

Record of Meeting No. 34 held at Meeting Room, 7-9 Symes Road, Woori Yallock on 18 September 2018

1. Welcome and acknowledgement of traditional owners of the land

Convener Anne Langworthy opened the meeting, acknowledged the traditional owners of the land and welcomed the committee members and invited guest.

Conflicts of Interest:

Nil

Attendance:

Members: Anne Langworthy (Convener), Dan Harley (Zoos Victoria), Sue Tardif (Community Rep–Yarra Ranges), Marianne Sawyer (Cardinia Shire Council), Cr. Jim Child (Yarra Ranges Shire Council).

Guests: Dan Robertson (Melbourne Water), Corinne Mays (PPWCMA), Georgina Kerr (Parks Victoria), Justin Foster (Manager DELWP YCA Implementation Team).

Apologies: Merryn Kelly (DELWP), Peter Cooper (Community Rep–Yarra Ranges), Jeff Latter (Community Rep–Cardinia), Steve Hosking (Melbourne Water), Ben Cullen (Trust for Nature).

Executive Officer: Joan Howard (YCACC)

2. Minutes of the previous meeting:

a) Acceptance of minutes for meeting No. 33 held on 21 August 2018.

MOTION:

1. That the amended minutes of meeting No. 33 held on 21 August be confirmed.

Endorsed: Sue Tardif **Seconded:** Dan Harley

Note: Motion deferred to the 16 October 2018 meeting

b) List of meeting Action Items for review

List of Action Items from previous meetings included in meeting papers but not discussed.

3. Business Arising

a) YCACC Internal Review

The Chair advised the Committee that the internal YCACC review will include reporting against the KPIs and Actions listed in the *Yellingbo Conservation Area Action Plan 2016 – 2018*. All Agencies with reporting responsibilities in the Action Plan have been sent a summary reporting template in which to record outcomes. The individual reports will be submitted to the YCACC Executive Officer and a combined report will be available for comment at the October YCACC review meeting. This report will provide data for the Committee to review progress against agreed actions, and also inform an assessment of

how effective YCACC has been in its coordination role. The Committee will review its performance against the Terms of Reference and provide advice to the Minister regarding possible changes to the ToRs to improve the functioning of the Committee.

The Committee noted that the goals and actions in the *Yellingbo Conservation Area Draft 10-year Plan 2018* are not aligned with the *Yellingbo Conservation Area Action Plan 2016 – 2018* and highlight the disconnect between YCACC reporting responsibilities and the work undertaken by the DELWP YCA Project Implementation Team.

NOTE: At this point in the meeting Cr Jim Child expressed concern that the meeting had not met the requirements for a quorum. Only 5 voting members of the 10 current YCACC members were present at this meeting. There was some debate about minimum numbers constituting a quorum given there are 5 vacant positions awaiting ministerial appointment (Parks Victoria, PPWCMA, CFA, Yarra Ranges Community member, Wurundjeri Land Council).

It was decided that approval for any decisions made at this meeting would be deferred to the 16 October 2018 meeting.

4. Correspondence

a) Outgoing correspondence - nil

b) Incoming correspondence

1. Emailed letters x 3 from Kate Forster (MEANDER); and
2. Emailed letter x 1 from Vivien Freshwater (OAM), Hon. Secretary, Friends of Sherbrooke Forest Inc.

5. Starred Items

a) Items to be unstarred for discussion

Agenda Item 6a - Melbourne Water reports were noted.
All other starred items were discussed.

6. Regular Updates

a) Budget*

No update provided - held over to October meeting.

b) DELWP - YCA Project Implementation Team

The DELWP YCA Project Implementation Team reported that the community engagement sessions for the YCA draft Plan had, for the most part, gone very well. Whilst there were a few people who attended the Yarra Junction drop-in session to express their opposition to some aspects of the YCA draft Plan, most of those who attended did so for the purpose of seeking information. Justin provided an estimate of the number of attendees at the pop-up sessions and registered numbers of attendees for drop-in sessions. Justin confirmed these numbers immediately after the meeting.

- **6 x Pop-up sessions** (*numbers of attendees are best estimates*)

Date	Location	No. Attendees
17/08/2018	Healesville walk	17
18/08/2018	Yarra Junction shopping centre	21
24/08/2018	Seville shopping centre	40
28/08/2018	Monbulk - main road	12
31/08/2018	Emerald Woolworths	18
01/09/2018	Cockatoo country market	24
	Total	132

- **3 x Drop-in sessions (registered)**

Date	Location	No. Attendees
23/08/2018	Healesville	11
25/08/2018	Yarra Junction	49
04/09/2018	Monbulk	31
	Total	91

Note: not all attendees registered and they are not represented in the figures above.

- **3 x Exit surveys (drop-in sessions)**

Date	Location	Average score out of 5
23/08/2018	Healesville	3.9
25/08/2018	Yarra Junction	3.4
04/09/2018	Monbulk	3.9
	Average	3.7

Note: Attendees scored their experience of the event.

Additional observations included:

- pop-ups might have achieved better outcomes at community events rather than shopping centres;
- overall the pop-ups attracted curious people and they were a good communication strategy to engage with people who were not aware of what is happening in the YCA;

- ideally the schedule for this activity would have been more spread out;
- events that involve personal interactions are important and successful;
- pop-ups were a good catalyst for information being spread further afield by word of mouth;
- the drop-in sessions generated a lot of information sharing and fostered ongoing connections – some mis-information was able to be corrected.

The Committee was informed that to date there have been 42 survey responses and written submissions via the Engage Victoria website and Australia Post.

The Committee was also informed that the DELWP YCA Project Implementation Team has organised three meetings with specific community groups who requested additional information on the YCA draft Plan.

c) Parks Victoria

Haining Farm

- A community information session was held at Haining Farm on Sunday Saturday 8 September 2018.
- A total of 42 community members attended this event.
- Parks Victoria staff took community visitors on guided tours and answered questions and concerns.
- Feedback indicates that people are now more accepting of the development and design of Haining Farm.
- Some visitors expressed an interest in forming a Friends group.
- Parks Victoria have signed off on fire protection works.
- Parks Victoria are working with Greening Australia on the revegetation plan.
- It was felt that onsite meetings provided a better way to engage community members and demonstrate planning and works to be undertaken

Mapping Works Programs in the YCA

- The Committee was advised that Parks Victoria has consulted further with the DELWP GIS Officer, regarding the joint 'works' mapping project.
- This project will enable layers on the interactive maps on the YCACC website to display a list of works programs in the YCA integrating the activities of all YCACC member agencies.
- Then difficulties encountered whilst developing the interactive maps on the YCACC website highlight a systematic problem with data sharing across agencies when software programs are not compatible.

Feral Deer in the YCA

- There was extensive discussion about deer control programs and the barriers to effective landscape scale controls.
- In Victoria The *Wildlife Act 1975* (Vic) currently lists all deer are protected as wildlife.

- Fallow deer and sambar deer, found in the YCA, are also declared game species under the Wildlife (Game) Regulations 2012.
- Deer declared to be game can be hunted under a licence.
- The Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 lists sambar deer as a potential threat to the biodiversity of native vegetation.
- Committee discussion concluded that effective deer control will be an issue until the legislative anomalies are remedied.
- Parks Victoria currently undertakes the majority of deer control programs state-wide but mapping to determine the number of deer and monitoring the effectiveness of programs is a priority. It is estimated that there are currently one million feral deer in Victoria and this number is expected to double by 2020.
- DELWP are currently undertaking an internal review of deer control legislation and planning.
- It was agreed that Georgia Kerr would convene a meeting of representatives from Cardinia Shire Council, Yarra Ranges Council, PPWCMA, Melbourne Water, DELWP, and the group facilitated by Manningham Council to explore ways that individual efforts to control feral deer by regional agencies could be coordinated to achieve better outcomes.

Mountain Bike Trails

- Parks Victoria will be undertaking a strategic assessment of Mountain Biking in Warramate.
- Plans are proceeding and funding from the three levels of government and Bendigo Community Bank for the establishment of the Warburton Mountain Bike Trail which will include a “green” (family friendly) trail and a “black” trail for serious riders. The trail will be positioned so as to incur minimum impact on native flora and fauna.

Oxfam Trailwalk in the YCA

See Agenda Item 7b.

d) Melbourne Water

Staff updates

- Steve Hosking is on secondment to Southern Rural Water until end January 2019. Sarah Gaskill is acting team leader for this duration. Sarah has close associations with the YCA having worked on the environmental water requirements for Cockatoo Swamp and surrounds since 2009.

Project updates

- *Cockatoo Creek Swamp – water level management project.* A feedback meeting was held to key stakeholders on the project on Wed 5th September. The MW project manager gave an overview of the works, some of the monitoring data was shared and reviewed.

The aim is to review the data in more detail to provide recommendations for water management in 2019. Monitoring is also continuing along the reach where the levee was broken through to assist with water flow within the upper parts of the reserve. Presentations from the workshop are available.

- Melbourne Water staff attended 3 drop-in sessions for the YCA Plan consultation process. Enquiries ranged from diversions and water trading through to weeds and incentives programs. MW staff are currently responding to those questions raised that were not able to resolve at the time.
- Melbourne Water staff attended the drop-in session at Haining Farm. Overall the community response was quite positive however a number of people were concerned about fire, and resourcing to manage the site. Many participants were interested in how they might be able to use the site. From a MW perspective there wasn't any community concerns around flooding, but there was a question/criticism regarding mosquitos which MW will follow up.
- Works have begun on the Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the Kayak Launch at the corner of Don Road and Warburton Highway.
- Detailed scoping is complete for the Willow control project on the Yarra River downstream of the Dee River Confluence. Works are scheduled to begin later this year.
- The Rural Land Program Officer, Rowan Hore has been working with Gaye Gadsden on the Yellingbo to Butterfield Project. Works to improve habitat on private land and water quality include waterway, gully and dam exclusion with fencing. Weed control and revegetation and capacity to encourage natural regeneration. Track and drainage improvements, swale installation and farm water supply calculations for off stream stock watering. Eight joint projects are currently being scoped.
- Rural Land Program funded fencing and direct seeding of 890m along the Picaninny Creek at the northern edge of the YCA. This compliments the Yarra 4 Life EPBC project and the Councils' Ribbons of Green Project on the same grazing property along the Yarra floodplain downstream of Everard Park.
- Recently MW along with YRC, DELWP and PV undertook a site visit along the Yarra River from Cairncroft Avenue, Launching Place to the Hoddles Creek confluence to discuss a proposed walking trail concept. Whilst there are a number of requirements that would need to happen for such a proposal to progress the feeling at the meeting was quite positive with no major road blocks encountered.
- MW will attend a planning session hosted by DELWP for the YCA. The aim of this collaborative session is to look for logical access points that will facilitate easier management of the YCA. MW plan to work on a revegetation strategy with interested participants for the YCA. A revegetation strategy will help MW to align capital investments to high priority revegetation areas. Existing reports and on-ground data collected by participating agencies will be used to inform revegetation planning.

e) PPWCMA

The PPWCMA is proceeding with the projects for which the organisation has won National Landcare Program Funding.

f) Community Members

No update provided.

7. Community Engagement

a) Youth Engagement – Scout Forum

- A youth engagement strategy involving Yarra Ranges Council Youth Ambassadors, Cardinia Shire Youth Council and the Scouting association was discussed by YCACC as part of the YCA Plan Consultation process.
- The YCACC Convener and Executive Officer met with Yarra Ranges Council youth ambassadors and the Youth Team in December 2017 and January 2018. At that time the concept of engagement in either a youth forum or schools program led by the youth ambassadors was met with considerable enthusiasm. The youth team agreed to assist YCACC with running a youth forum using the Yarra Ranges community engagement planning process.
- A presentation by the YRC youth ambassador to the YCACC meeting on 20 February 2018; and a presentation by the YCACC Convenor to the Cardinia Shire Youth Council in April established that there was considerable interest from young people for a youth forum.
- YCACC was advised in May that a youth forum was not possible in the planned YCA community consultations being organised by the DELWP YCA Project Implementation Team. In July an alternative consultation process was canvassed with the YRC youth team which resulted in a presentation and distribution of pamphlets to some young people attending an after-school program at the Yarra Junction Library.
- The YCACC Community Representative for Cardinia Shire Council initially discussed the possibility of a youth forum with the Scout Association in December 2017. At the Cockatoo market YCA pop-up session Jeff had the opportunity to discuss the YCA with Cockatoo Scouts and their “proposal” for the former Gossern Park Scout Camp on the public land near Avon Road. He also spoke with the Scout Commissioner – Bays Region. Both the Scout Commissioner – Bays Region and the Cockatoo Scout Group Leader are supportive of a scouting forum on the YCA.
- Committee discussion highlighted that it was unlikely feedback from a forum could be achieved before the cut-off date for YCA Plan submissions on October 7. It was noted though that community consultation is an ongoing aspect of YCACC work and building ongoing relationships and a constant feedback dialogue would enhance planning processes in the YCA.

YCACC was unable to capitalize on the early enthusiasm of young people associated with Yarra Ranges and Cardinia Councils. There is an opportunity to engage with young people with the YCA plan through the Scouting Associations. Jeff latter is prepared to negotiate with the association.

MOTION:

2. That YCACC support a youth forum run by the Scouting Association.

Endorsed: Sue Tardif **Seconded:** Marianne Sawyer

Note: Motion deferred to the 16 October 2018 meeting

b) Oxfam Walk

YCACC has received a number of complaints about the new route planned for the Oxfam Trailwalk. Parks Victoria advised that:

- In April 2018, Oxfam wrote to PV seeking support for a new 2019 Oxfam trail event, citing the need to reinvigorate the event which had remained largely unchanged since 2003. The proposal outlined a new trail commencing at Emerald Lake (Cardinia Council) and finishing in Yarra Bend Park in Fairfield (also PV managed location).
- The event attracts up to 800 teams of 4 and raises nearly \$3million for global humanitarian work.
- The new trail was seen as being exciting as it better utilised public walking trails (Menzies and Sassafras Creek – 19km) and the Yarra River Trail, which dramatically reduces the extent of walkers needing to use public roads or crossings.
- PV undertook an assessment recognising that to support the new trail would require a shift in resource allocation to ensure, public safety and that environmental impacts could be managed. PV also acknowledged the strong alignments of the Oxfam event with its Shaping our Future Strategy, namely, the opportunity to Connecting People with Parks, Benefits beyond Boundaries and in allocating renewed resource allocations would support, Conserving Victoria's Special Places.
- PV also took into consideration that the event trail covers several PV managed locations and 10 local government boundaries.
- Securing the use of the Menzies and Sassafras Creek trails were the last sections Oxfam needed approval to use. PV provide in principle support in late May 2018.
- PV was able to allocate new additional resourcing which would support a works program to improve the safety and sustainable use of the trail.
- PV met with local groups (Friends of Sassafras Creek, Meander (Menzies Creek), Monbulk Landcare and Maroondah Bushwalking Clun in June 2018 to notify them of the in-principle support provided to Oxfam.
- A further meeting was convened in September 2018 in which Oxfam, PV and community groups were able to discuss plans, opportunities and issues.
- Many of the groups are concerned about the level of impacts on the environment, however PV believes that these risks can be largely managed.
- PV has only committed to the 2019 event. There is no longer term obligation.

- PV recognises that hosting the event, will allow for improved service delivery in Menzies and Sassafras Creeks via visitor and environment programs more so than has been possible for the last 15 years.
- Oxfam has been very open to ensuring that it includes detailed Sustainable Walking advice for all participants that will form part of the information pack and part of the participants acknowledgment of conditions upon registration. PV is exploring opportunities to maximise volunteer and financial support for minor fencing works etc from Oxfam.
- PV recognises the concerns raised by community groups, however feels that risks can be managed, subject to positive collaborative planning and resourcing.
- Oxfam is a walking event, planning to use public walking trails and will be bound by any reasonable conditions that PV requires.
- Parks Victoria and the involved councils are already supporting the event and the new route.
- Parks supported by Oxfam have already planned works to upgrade tracks and repair bridges and boardwalks.
- Although the YCA is yet to be formally established, given the involvement of Parks and Councils, YCACC could potentially contribute to planning and community engagement.
- It may be that the YCA Plan needs to specify caps for walking event sizes in areas of high conservation values.

MOTION:

3. That correspondence regarding the Oxfam Trailwalk be noted by YCACC and Parks Victoria provide a response.

Endorsed: Cr Jim Child

Seconded:

MOTION:

4. That YCACC provide advice about capping numbers of participants in events planned in YCA areas of high conservation value.

Moved:

Seconded:

Note: Motion deferred to the 16 October 2018 meeting

MOTION: deferred to the 16 October 2018 meeting

5. That YCACC requests that Parks Victoria share the evaluation of impacts on the planned Oxfam trailwalker event.

Moved:

Seconded:

Note: Motion deferred to the 16 October 2018 meeting

ACTION 7b: The convener will respond to the correspondence regarding the Oxfam trailwalk on behalf of YCACC noting:

- the work and contribution of the conservation groups maintaining the conservation values of the YCA;
- concerns that some of the areas are vulnerable and of high conservation values;
- YCACC's role in implementation of the VEAC recommendations;
- the challenge of providing recreation for "small numbers of people";
- the need for mitigation strategies including biosecurity;
- the role of land managers, notwithstanding YCACC's co-ordination role, which means that the final decision is their responsibility; and
- YCACC would ideally like to see early engagement with community stakeholders but given that the commitment has been made the focus now is on the contribution of stakeholders in developing the appropriate conditions for the event as has been planned by Parks Victoria.

8. YCACC Reports

a) YCACC Action Plan progress reporting

Committee members were provided with a reporting template before the meeting. Members were asked to report against the KPIs and actions listed in the *Yellingbo Conservation Area Action Plan 2016 – 2018* for the areas where they have reporting responsibilities.

ACTION 8a.1: Members will submit their agency reports to the Executive Officer for collating and consolidation by Monday 8th October 2018.

ACTION 8a.2: A summary report will be prepared by the Executive Officer for the 16th October YCACC meeting.

b) Annual Report to the Minister

The information provided for the Action Plan and the YCACC internal review will inform the Annual Report to the Minister to be finalised before the end of the term of the current committee on 30 November 2018.

9. Other Business

a) Launching Place Recreational Trail Project

Papers were resubmitted detailing this project.

- Melbourne Water have met on-site with DELWP, Parks Victoria, and Yarra Ranges Council and are considering an extension to the original proposal to Cairncroft Avenue.
- Whilst there are some logistical challenges including updated surveys to assess encroachment issues, and a new bridge construction, the project has been well received by stakeholders and land managers.
- Benefits of the project include: community access point to the Yarra river; access point to the rail trail, recreation asset; opportunity for cultural interpretation /

education; improved access to the Conservation Reserve, use of an unused road reserve to the river.

- Provides an opportunity to improve the biodiversity link to Haining Farm.

The Committee was asked to articulate its position on the proposed trail.

ACTION 9a: The Committee will formalise support for the trail at the October YCACC meeting.

b) Tree Planting at Doon Reserve

Cr Jim Child reported that some revegetation planting had occurred at Doon Reserve which will be realigned to satisfy the 100-metre set back regulation.

Meeting Close

12:30pm

Date of Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 20 November 2018

Time: 09:00 to 12:30

Place: Symes Road, Woori Yallock VIC 3139