



**Yarra Ranges Environment Advisory Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020**  
**Online Zoom Meeting**  
**5.30pm – 7.00 pm**

<b>Meeting Open</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	Chairperson: Cr Johanna Skelton
<b>Members Present</b>		Graeme George (member), Laurence Gaffney (member), Lauren Dwyer (member), Melanie Birtchnell (member), Ron Sawyer (member), Julian Hill (member), Cr Johanna Skelton, Steve Hosking (Melbourne Water), David Harper (YRC), Jess Rae (YRC), Isabel Ebsworth (YRC), Jo Colley (YRC)
<b>Apologies</b>		Benjamin Viola (member), Jeff Barlow (member), Leah Wheatley (DELWP), Sarah Bond (YRC), Corinne Mays (Port Phillip and Westernport CMA), Amanda Smith (YRC), Joanne Antrobus (Parks Victoria), Cr Tim Heenan, Mark Varmalis (YRC), Michelle Masterson (member)
<b>Welcome</b>	<b>5.30</b>	<p><b>Welcome to Councillors and Isabel</b></p> <p><i>Meeting etiquettes:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Remain on mute and 'raise your hand' using the zoom functions if you want to speak. The Chair will invite you to speak in turn.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Raise questions, where possible, using the 'Chat function'</i></li> <li>3. <i>Try to limit distractions, either in the physical background or notifications from other applications.</i></li> </ol> <p><b>Acknowledgement of Country</b></p> <p><i>We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners, the Wurundjeri People as the Custodians of this land. We also pay respects to all Aboriginal Community Elders, past, present and emerging, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the history of this region.</i></p> <p>Confirmation of minutes of meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (published on YRC website)</p> <p><b>Moved:</b> Lauren Dwyer <b>Seconded:</b> Laurence Gaffney</p>
	<b>5.35</b>	<p><b>Declaration of Interest</b></p> <p>Any members with interest in matters to be discussed to declare.</p> <p>Nil</p>
	<b>5.35 – 5.40</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising/ Actions</b></p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Corinne to follow up on the Regional Catchment Strategy Renewal and explore what reviews have been undertaken and whether a review will be conducted.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Amanda to circulate Flora Directory link when available.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Include Warburton Mountain Bike Destination Project as</p>

		<p>standing agenda item.</p> <p>Action: Jess to circulate update for WMBD with minutes.</p> <p>ACTION: Jess to circulate Ribbons of Green statistics on species &amp; quantities and planting locations to understand the contribution to Biodiversity Ribbons of Green to be added as a presentation for the next meeting.</p>
Item 1	5.40– 6.05	<p><b>Tribute to Darcy Duggan</b></p> <p>David will open discussion for member reflections and tributes to Darcy</p> <p>Members gave heartfelt tributes to a man that was “frank and fearless”</p> <p>Note that 3MDR community Radio tribute to Darcy ran at the same time as the meeting.</p>
Item 2	6.05 – 6.30	<p><b>2020 Reflection – Project Updates</b></p> <p>Pre-reading provided with opportunity to ask questions.</p> <p>Council Plan - questioning why a consultant will be engaged to develop deliberative community engagement, rather than utilise the expertise within council. Local Government Act requires an independent view and sensitive timeframe will enable thorough feedback from community.</p> <p>Trees Strategy - concern over limited indigenous species and correlation to the proposed Biodiversity Plan and broader biodiversity objectives. Would like prescriptive information on indigenous plants as knowledge within planning and landscape designers are limited in horticultural knowledge to select species. Suggestion to implement planning zones where indigenous plants are strongly encouraged or required.</p> <p>Recommendation for vegetation to plant on private property that will be compatible with changing climate.</p> <p>David will take feedback to Trees Team, and highlighted that the Trees Strategy is designed to have flexibility, and takes a “right tree in the right place” approach to enable continuity with existing areas and finds the right tree for desired purposed within urban landscapes. Tree Strategy is relevant to urban scapes, not the whole municipality. Has become more of a planning tool for urban areas and not a biodiversity solutions document. This will be addressed in the Biodiversity Plan, these two documents will align to ensure effective strategic decision making in the future that can achieve wide reaching benefits, including for biodiversity.</p>

		<p>Warburton Mountain Bike Destination Project - disappointed this wasn't included and would like to see it included as a standing agenda item and receive more updates. Oversight that YREAC is not being included in the community consultation process. Strongly believes that attempts to get genuine community feedback are flawed and not well communicated. This project is inappropriate for YRC to be engaging in and potentially disastrous to sensitive habitat. YREAC as a committee does not feel heard or relevant and at worst a sounding board for potential problems to work around. David will take comments to working group.</p>
<b>Item 3</b>	<b>6.30 – 6.40</b>	<p><b>Committee Discussions</b></p> <p>Biodiversity Subcommittee Report Back - Friends of Hoddles Creek would like to be involved in surveys in this area. Will Sowersby has emailed group at the start of the project, will make contact again. Expected completion of project January/February, however will only scratch the surface. Due to the innovation and high value of this work for strategic planning in the future, YRC hopes to be the recipient of further funding.</p> <p>Comment- Is there a way to figure out what percentage of properties with significant biodiversity was assessed?</p> <p>Online Meeting review - meetings will be online until May, then a combination of in person and online was discussed.</p> <p>YREAC Vacancies - there are five vacancies- one Indigenous representative, two general community representatives and two youth representatives. YRC will advertise &amp; interview and appoint in March 2021.</p>
<b>Item 4</b>	<b>6.40 – 6.50</b>	<p><b>Sustainability and Environment Team Updates</b></p> <p>Team Updates, attached to the minutes.</p>
<b>Item 5</b>	<b>6.50 – 7.00</b>	<p><b>Agency Reports</b></p> <p>Melbourne Water only Agency represented.</p> <p>Follow-up for Steve; provide further information on smut fungus.</p>
<b>Next Meeting</b>		Feb/ early March
<b>Meeting Close</b>		7.53pm
<b>Deferred Topics</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planned Burns at Launching Place by Laurence Gaffney</li> <li>• Environmental Flow Program (Melbourne Water)</li> <li>• Coranderrk Restoration (PPWCMA)</li> </ul>