

Mt Field National Park

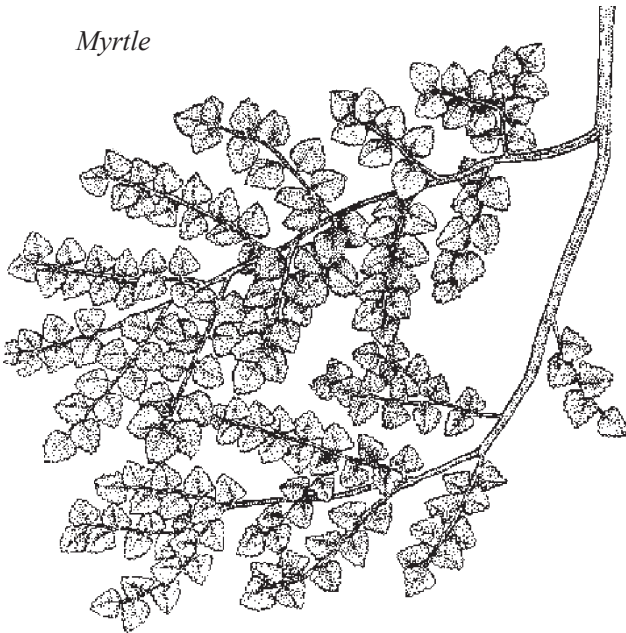
Plant checklist



Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania

DEPARTMENT of TOURISM, PARKS
HERITAGE and the ARTS

Mount Field National Park is a 'wilderness island' surrounded by logging and agriculture, near the edge of the southwest Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. The park protects a number of important natural ecosystems, a rich cultural heritage and encompasses a significant water catchment.

Myrtle

Flora

Mount Field demonstrates an outstanding range of vegetation, varying with altitude. It includes a number of poorly reserved flora communities ranging from tall eucalypts, native pines and deciduous beech. The national park has long been recognised as an area with a high degree of floristic diversity relative to other Tasmanian mountains. This is a result of various influences including the park's geographic location, central to both the eastern and western floras of Tasmania, the range of geological substrates present including dolerite, sandstone, and the altitudinal range.

The flora of the park has been quite well studied, particularly due to the park's use as an educational resource by the Geography and Botany Departments of the University of Tasmania for many years.

Altitudinal succession

The change in vegetation within Mt Field is a fantastic example of altitudinal succession from 158 to 1,220 metres above sea level. From this area three major zones can be identified:

The lower zone, from 158 to 670 metres, comprises tall open forest dominated by swamp gum *Eucalyptus regnans* and/or stringybark *E. obliqua*, with a wet understorey characterised by musk, *Olearia argophylla*.

The middle zone, from 670 to 940 metres, is closed rainforest or mixed forest, with the rainforest element dominated by myrtle *Nothofagus cunninghamii* and sassafras, *Atherosperma moschatum* with an understorey of celery-top pine, *Phyllocladus aspleniifolius*.

The upper zone, from 880 to 1220 metres, is subalpine woodland dominated by the endemic Tasmanian snow gum *E. coccifera*. Higher up, the more exposed areas carry alpine heath and shrubberies on moorland.

*alpine sundew*

Checklist of Endemic Plants

Listed below are some of the endemic plants that can be found within the Mt Field area. Use a field guide to help identify some of these plants.

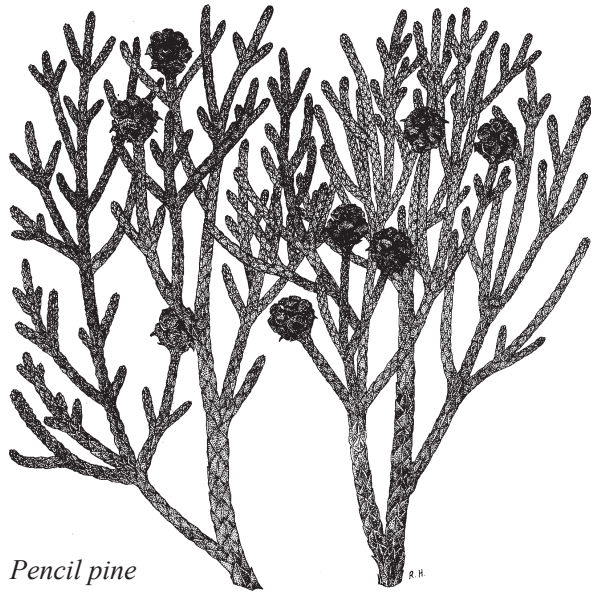
<i>Abrotanella forsteroides</i>	Cushion Plant
<i>Abrotanella scapigera</i>	Cushion Plant
<i>Acaena montana</i>	Mountain Buzzy
<i>Actinotus moorei</i>	Moore's Alpine Fugitive
<i>Agrostis lacunarum</i>	Spongy Blown Grass
<i>Anodopetalum biglandulosum</i>	
<i>Anopterus glandulosus</i>	Tasman Laurel
<i>Archeria comberi</i>	Comber's Archeria; Pink Mountain Heath
<i>Archeria serpyllifolia</i>	Stout Archeria
<i>Aristotelia peduncularis</i>	Heart Berry
<i>Athrotaxis cupressoides</i>	Pencil Pine
<i>Athrotaxis selaginoides</i>	King William (Billy) Pine
<i>Athrotaxis Xlaxifolia</i>	Intermediate Pine
<i>Bedfordia salicina</i>	Tasmanian Blanket Leaf
<i>Bellenden montana</i>	Mountain Rocket
<i>Callistemon viridiflorus</i>	Prickly Bottlebrush
<i>Caltha phylloptera</i>	Tasmanian Caltha
<i>Campynema lineare</i>	Campynema
<i>Carpha rodwayi</i>	Rodway's Flower Sedge
<i>Celmisia saxifraga</i>	Small Snow Daisy
<i>Cenarrhenes nitida</i>	Native Plum



Waratah

<i>Centrolepis monogyna</i>	Common Centrolepis
<i>Centrolepis muscoides</i>	Scented Centrolepis
<i>Cyathodes dealbata</i>	Prostrate Cheeseberry
<i>Cyathodes glauca</i>	Cheeseberry
<i>Cyathodes parvifolia</i>	Pink Mountain Berry
<i>Cyathodes straminea</i>	False-whorled Cheeseberry
<i>Deyeuxia rodwayi</i>	Bent Grass
<i>Diplarrena latifolia</i>	Mountain Flag Iris
<i>Diplaspis cordifolia</i>	Heart-leaved Diplaspis
<i>Diselma archeri</i>	Cheshunt Pine
<i>Dracophyllum milliganii</i>	Milligan's Dragonleaf
<i>Dracophyllum minimum</i>	Heath Cushion Plant
<i>Ehrharta tasmanica</i>	Tasmanian Wire-grass
<i>Epacris gunnii</i>	Gunn's Heath
<i>Epilobium perpusillum</i>	Showy Willowherb
<i>Erigeron stellatus</i>	Star Fleabane
<i>Eucalyptus amygdalina</i>	Black peppermint
<i>Eucalyptus coccifera</i>	Tasmanian Snow Gum
<i>Eucalyptus delegatensis</i>	White-topped Stringy Bark
<i>Eucalyptus gunnii</i>	Cider Gum
<i>Eucalyptus subcrenulata</i>	Tas. Alpine Yellow Gum
<i>Eucalyptus urnigera</i>	Urn Gum
<i>Eucalyptus vernicosa</i>	Varnished Gum
<i>Eucryphia lucida</i>	Leatherwood
<i>Eucryphia milliganii</i>	Dwarf Leatherwood
<i>Ewartia catipes</i>	Ewartia
<i>Ewartia meredithiae</i>	Meredith's Ewartia
<i>Ewartia planchonii</i>	Ewartia
<i>Gaimardia fitzgeraldii</i>	Fitzgerald's Gaimard
<i>Gastrodia procera</i>	Tall potato orchid
<i>Hakea epiglottis</i>	Beaked Hakea
<i>Hierochloa fraseri</i>	
<i>Hydatella filamentosa</i>	Tasmanian Hydatella
<i>Isoetes gunnii</i>	Stout Quillwort
<i>Isolepis limbata</i>	Fringed Club-rush
<i>Isophysis tasmanica</i>	Hewardia
<i>Juncus ratkowskyanus</i>	Ratkowsky's Rush
<i>Leptospermum glaucescens</i>	Smoky tea-tree
<i>Leptospermum nitidum</i>	Shiny Tea-tree
<i>Lomatia polymorpha</i>	Variable Guitar Plant
<i>Lomatia tinctoria</i>	Guitar Plant
<i>Microcachrys tetragona</i>	Strawberry Pine
<i>Microstrobos niphophilus</i>	Microstrobos; Creeping Pine
<i>Milligania densiflora</i>	Cluster-leaf Milligania
<i>Milligania lindoniana</i>	Silvery Milligania
<i>Milligania stylosa</i>	Ledge Lily
<i>Monotoca empetrifolia</i>	Creepy Monotoca
<i>Nothofagus gunnii</i>	Deciduous Beech
<i>Nymphoides exigua</i>	Marshwort
<i>Olearia ericoides</i>	Heathy Daisy Bush
<i>Olearia ledifolia</i>	Orites Mtn Daisy Bush
<i>Olearia obcordata</i>	Heart-shaped Daisy Bush

Checklist of Endemic Plants



Pencil pine

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <i>Olearia persoonioides</i> | Geebung Daisy Bush |
| <i>Olearia pinifolia</i> | Pine-leafed Daisy |
| <i>Olearia tasmanica</i> | Tasmanian Daisy Bush |
| <i>Oreobolus acutifolius</i> | Speckled Tuft-rush;
Bloodstain Oreobolus |
| <i>Orites acicularis</i> | Yellow Bush |
| <i>Orites diversifolia</i> | Variable Orites |
| <i>Orites revoluta</i> | Narrow-leaf Orites |
| <i>Ozothamnus expansifolius</i> | Crowded-leaf everlasting |
| <i>Phyllocladus aspleniifolius</i> | Celery Top Pine |
| <i>Planocarpa petiolaris</i> | Diode |
| <i>Plantago daltonii</i> | Tasmanian Alpine Plantain |
| <i>Plantago gunnii</i> | |
| <i>Plantago paradoxa</i> | |
| <i>Poa gunnii</i> | |



King Billy pine

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Podocarpus lawrencei</i> | |
| <i>Pomaderris elliptica</i> | Yellow dogwood |
| <i>Prionotes cerinthoides</i> | Climbing Heath |
| <i>Ranunculus nanus</i> | Golden Plateau Buttercup |
| <i>Ranunculus triplodontus</i> | |
| <i>Richea acerosa</i> | Bare-branched Richea |
| <i>Richea curtisiae</i> | Curtis' Richea |
| <i>Richea milliganii</i> | Milligan's Richea |
| <i>Richea pandanifolia</i> | Pandani |
| <i>Richea procera</i> | Lowland Richea |
| <i>Richea scoparia</i> | Scoparia |
| <i>Richea sprengelioides</i> | Mountain-top Richea |
| <i>Rubus gunnianus</i> | Alpine Raspberry |
| <i>Rytidosperma fortuneae-hibernae</i> | |
| <i>Schoenus pygmaeus</i> | Pygmy Bog-rush |
| <i>Sphaerocionium applanatum</i> | Skeleton Filmy-fern |
| <i>Telopea truncata</i> | Waratah |
| <i>Tetracarpaea tasmanica</i> | Tetracarpa |
| <i>Trochocarpa cunninghamii</i> | Stragglng Trochocarpa |
| <i>Trochocarpa gunnii</i> | Sweet-scented Trochocarpa |
| <i>Trochocarpa thymifolia</i> | |
| <i>Wahlenbergia saxicola</i> | Tas. Mountain Bluebell |



Celery top pine

Alpine communities

The park is an important reserve for alpine communities which occupy about 14% of its area. Included amongst the significant alpine assemblages are a series of rare and unusual string bogs. The alpine communities found on the tops of the mountains and plateau of the park are characterised by a mosaic of heath, herbfield, bogs and bolster moor communities. The distribution of these communities depends upon drainage, wind protection, the depth and duration of the snow each winter and the fire history.

Bolster heath, herbfield and fieldmark communities are associated with areas of prolonged snowlie. Cushion plants are interspersed with pineapple grass bogs and occur on the most exposed and wettest areas of the plateaux. Sphagnum bogs are found around alpine and sub alpine lakes and tarns.

Sub alpine communities

The sub alpine woodlands of the park have a low canopy of various eucalypts including *E. coccifera*. These areas are characterised by small stands of the endemic conifers including the pencil pine, *Athrotaxis cupressoides*, found around the higher lakes and tarns along with King Billy pine, *Athrotaxis selaginoides*. Several dwarf pine species such as mountain plum pine, *Podocarpus lawrencii*; creeping pine *Microcachrys tetragona*; cheshunt pine, *Diselma archeri* and dwarf pine, *Microstrobos niphophilus* are also found.

Restricted distributions

Some plants are restricted to certain drainage basins in the park. The Broad River catchment contains the greatest diversity of communities in the park. The Tasmanian endemic cider gum, *Eucalyptus gunnii*, small fruit hakea, *Hakea microcarpa* and *Grevillea australis* appear to be restricted to the northern part of the Broad River Valley. Buttongrass, *Gymnoschoenus sphaerocephalus*; bottlebrush, *Callistemon viridiflorus*; *Lepyrodia tasmanica* and *Leptocarpus tenax* are all restricted to the Broad and Humboldt River basins. Fine-leaved hop bush, *Dodonaea ericifolia*, is restricted to the Lake Emmett region, and the sticky everlasting, *Helichrysum antennarium* is virtually restricted to the Lady Barron basin. *Richea milliganii* is found in the park only in the Humboldt basin.

Further information

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Climbing heath

Picture courtesy of R. Hale

FURTHER INFORMATION

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December 2003 © State of Tasmania