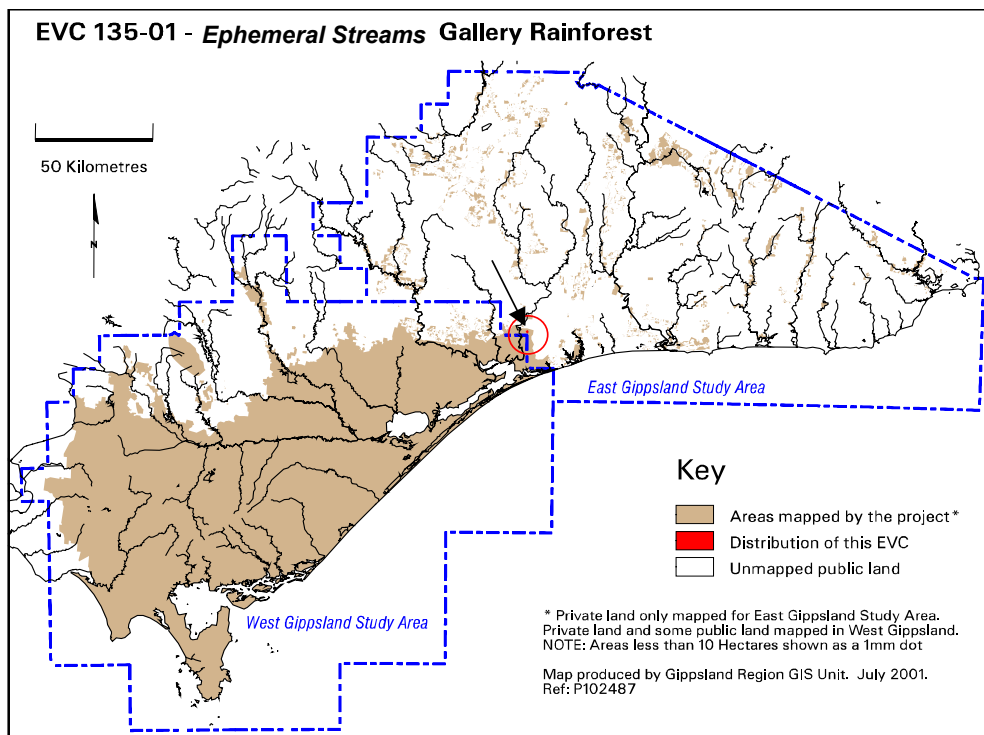


## EVC 135 Gallery Rainforest

Confined to highly localised patches of East Gippsland where it develops along stream courses where floods are moderate and frequent. Canopy is dominated by Kanooka *Tristaniopsis laurina* with a diverse groundcover of forbs, graminoids and shrubs. The flood-prone nature of the habitat prevents the establishment of mature lian flora.

### Floristic Community 135-01 *Ephemeral Streams Gallery Rainforest*

<b>Elevation (metres above sea level)</b>	<100
<b>Average annual rainfall p a. (mm)</b>	<750
<b>Topography</b>	Restricted to creeklines with ephemeral flow regimes that are flood prone and protected from fire, including steep rocky gorges
<b>Geology</b>	Sandstone, granite
<b>Soils</b>	Deep, uniform, gravelly sand/loam
<b>Related/adjacent EVCs/FCs</b>	<i>Perennial Streams</i> Gallery Rainforest, Dry Rainforest
<b>Present land use</b>	Nature conservation, recreation
<b>Present distribution</b>	Ephemeral creek south-east of Bruthen.
<b>Examples of sites/quadrats/lists</b>	Bridle Creek (U23925)
<b>Total Area (ha)/ Number of polygons</b>	4/2
<b>Group analysis no.</b>	Not available for East Gippsland Study Area



#### Vegetation: structure/floristics:

The overstorey is dominated by Kanooka *Tristaniopsis laurina* and entirely lacks Lilly Pilly *Acmena smithii*. Eucalypts are not a frequent component of *Ephemeral Streams* Gallery Rainforest, but may be more frequent in surrounding vegetation.

Shade-tolerant shrubs include Prickly Currant-bush *Coprosma quadrifida*, River Lomatia *Lomatia myricoides*, Bootlace Bush *Pimelea axiflora*, Hazel Pomaderris *Pomaderris aspera* and Forest Boronia *Boronia muelleri*. Floods can create gaps and hence more light penetration can lead to a suite of shade-intolerant species occupying the site. These include White-sallow Wattle *Acacia floribunda*, Hop Goodenia *Goodenia ovata*, Snow Daisy-bush *Olearia lirata*, Victorian Christmas-bush *Prostanthera lasianthos* and Round-leaf Mint-bush *P. rotundifolia*.

Mature lianes are typically absent from *Ephemeral Streams* Gallery Rainforest as they tend not to survive the strong floods that periodically engulf this environment. Lianes tend to only ever be present as young plants.

Drought-tolerant ferns that can tolerate periods of drought stress include Common Maidenhair *Adiantum aethiopicum*, Common Ground-fern *Calochlaena dubia*, Common Rasp-fern *Doodia media* ssp. *australis*, Green Rock Fern *Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia*, Austral Bracken *Pteridium esculentum* and Tender Brake *Pteris tremula*. Fishbone Water-fern *Blechnum nudum* occurs in soaks or near pools. Common Filmy Fern *Hymenophyllum cupressiforme* is the only common epiphytic fern, which is found in the most topographically moist sites.

Graminoids can be a conspicuous feature of the ground layer, sometimes forming dense patches. Species include Tasman Flax-lily *Dianella tasmanica*, Spiny-headed Mat-rush *Lomandra longifolia* and Variable Sword-sedge *Lepidosperma laterale*. Common grasses that are present but localised include Tasman Bent-grass *Deyeuxia rodwayi*, Bordered Panic *Entolasia marginata*, Cane Holey Grass *Hierochloa rariflora*, Weeping Grass *Microlaena stipoides* var. *stipoides* and Forest Wire-grass *Tetrarrhena juncea*. Forbs are also not abundant but species often present include Bidgee-widgee *Acaena novae-zelandiae*, Kidney-weed *Dichondra repens*, Creeping Cudweed *Euchiton gymnocephalus* s.s., Star Cudweed *E. involucratus*, Austral Brooklime *Gratiola peruviana*, Common Bottle-daisy *Lagenophora stipitata*, Slender Bottle-daisy *L. gracilis*, Coarse Stinkweed *Opercularia aspera*, Shade Plantain *Plantago debilis* and Ivy-leaf Violet *Viola hederacea*.

**Comments:**

The above description is based on Peel (1999).