



Birrarung at Collingwood Children's Farm Image credit: Kym Saunders

Welcome to the Birrarung newsletter, your source of updates on Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo (BBBU) – the Yarra Strategic Plan – the plan to realise the communities' vision of a healthy and diverse Birrarung (Yarra river).

Waring (Wombat) season in the Kulin calendar is the longest of all the seasons, running from April until July. It is marked by cooler temperatures, increased rain, and shorter days. Fungi and wombats can be seen, as well as one of Australia's largest moths – the rain moth.



Photo credit: Arther Chapman Creative Commons

Birrarung Riverfest 2025



We are excited to share that this year both the Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo collaboration and Melbourne Water (as RPE) will be 'major' co-sponsors of the Birrarung Riverfest 2025. Organised by the Yarra Riverkeeper Association (YRKA), this fabulous celebration of Birrarung will run from 6 September (World Rivers Day) to 28 September, with events stretching from Yarra Ranges to Westgate Park.

Join for cleanup paddles, guided cultural walks, nocturnal spotlighting, climate action music gigs, creative expression through art/yoga/singing, tree planting, or to simply connect with Birrarung. There's sure to be something for everyone! Keep your eye on the Yarra Riverkeeper Association website to find out more <https://yarrariver.org.au/>

Birrarung planning takes centre stage

More than 180 people registered for an online information session on the Birrarung planning scheme amendment (VC281) hosted by the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) on 6 May. The session focused on what the changes mean for land use planners and project proponents, with the Birrarung Council, Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action (DEECA), and Melbourne Water all presenting at the session. A recording of the session is [available online](#). Work to develop further guidance material for planners will shortly commence under the leadership of DTP.

GREENING THE BIRRARUNG PROJECT

On 22 May, the Greening the Birrarung Project working group gathered at Collingwood Children's Farm for its second in-person workshop. The setting provided an opportunity to hear about great collaborative work between the Farm, Wurundjeri Narrap rangers and Melbourne Water, and to experience the new "pause space" created to allow visitors to spend quiet time with the river. The working group's focus for the day was exploring biodiversity maps of the Birrarung to identify opportunities for collaboration to enhance riparian habitat. The group identified an extensive list of projects to align collective work for the benefit of Birrarung.

Greening the Birrarung (GtB) is one of the transformative projects under the Plan. The GtB Project brings together government organisations responsible for caring for Birrarung to work to increase habitat connectivity and resilience, ensure Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung cultural values and knowledge guide restoration efforts, and identify opportunities for whole-of-river net gain.



MEET THE PEOPLE INVOLVED



Photo credit: Kym Saunders

With a background in natural resources and biodiversity, Kym's passion lies in sustainable land management and habitat restoration. She's worked across partnership projects with private landholders to protect their remnant

vegetation and encourage native planting on their land, weed control, and community education and capacity building programs supporting biodiversity.

While leading the Greening the Birrarung project, Kym has been most amazed at the incredible job everyone is doing of improving local habitat. *"There is such a lot of great work being done along the Birrarung. The challenging part is making others aware of it."*

Kym knows the river doesn't care what uniform you wear, it cares about how you can get the best outcome. *"I love seeing our working group drop the logos and the silos and stretch a little further to get the best outcome for Birrarung. There are many collaborative projects going on right now between organisations, environmental volunteers and public. This is as heartening as it is normal."*

Kym hopes the collaboration can achieve more shared projects with more partners involved. *"The better the relationships between the people who care for Birrarung, the easier it is to get bushland restored, banks stabilised, nest boxes installed and plants in the ground."*

PROJECT FOCUS: YERING BILLABONGS WILL FLOW AGAIN!

New flood gates and regulators will restore 60 hectares of natural floodplain where the Birrarung/ Yarra meets Olinda Creek. With the Yering Billabongs project infrastructure works complete, the transformation is already underway. Five local primary schools have planted 3000 native plants, while large-scale revegetation continues along Olinda Creek. The project will manage stormwater naturally while creating habitat for wildlife and new recreation opportunities. With Green Links funding secured, Narrap will continue restoration work for the next two years, bringing this critical floodplain back to life for generations to enjoy.

Three short videos on the project – Introduction, Planting the Seed School Plantings and Cultural Values Assessment are available on Yarra Ranges Council's [website](#).



Images of the new flood gates and planting site at Yering Flats Photo credit: Rob Molloy and Elli MacDonald

Events: Bird Watching experience with City of Yarra - 8:30 to 10:30am Sat July 5, Dights Falls Reserve, Trenerry Crescent, Abbotsford