



**Elsternwick Park Association
2021/22 Annual Report**



Introduction:

It makes perfect sense as to why the Boonwurrung term for the First Nation Peoples of this area is Yaluk-ut Weelam - which can be translated as People of the River or waterways. Waterways defined the boundaries of most of Melbourne's clans. Boonwurrung lands were mainly those with streams that flowed to the sea.

The Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve is a much-needed restoration project for a small but significant part of the Elster Creek catchment. The work that community, Council and other stakeholders are putting into restoring the health of waterways and wetland habitat will give a huge boost to a now very compromised urban creek and wetland area. As many of you know, the part of Elster Creek that flows through the reserve is the only 'natural' part of the creek. The rest is mainly concreted.

This year has been a huge year for the Elsternwick Park Association (epa). The year began as the last lockdown was ending. Key moments have included:

- The sad loss of epa founding treasurer Vincent Mumford. The epa committee was devastated to lose our longstanding Treasurer and Shed Guardian. Our thoughts are always with his family.
- Establishment of two epa Sub Committees : On Reserve Activities & Membership and Communications. The sub-committees meet 6 times annually.
- Completion of the plant out of the first stage of the masterplan - Chain of Ponds. Much of the planting are still under nets. Completion of Chain of Ponds construction.
- Epa sent out a member survey and is actively responding to members ideas
- Epa has formally taken on an Intern- partnering with RMIT Uni and Rosie Grech .
- Epa supported the renaming of the reserve after the suggested name change by N'arwee't Carolyn Briggs. It is now officially the Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve- the change was formally announced in August of this year 2022.
- Professor N'arwee't Carolyn Briggs OM is now an epa Honorary Advisor on Cultural matters
- Bayside Grant which enabled the epa to restart with our own equipment our monthly Fly by Night surveys

- Epa's new shed home is now kitted out with a kitchen and lined, with all our electrical work updated. The new electrical buggy arrived at the beginning of the year's term. This is owned by Bayside but we have had use of in the reserve. It was invaluable on big-scale planting out days with community.
- Plant Lab further established and SPA (Seed Production Area) started. (2/3 working bees)- management of plant nursery. Coordination and induction of new volunteers as we could start working with more people on site.
- Epa development of Induction materials for volunteers with Ecocentre staff and supported by Bayside Council.
- Monthly Working Bees- sometime twice a month when more work needed. Over 1,080 volunteer hours .
- Twice weekly Plant Lab/Shed volunteer workshops (2 hourly)- establishment and maintenance of the SPA (Seed Production area)- seed collection begun for the wildflower meadow. Coordination with researchers to ensure the epa and volunteers understand seed propagation methodologies.
- Elsternwick Park epa/ Love Our Streets- (re-established with two new coordinators Glen and Rowena) - Monthly meetings
- Epa Waterwatch- monthly Waterwatch / held a macro -invertebrate workshop with MW coordinator- Richard Akers - epa established underwater sound recording as a new data point-and an extra Waterwatch site in the soak- Chain of Ponds
- Monthly bird surveys (when possible)- all surveys published on the website.
- Establishment of the YWNR committee of management with Bayside Council - two epa committee members on board- Alison Soutar and Tricia Wevill (2022-23)
- Membership of 110 paid up members and over 2200 Facebook group members.
- Epa hosted the [Noisy Minor Symposium](#) which brought together experts to share knowledge about this native bird that is causing havoc for small bird numbers. Thanks to Rob Youl. Gio Fitzpatrick and Jo Samuel-King for all your efforts.
- Completion and launch of new epa website- thank you epa member Andrew Julian for all your hard work and ongoing technical support
- Development of [Nature Ambassador program](#) with key youth leader Sienna Cross, her family and Elwood Primary
- Walks, events and tours over the Reserve with Elwood Primary School and Nature Ambassadors, Port Phillip Ecocentre- hosting Teachers PD day, St Stephens Gardening Group, Headspace, Melbourne Water Education Team, BRASCA (Bayside Refugee Action Group), schools, local council, State and Federal politicians. Over \$15 million promised from Federal Labor to the reserve.
- Epa articles published in [Banksia](#)
- Thousands of plants cultivated and planted out into the Chain of Ponds-ongoing
- Design and development of the Weed/seed trial



- Members developed a wildlife group to deal with the issues of birds and animals getting stuck can the nets- epa worked with council to develop QR codes for reporting. Dassi Herszberg is now the epa wildlife consultant.
- Establishment of the epa shed garden (2022/23)



- Epa gives support for [Green Line](#) PECAN initiative
- Epa committee members Geoff and Gina ongoing work on Flood Committee- following up Melbourne Water's plans for the Diversion Drain
- Resignation of epa VP Aaron Wood- Alison Souter accepts the role from June 22.
- Meeting up with like-minded groups to learn more about their organisations and ideas. Apollo Bay Shrub Club, Melton Botanical Gardens President and volunteers, and others
- New treasurer and committee member Sanja Blackburn joins epa committee, Massive thanks to outgoing epa committee members Aaron Wood, Julie Beatty and Siân Darling

A tremendous thank you to our fantastic, irrepressible and hardworking epa committee and sub-committees and the many, many incredible volunteers and community who have supported all our work and YWNR vision over the year. A grateful thank you to Bayside councillors and Bayside

council officers and key contractor Marcus Gwynne. Thank you as well to Oz Ecosystems for their support and coordinated efforts with our work.





Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve Masterplan: History

The Elsternwick Park Association, through its membership of the EPNR Community Reference Panel, worked with Bayside Council officers and experts to develop the [EPNR Masterplan](#).

This masterplan was based on:

- Elsternwick Park Association vision for the reserve (1)
- The Principle and Priorities document developed by the epa (2)
- Technical reports-these included a fauna strategy, as well as other very technical flood management and hydrology reports.
- A series of workshops attended by epa panel members as well as experts, Bayside officers and other stakeholders.



It is incredibly exciting to see the Chain of Ponds now finished and sense how it will become an integral part of the Nature Reserve. The nets will be on till some time next year with Ponds 6 and 7 possibly coming off earlier in the year. The plantings are needed to be very established to cope with the ravages of eager swamp hens and others. The ponds though ostensibly finished are currently receiving final tweaks as the pumps are being tested for flow rates and some crossing stones receiving final adjustments. The establishing Chain of Ponds will be the haven for the birds and animals when the next stage of the Masterplan wetland development begins.

Caring for Country

The epa respectfully acknowledges that we are working and living on the unceded lands of the Boonwurrung people. The YWNR community has been very fortunate to have N'arwee't Dr Carolyn Briggs AM direct involvement and wisdom both with the development of the reserve itself, and with this organisation. Carolyn Briggs OM is a Boon Wurrung senior elder and is the chairperson and founder of the Boon Wurrung Foundation and on the Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council. A descendant of the First Peoples of Melbourne, the Yaluk-ut Weelam clan of the Boon Wurrung. She is the great-granddaughter of Louisa Briggs, a Boon Wurrung woman born near Melbourne in the 1830's. Carolyn has been involved in developing and supporting opportunities for Indigenous youth and Boon Wurrung culture for over 40 years. The epa has been fortunate to work with N'arwee't, the Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council and Bayside Council during the design and building phase of the meeting place in the Chain of Ponds. N'arwee't has stepped into a role with the Elsternwick Park Association Committee as Indigenous Cultural Advisor.

The entire Elwood Swamp of which this reserve will echo, was a rich and sustaining place for the Yaluk-ut Weelam for many thousands of years. Part of the regeneration of the reserve involves returning plants that were common in pre-colonial days to thrive here and restore the health of this wetland. The meeting/knowledge place in the Chain of Ponds will be home to cultural events and education and a place for reflection and connection to place. The mud stone used in the reserve come from nearby Boonwurrung Country.

N'arwee't Carolyn views the entire Chain of Ponds like a brilliant sculpture in itself. The recent renaming of the Reserve to the Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve reflects this ongoing engagement and reimagining of place with the rightful ancient and ongoing connections to Country acknowledged. Australia's oldest flowers are 126-120 million years old. Some of the plants being reintroduced have been around for millions of years. Until we removed them. Now is the time for action. Now is the time to care for your local waterways, reserves and learn to listen to the lessons of this ancient Country and Culture and the living words of Elders and custodians.



Plant Lab



The Plant Lab is the Elsternwick Park Association's very own plant propagation facility and at the heart of most of our activities. 100% volunteer run, the Plant Lab plans to supply the Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve with tens of thousands of plants per year. The Plant Lab endeavours to grow the rare, difficult or inconspicuous plant species, which are often forgotten in nurseries and revegetation projects. These will make all the difference in our aim to restore biodiversity. Ongoing propagation will remain essential in maintaining populations even after the initial establishment of the reserve's plantings. It will give the plants the help they need to overcome impediments to natural regeneration such as weeds, climate change, missing pollinators, lack of fire etc.

There's nothing more exciting than seeing a plant that you grew thrive, while providing homes or food for wildlife. The plant lab offers an opportunity for people to participate fundamentally in the creation of the nature reserve. The activities involve propagating plants from seed, collecting seed, cuttings, weeding and planting out in the reserve itself. All skill sets, ages and abilities are welcome to come along to our volunteer days. The only ask is that you become a member of the epa to do so. The Plant Lab expanded this year to include the SPA (Seed Production Area). This will be an essential component in supplying the wildflower meadow with seeds for direct sowing. It will also be an ongoing process to fill in gaps in planting as needed. Council had partnered with Melbourne Uni and one of their researchers Sophia Blossfeld has been a huge support in supplying information to our teams on how to care for the plants, collect and catalogue the seeds. The task of cataloguing has currently been taken on by Julie Beatty, former co- President of the epa. The Plant Lab volunteer effort is coordinated by epa member - Claire Hudson.



The Lab now has 27 volunteers who alternate between shed and Plant work twice weekly.

Nearly all the plants that have been propagated on site have been planted out by volunteers into the Chain of Ponds. Volunteers have contributed 1400 hours in the Plant Lab over this year.



Working Bees

Due to the end of Covid restriction the epa was able to commence regular Working Bees. We are very fortunate to have a wonderful co-ordinator, namely Adam Hosken involved in this task. He was instrumental in helping us set up for Covid checkins with QR codes etc. Adam has underscored the sociability of events by hosting the BBQ for hungry volunteers at the end of the day. All our activity leaders have shown great leadership and flexibility in dealing with all the changing elements of working with people in an extremely dynamic site. We are often learning only last minute about some of the activities and do not often have a lot of forewarning to plan. Our volunteers have also



been very flexible in turning up, often with minimal notice, to respond to events on site. Our Working Bees have been generally held on the last Saturday of the Month. Though we have been hosting two a month recently due to the development of the SPA (Seed Production area).

Working Bees are open for all to come along and learn new skills. They occur at least once a month. They are a great way to get involved in the reserve itself and actively contribute to the growing diverse habitat. Thanks to all those who come along and contribute and also all the active members who help make these days happen smoothly.

Epa Waterwatch

After reconvening the group after a long Covid hiatus, we were finally inducted online by our Melbourne Water Coordinator Richard Akers in November of 2021. The group finally met and recommenced Water Quality testing and macro invertebrate data collection at the beginning of 2022. The group had a terrific macro- invertebrate (water-bug) training session on site with Richard Akers in April of 2022. This was open to other groups too and we met with Janet from Kororoit Creek Waterwatch. Always interesting to hear of the challenges from another urban waterway.

Richard has been supportive of us developing new methodologies, so alongside testing of the water using parameters such as turbidity (how clear is the water?), water bugs, chemical testing etc, we are now taking sound samples as well. Sound can potentially reveal more about the hidden life underwater. If you are curious you can [listen here](#) to a sample from the soak in the Chain of Ponds. We participated in a [global listening event](#) (REVEIL 24+1 HOUR BROADCAST 2022) from the reserve bringing the underwater sounds of our local waterway to a global audience.

We have added a new site for testing - Soak 2 in the Chain of Ponds.

The Masterplan has the goal to reduce the nitrogen load going in the Bay and we hope to be able to detect an increase in the health of the waterway by both the water testing and witnessing an increase in the water bug biodiversity in the creek and soak. We plan to add another site soon- depending on volunteer power- to measure the water quality as it enters the reserve up near the New St bridge.

This activity is a for anyone to join in, especially if you want to learn more about the health our local waterway and how to monitor it. We are very happy to have a number of young science students joining in to support the citizen science effort. Waterwatch happens on the last Sunday of every month. Historically the data from this group was instrumental in helping to argue for the Reserve's transformation from a golf course into a nature reserve..





Elsternwick Park Love Our Street (EPLOS) partnering with epa.

One fantastic way to involve locals in caring for the reserve has been to join with the epa/ Love Our Streets group in regular, monthly litter collection. The Love Our Streets litter collections are popular and a great way to not only involve the community in helping protect the wildlife within the reserve.

Since launching in March 2019 up until the group clean-up March 2022, EPLOS Group removed



nearly a quarter of a tonne of litter from the reserve (224 Kg). Last year during COVID -19 restrictions, individuals have reported removing over 60 kg. This year they removed approx. 206 kg of rubbish and contributed over 65 volunteers hours.

At the end of this reporting year epa members, Glen Adams and Rowena Moore took on the role of coordinating the cleanup in the Yalukit Willam Reserve with support from Jill Sokol from LoS and the epa.. A massive thank you to all those who have contributed to the seemingly endless task of trying to keep our waterways and Bay free from rubbish! The inexhaustible tide of litter needs to be systemically and individually diverted. We hope to help educate community about changing behaviours and how we as a community can help to lobby to get better pollution controls on our waterways before this tide of rubbish reaches the sea.



Fly by Night

The two co-ordinators for the Fly by Night program Dassi Herszberg and Pascale Jacq put in a huge amount of work to develop the Fly by Night kit for the epa night macro-invertebrate survey work. The epa had support from the wonderful macro invertebrate experts who helped shape our ideas and scale it to a possible budget. We then applied for a grant from Bayside Council from their New Program or Community Initiative. Thanks to our being successful, we now have our very own Fly by Night kit.

This is a cornerstone activity for measuring/assessing the Reserve's success, as it helps us ensure that insect life is flourishing under the design and plant choices of the reserve. This is important because: (1) healthy insect populations attract and maintain flourishing birdlife at the reserve; (2) insect populations are known to be otherwise declining in urban areas.

A team of expert volunteer naturalists within the epa have worked since April 2021 to get these regular Flying Invertebrate surveys set up. This has involved working with entomologists Peter Marriott and Anthony Kurek "on site" at the reserve to understand how best to study the flying invertebrate and what optimal equipment is needed (especially given surveys will be owned and conducted by the community rather than expert entomologists going forward).

The Flying Invertebrate (Fly By Night) surveys will be conducted monthly on the nearest Saturday to the new moon at Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve. The first 12 - 24 months will be the baseline study from which future studies will be compared. There will be 5 stations across the park to compare sites to understand how different plants, proximity to water, plant growth and climate change effect the Flying Invertebrate. The surveys will be easy to set up, with easily transportable equipment and the equipment used will be safe for the community, cost effective and environmentally sustainable.



Bird Surveys

Seems a distant memory that bird surveys weren't able to take place from August to November 2021. However we did resume in December and have met consistently since then.

Forty two bird species have been recorded, the most numerous being:

- Pacific Black Ducks
- Rainbow Lorikeets
- Pacific Wood Ducks
- Dusky Moorhens
- Purple Swamp hens
- Magpie Larks

In some areas we are recording fewer Noisy Miners than in 2019 when we began the surveys.

My personal favourite bird, and possibly the most photographed, would have to be the Tawny Frogmouth. At the moment of writing we have two adults and two chicks.

The number of volunteers has remained stable averaging around 12 per survey. All the recent surveys are published on the new epa website.

Lastly thanks to Sue Forster for writing up our monthly surveys in such an informative and interesting way, co-leading the surveys when Alyson and I were away. Tania Ireton for sharing her immense knowledge of birds and for leading the survey in areas B, C, and G. Stephen Machet for such invaluable assistance and ongoing enthusiasm. Danny Fogg for taking such amazing photos. All the volunteers over the past year.

Bob Tammick (epa Sub- Committee- On Reserve Activities)

Epa's New Website

The Elsternwick Park Association launched our new website in May 2022. This was a rather daunting task and we want to warmly thank epa member Andrew Julian for all his work to create the new website with our Communications team. He has given and continues to give countless hours of technical support on a regular basis. We now have an easy to use website with all the information needed about our volunteer activities within the Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve and how you can be involved.

Everything from upcoming events, to data collected in the reserve, to updates on the construction itself, stories, ideas and incredible photography from our keen-eyed supporters from the Reserve are now available. We hope the website will make it easier for the community to engage with the wetland project and stay up to date. The new membership portal is now automated and membership is dated from payment annually.

Elsternwick Park Association formed as an organisation representing the views and supporting contributions of the community to the formerly named Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve. Historically, it helped lead the campaign to transform the golf course into a wetland oasis, bringing together diverse community groups and individuals who shared the same goal.

The epa is keen to keep involving the community with this exciting project, to learn more about how to actively participate in transforming the former golf course. The website will strengthen our goal to strengthen our role to speak up for the ecological integrity of the unique natural world that is being created and the key principles of the masterplan itself.

What does the new website mean for members?

The new website has an updated membership portal which will make it easier to manage your membership with the epa. Membership now operates on a yearly direct debit basis, which is easy to cancel at any time. As a member of the association, you'll have opportunities for input into discussions, be active on the ground and hear first-hand about the masterplan stages, volunteering and exchange ideas for the nature reserve.

Members benefit from:

- Email newsletters – updates on the stages of progress of the Nature Reserve
- Volunteer opportunities- join groups to clean up, planting, flora and fauna surveys in the park
- Invite to the AGM & vote to elect Elsternwick Park Association committee members
- Nature walk activities & social events to be held in the Reserve for all ages
- Share knowledge & learn about the local habitat, wetlands, cultural history, plantings and contribute your skills to create a unique community place

We look forward to supporting a flourishing community of active volunteers and members.



Epa Shed Home

All the volunteering activities need equipment and equipment needs storage space. Over the last year we have been bit by bit, with support from Bayside Council and contractor Marcus Gwynne, getting the epa shed fit for purpose. The shed is now lined, the electrical wiring has been restored properly and we have a kitchen and separate storage rooms. The epa has shared space for contractors to store their equipment over the construction of the Chain of Ponds. The shed has been used for hosting working bees, giving us space to cut materials for the seed boxes, inducting new volunteers and much more. It has hosted Ecocentre PD day, visiting federal politicians and produced innumerable cups of tea. We still have some work to do in the space, particularly sorting out storage but it is serving wonderfully as the centre for all our operations. The shed now has its own garden too, designed by Claire Hudson and Gio Fitzpatrick. Thanks to all the volunteers who worked hard to help set it up and are helping to maintain it.

Special Shout Out to the Elsternwick Bowls club who have supported the set up for the Plant Lab and all our activities- by allowing access and use of amenities for volunteers.



Sienna Cross, Nature Ambassador leader, talking at the Ecocentre PD day in the epa shed

Grants

Fly By Night Grant- **Bayside Council** - New Program or Community Initiative

Small starter grant from **Melbourne Water**- Eel Study and Cultural storytelling

The approval and announcement of YWNR committee for the new management model for the reserve :

In June 2018 Bayside City Council approved the formation of the EPNR community reference panel. One of the tasks of the panel was to come up with a recommendation for new management model for the reserve. EPA members on that panel, with other panel members brainstormed what we wanted the reserve to achieve and what management model would best suit those goals. The three future goals for the reserve as we saw them were:

- 1) Habitat or biodiversity - this was voted as THE most important future goal for the reserve
- 2) Soft amenity - that amenity that is hard put your finger on - beauty, a sense of wild space
- 3) Community involvement. Particularly important in this regard was the opportunities for social inclusion - not just ordinary volunteering, but involving disadvantaged groups in volunteering and skills development opportunities.

We then looked at which management model would best achieve these goals. The model the panel came up with involves a collaborative model that includes Bayside Council officers, community members and Bayside councillors on what is essentially a committee of management. This model was recommended to Bayside council and a motion to accept this model was passed unanimously by all seven councillors at the August 2020 Bayside Council meeting.

We are very excited by the management model as it puts the community at the heart of decision making for this very special place.

The reference panel met in September 2021 to discuss this transition and

- Progress made to date at EPNR;
- The next phase of the Reserves management model; and
- MW have offered to present an update regarding their work to upsize the Head Street Diversion (to provide additional levels of flood mitigation).

Since this time the EPA is thrilled to see the new committee of management for the YWNR announced. This will be a terrific way to keep community voices active in the management of the reserve. The EPA team will work closely with our committee members (Vice- President Alison Souter and Ecologist Tricia Wevill) on the committee to ensure we can support best practice, particularly in supporting habitat creation and fine ecological monitoring. Congratulations to all who are on board and we wish you well! The next meeting for this committee is early 2023.

Chain of Ponds completion:

The chain of ponds in the North East Corner of the reserve is the first stage of the masterplan implementation and the area is now open to the public. Central to this created wetland is the Yalukit Willam Knowledge Sharing space and this is not yet open to the public. The final removal of the gates around the Chain of Ponds took place at the end of this reporting period. The ponds have three clear objectives:

- Amenity
- Habitat Creation- in particular frog habitats.
- To provide alternative habitat for wildlife, during the disturbance to existing wetlands which will occur as the next phase of the Masterplan in the Southern wetlands takes off next year.

The design of the chain of ponds has been very carefully thought through to maximise the habitat values of the site. Just one small of example of this is the design of the chain of ponds with frogs in mind.

The creation of frog habitats has many challenges. In particular, *Gambusia* (known as mosquito fish) infest most waterways in Australia, eat tadpoles and therefore prevent the successful reintroduction of frogs into waterways. This can be overcome but it takes some very clever design to manage. With this in mind, the chain of ponds has some very interesting features:

- It will essentially be an “offline” wetland system-i.e. it will be separated from the current Elster Creek by a series of filters and barriers. This limits opportunities for *Gambusia* to enter the chain of ponds. Unfortunately this design ‘idea’ was compromised during a flood event earlier in the year and we now know that *Gambusia* has entered the C of P system.
- It has water-bodies that collect water from alternate water sources-i.e. the roofs of surrounding buildings. These water sources will be free of *Gambusia*.
- A number of the ponds will be ephemeral -i.e. they will dry out in summer. Native fish and frogs thrive in ephemeral wetlands, whereas *Gambusia* do not.
- The water levels of the ponds will be able to be controlled. This will allow for drainage of wetlands and clearance of *Gambusia* on an as needed basis.
- Construction started on the 1st September 2020 and was completed in June 2022.





Membership:

Our membership stands at 110 members.

We have a small, skilled and dedicated communications and membership team and look forward to sharing regular updates and news between the committee, sub-committees, our membership and the wider community. We undertook a Member Survey in July 2021 to better understand the needs of our members and we learnt what an engaged group you all are. Thank you to everyone who completed the 2021 member survey and shared their views and ideas. Members told us they highly value and are passionate about our vision and plans to be part of creating a unique nature reserve. We listened to what you told us and have taken actions to better communicate with all our members. A new member friendly epa website was launched and we have regular communications on progress, notice of events and stories. Our volunteer activities are planned and organised to engage active members in planting, bird surveys, social events, information days, education of native species and Cultural education of Country- so everyone can find an activity that suits them to engage with the Nature Reserve.

Our Facebook Group membership has grown rapidly this year and has now reached over 2200 members. We have a wide range of interesting and pictures posted daily relating to the reserve from different members, as well as updates to keep everyone informed on the progress and activities in the park.

We are planning community events for the New Year and looking forward to being able to share and celebrate the extraordinary opportunity to strengthen the communities' stewardship of this precious wetland home.



Affiliated Membership

Elsternwick Park Association encourages affiliation with other groups and not for profit organisations who support our vision for Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve, share common interests and are involved in environmental activities and community engagement. We value learning and sharing ideas, discussing issues and creating opportunities for collaboration with partners.

Groups can apply to become an Affiliated Member and partner will benefit from:

- Sharing knowledge and information
- Networking meetings, forums and social events to share
- News on current plans, projects and resources
- Voting at the AGM meeting
- Cross Promotion of events and call out for volunteer and community activities

Our Affiliated Members:

Port Phillip EcoCentre

The EcoCentre actively builds relationships, educates and demonstrates sustainable environmental practice and strengthen people's connection to the natural world. The EPA shares knowledge and resources, forums, educational projects and is supported to plan and progress EPNR activities.

Port Phillip Emergency Climate Action Network (PECAN)

PECAN aims to create and sustain a strong climate action movement in Port Phillip to address the climate crisis. A Plan sets out actions necessary to mitigate our local impact on the environment. The EPA shares knowledge, support for projects, forums and education events to promote its common goals such as flood mitigation and water sensitive design to develop an environmental sustainable nature reserve.

Love Our Street

Love Our Street 3184 is a local group in Elwood committed to keeping our community beautiful and promoting litter awareness. It holds monthly Street Clean days with volunteers to clean up litter in streets, parks and shopping centres. The EPA has formed a 3186 Elsternwick Park Love our Street Group which meets monthly in the park for litter collection to protect the wildlife from hazards and litter entering Elster Creek and flow into Port Phillip Bay.

Elwood Flood Action Group(eFlag)

EFlag aims to inform the community about the impact of flooding on homes, shopping centres, open spaces and amenities. Elster Creek flows downstream through EPNR and in severe weather events has caused floods. Local people learn about how to prepare for and respond to future floods and advocate to government about mitigating flood events. The EPA shares knowledge, plans and participates in forums to improve policy and plans for flood mitigation. Geoff Love is Convenor and on epa Committee.

Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council (Aboriginal Corporation)

PO Box 2125, St Kilda West- info@boonwurrung.org.au

Friends of Elster Creek(FoEC)

FoEC is a local group of community volunteers who want to protect, improve and expand areas of habitat for indigenous flora and fauna along Elster Creek, generate educational opportunities for the public regarding biodiversity and conservation, reduce pollution flowing into Port Phillip Bay and improve the aesthetic appeal of Elster Creek. The epa shares ideas, knowledge, volunteer activities such as bird surveys, nest box installation and revegetation to enhance Elster Creek, including EPNR. Joint members of EPA & FOEC

Bayside Climate Change Action Group (BCCCAG)

BCCCAG are a non-profit community organisation that works to reduce the impact of climate change and promote sustainability by creating and delivering information, education, plans and facilitating action and influencing decision-makers. EPA shares information and group promotes activities.

Bayside Friends Environment Network (BEFN)

BEFN helps people care for the environment by helping them establish a knowledgeable and caring relationship and provides a forum for environmental volunteers to exchange ideas, skills and experiences to network with others beyond bayside and runs working bees and education for the community. EPA exchanges information and ideas.

Unchain Inc

unChain Inc is an incorporated body of people who live or work in Port Phillip that believes in good governance within the local municipality and that community issues shouldn't be fought on party political lines. They wrote a submission to Bayside Council in 2017 about support for the future of EPNR as a public park. Peter Holland is President and was a past committee member of EPA. No we are not a partner on their website, not active since 2020.

Friends of Native Wildlife as part of BEFN affiliation

Friends of Native Wildlife are Bayside (Melbourne, Australia) residents active in conserving local native fauna. They promote conservation of our wildlife through education and engagement, surveys, advising local authorities, and working to improve habitat.

The Climate Change Alliance of Botanic Gardens

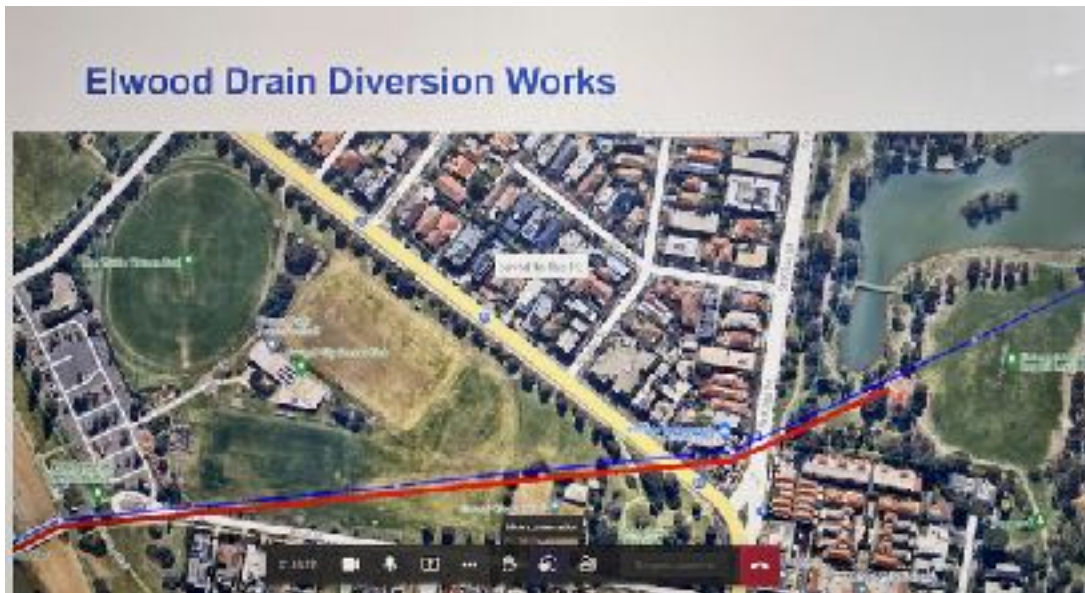
The world's botanic gardens are custodians of critically needed scientific and horticultural knowledge, and their landscapes a source of inspiration, learning and a place for positive social change.

The Climate Change Alliance of Botanic Gardens brings together botanic organisations and friends to take action to protect and enable adaptation of botanic landscapes in a changing climate. By working together, we can protect our treasured botanic landscapes. The time for working together is now.



Flood Mitigation

A key pillar of the masterplan for the reserve is flood mitigation. Two epa committee members Geoffrey Love and Gina Fiske have been actively working on committees to keep the community voice strong as Melbourne Water moves forward on its plans to build a [diversion drain](#). After an investigation of flood mitigation options around the reserve is now under costing scrutiny in the Victorian Parliament.



Although flooding can occur at any time, historical records show that high intensity and short duration rainfall events can cause flash flooding in and around Elwood, and prolonged rainfall can cause the Elwood Canal to flood. It generally affects small areas but damage can be severe. Elwood floods have often happened from November to February. To be prepared, know if you live in a flood area and be safe, go to Elwood Local Flood Guide map and information on this [link](#). Though flooding cannot be eliminated entirely, increasing the capacity of the existing drainage network aims to reduce the impacts of flooding for Elwood and surrounding suburbs.

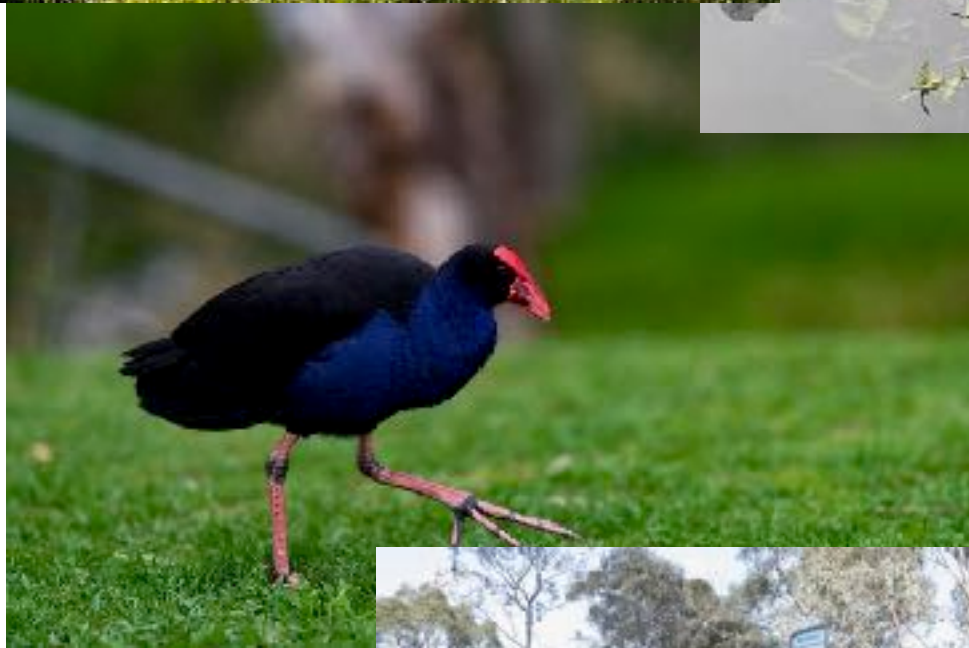




2022/2023 The year ahead:

The year ahead will be another huge year for the Elsternwick Park Association. We look forward to:

- The completion of the Yalukit Willam Meeting/knowledge place
- Participating in the creation of the wildflower meadow and ongoing development of the SPA and Plant Lab. Participating in the ecological framework for the Southern Wetlands.
- Participation on the Committee of Management to maintain community voice for nature and supporting in the ongoing efforts to keep the aims of the Masterplan on track
- Increase in our membership to support the growing range of activities
- More grants to support work such as fish (eel) surveys and development of educational materials and more.
- Publishing of the EPNR 1- month baseline fauna survey.
- Improved communications with members and the wider community
- Commencement of the Weed/Seed trial
- Community celebratory events
- Development of a schools program/ educational resources
- Change of our organisation's name to reflect the new name of the reserve.
- Plant Lab and SPA going from strength to strength
- Empowering community stewardship of the reserve
- Completion of shed fit out





This report is dedicated to Vincent Mumford.



EPA Treasurer's Report 2021/22

Cash at bank 30th June 2021 \$5,680

Income to 30th June 22

<u>Fixed Income</u>	
Membership income	\$ 1,658
Interest income	\$ 3
	<u>\$ 1,660</u>
<u>Variable Income</u>	
<u>Grant-Related</u>	
Grant income (BCC - Fly By Night)	\$ 4,411
<u>Non-Grant Related</u>	
Gofundme income	\$ 2,191
Private donations income	\$ 600
	<u>\$ 7,202</u>
Total Income	<u>\$ 8,862</u>

Expenses to 30th June 22

<u>Fixed Expenses</u>	
Insurance	
Property Contents (fire and theft)	\$ 450
External Contents	
Association	\$ 185
Public Liability	\$ 270
Voluntary Workers (70 volunteers)	\$ 210
Shed lease exclusive access 1 year	\$ 397
Electricity as per contract	\$ 284
Dues & Subscriptions	
Volaby \$31.9 per month	\$ 130
Eco Centre	\$ 88
Google W(\$10.13 monthly	\$ 10
Consumer Affairs Annual Payment	\$ 120
Bank & Merchant charges	\$ 133
	<u>\$ 2,277</u>
<u>Variable Expenses</u>	
Shed and Plant Lab Fitout	\$ 3,313
Noisy Minor Workshop	\$ 1,033
Food & Bev	\$ 213
	<u>\$ 4,558</u>
	<u>\$ 6,836</u>

Cash at bank 30/06/2022 \$7,706.58

