

Late Quaternary Environmental Change in the Sub-Alpine Grasslands of the Surrey Hills Region of Northern Tasmania

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Palaeoecological records have been constructed from two sites (Yellow Marsh and Black Marsh) from the Surrey Hills region in northern Tasmania covering the Late Quaternary period. These records, and associated sedimentological data, provide a detailed picture of environmental change for the sub-alpine grasslands of Tasmania, in particular the relative impacts of climatic variability and human activity on the maintenance of open environments in a forested landscape. Yellow Marsh provides a continuous record (+3.5 m) for the Late Quaternary period from a *Sphagnum/Richea/Buttongrass* bog, with evidence of swamp and lake phases throughout the core and increased fire activity towards the base of the record. The other site, Black Marsh (+70 cm), provides a snapshot of environmental change for a Buttongrass patch surrounded by forest that extends into the late Holocene period. The combination of these records allows an assessment of alterations in fire regimes over the Late Quaternary period for the Surrey Hills region and the palaeoecological evidence can also be linked to the extensive ethnographic record that currently exists for this location.

Reference

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