

# Birrarrung



**March to May 2022**

Issue 1/2022

## **Newsletter of the Friends of the Yarra Valley Parks**

Incorporating Manningham Conservation Society

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See the web-site for previous newsletters, and any updates to activities.

If you no longer wish to receive a printed newsletter please email us and we'll send your newsletter by email.

## **ACTIVITIES – all welcome**

Sunday Activities - **4th Sunday of the Month, 10 am to 12 Noon**, March to November.

### **WHAT TO BRING:**

**Covid-19 measures:** We prefer that you sign in for each activity on the Parkconnect website <https://www.parkconnect.vic.gov.au/> Morning tea will **not** be provided – please bring your own. To minimise sharing of tools, please bring your own if you can. Bring your own gloves. Some tools can be provided and sanitiser will be available. Bring a mask and wear it if distancing cannot be maintained.

*You will need old clothes and sturdy shoes, gardening gloves, a parka, or hat and sunscreen, and a water bottle. You may also like to bring insect repellent.*

### **Sunday 27 March – Templestowe Road, Templestowe Lower (Mel 32 K4)**

Maintenance of previous planting at a site between Templestowe Rd. and the Yarra. Tree guards need to be removed. Bring a mattock or other tool if you have one for weeding around the plants. Long grass, so wear long pants. It would be safest to park in Gordons Road opposite

### **Sunday 24 April – Tikalara Park, Templestowe (Mel 22 C12)**

Maintenance of previous plantings near the Mullum Mullum Creek. If you can, bring a mattock for weeding around the plants and/or a Stanley knife/boxcutter for dealing with overgrown tree guards. Long grass, so wear long pants. Drive to the corner of Blackburn Rd and Websters Rd Templestowe (Mel 34 D2) then go west just past the Council depot to a gate that enters Tikalara Park. Drive through the gate and follow signs along the access track, going slowly with your hazard lights flashing. Park by the signs, then follow more signs to the work site.

### **Sunday 22 May - Martins Lane, Viewbank (Mel 20 J10) 10 am to 12 Noon**

Planting at a new site near the Plenty River. Drive past the east end of Martins Lane, Viewbank, into an informal car park near the Plenty River Trail. Follow signs east through the gate. Bring a mattock or other planting tool if you can. Also a hammer for the stakes. Long grass, so wear long pants.

**Committee** meetings are at 7.30 pm in the Meeting Room at Westerfolds Park (Mel 33 F1). Next meetings are Thursdays: 31 March, 21 April, **exceptions to the usual 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month.**

## **Our maintenance sites**

### **27 March Templestowe Road**

We first planted here in 2017, and have visited regularly since then. Many of the plants are up to having the guards removed. We may have a go at the spiky weeds. The Yarra River is to the right of this photo.



### **24 April Tikalara Park**

We have been planting here near the Mullum Mullum trail for many years. Lots of guards to remove.





## ***Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo, the Yarra Strategic Plan***

<https://www.water.vic.gov.au/waterways-and-catchments/protecting-the-yarra/yarra-strategic-plan>

The final Yarra Strategic Plan has been released after a long period of consultation. It is billed by the government as ‘the very first plan to manage and protect and enhance the Yarra River, Birrarung and its significant parklands as one living and integrated entity’. There is a lot to read, but for a taste, here is a section focussing on ‘significant places’ in our area of interest in the ‘Suburban reach’ of the river – from Warrandyte to Dights Falls. Great intentions!

### **Warrandyte – Templestowe parklands**

Opportunities for future projects and alignment:

- Fill gaps in the network of parklands along the river and enhance activity nodes and connections between recreational trails through these parklands.
- Investigate opportunities for cross-river connections that will facilitate improved access to the river and parklands from local recreational trail networks. A key initiative includes Manningham City Council’s project to extend the Main Yarra Trail from Tikalara Park to Warrandyte.
- Partner with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to investigate ways to protect cultural values associated with Garambi Baan (Laughing Waters).
- Provide safe visitor access to the heritage-rich landscapes within Warrandyte State Park. Create new recreational trails and deliver interpretative signage to connect visitors with the mining heritage of the region.
- Protect and upgrade significant buildings and sites, such as Pontville Homestead and Pettys Orchard on the south side of the river, and Birrarung House and River Bend House in the Laughing Waters precinct on the north side. Investigate options for sensitive reuse to help fund restoration projects and protect heritage values in line with community expectations.
- Improve camping facilities at Longridge Park.

### **Lower Plenty – Eltham Parklands**

Opportunities for future projects and alignment:

- Improve connections to and between parklands and improve access and connection to the Yarra River. This includes consideration for pedestrian and cyclist bridge crossings proposed in the draft Yarra River – Bulleen Precinct Land Use Framework Plan, which will support regional access to the local area.
- Coordinate work across Murundaka and Montpellier wetlands and investigate opportunities to expand wetlands and coordinate works with neighbouring land managers and areas. Continue to work with the local community to support their stewardship role. Consider visitor access to the sites whilst maintaining strong environmental protection and enhancement programs.
- Rehabilitate land at the end of Bonds Road, removing weeds, revegetating riverbanks and creating river access and viewing opportunities.
- Develop a biodiversity and conservation management and improvement plan for the floodplain and riparian areas adjacent to the Yarra River, including investigating opportunities to protect and improve platypus and powerful owl habitats.
- Protect the significant environmental, cultural and landscape values of the Plenty River and its confluence with the Yarra River, located within the Rosanna Golf Club site.
- Improve opportunities for paddle sports at Westerfolds Park.

### **Yarra River – Bulleen Precinct**

Opportunities for future projects and alignment:

- Protect the environmental and cultural values of Banyule Flats.
- Protect the environmental and cultural values of the Bolin Bolin Billabong, including continued program of restoring natural water flow regimes into the billabong.
- Investigate opportunities to improve wetland watering regimes for Annulus, Banyule Flats and Bolin Bolin billabongs to meet ecological watering objectives, and to improve ecosystem services, as well as cultural and social values (as per Healthy Waterways Strategy 2018).

## Sweeneys Flats on 10 March

I had not seen so much action at Sweeneys on a week day since the height of lockdown. As well as the Art Group from Eltham U3A, there was a busy team from a Melbourne Water contractor spraying weeds by the river. They were targeting blackberries and bridal creeper.



## Bulleen Red Gum

Good news! It looks as though the Heritage listed red gum at on the corner of Bridge Street and Manningham Road Bulleen has been rescued from destruction by North-East Link works. Located on an island in the parking lot of a service station, this tree was saved from removal by Mrs Fullarton and the Doncaster & Templestowe Conservation Society, when the rest of the block was cleared in order to build the service station. More than 50 years ago, it was previously rescued at gunpoint: <https://www.3aw.com.au/touch-that-tree-and-ill-kneecap-you-94-year-old-rejoins-fight-to-save-iconic-red-gum/>

