchella</i>	2	82.35	1	5.07	positive
<i>Phyllota squarrosa</i>	2	88.24	2	3.43	positive
<i>Platysace linearifolia</i>	2	100	2	7.27	positive
<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>	1	11.76	2	36.03	negative
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	0	0	2	40.28	negative
<i>Persoonia linearis</i>	0	0	2	35.46	negative
<i>Poa sieberiana</i>	3	11.76	2	40.36	negative