

Panton Hill Bushland Reserve System User Group - Advisory Committee



Agenda

Date:	Thursday 16 November 2023
Time:	7.00 – 9.00pm
Venue:	Panton Hill Living and Learning Centre
Chair:	Ben Ramcharan, (Bridget Russell)
Minute Taker:	Brad Tadday
Committee Members:	Janice Crosswhite, Bob West, Lee Hartman, Cathy Giles, Susy Penrose.
Other:	Brad Tadday, Bridget Russell
Apologies:	Lydia Heap, Mark Hood,

Order of business

1. Welcome and introductions

Observers are reminded their role is to observe only, unless called upon by the Chairperson to participate. Introductions around the table were conducted particularly for Bridget.

2. Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as the Traditional Owners of the Country on which Nillumbik is located, we pay our respects to Elders past, present and future, and extend that respect to all First Nations People. We respect the enduring strength of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded.

3. **Apologies:** Lydia Heap, Mark Hood, (Ben Ramcharan arrived at 7:15 so Bridget begun as chair)

4. Conflict of Interest and Informal Meeting of Councillors Record

Conflict of interest provisions are contained in sections 126-131 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Councillor Code of Conduct, the Employee Code of Conduct and the Advisory Committee Members Code of Conduct.

An Informal Meeting of Councillors Record must be completed at the meeting in accordance with Item 19 of Council's Governance Rule - Meeting Procedure.

No conflict of interest declared.

5. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held 15 June 2023 were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting via e-mail immediately after - moved by Janice on 23/06/2023

and Seconded by Bob on 19/07/2023 with minor amendments. Minutes re-affirmed at this meeting. Moved Bob, Seconded Janice Carried.

6. Outstanding Action Items

Action: Brad/Leigh to coordinate an expression of interest (EOI) for a working group to implement signage – **Complete**

7. Works update and planned works - Brad

- a. Threatened fauna monitoring and management – Southern Toadlet – pools with calling adults fenced to keep deer off, planting for habitat enhancement, survey and report for management recommendations,

Slender-tailed Dunnart - fence moved back from the shared trail and painted black. Planting of grasses and small shrubs for habitat enhancement.

Brush-tailed Phascogale Nest box monitoring results will be linked to bushland reserves fauna monitoring program with volunteers and shared with the community through E-news updates.

- b. Capital Works program – Bulwidj rubbish removal TBC as has been still too wet to access; only \$20k for next year.

- c. Planting projects planning – ideas??? Issues with planting because of grazing from deer especially. Deer control funding for sugarloaf but not for PHBRS. Issues with shooting deer on public land but easier on private land due to shooting permission and carcass retrieval. Also easy to shoot kangaroos on private property which can be problematic. Ben advocating to stop kangaroo culling but needs to form a Council position. Victorian Govt have not declared deer as a pest animal so harder to get funding for control. Issue of deer in PHBRS is funding and safety. Issues with rabbits and foxes also throughout the PHBRS.

8. Panton Hill Bushland Reserves System Management Plan progression – Brad

Other items: Rivers to Ranges funding enabling Long Gully Rd Reserve enhancement to expand the managed habitat corridor of the PHBRS – this will not affect the trail status of the Green Wedge Regional Shared Trail through this reserve, it will however allow more maintenance of the site including blackberries and trees fallen over trail. Clintons Rd Reserve and the Green Wedge Regional Shared Trail corridor to Motshcalls Rd will also receive Rivers to Ranges funding similarly expanding managed habitat corridor of the PHBRS –there will be no change to the trail status.

9. Interpretation Design Plan implementation Working Group Update – Brad, Susy, Lydia, Janice

Sent EOI to PHBRS UG Advisory Committee members and received 3 responses. Met 14 Sept & 13 Oct. Due to meet again 24 Nov.

Meeting with Mathew from Events and Place for project support as Mathew's team have experience with interpretive artwork in placemaking.

First meeting all agreed that the next project to implement would be the signage for the Bunjil Food, Fibre and Medicine Garden and determined the scope of works.

Second meeting discussed the wording that had already been developed for 25 plants including the content for sign explaining the overall site. Photos would be best along with information. Content needs to be checked for consistency. Discussed accessibility including best height for sign. Will integrate into an educational curriculum and interactive game. Compared/contrast our project to Cradle Mountain (Tasmania) where they have very little signage through the main walk. Most interpretation is at visitor centre. We do not have a visitor centre and the scale of our trail system is much smaller.

Need to look at some mock-up signs which can be circulated out of session. Mathew had a lot of information about interps/ place making. More interesting signs different heights. Use 'English Name' instead of 'Common Name'. Include Wurundjeri season. E.g. 'WoiWurung | English | Botanical'. If Wurundjeri name unknown leave it out. Discussed seasons on main sign and link to the seating circle. Link to website. Signs need to be durable – likely to be similar to other reserve signs i.e. sticker on steel, but Matthew exploring other options e.g. plaque. Will invite Communications to next meeting.

Main sign to describe seasons 'wheel'. More visuals the better. Describe circuit trail. Plants grown in this area ... As you walk through and explore the garden ...25 useful plants highlighted...use symbols for food, fibre/material and medicine. Include 1 medium sized sign for Murnong garden to explain cultivation.

Sign should be similar to current suite of signs in PHBRS. There is an interpretive sign at Yirrip Reserve as an example for a sign in same style as other PHBRS. Also Eltham North Adventure Playground and reserve signs are a good example.

Second stage of project may include a listening post and a brochure/booklet. Printed brochures not necessarily good as produce a lot of waste. Message from older aging group was written material is preferred. Could have brochure/guide/booklet that can be downloaded from the website. QR can get you to the site easier but codes go out of date and need to update website regularly. Council Communications not supporting QR codes for long term-projects. Discussed issues with QR codes, Ben thinks they can be overcome from his IT experience. Generally we need to be better at updating website as much material out of date as confirmed by feedback. Listening post could be Kinetic Energy Audio - 8 button with USB \$5-6k. Lee experienced one on Whitsundays, you need to have a space such as the seating

circles in the reserve. Also one in Warrandyte near the gallery – Manningham has some.

For next meeting: - develop words for a) main sign, b) medium sign, c) 25 small plant signs. Look into Wurundjeri names of plants.

ACTION: Get mock-up of proposed signs and circulate before next meeting.

10. Community Engagement – Brad, All

- a) Friends of Bunjil Reserve – Wurundjeri Food Fibre and Medicine Garden. Monthly (first Friday) events and have been working with Panton Hill Primary School with weeding and plant maintenance activities
- b) Panton Hill Primary School / Paradoxa Artist Collective – Primary School planting at entrance to Bunjil (Aug)

Workshop activity organised by Paradoxa with PH PS 2/3s and their grandparents to create wildflower themed headdresses that had been designed for a performance for their “Under the Canopy” project which will be performed sometime before Christmas.

As above PH PS Grade 6s helped to plant habitat for the Southern Toadlet, big help carrying materials and getting the plants in the ground.

- c) PH Living and Learning Centre - One volunteer walking group leader has been leading walks Wednesday and Saturday every second week however a lot of the participants are away on holidays a lot so numbers not that high at the moment.
- d) Nillumbio – Have been facilitating some community events in the reserves. Doing a great job of engaging community in caring for the environment. They did a partnership event with Friends of Moor-rul Grasslands and got a lot of people along.
- e) Council Biodiversity Events – Bushfoods walk and Talk in Bunjil Food Fibre and Medicine Garden; Nature Treasure Hunt end October; EVC Walk Wimbi 24 Nov 5:30
- f) Other – Sunrise Equinox Walk 23 Sept

11. Other Business

Melbourne Water land sales update – Council presented planning issues to planning minister, up to 80 blocks may be sold, many more people, this would put large pressure on the local area in terms of people and infrastructure – Council can’t afford to purchase land. Parks Victoria area will expand. Melbourne Water are gifting some land to Council around Rob Roy and Christmas Hill Hall. Mountain bike riders advocating to use some for Mountain Bike Tracks. Concern was raised of inviting many more riders who may also put pressure on Panton Hill trails.

Kunzea – Janice – King Island are harvesting Kunzea to use like tee tree oil. Interesting to know what Wurundjeri uses were.

12. Next meeting date and location

Thursday 15 February 2024, Panton Hill Living and Learning Centre

13. Attachments

- Minutes – PHBRS User Group Advisory Committee – June 2023

14. Confirmation of Minutes:

These minutes were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting via e-mail after the meeting - Moved by Lee Hartman on 30/11/2023 and Seconded by Cathy Giles on 30/11/2023 with minor amendments. CONFIRMED

	<p>Discussion: Update provided that the new draft Victorian Kangaroo Harvest Plan has been released and is currently open for public comment (due by 4 December). It proposes that Nillumbik be removed from the program in 2025.</p> <p>https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/wildlife-trade/comment/vic-kangaroo-harvest-management-plan-2024-28</p>	
6	<p>Urban tree canopy strategy development (45 min)</p> <p>Presentation on proposed strategy scope and urban canopy data available to date. It will cover public and private land within the Urban Growth Boundary.</p> <p>Strategy to be developed over the coming months. Public consultation scheduled to occur in March/April 2024.</p> <p>Discussion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pros and cons of various canopy aerial data sets. - Urban canopy vs urban forest. - Minimal urban heat island hot spots currently identified in Nillumbik - The relationship between this strategy and Council's draft biodiversity strategy and neighbourhood character strategy. - Indigenous vs any canopy. - Investigations required to assess opportunities and identify priorities to provide additional shade in activity centres, local footpaths/roads, and in parks/open spaces/reserves. Potential for future consideration of industrial areas also. - Progress to enhance canopy provision and retention on private land is advanced and includes new strategic planning tools and local law. <p>Action: Officers to meet with representative of Maroondah Council to learn about the Tree Ledger canopy data product.</p> <p>Action – Meeting to discuss draft Canopy Strategy to be scheduled in February. Likely to be an out-of-session meeting.</p>	Warren & Leigh
7	<p>Other business (20 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update provided on new biodiversity and climate officer staffing. - Biodiversity Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage 2 consultation scheduled to occur from 1st Feb – 3rd March 2024 – this will include two online workshops, several drop in sessions, a 'Participate Nillumbik' page, and opportunity for feedback form or general submission to be made. • A summary of community and stakeholder feedback provided during stage 1 consultation in mid-2023 is available on 'the Participate Nillumbik' site: Biodiversity Strategy - Sustainable business podcast series is currently being developed - Waste update provided <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Container deposit scheme launched 1 November. (www.vicreturn.com.au) Visy seeking to expand collection locations in Nillumbik. Charities and community groups have the opportunity to become donation partners – www.cdsvic.org.au/fundraising • Kitchen caddy program launched in August. More than 3,500 caddies collected to date. • Nappy Project update 	Chair

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycling campaign being planned for the new year, focused on reducing contamination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominations now open for the 2024 Nillumbik <i>Young Women Climate Action Leader Award</i> (12-25yrs) (close 15 December). Information available at: Young Women Leaders of Nillumbik Awards - Nillumbik Shire Council Illegal vegetation clearing – Discussion on how best to report concerns. Witnessed incidents should be reported asap directly to Council’s general phone line which is now staffed 24/7. It is also possible to report via Snap, Send, Solve or via email to nillumbik@nillumbik.vic.gov.au – but via phone is most immediately effective. 	
8	End of year thanks	Chair
9	Next meeting - Wednesday 22 February at 7pm	

Table of Open Actions

Meeting date	Action	Owner/s	Status	Comment
22 November 2023	Officers to meet with representative of Maroondah Council to learn about the Tree Ledger canopy data product.	Officers	Open	
22 November 2023	Meeting to discuss draft Canopy Strategy with ESAC to be scheduled in February.	Officers	Open	Likely to be an out-of-session meeting in early February.
28 June 2023	Agenda item to be scheduled to discuss progress to date in working towards achieving the goals and targets of the CAP, the types of actions that are being implemented and ESAC feedback ahead of year 3 planning.	Officers	Open	Future agenda item in early-mid 2024
19 April 2023	Share a copy of the new Climate Action 101 compulsory staff training module with ESAC	Officers	Open	Is embedded into a Council IT platform. Will be shown at an ESAC meeting when there is time available on agenda. <i>Consider incorporating into induction of new committee at June 2024 meeting</i>