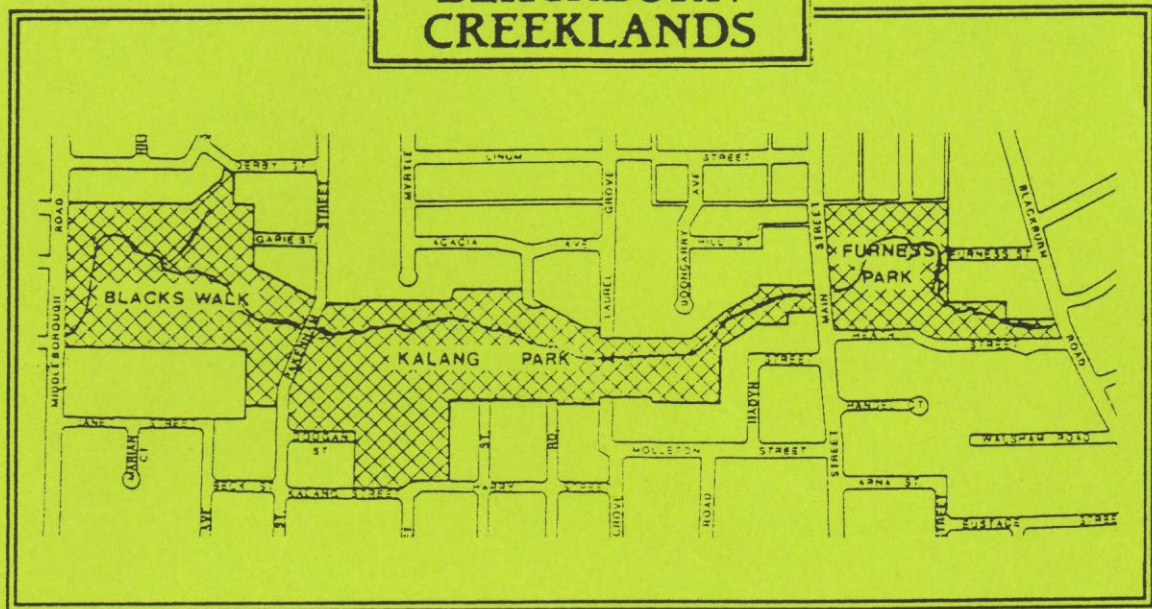




BLACKBURN CREEKLANDS



BLACKBURN CREEKLANDS

STRATEGIC PLAN

1997 - 2002

Prepared by the
Blackburn Creeklands Advisory Committee
July 1997

BLACKBURN CREEKLANDS STRATEGIC PLAN 1997 - 2002
ADDENDUM - JUNE 2000

At the Workshop held by Blackburn Creeklands Advisory Committee on 4 June, the following amendments were proposed to the Strategic Plan.

Page	Item	Amendment
4	4.1.2.3	Amend two items on list as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remnant bushland (conservation area)• Native grasslands (conservation area) Add: Refer to 4.1.2.6
4	4.1.2.4	Add: Refer to 4.1.2.6
4	4.1.2.5	After the word poplar, add <i>Pinus Radiata</i> to the list of weed species, and amend the sentence to read - ".....at the middle <u>and upper</u> storey level." Add: Refer to 4.2.2.8
5	4.1.2.6	Change second last line to "...Whitehorse Community Indigenous Plants Program (WCHIPP)." Add: Refer to 4.1.2.3. and 4.1.2.4
6	4.1.2.9	Add final sentence - "It will also create corridors for wildlife to extend into residential areas."
6	4.1.2.10	Add: Refer to 4.3.2.8
6	4.1.2.12	Insert further numbered item as follows: 4.1.2.12 Historical Plantings Refer to 4.3.2.6
7	4.2.2.1	Add: Refer to 4.2.2.7
7	4.2.2.2	Add: Refer to 4.2.2.7
7	4.2.2.4	Add: Refer to 4.2.2.5
8	4.2.2.5	Add: Refer to 4.2.2.4
8	4.2.2.7	Add: Refer to 4.2.2.1 and 4.2.2.2
8	4.2.2.8	Add: Refer to 4.1.2.5
10	4.3.2.6	Add: Refer to 4.1.2.12
11	4.3.2.8	Add: Refer to 4.1.2.10

BLACKBURN CREEKLANDS STRATEGIC PLAN 1997 - 2002

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BLACKBURN CREEKLANDS

STRATEGIC PLAN 1997 - 2002

1.0 PURPOSE

This plan is intended to provide the expanded vision of the Blackburn Creeklands Advisory Committee (the Committee) for the parklands encompassing Blackburn Creek and its tributary, between Middleborough Road and Blackburn Road (the Creeklands). It represents the views of the Committee and those of the local residents as expressed to the Committee.

The plan is provided for use by the City of Whitehorse (the Council) in preparing its Blackburn Creeklands Management Plan in consultation with the Committee. Melbourne Water also should use the plan in developing and maintaining the creek and its immediate surrounds, again in consultation with the Committee.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Blackburn Creeklands is a linear park of primarily natural bushland. It measures approximately twenty one hectares and embraces Blacks Walk, Kalang Park and Furness Park. A plan of the Creeklands is at Appendix (i).

The Creeklands provides area for recreation by local residents and visitors, and a habitat for indigenous flora and fauna. The park links with the Blackburn Lake Sanctuary to provide a greenway or wildlife corridor. Blackburn Creek, an extension of Gardiners Creek, flows through the park and is joined by a short tributary in Blacks Walk. These creeks together with Gardiners Creek form part of the Yarra River ecosystem.

The Creeklands are managed by the Council, with Melbourne Water being responsible for the actual creek bed, its banks and the immediately adjacent area. The Blackburn Creeklands Advisory Committee was formed in 1984 by Nunawading Council and is made up of interested local residents. Local community interest in and concern for the park has always been high, the middle section of the Creeklands having been purchased in response to community pressure.

The Creeklands have changed markedly since the arrival of Europeans in the area, with some parts having been used for poultry farming, orchards, agistment and housing over a long period, and degraded by dumped rubbish, barbed wire fencing, weed invasion and inappropriate development.

Over the past fourteen years there have been major improvements due to the efforts of the local community, the Council and Melbourne Water, but the Creeklands still falls far short of the Committee's vision. Weeds and exotic plants are a major problem, and the creek is polluted by litter and illegal discharges. A concerted effort is needed to raise the standard of the Creeklands to the desired level and then to maintain that level in the future.

3.0 VISION

The Committee has a vision of the Creeklands as:

An area that is primarily indigenous bushland with emphasis on the scenic value of the creek. While the main use of the park is for recreation by the local community, it also serves as a vital link in the Gardiners Creek wildlife corridor.

This overall vision statement will be elaborated in the following plan. It forms a framework to guide the Council, Melbourne Water and the Committee in developing management strategies to achieve fulfilment of the vision.

Six major goals are defined, with objectives specified for each. The goals are:

- 4.1 Vegetation
- 4.2 The Creek
- 4.3 Recreation
- 4.4 The Community
- 4.5 Fauna
- 4.6 Quality Management.

After each objective the suggested responsible body is indicated in brackets. These are subject to consultation between the Council, Melbourne Water and the Committee, and should be included in the Council's and Melbourne Water's management plans.

4.0 GOALS

4.1 VEGETATION

4.1.1 Goal

To preserve and regenerate areas of natural bushland which resemble as closely as possible their original indigenous state, while recognising historical and other significant landscape features.

Indigenous throughout this plan means indigenous to the local area.

The Creeklands consist partly of remnant natural bushland with some creek surrounds having indigenous canopy trees, middle storey and ground cover. Due to clearing, many areas of middle storey and ground cover have been replaced with weeds. Also some non-indigenous canopy trees have been introduced and these do not accord with the long term vision of the Committee.

4.1.2 Objectives

4.1.2.1 Vegetation Survey

To undertake a comprehensive Vegetation Survey to document existing vegetation and to indicate broad areas of soil and terrain suitable for regeneration plantings. (Council)

This survey will assist in the overall management of the Creeklands as well as establishing a benchmark against which changes can be measured.

Aerial photographs could be utilised, where they exist.

4.1.2.2 Register of Habitat Trees

To establish a register of significant trees providing habitat for native birds and animals. (Committee and Experts)

Many of the tall mature and dead eucalypts in the Creeklands contain nesting hollows for birds and possums and these must be preserved if the native fauna is not to be lost to the area. A register of these habitat trees will enable them to be managed and allow for timely succession planting to be arranged. As a general principle, indigenous trees should not be felled unless they are a hazard to the public, and then only after consultation between Council and the Committee, and consideration of other options. Options could include re-routing pathways, limb weight reduction or fencing off areas.

4.1.2.3 Land Use Categories

***To categorise areas of the Creeklands according to the type of vegetation and usage and to include these areas on the survey plan at Appendix (i).
(Council)***

Land use categories are:

- Revegetation areas
- Remnant bushland
- Playgrounds and sports fields
- Historical plantings and features
- Native grasslands
- Other grassed open spaces
- Creek banks
- Wetlands

4.1.2.4 Area Specific Operational Plans

***To produce an operational plan for each category and designated area.
(Council in conjunction with Committee)***

This will facilitate the management, development and fulfilment of the overall vision. It will be important to prioritise the development and maintenance of categories and areas to ensure the best use of available resources.

4.1.2.5 Weed Removal

***To arrange for the removal of weeds from the Creeklands.
(Council)***

The more common weeds in the Creeklands include blackberry, ivy, kikuyu, buttercup, honeysuckle, *Tradescantia*, *Vinca*, onion weed, gorse and exotic grasses at ground level, and hawthorn, willow, ash, elm, poplar, *Prunus* and *Pittosporum* are found at the middle storey level. These weeds are thriving in the Creeklands often to the exclusion of indigenous species.

A program of gradual removal of weeds, concentrating on the more prolific species in high priority areas, will need to be undertaken by the Council after consultation with the Committee. Working bees will be arranged by the Committee to supplement the resources of the Council in this task. Where spraying is necessary to remove weeds it must be done by trained staff and restricted to areas where damage to other vegetation or to native fauna will not result.

Care will need to be exercised in designing this program to ensure that the scenic value of the Creeklands is not excessively disrupted, and that the greenway for native birds is protected. Discussions with Mr Alan Reid (President of the Gould League), indicate that removal of bird-attracting non-indigenous species such as prunus and hawthorn, will not result in the disappearance of native birds. On the contrary, it will discourage introduced birds such as blackbirds.

The strategy for weed removal must include the revegetation of areas immediately after clearing as removal without replacement leads to more weed invasion.

Where appropriate, clean Eucamulch should also be used as a temporary ground cover to deter the proliferation of weeds in newly cleared areas. This mulch should be allowed to break down naturally so that the area reverts to a natural state (minus the weeds) as quickly as possible. Mulch should not be used in areas where natural regeneration is likely to occur.

4.1.2.6 Revegetation Program

*To plan and implement a program of revegetation and planting with indigenous species to accord with the priorities agreed by the Committee.
(Council)*

The Committee will arrange working bees with volunteers from the local community to supplement the resources of the Council. It will be important to maintain regular consultation to co-ordinate the efforts of both groups to prevent confusion and overlap.

When a planting program is initiated, every endeavour is to be made to obtain plant material or seeds from the local Blackburn area. This material will be genetically adapted to local conditions, and as such may have a greater chance of successful establishment than material sourced from areas other than Blackburn. The seed collection and propagation activities currently undertaken by the Nunawading Indigenous Plant Program (NIPP) should continue to be the major source of plant material for the Creeklands.

4.1.2.7 Permanent Fencing

*To erect permanent fencing to deter vehicle access to sensitive areas of the park.
(Council)*

Such fencing should be compatible with the environment and should not restrict pedestrian access into and within the park. Owners of adjacent properties should also be encouraged to erect fences that are compatible with the environment, where required.

4.1.2.8 Temporary Fencing

To construct temporary fencing where necessary to protect areas of regeneration of vulnerable remnant bushland.

(Council after consultation with Committee)

Such fencing should be non intrusive and blend with the environment, and should be removed as soon as the bushland or regeneration area is self sustaining, so as to enhance the natural bushland character of the area. While the fencing is in place, discreet signs should be erected indicating the reason.

4.1.2.9 Street Planting

To restrict planting of street trees to indigenous species in streets intersecting with and adjacent to the Creeklands.

(Council)

This will complement and enhance the bushland character of the area and limit the introduction of further non-indigenous species into the Creeklands.

4.1.2.10 Open Grassland

To include the retention of areas of open grassland in the management strategies.
(Council)

Open grassland provides food for native ground feeding birds as well as open spaces for people to picnic, fly kites, play games etc. It also give a sense of space and creates distant vistas which have their own scenic value.

4.1.2.11 Grass Mowing

To undertake mowing of non-indigenous grass in the Creeklands to enhance its scenic value but not to destroy the bushland character of the area.
(Council)

Council workers and contractors should be trained and supervised to ensure that mowing does not result in damage to trees, indigenous grasslands and to the surface of the Creeklands in wet conditions.

In areas categorised as remnant bushland, native grassland, and revegetation areas, as proposed in Objective 4.1.2.3, mowing should only be undertaken as a temporary weed control measure. Weed removal, mulching and revegetation with indigenous grasses is the preferred course to achieve the long term goal.

4.2 THE CREEK

4.2.1 Goal

To improve the creeks and wetlands and to enhance the scenic value of the creek banks and surrounding areas.

Blackburn Creek with its tributary and associated wetlands, is the focal point and major asset of the area, with its permanent water supply sustaining a variety of aquatic species which in turn provide food for birds. The creek integrates the three parks within the Creeklands.

Unfortunately, the Creek is often highly polluted and discoloured making it more of an eyesore than a visual asset. Also the creek banks are badly eroded in places and degraded by weeds and rubbish snags which further spoil its appearance. There is an urgent need for the Council, Melbourne Water and the community to work together to improve the creek.

4.2.2 Objectives

4.2.2.1 Survey and Monitoring

To conduct a survey of the creek specifically targeting the condition of the creek bed and banks, water levels, and water quality. Regular ongoing monitoring will be required to measure quality, turbidity etc.
(Melbourne Water)

4.2.2.2 Rubbish Traps

To provide litter traps at strategic points, clear them regularly and remove obstructions which collect rubbish, from the creek and the banks.
(Council and Melbourne Water)

4.2.2.3 Creek Cleanup Day

To jointly arrange a major clean up day possibly on Cleanup Australia Day, for the creek, its banks and the immediate surrounds.
(Council, Melbourne Water and the Committee).

4.2.2.4 Creek Planting

To implement a program to plant reeds and rushes and other appropriate species in the Creek to filter and clean the water.
(Melbourne Water)

4.2.2.5 Engineering Works

To complete the engineering works needed to stabilise the creek banks and to create weirs and ponds in the creek.

(Melbourne Water in conjunction with the Council and the Committee)

Particular emphasis needs to be placed on stabilising the area around significant trees, some of which are currently in danger of falling because of bank erosion. When stabilising the banks, it will be important to conserve the area in as natural a state as possible.

In the long term, the concrete section of the creek west of Main Street should be removed and the area returned to its natural state.

4.2.2.6 Wetlands Development

To develop a plan both to north and south of the creek to enhance and expand the existing wetlands.

(Council in conjunction with the Committee)

Additional small ponds in the area to the west of the large billabong below Waratah Avenue, and a series of small ponds bisected by walkways below Gardenia Street may be practicable and desirable. Council will need to regularly maintain the wetland billabongs to ensure that they do not become overgrown with introduced weeds or a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

4.2.2.7 Industrial Pollutants

To strictly police the outflow of effluent from industries and households upstream of Blackburn Lake and the creek to minimise the entry of rubbish and pollutants into the lake and the creek.

(Council, Melbourne Water and the Environment Protection Authority)

4.2.2.8 Weed Removal

To undertake a program of weed removal from the creek and its banks and to revegetate the area with indigenous plants.

(Melbourne Water)

Currently the banks are inundated with noxious weeds which are unsightly and a major source of weeds spreading to the wider park areas. In controlling weed growth care will be needed to ensure that herbicides do not pollute the creek and billabongs.

4.3 RECREATION

4.3.1 Goal

To provide access to areas of the park to maximise the enjoyment of local residents and visitors while minimising damage to sensitive areas.

With numerous access points, the Creeklands are primarily used by local residents and visitors for walking, jogging, exercising dogs, cycling, picnicking, playing and bird-watching. There are three children's playgrounds which are very popular, guide and scout halls and a major sporting oval used for organised sports.

While acknowledging and supporting these playgrounds, halls and sports field, the Committee does not have a charter to comment on, or pursue the development of, these facilities. Our only concern would be if the facilities, or the activities conducted on or in them, further encroached or adversely impacted on the wider areas of the Creeklands. It is envisaged that there will always be sufficient open space for active recreation.

4.3.2 Objectives

4.3.2.1 Playgrounds and Sportsfields

To consult the Committee before agreeing to any change to the car parks playgrounds, halls, sportsfield, or associated equipment, which is likely to have any impact on the wider Creeklands.

(Council)

4.3.2.2 Walking Paths

To limit the width of major access paths to a maximum of 1.2 metres, with minor paths a maximum of 1.0 metre, constructed using porous granitic sand, with a view to retaining the natural bushland character of the Creeklands.

(Council)

4.3.2.3 Footbridges

To construct new footbridges over the creek as appropriate to enable people to undertake circular walks within the park boundaries.

(Council with possible funding assistance from Melbourne Water)

4.3.2.4 Dogs

To erect signs reinforcing the local law which requires dogs to be kept on leashes at all times while in the Creeklands.

(Council)

This would reduce the likelihood of uncontrolled dogs causing damage or disturbance.

4.3.2.5 Bicycles

To oppose walking paths in the Creeklands being designated as bicycle paths, and not to encourage this by sealing or widening the paths.

(Council)

The walking paths are already used by some cyclists for recreational purposes and this is acceptable. Any major increase in bicycles, especially those travelling at high speed, would significantly detract from the peaceful character of the Creeklands and greatly increase the risk of pedestrians (and cyclists) being injured in areas where visibility is limited.

There should be no straightening of paths or clearance of trees or shrubs to improve visibility. This would encourage greater speed by some cyclists already using the paths to transit the park.

4.3.2.6 Historical Plantings and Features

To identify specific trees and areas of historical or other major interest with the aim of protecting the sites and reminding visitors of the history of the area.

(Committee)

Many of the plantings are exotic and do not accord with the overall vision of a park of primarily indigenous bushland. Nevertheless, they should be retained where there is a good reason to do so. For example, the oak tree adjacent to Kalang Oval must be protected and provided with a plaque giving its horticultural and historical details.

Similarly, some remnant fruit trees from old orchards could usefully be preserved. However these trees are old and unproductive and need maintenance. Where there is no good reason to retain exotic plantings, they should be removed and succession planting arranged.

4.3.2.7 Park Benches

*To provide park benches at scenic spots in the park, as required.
(Council in consultation with Committee)*

Many people use the park for recreation and existing benches are well utilised. However these should not include plaques nor signs from donors sponsors or advertisers.

4.3.2.8 Open Space

*To retain sufficient open space for informal recreation
(Council and Committee)*

4.3.2.9 Unification

*To develop an engineering strategy encompassing the treatment of roadways footpaths and nature strips to reduce disruption to the linear park at Main and Pakenham Streets.
(Council)*

4.4 THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

4.4.1 Goal

To educate the local community about the need to preserve the unique setting of the Creeklands, and to encourage the active participation of the local community in its development and maintenance.

Education is pivotal to the achievement of many of the objectives of this plan.

4.4.2 Objectives

4.4.2.1 Education Program

*To investigate the most appropriate format for an education program to serve and involve the local community.
(Council in consultation with Committee)*

The content of the program should include the following themes:

- Information about the origins and history of the Blackburn Creeklands
- Appreciation of the flora and fauna found in the park and surrounding areas
- The planting of indigenous vegetation in local private gardens and street verges will provide additional habitat for native fauna and reduce weeds
- Restraining domestic pets will assist wildlife survival
- Improving the quality of water entering the creek by ensuring that rubbish and pollutants are appropriately disposed of
- Minimising the impact of visitors in sensitive areas,
- Eliminate the dumping of rubbish and garden refuse, and vandalism
- Encourage the local community to participate in the maintenance of the Creeklands and in review of development plans

4.4.2.2 Information Boards

To provide information boards at the major access points to give information about the park, and provide space for notices about meetings, educational notes etc.

(Council in consultation with Committee)

Such boards should be in a rustic style in keeping with the bushland character of the park.

4.4.2.3 Educational Signs

To provide signs, plaques and educational brochures which provide details of local flora and fauna.

(Council in consultation with the Committee)

Any signs should be small and unobtrusive and be incorporated with a nature trail brochure.

4.4.2.4 Increased Profile

To improve liaison with other local environmental groups with whom strategic alliances could prove mutually beneficial.

(Committee)

These groups include the Bird Observers Club, Nunawading Indigenous Plants Project, the Gould League, the Field Naturalist Club of Victoria, The Maroondah Group of the Society for Growing Australian Plants, Greening Australia Victoria Inc, the Blackburn and District Tree Preservation Society, Street Committees, Blackburn Lake Advisory Committee and other bushland advisory groups.

In order to maximise the education messages to the public, joint efforts with other groups may be more successful than individual efforts.

4.4.2.5 Volunteers

To undertake a publicity program to increase the number of local community volunteers willing to undertake weeding and planting in the Creeklands.
(Committee)

Many other parks in the Melbourne suburbs are well supported by active groups of volunteers. Apart from the Committee members, very little work is done in the Creeklands by the local community. Groups of volunteers should be available from the local community, most of whom have an empathy with the environment and many of whom are retired and may have some spare time. Regular working bees should be organised on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis to tap this resource.

4.4.2.6 Additional Amenities

To reject proposals for additional amenities such as toilets, barbecues and parking areas in the Creeklands.
(Council)

While these amenities may seem desirable, they would detract from the natural bushland character of the park.

4.4.2.7 Adjacent Properties

To survey the Creeklands and its boundaries with adjacent properties to ensure that property owners are aware of the boundaries and that even where fences do not exist the location of boundaries is clearly evident.
(Council)

Some encroachment of boundaries is apparent. In such cases Council should advise owners of their obligation to allow maintenance and development of the Creeklands in accordance with the management plan.

Council should carefully monitor development of the adjacent properties to ensure compliance with building regulations and tree removal constraints to minimise adverse impact on the amenity of the Creeklands.

Adjacent property owners should be encouraged to plant indigenous species on their boundaries to enhance the bushland character of the area.

4.4.2.8 Adjoining Organisations

To liaise with the adjoining primary school, guides, scouts and sporting clubs with a view to achieving common goals on environmental issues and further developments.

(Council and Committee)

4.4.2.9 Research

To encourage both academic, and less formal, research into the history, flora, fauna and management of the Creeklands, the findings of which should be readily available in reports.

(Council and Committee)

4.5 FAUNA

4.5.1 Goal

To enhance the habitat for indigenous fauna and to provide a wildlife corridor along Gardiners Creek.

The Creeklands provide a significant habitat for a large number of native birds. There are also bats, possums (ring-tail, brush-tail and pygmy), and a variety of butterflies and other invertebrates including some aquatic species. Exotic animals such as foxes, pigeons, blackbirds, Indian mynas, starlings and turtle doves are also to be found in the Creeklands.

Strategies should aim at minimising non-indigenous wildlife and maximising the attractiveness of the Creeklands to indigenous animals, particularly birds, frogs, butterflies and other insects, the latter being an important part of the food chain. Objectives 4.1.2.5 and 4.1.2.6 will lead to significant increases in indigenous flora and will assist with the maintenance of native fauna populations and the decline of exotic fauna.

Large area habitats with good supplies of indigenous foods which are linked with green corridors are far more likely to attract indigenous fauna than small isolated fragments. These corridors would be based on existing parkland within the City of Whitehorse. Also Council should plant appropriate indigenous street trees and residents be encouraged to plant indigenous vegetation in their gardens, to create larger areas of attractive habitat.

4.5.2 Objectives

4.5.2.1 Fauna Register

*To develop a comprehensive register of fauna in the Creeklands.
including butterflies and insects
(Committee and Experts)*

4.5.2.2 Fox Eradication

*To eradicate foxes from the Creeklands and adjacent parks.
(Council)*

Complete eradication may not be possible but any fox lairs that are detected should be destroyed. Any new methods of fox control that become available commercially should also be examined for use within the Creeklands.

4.5.2.3 Dead Vegetation

To retain dead and dying vegetation except where the material is diseased, a fire hazard, or potentially dangerous to the public, or where the retention of the material encourages the proliferation of weeds.

Dead trees provide suitable nesting hollows and perches for birds, and decaying vegetation is essential to the life cycle of the bushland in providing food and shelter for insects which are a food source for birds and reptiles. Hence they should be retained wherever practicable, notwithstanding that they will sometimes be unsightly and seem to contradict the concept of high scenic value.

4.5.2.4 Nesting Boxes

*To provide nesting boxes when there are insufficient natural hollows in mature and dead trees.
(Council and Committee)*

These will supplement existing hollows until sufficient and suitable mature trees are available.

4.6 QUALITY MANAGEMENT

4.6.1 Goal

To improve the quality of management for the Creeklands.

Quality management is essential to the successful maintenance and development of the Creeklands, just as it is to any organisation. Several measures will improve the present management arrangements.

4.6.2 Objectives

4.6.2.1 Council Management Plan

*To develop a Management Plan which builds on the contents of this Strategic Plan and identifies detailed strategies and action plans.
(Council in conjunction with Committee)*

This Management Plan should be presented to the local community and discussed in detail with the Committee before finalisation. It will be important to specify those individuals responsible for carrying out actions in the Management Plan and to identify time frames for commencing and completing action. Progress against the Committee's Strategic Plan and the Council's Management Plan should be monitored at formal meetings of the two bodies every six months.

The plan can only be effectively developed and maintained by close reference to an accurate map which includes grid line reference points. This should be the basis for various other maps which should be regularly reviewed and revised.

4.6.2.2 Stream Management

*To develop a plan for the water course and steam flow.
(Melbourne Water in consultation with the Council and Committee)*

This plan should contain specific strategies, actions, time frames and responsible persons. Melbourne Water should meet with Council and Committee to monitor progress every six months.

4.6.2.3 Communication

*To improve the consultation and communication processes.
(Council Melbourne Water and Committee)*

Successful management is very much dependent on well developed communication both within and between the stake holders involved.

This Strategic Plan and the Council's proposed Management Plan form an excellent starting point to improve the consultation and communication process, and hence the co-operation between these bodies. Similar communication should be encouraged with Melbourne Water. This should reduce the incidence of ad hoc decisions, and inadequate notice of matters affecting the Creeklands.

4.6.2.4 Vehicle Access

To restrict access of vehicles to the Creeklands to essential maintenance and development tasks and to provide barriers to prevent the access of unauthorised vehicles to the park.

(Council and Melbourne Water)

Vehicle access can be a major problem in wet weather when deep ruts are made by unnecessary vehicle movement in the area. Access for emergency vehicles should not be hindered.

4.6.2.5 Resources

To allocate sufficient funds to the maintenance and development of the Creeklands to achieve the Vision, Goals and Objectives of the Strategic Plan.

(Council and Melbourne Water)

Inevitably there will be resource shortfalls which will require prioritising of the limited resources and consequently the maintenance and development work. Such prioritising should be undertaken in consultation with the Committee. Every effort should be used to obtain resources from all possible sources. Adequate control and supervision would be needed.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Vision Goals and Objectives included in this plan will assist all stakeholders to work towards a common vision and development plan for the Creeklands over the next five years. Their embodiment in the proposed Management Plan will ensure that strategies are put in place for the effective management of the Creeklands in the future.

The Management Plan proposed by the Council should be developed in close consultation with the Committee, and regular monitoring of the progress against these plans should be undertaken at formal meetings every six months.

Appendices: (i) Map of the Blackburn Creeklands.

MAP OF THE BLACKBURN CREEKLANDS

