



Book Review

by Stephen Tate

The Physiography of Victoria

An Introduction to Geomorphology

Edwin Sherbon Hills was a Professor of Geology at the University of Melbourne. He first published this book on landforms of Victoria in 1940 with a fifth edition in 1975. He discusses the interaction between landform and other elements of the environment, the influences of the biosphere (flora and fauna), the atmosphere (climate) and the deleterious impacts by mankind over the millennia.

If you are interested in local geology and how it was formed then this is a very interesting read. It explains land types, rock types and how ranges, rivers and lakes were formed in Victoria including in Murrindindi Shire, nearby Shires and areas you have probably walked while on holidays along the coast.

Hills outlines where the local volcanoes and lava flows were and how Cathedral Mount was formed by Little River. He explains how granite boulders are formed that rest above the ground or split into pieces, or are left sitting on top of each other around the Strathbogie Ranges.



The author points out the reasons why the hills around the Shire are eroding away and are exposed and bare in the summer. He makes you wonder at the long history of our continent over millions of years.

Following this work by Hills and then others there was the development of the Atlas of Victoria, defining nine geomorphic divisions that were divided into twenty-four geomorphic regions. It led to a framework for the State-wide Land Systems of Victoria with published maps at a scale of 1:500,000 and unpublished maps at 1:250,000 of the physiography or geomorphology of Victoria.

**The Physiography of Victoria
– An Introduction to Geomorphology
By E. Sherbon Hills
Melbourne, Vic., Whitcomb
& Tombs, 1960**

