Environment – Conservation

Aboriginal History

Aboriginal people have been known to live on the plains and valleys of Brimbank for over 60,000 years.

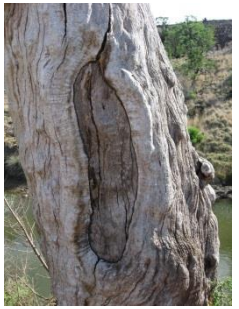
The local aboriginal people are the Wurundjeri.

They trapped fish, hunted birds and Kangaroos and ate one of the most diverse plant diets in the world.

Fire was used as a tool to manage the land – as a way to minimise hot summer wildfires and as a method of harvesting plants and animals.

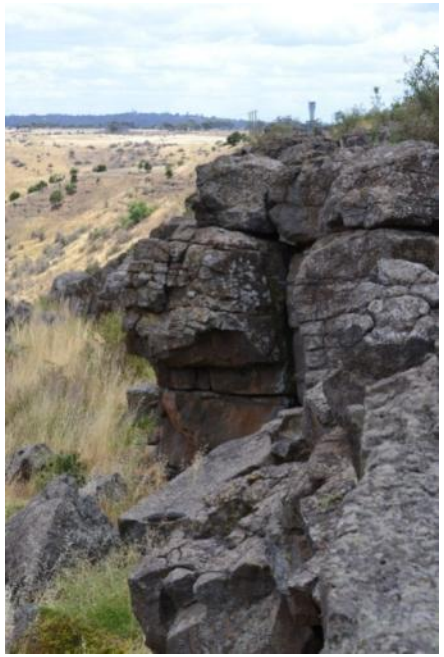
This land management has shaped what species are here today.

There are many signs here today of the long history of the Wurundjeri people in the local area.

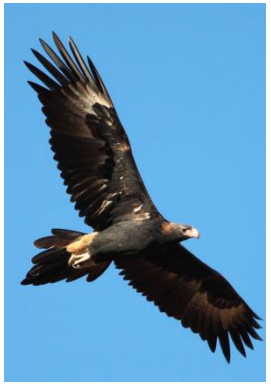


What we look after – …steep and dry

Ecosystem – Escarpment Shrublands



Escarpments are the steep slopes leading from the flat plains down into valleys. They sometimes have no trees or shrubs and sometimes have lots depending on how rocky it is, if it faces north and gets lots of sun, and how much water is available.



An **ecosystem** is made up of all of the living and nonliving things in an area. This includes all of the plants, animals, and other living things that make up the communities of life in an area. An **ecosystem** also includes nonliving materials—for example, water, rocks, soil, and sand.

Environments we look after …wet and watery

Ecosystem – Riparian (River) Flats

These are the areas around rivers, creeks and wetlands. The soil usually has lots of nutrients (food for plants) and there is water around so this is where you will find big trees, and lots of shrubs and grasses.

Around the edges of water you will find reeds which are grass like plants that grow near water.

What we look after

- Flat and treeless

Ecosystem – Grasslands

- We have very special grasslands in Brimbank. They are called **Grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plain.**
- Before European colonisation these grasslands covered much of Victoria – now there is less than 1% left!
- They are considered Critically Endangered which means they are in danger of extinction.

- Grasslands usually don't have any trees (sometimes there is one or two)
- There are many different types of grasses, but also lots of wildflowers and orchids
- Reptiles, mammals, birds and insects live in grasslands
- In the summer, sometimes the soil cracks – this is a nice cool place for reptiles and insects to shelter from the hot sun.

Who am I?

- I live in Brimbank grasslands.
- I have a round tongue and ear holes - I’m not a snake. I squeak to communicate.
- I grow up to 30cm in length. I’m a slender creature with stripes running parallel to my body.
- I shelter under rocks and in soil crevices.
- My species is listed as Vulnerable, because my habitat has disappeared.

I am a Striped Legless Lizard

Who am I?

- I live in Brimbank grasslands.
- I only eat one type of grass – Wallaby Grass
- I only comes out when it's sunny
- I only live for a few days as an adult (when I looks like a moth – not a caterpillar).
- I am critically endangered

I am a Golden Sun Moth

Role of Conservation team

Education

Role of Conservation team - restoration

Creating habitat

Threats to our natural environment are:

Threats to our natural environment

How do we make a difference to our local environment?

How do we make a difference to our local environment?

How do we make a difference to our local environment?

Thank You

Part of Council's role is to improve the health and well-being of our community.

The natural environment is instrumental to our well-being, and to the animals and insects that live within it.

For teachers:

Subscribe to Council's Schools Environment Bulletin
https://vic.us11.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=292367cdf4cc2a5fc5e03bbb2&id=62fba44d11

Council's School Sustainability Resources
https://www.brimbank.vic.gov.au/environment-and-sustainability/schools-education

Landcare Learning activities for children
https://juniorlandcare.org.au/learningcentre/

Junior Landcare Grants close March 19, 2021
https://juniorlandcare.org.au/grant/2021-woolworths-junior-landcare-grants/

Thank You

Free wildflower seedlings for schools

This year we are offering 50 wildflower seedlings per school to 10 Schools in Brimbank. The Dame Phyllis Frost Centre Nursery in Ravenhall is supporting the Brimbank community by raising the indigenous grassland wildflowers. These important plants attract beneficial insects that assist with pollination – a perfect addition for schools with food or habitat gardens.

To be eligible, schools must:

- have a minimum area of 4 m2 allocated within the school – sunny position preferred
- be able pick up the seedlings from Dame Phyllis Frost Women's Centre (exact date to be confirmed)
- have the capacity to plant the seedlings. This could be a great class activity.

To register your interest, please send an email with Subject "**School Pollinator Gardens**" to environment@brimbank.vic.gov.au
Include your school, contact name and phone number.