



WRIVA NEWS

Werribee River Association Inc.

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<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Werribee-River-Association/159556397431032>

WRIVA News December 2011

- Welcome to two new members this month - Enrique Velarde and Peter Gibbons. Enrique was presented with a small initiation package and Peter will receive his in the New Year.

- Congratulations to Enrique Velarde for taking on the role of secretary for WRIVA as from Thursday 15th December 2011. Photo below shows Enrique crossing his first obstacle during last week's outing to the Werribee River Headwaters exploration on Saturday 10th December.



- Our aim of becoming the Friends of Werribee River Park is moving forward. We have had a number of contacts with ranger staff from Parks Vic and are anxiously awaiting confirmation of the appointment of a ranger for the Park. We are also meeting with a regular walking group from the Victorian National Parks Association when they visit the Park on Monday 9th January.
- Our new website is also making excellent progress. Helen Snee is proving to be a good web manager and has got the new site looking rather good. The sample page from the website shown here has a map of the catchment and a description to give you an idea of how the site is developing. The map is capable of being enlarged, and descriptions of other river sites are there and more being added. Projects, History, Locations, Flora and Fauna will feature. Soon our old website will be no more!

The Werribee River



[Werribee River Catchment](#) is at the western edge of the greater Melbourne area, and occupies land which is noted for its Otway Coastal Plain to the south, its Victorian Volcanic Plains Grasslands across the bulk of the centre and to the north, the forested foothills of the Great Dividing Range.

In the foothills twenty kilometres to the north of Ballan, land to the west of Korweinguboora slopes away into the Moorabool river catchment, while land to the east slopes away to the Werribee catchment. It's here that the Werribee River begins life as a couple of small creeks within a kilometre or two of Korweinguboora in the hills and gullies of land in the Wombat Forest.

- **Biolinks Action Plan.** This is a leading and innovative project by Leadwest and the Vision for Werribee Plains. It is an excellent concept and has shown very positive progress to date. See Leadwest website for Biolinks Action Plan. Entries on Leadwest Facebook page show the discussion of iconic species. Photo below left from their Facebook page asks, “How about the Eastern Barred Bandicoot as iconic species for the Werribee River Biolink?” Others being considered are: sea-eagles and platypus. <http://www.leadwest.com.au/>



- **Working Bees**
The Sat 5th Nov and Sat 3rd Dec working bees went well, but numbers of workers attending were very small. We managed to weed fifty trees, saw a good number of birds and had good exercise. Both days started at 9am and finished by 11am. Parks Vic has been at work slashing between the rows of these trees which were planted in 2011. The trees are showing a success rate of 80% or greater. See our report on Facebook. Photo above right shows one of the plants during the weeding process.
- **“Headwaters of Werribee”**
At our final meeting of the year, held on Thursday 15th December, a festive season supper was served prior to a presentation, “Headwaters of Werribee” – a PowerPoint presentation of slides showing places visited during our trip on Saturday 10th December 2011. One of the many slides shown was of this Sulphur crested cockatoo which hung out on a branch, just above the road when we entered Werribee Gorge State Park, giving many opportunities for some good photographs. A great day! Further trips are planned upriver – details to come.

- **Supporter, Friend or Member?**

Email werribeeriver@gmail.com with your request to join us. Friends attend our activities and help us achieve our aims. Supporters offer in kind support or donate financially to our work. Members are entitled to join our committee, vote on all matters and take part in any of our activities by paying a yearly subscription of \$10 single, \$20 family.

