

Baluk Willam Planning Workshop Outcomes November 2010.

Tasks for the Workshop

- 1 Identify Priority values for focus.
- 2 Identify major threats to values
- 3 Develop conservation objectives & management priorities.

Values and threats

Values	Threats	Threat rating
<p>Southern Brown Bandicoot Swamp Rat , Bush Rat, Antechinus Spp All EVC's in excellent condition. Orchid Species – 70 recorded <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 threatened (flora data base) - Helmet Orchid. <i>Caladenia oenochila</i> (Wine-lip Spider Orchid) - Vulnerable <i>Corybas aconitiflorus</i> (Spurred Helmet Orchid) - Rare <i>Pterostylis grandiflora</i> (Cobra Greenhood) - Rare <i>Pterostylis tasmanica</i> (Southern Plume Orchid) - Insufficient distribution data known, but should probably be listed. - Most variety of ground orchids within a small reserve anywhere in Australia. Other rare plants – As identified in Graeme Lorimer's Vegetation mapping report. Mick V to contact Ben Crocket to get the list from the flora data base High fungi numbers Wallaby, Kangaroo, Wombats, Echidna, snakes , lizards</p>	<p>Foxes and cats – prey on Bandicoot, Bush Rat, Swamp Rat, Antechinus</p>	<p>High</p>
	<p>Rabbits – South East corner only.</p>	<p>Seen as low at present. Little evidence of grazing impact to</p>

		orchids
	<p>People access Major threat- students(trampling) – constant Trampling by orchid lovers – constant Trail bikes - spasmodic Horses – constant on eastern side Kids with axes – spasmodic Dogs – seen as a small impact Fire – lack of fire</p>	High High Low Medium(weed spread) Low Low High
	<p>Loss of wildlife disturbance -Mycorrhizal spread - Insect pollination - Ant activity</p>	Low Very little can be influenced.
	<p>Phytophthora Increased rainfall may encourage spread of Spores.</p>	Low at present
	<p>Bell Miner/noisy miner- small issue/moved on</p>	Low at present
	<p>Weeds. Cats ears, Brown Top Bent, Panic Veldt Grass, Briza Grass, Sweet Vernal Grass Blue Periwinkle, Blackberry, Cocksfoot, Forget me nots, Montbretia, Pampass Grass, Sweet Pittosporum, Boneseed, Wandering Trad, Angled Onion, Freesia, , English Ivy</p>	High threat(identified via weed survey) Lower threat
	<p>Foxes & cats to Lizards and snakes.</p>	High for reptiles

Conservation Objectives derived from workshop process. – broken up into priority zones and the reserve in general

Priority zones are:

1. Courtney's Road South
2. Courtney's Road North
3. Grid cell C11- critical (Adjacent to Courtney's Rd with many orchids)
4. Creek line
5. Nth East Corner – Heather Grove

Conservation objectives for priority zones.

- 1 Protect core populations of Orchids
- 2 Extend orchid populations within and beyond priority areas.

Conservation objectives for the reserve in general.

- 1 Maintain the indigenous diversity of flora and fauna
- 2 Minimise human impacts(trampling)
- 3 Educate the community about ecological processes.
- 4 Encourage the shire of Yarra ranges to continue to effectively manage the roadside reserve.

Conservation objective – Priority zones

- Protect core populations of orchids
- Extend orchid populations within and beyond priority areas.

Management approach	Responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with Shire of Yarra Rangers regarding yearly roadside works program. • Record and map orchid species in hot spots – making sure that records are entered into the DSE data base • Develop weed control program and allocate tasks to Park, Shire and Friends.(Feb for budget development and grant application) • Deal with drainage issues Directing water appropriately Gravel traps. • Contact MW to see if they can help with adjoining property Mgt(e.g. stream frontage) 	<p>Parks Vic – Bernie Van lith</p> <p>Friends of BW</p> <p>Parks Victoria. Friends and the Shire through discussions.</p> <p>Shire</p> <p>Shire Parks Vic – Bernie Van Lith</p>

Conservation objective – Reserve in general

- Maintain the indigenous diversity of the flora and fauna.

Management approach	Responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw and line in the sand sites Maintain high quality areas as a priority. Sites to be highlighted 	PV & Friends
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with ecological burn program. 	PV through Fire Operations plan + involve Friends for orchid expertise
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with Graeme Lorimer’s monitoring program and assess recommendations re Mgt. 	PV + Friends grant application
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with Fox program. 	PV – Bernie Van Lith
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor rabbits and respond with control as necessary. 	PV- Bernie VL & Friends observation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage visitor access/impacts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Deter entry to areas ○ Install and maintain signage(eg KEEP TO TRACK, WARNING VENOMOUS SNAKES, 1080 BAIT SIGNS + INTERPS SIGNS RE IMPACTS) ○ Don’t highlight orchid sites ○ Protocols for access ○ Newsletter 	PV Bernie VL– signage Friends – grant application ANOS - newsletter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with fungus hygiene program 	PV
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with adjoining landowners 	PV/Friends/Shire
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with shire of Yarra Ranges and Melbourne Water 	PV

Conservation Objective – Reserve in general

- **Minimise on-site human impacts – People trampling, Horses, Motor Bikes, Wood removal/felling trees, Rubbish + weed dumping, Trampling through research.**

Management approach	Responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage visitor access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fences don't work! ○ Signage – regulatory & educational ○ Don't highlight orchids ○ Protocols for access ○ Communications – newsletter. ○ Press releases 	PV – Bernie VL Friends – grant application Friends – newsletter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No horse & no motorbike signs. 	PV & Shire – Bernie VL & Gavin Friends - grant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs – not a big problem – signs 	PV – Bernie VL Friends – grant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood – no wood removal signs 	PV & shire – Bernie VL & Gavin Friends – grant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rubbish – No rubbish/weed dumping signs & interps sign re impacts to reserve 	Shire
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Protocols for access ○ Permit conditions ○ Signage – research requirements 	PV – Mick Van de Vreede

Conservation Objective – Reserve in general

- Educate the community about ecological processes
- Getting the community to understand the reserves' values

Management approach	Responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and install interpretation signs. 	PV and Friends to design Friends grant application.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press release (joint shire/PV & friends) – annual 	PV – Bernie VL & Shire – Gavin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain Friends Website 	Friends populate PV – Links Shire – Links
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductory Flyer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Website ○ Printout for outlets(shire and PV) 	Friends
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Forums - every 2-3 years. 	PV & Friends
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff/ Friends ad hoc promotion 	PV & Friends

Conservation Objective – Reserve in general

- Encourage the shire of Yarra ranges to continue to effectively manage the roadside reserve

Management approach	Responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent meetings on site with shire of Yarra Ranges. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quarterly in general ○ Special meeting in February to develop annual program and discuss budgets and grant applications 	PV – Bernie VL Shire YR – Gavin Friends representatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a yearly priority works schedule identifying responsibilities. <u>Meet Feb, finalise March ready for next financial year budget development and grant application.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PV works ○ Shire works ○ Friends grant application and working bees. 	PV – Bernie VL Shire – Gavin Friends representatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage Shire to work with private property owners in removing weeds 	PV – Bernie VL & Friends