

Birrarrung



March to May 2023

Issue 1/2023

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.*

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

Sunday 26 March – Westerfolds Park 10 am to 12 Noon (Mel 33 F2)

Removing woven plastic weed mats left after planting decades ago. Veer left immediately after entering the park from Fitzsimons Lane. Look for Wattleview car park. It is blocked off, but there will be space in front of the barrier for parking. A mattock and box cutter/Stanley knife would be handy, but tools will be provided.

Sunday 23 April – 10 am to 12 Noon – Murundaka, Bonds Rd. Lower Plenty (Mel 33 A2)

Maintenance around plants put in last year. Checking and refurbishing tree guards. Some weeding around the plants. Enter via a gate on the west side of Bonds Road, just after you go under the power line. You can park on the verge nearby if it's dry, or go back to the small parking area at the turn-off to Montpelier Drive.

Sunday 28 May - Sweeneys Flats, Eltham 10 am to 12 Noon (Mel 22 B10)

New planting – mid-storey and wetland plants. Bring your favorite planting tool if you have one. If not, tools will be provided. Park at the end of Sweeneys Lane and follow the signs.

You will be able to sign in for the activities above when they go up on ParkConnect soon.

Committee meetings are at 7.30 pm in the Meeting Room at Westerfolds Park (Mel 33 F1). Next meetings are Thursdays: 23 March, 27 April, 25 May.

Maintenance at Bonds Road site (Murundaka) 23 April – what would you do?

Suggestions on page 4 (photos taken 8 March 2023)



A



B



C



D



E



F



G



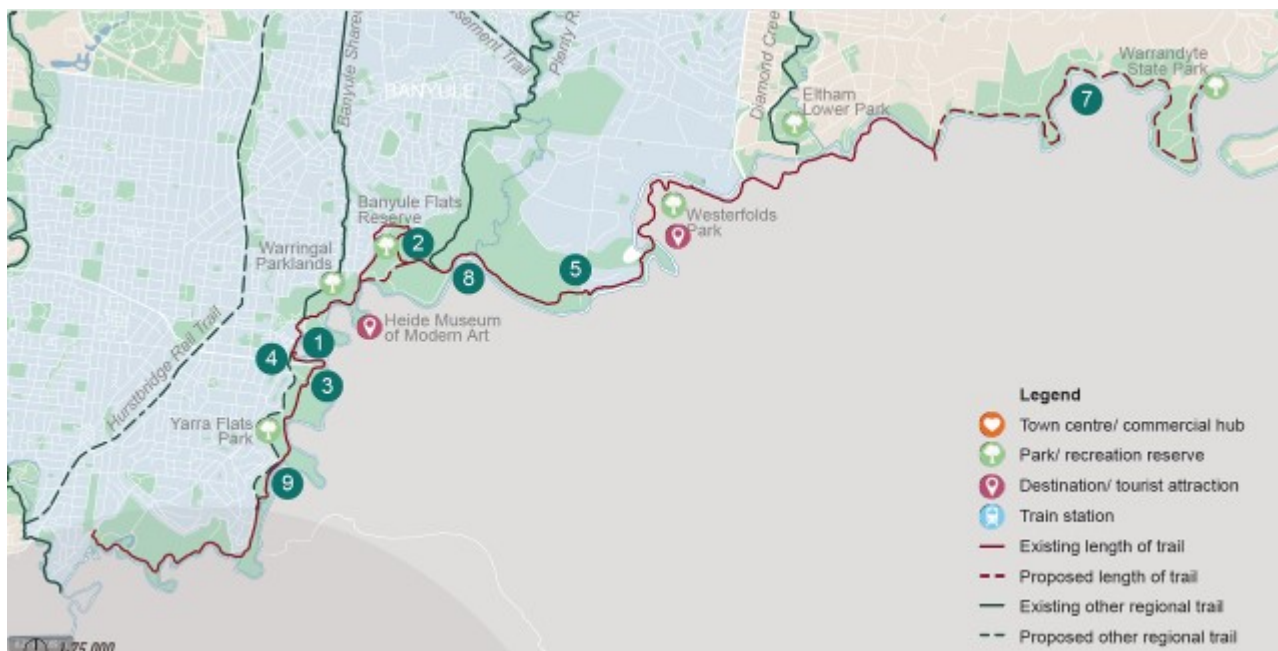
H



I

Main Yarra Trail

Banyule Council, along with neighbouring councils, has released a plan for walking trails. It plans improvements for the Yarra Trail as below. They are 'plans', unfunded at this stage.



1. Construct a bridge crossing over the Yarra River to Banksia Park at the eastern end of Yarra Street
2. Undertake improvements to the Main Yarra Trail at Banyule Flats
3. Realign the trail at the Banksia Street underpass to create a gentler grade and wider trail surface
4. Upgrade surface and width of existing trail from Banksia Street to Yarra Street
5. Upgrade surface and width of existing trail from junction with Plenty River Trail to Fitzsimons Lane Reserve
6. Provide wayfinding signage along the length of the trail
7. Construct shared use trail from the Mullum Mullum Creek Trail to the Warrandylite State Park
8. Construct a bridge crossing over the Yarra River to Birrarrung Park
9. Construct a bridge crossing over the Yarra River to Bulleen Park

For the full report, see

https://hdp-au-prod-app-ban-shapingbanyule-files.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/5716/6051/7689/North_Trails_Strategy_2022_August_draft.pdf

Friends of Westerfolds Manor

A dedicated team continues its valuable work looking after the garden at the Manor. There is usually someone there at the following times and they would welcome your help. Just turn up whenever you can.

Tuesdays 10am-1pm, Wednesdays 9am-12 noon, 2nd and 4th Sundays 10am-1pm

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofWesterfoldsManor/>



Before and after weeding the path in the garden, February 2023
Photos: Pat Grey

Maintenance at Bonds Road site (Murundaka) 23 April – what will you do?

Suggestions (see photos on page 2)

- A It's prickly! Use gloves. Remove top guard, cutting the cable ties (put them in the bin). Plant is not being chewed, so remove bottom guard. You may have to cut it away. Rescue the tall stake.
- B It's prickly! Use gloves. Plant is not being chewed, so remove the guard, intact if possible. Rescue any tall stake.
- C Plant is not being chewed above, so remove top guard, cutting the cable ties (put them in the bin). Leave bottom guard in place to protect against rabbits. It doesn't matter if some branches are growing through the guard – it can be cut away later. Give the stakes a hammering. Weed grasses around the plant.
- D Plant is not being chewed, so remove the guard, cutting it away. Replace with a low guard around the base to protect against rabbits. Reposition stakes and hammer in firmly. (Short stakes will suffice – rescue the tall stakes.)
- E Carefully reposition the top guard, as sheoaks are prone to being chewed. Reattach it to the bottom guard – you need 3 cable ties. Make sure that there is at least one tall stake. Hammer all stakes securely. Weed around the base.
- F Weed a space around the base, so you can see what's needed!
- G Weed a space around the base, so you can see what's needed. Reposition the guard. If there is a surviving plant and it is above the top of the guard, assess whether another guard needs to be attached above. If so, 3 cable ties needed and at least one tall stake.
- H Plant is growing through the guard. Remove the guard carefully, and if it has to be cut away, replace it by a new one to protect against rabbits. Use 3 stakes to give the plant space. Weed around the base.
- I Plant looks happy and is not being chewed from the top. Leave guard in place to protect against rabbits. Give the stakes a good hammering and add a third stake if necessary. Weed around the base.

Friends of the Yarra Valley Parks Inc.



If undeliverable, please return to:
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