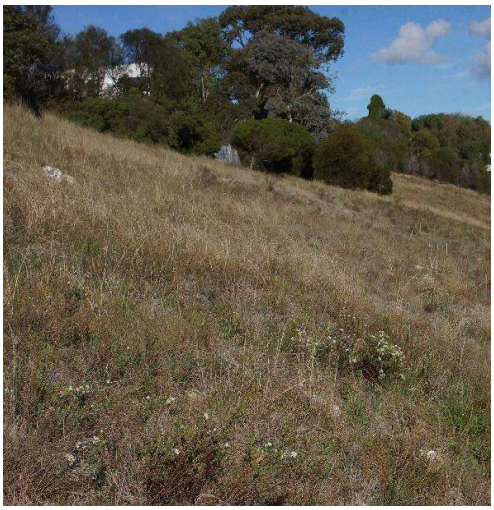
Seaview Reserve

The Geelong Field Naturalist Club played a crucial role in designating a portion of the Belmont escarpment as a local reserve. Seaview Reserve in Belmont is a hidden gem, notable for its unique floristic and geological characteristics. This reserve showcases a remarkable example of limestone grassland, a rare vegetation community found at only five sites across Victoria, with four located in Geelong and one in Stawell, western Victoria.

The limestone in the reserve dates to a period when sea levels were higher, and the Barwon Valley (now Belmont and Highton) was a coastal area. Limestone forms when layers of small, deceased marine organisms accumulate, releasing carbonate from their shells in shallow marine environments. Over time, this debris cements itself into the limestone we see today.



The current vegetation is predominantly grassy, featuring Kangaroo Grass (Themeda triandra), Wallaby Grass (Austrodanthonia sp.), and various Spear grasses (Austrostipa sp.). Interspersed among these grasses are a variety of wildflowers, including Smooth Rice Flower (Pimelea glauca), Silky Guinea Flower (Hibbertia sericea), and New Holland Daisy (Vittadinia cuneata). Evidence of the area's marine origins is visible in the presence of Coastal Wirilda (Acacia uncifolia), Coast Flax Lily (Dianella brevicaulis), and Slender Speedwell (Veronica gracilis).

The club has installed several interpretative signs along the walking track adjacent to the reserve, recently upgraded with photos of some of the species found there. The reserve is managed by the City of Greater Geelong Council, primarily focusing on weed management through spot spraying. Additionally, they organise planting days supplementing species suited to this vegetation community to help maintain biodiversity and healthy environment. The reserve is at its peak in October and November when the wildflowers bloom. Throughout the year, butterflies such as Meadow Argus, Common Brown, Australian Painted Lady, and Yellow Admiral can be spotted.