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# Bandicoots Flight Path Moonee Ponds Creek

Project Plan

May 2023



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# 1. Project Description

The Bandicoots Flight Path project is an innovative project combining art and ecology with strong community engagement that promotes indigenous culture, healthy waterways and caring for country.

The project involves revegetating degraded grassland at Woodlands Historic Park with local indigenous plants in the shape of giant bandicoots (25m x15m) running across the land. The design will be seen from the air by passengers flying to and from Tullamarine Airport and is being created with the involvement of schools, community groups, local Melbourne Airport and Parks Victoria staff in conjunction with (we're hopeful) Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung's Narrap Rangers. Importantly, the project also involves ongoing programs to foster stewardship of the land over time.

If successful with Wurundjeri engagement, the project will contribute to achieving a key strategic objective of the Chain of Ponds Collaboration, **Recognition of indigenous cultural values and involvement of Traditional Owners** along the creek.

*Bandicoots crossing the Western Plain will be seen from the air by passengers arriving at and departing from Melbourne Airport. Revegetated indigenous wildflowers, planted in the shape of Bunjil and giant Bandicoots will be created by schools, community groups, local Melbourne Airport and Parks Victoria staff with the support of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung's Narrap Rangers and ongoing programs to foster stewardship of the land over time.*

*These grassland icons, inspired by 'Marsupial Masterpieces' at Iramoo Wildflower Grassland Reserve, will be constructed in collaboration with Rick van Keulen, mastermind of unique revegetation projects. The site at Woodlands Historic Park, is home of the Parks Victoria Bandicoot Breeding Program and part of nearby works to upgrade the Moonee Ponds Creek 'Bandicoots to Bay' shared trail, including the Murrup Gurrong Yan (Spiritual Creek Walk).*

# 2. Project purpose and outcomes

The Bandicoot Flight Path will include 4 large pieces of living art that help tell the story of the precious flora and fauna of Melbourne. The project includes a Community Engagement Coordinator to create stewardship of the project among Melbourne students and residents, ensuring they're involved in each step of the project, raising awareness of the need to care for country. In this case, endangered grasslands and eastern barred bandicoot.

Through collaboration with its partners and the community, this project will:

- Install and maintain 4 vegetated bandicoots, 3 on Parks Victoria land and 1 on Melbourne Airport land to showcase the importance of native flora and fauna (endangered grassland and endangered eastern-barred bandicoot)
- *Install and maintain 1 vegetated Bunjil, along with the Bandicoots, to connect the project to the Traditional Owners of the land and the story of the creator spirit. TO further remind and connect people of the need to care for country (with the permission of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation)*
- Deliver an engaging program of events and educational experiences for local students and community members, including subject matter experts and artists
- *Highlight sustainable land management practices through embedding Traditional Owner involvement and knowledge in managing the site, including selection and management of indigenous species, good catchment and land management practices, and messages of*

*caring for country (with the permission of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation)*

- Revitalise a degraded rare grassland habitat in Woodlands Historic Park (this project can serve as an important model for restoring vanishing grasslands and be scaled up for use in large areas anywhere in need of restoration and revegetation)
- Complement the Eastern Barred Bandicoot breeding program at Woodlands Historic Park, providing favourable habitat on the property for bandicoots and demonstrating to visitors the link between maintenance of habitat and successful breeding of bandicoots; This area is outside of the Predator Proof fence accommodating Bandicoots but will demonstrate healthy habitat and plant species learning opportunity
- Encourage a stronger sense of connection and responsibility to care for the land and creek, and nurture ongoing stewardship making littering and damage less likely
- Develop a seedbank of endangered local indigenous plants
- Encourage and increase visitation to Woodlands Historic Park and the Moonee Ponds Creek.

### 3. Project Partners

#### Key stakeholders

Organisation	Role/Responsibility
Hume City Council	Auspice Organisation, Local Council, project partner
Parks Victoria	Land manager (Woodlands Historic Park), key project partner
Melbourne Airport	Land manager, project partner
Living Colour Studio Art & Architecture	Project initiator and artist
Chain of Ponds Collaboration (Greater Western Water)	Potential Auspice Organisation, Project initiator & lead support
Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation	Project partner

#### Other stakeholders

Stakeholder	Interest/role
Conservation Volunteers Australia	Project partner
Greater Western Water	Project partner / host of Chain of Ponds Collaboration
Melbourne Water	Project partner and Moonee Ponds Creek 'asset owner'

Stakeholder	Interest/role
Local Schools (Greenvale Secondary College, Penleigh and Essendon Grammar)	Involved in the site preparation and planting; opportunity for curriculum on project aspects, endangered flora (grasslands) and fauna (eastern barred bandicoot), eco-art and caring for country
Friends of Woodlands Historic Park	Interest in management of the park
Local residents near the project area	Improvements/changes to their local area
Interested community members	Community members who walk, cycle or exercise along the creek Community members who use the creek for recreation or relaxation
Bicycle Network Victoria Moreland BUG Moonee Valley BUG	Users of the bike path and shared trail that runs alongside the project area

## 4. Project Key Personnel

This project will be led by Hume City Council / GWW / Parks Victoria (and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation) and supported by key project partners.

Key Personnel:

Rachel Lopes, Chain of Ponds Collaboration Lead  
[Rachel.lopes@gww.com.au](mailto:Rachel.lopes@gww.com.au)

Liz Turner, Coordinator, Sustainability Engagement  
[ElizabethT@hume.vic.gov.au](mailto:ElizabethT@hume.vic.gov.au)

Kate Churven, Area Chief Ranger, Keilor Plains, Parks Victoria  
[kate.churven@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:kate.churven@parks.vic.gov.au)

David Woods, Landside Environment Asset Manager, Melbourne Airport  
[david.woods@melair.com.au](mailto:david.woods@melair.com.au)

Catherine van Wilgenburg, artist and project initiator  
[info@livingcolourstudio.com.au](mailto:info@livingcolourstudio.com.au)

Steven Cantwell, Ranger Team Leader, Parks Victoria  
[steven.cantwell@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:steven.cantwell@parks.vic.gov.au)

Tim Liddell, Ranger-Keilor Plains North, Parks Victoria  
[timothy.liddell@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:timothy.liddell@parks.vic.gov.au)

Other Personnel:

Jeffrey Gray, Wurundjeri Liaison, Chain of Ponds Collaboration  
[Jeffrey.gray@gww.com.au](mailto:Jeffrey.gray@gww.com.au)

Travis Scicchitano, Wild Futures, Conservation Volunteers Victoria  
[tscicchitano@cva.org.au](mailto:tscicchitano@cva.org.au),

Ryan Van Den Hove, Waterway and Catchment Services, Melbourne Water  
[Ryan.VanDenHove@melbournewater.com.au](mailto:Ryan.VanDenHove@melbournewater.com.au)

Rick van Keulen, 'Maruspial Masterpiece' creator and advisor

## 5. Project Governance

In order to ensure the project is managed in a manner that minimises risk for all partners and also provides them with adequate input, the following *Project Governance Framework* has been put in place.



### ***Project Steering Committee/Auspice Organisation (Parks Victoria/Hume CC/Greater Western Water)***

The project steering committee will be responsible for ensuring the project outcomes, project budget, time and quality criteria are achieved. The key functions of the project steering committee are to:

- monitor the overall delivery of the project against project outcomes;
- monitor the expenditure and project budget;
- monitor the program; and
- monitor the quality of the works.

The project steering committee comprises:

- Parks Victoria
- Hume City Council
- Melbourne Airport
- Living Colour Studios
- Melbourne Airport
- Chain of Ponds Collaboration

### ***Project Manager (Parks Victoria/Hume CC/Chain of Ponds)***

The project coordination and delivery will be via a new approx. Grade 4 (Parks Vic equiv) role / 3 days per week, or equivalent). This will ensure it meets project outcomes, budget, and quality of works.

## 6. Marketing and Communication Strategies

Marketing, communication and engagement tools	Description/purpose/driver
Web pages	<p>Information and updates about this project will be included on both on the Parks Victoria, Melbourne Airport, Chain of Ponds and Melbourne Water webpages.</p> <p><a href="https://chainofponds.org/projects/bandicoots-on-the-flight-path/">https://chainofponds.org/projects/bandicoots-on-the-flight-path/</a></p> <p>Webpages will allow people to find out information on the project, including general project information and updates.</p>
Schools program	<p>Educational resources have been developed in conjunction with Catherine van Wilgenburg of Living Colour Studio Art &amp; Architecture and EcoArt Systems for use in school curricula and by community participants and tertiary education providers.</p> <p>The Community Engagement Coordinator will work with Catherine van Wilgenburg to share these and other resources as part of the education program.</p> <p>Local school children have been engaged in the initial site preparation of laying tin and matting to suppress weeds before planting. In the next phase the children will also be involved in planting.</p>
Social media channels – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube	<p>Social media channels provide a method to provide 'real time' updates on the project and are best used with imagery and videos. Social media opportunities be used to announce the project and to launch the project once the bandicoots are complete.</p> <p>Sponsorship (paid advertising) can be undertaken for targeted communications if required.</p> <p>Social media posts will be shared and supported by all project partners</p>
Videos	<p>Videos (particularly drone footage) and photography of the project works as they progress will provide engaging and educational materials to tell a story of the works.</p> <p>Videos will be distributed via social media channels (eg. Facebook), YouTube and the project web page.</p> <p>A Bandicoot Flight Path video showing progress to date is available on the CoP website:  <a href="https://chainofponds.org/projects/bandicoots-on-the-flight-path/">https://chainofponds.org/projects/bandicoots-on-the-flight-path/</a>  and on facebook:  <a href="https://fb.watch/iSETxWefmO/">https://fb.watch/iSETxWefmO/</a>  and has been distributed to stakeholders.</p>



Marketing, communication and engagement tools	Description/purpose/driver
Media relations – media opportunities	Media opportunities are identified at key points of progress and notified to the media by the Project manager and project partners.
Council and community newsletters	Articles about the project will be shared by Parks Victoria, Melbourne Airport and other partner channels. They can also be included in community newsletters, school newsletters and the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek regular newsletter <i>Ponderings</i> .

## 7. Cost Estimate

Costs are based on a 5 year project delivery timeframe.

Expenditure details	Funding source	\$
Site preparation per bandicoot	Per Bandicoot 1 off cost	\$2400
Materials for site preparation – jute matting, pegs, fencing	Per bandicoot 1 off cost	\$7,392
Tubestock	Per Bandicoot 1 off cost	\$9,600
Pathway	Per Bandicoot 1 off cost	\$4,270
Ongoing maintenance- weed control	Per Bandicoot per annum (ideally 3 years follow up)	\$7,200
Ongoing maintenance- watering	Per annum- ideally for 2 Summers- price will come down with multiple bandicoots	\$17,160
Wurundjeri consultation/ induction/ education fees	\$12,500 per year	\$62,500
Project Manager / Community Engagement (3 days per week x 5 years)	\$52,014 salary, \$17,523 oncosts per year	\$347, 685
Community events	\$3000 per larger event x 2 per year	\$15,000

Communications including drone footage, videos, education materials	Video per year, drone footage x 3 years, materials	\$32,000
Artist, Catherine van Wilgenburg, involvement with the education program and school events,		\$20,000
Contingency-(10% on Bandicoot costs only)		\$19,209
<b>Expenditure Total</b>		<b>\$688,482</b>

## 8. Project Funding

<b>Income</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Staff hours in kind project delivery support, Parks Victoria, Melbourne Airport, Greater Western Water/Chain of Ponds Collaboration	50,000
<b>Total Matched funding</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>

## 9. Budget

Bandicoot on-ground delivery	\$211,297
Labour Costs – 1 FTE*0.6 – Grade 4	\$347,685
Wurundjeri Involvement (Narrap or Education Team)	\$62,500
Education / Communications	\$67,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$688,482</b>

## 10. Approvals/Quality Standards

All permit approval requirements including grant applications will go through the relevant departments at Parks Victoria.

# 11. Project Timelines

## Project Manager:

<b>Name:</b>	TBA (new Grade 4 Project Officer), GWW/Hume  Rachel Lopes is current contact	<b>Address:</b>	Level 10, 535 Bourke Street Melbourne Victoria 3000
<b>Position:</b>	Project Manager	<b>Phone Number:</b>	0457 703 278
<b>Organisation:</b>	Chain of Ponds /Greater Western Water	<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:Rachel.lopes@gww.com.au">Rachel.lopes@gww.com.au</a>

The project has a planned life of 5 years, with 2 bandicoots planted at a time and the materials re-used for the next planting. There will be 4 bandicoots in total. The plantings will be followed by path and signage construction and ongoing site management programs.

The major milestones are:

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Expected Date</b>
Design approved, site prepared, matting sourced. Completed (for Bandicoot 1)	November 2022
Educational materials produced, student volunteers recruited, matting laid for Stage 1: first 2 bandicoots. Completed.	February 2023
Community Engagement Officer Starts	July 2023
Plants chosen and nursery advised	Sept 2023
Matting removed, Stage 1 planting day (Bandicoot 1 and 2)	Spring 2024
Stage 2-Project Officer- community engagement commences	Spring 2024
Stage 2 - Matting installed to sites for next 2 bandicoots (Bandicoots 3 and 4)	Spring 2024
Stage 2 Planting day	Spring 2025
Stage 2 Plants ordered for Stage 3 Bandicoots (3 and 4)	Sept 2025
Stage 3 Planting day	Spring 2026
Ongoing site management until plants are well established	To Summer 2028

## 12. Project Risk Identification and Mitigation

No.	What are the risks to your projects? (see Explanation below)	Details of risks and consequences (free text)	Likelihood	Consequence Rating	Mitigation (Steps to reduce likelihood and/or impact of risk (free text))	Residual Risk Rating
1	Financial	Increased costs during project delivery due to project variations.	Unlikely	Moderate	This will be managed by confirming the project scope and costs once funding has been approved. A project contingency of 10% has also been costed into the project. Funding could be sourced by Chain of Ponds Collaboration partners should project costs go over budget.	Low
2	Timeframe	Lack of schools / community members to assist with the bandicoots or be involved in education.	Unlikely	Moderate	These risks will be mitigated by the Engagement Officer developing a project plan that aligns with school timetables and activities wherever possible. Adjusting programs as they go to suit the students and other communities and based on feedback received.	Moderate
4	Dependencies	Subject matter experts' availability	Possible	Moderate	This risk will be mitigated by the Engagement Officer who will work from an annual plan of engagement activities and give plenty of notice to the relevant experts.	Low
5	Climate	Fire, drought, flood	Possible	Moderate	Due to the 5 year timeframe, schedules and annual plans can be changed to suit any climate conditions.	Low

6	Cultural	Availability/engagement	Possible	Moderate	We will continue to seek Wurundjeri involvement in the project and aim to set up a funding arrangement based on annual involvement in the project	Moderate
7	Permit	Permit approvals for installation or videos delayed.	Unlikely	Moderate	All permit approval requirements will go through the relevant departments at Parks Victoria and Melbourne Airport. As key stakeholders and steering committee members in this project, this should be a straightforward approval process.	Low

## **13. Supporting Documentation**

[Chain of Ponds Prospectus 2022](#)

[Initial Project Brochure](#)

[Promotional video](#)

[Giant Bandicoots visible from the sky, Melbourne Airport article](#)

[Conservation visible from the sky, Parks Victoria article](#)