** project summary: **

The aim of the project is to provide a catalogue of knowledge which includes a review of all published literature on Garwerd for all Indigenous cultural heritage sites (excluding rock art sites) for the following purposes:

- To gain an overview of site types, location, significance & condition.
- To designate culturally significant areas of the landscape that are sensitive to various land management activities. These may occur where clusters of cultural sites occur.
- To implement site protection works based on published recommendations.

** methods:**

Methodology for this project included a literature review of all material written on Garwerd. Information was extracted regarding areas of significance, individual sites, condition and recommendations. From these areas of significance were assessed. Maps obtained from Aboriginal Affairs Victoria containing information on the location of sites within Garwerd were looked at for areas of concentrations. Areas of significance were also assessed as areas which have dreaming stories, and historical accounts associated with them. Recommendations were taken directly from the reports reviewed.

** results:**

Currently there are 255 sites registered with Aboriginal Affairs Victoria within the Garwerd. The majority of those sites are located near water sources or within 200 meters of a water source. Other areas which are culturally sensitive are regions which have undergone the least amount of environmental modification, areas located within sandy soils, lunettes or dunes (Bird 1990), eroding tracks, as well as the northern ends of the ranges (Bird 1989; Gunn 2009a). Currently, the predictive model for site location within the Grampians-Garwerd suggests that areas which are flat or slightly undulating and on an incline of less than 10% are sensitive to land management activities (Bird 1989; Edmonds 1995; Gunn 2009a) as they have the greatest potential of containing culturally sensitive material.

** recommendations:**

- Further investigations into the archaeology of Garwerd.
- Areas which are predicted to contain culturally sensitive material (e.g., near water sources) should be continually surveyed to ensure their protection.
- Further investigations of fire management for Cultural Heritage Sites.
- Because it is difficult to assess subsurface potential by surveying the surface, areas near water sources, in sandy soils, or areas located along flat surfaces should be test pitted to ensure the protection of the site.

** archaeology in garwerd:**

Archaeology in Garwerd has traditionally been focused on the investigation of rock art (Couatts and Lorblanchet 1982; Gunn 1981) and was originally thought to have only been used by small amounts of people for ceremonial purposes for the past 5,000 years (Bird and Frankel 1991; Couatts and Lorblanchet 1982; Gunn 1987; Williams 1988). In the 1980’s Bird re-evaluated the excavation material dug by the Victoria Archaeological survey in 1975. The re-evaluation of samples provided dates of 22,000 years BP at Druml Rock Shelter and 10,000 years BP at Billimina (Bird et al. 1998; Bird and Frankel 2005) and gave evidence for the use of Garwerd beginning in the Pleistocene through to historical times. Other archaeological work done by Gunn (1997; 1998; 2001; 2009) on areas surrounding Lake Wartook and Lake Bellfield uncovered large occupation sites which have been dated to 4,000 BP. These sites, as well as an occupation area stemming from the Ngamadjidj rock shelter demonstrate the use of the ranges through the Holocene and suggest that Garwerd was used for domestic purposes as well as for ceremony.

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