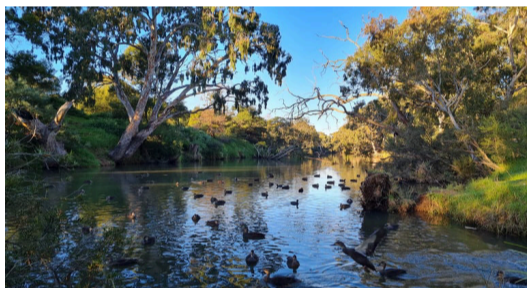


Landscapes of Werribee

Five million years ago, volcanic eruptions produce lava flows that form the Werribee Plains. Basalt rocks are scattered over the landscape.



Over millennia, the spaces between the basalt rocks fill in with sediment, carried by wind storms and changes in sea levels. Alluvial deposits from flood events in the rivers form a layer of topsoil at the surface.



The Victorian Volcanic Plains stretch from present-day Melbourne to the South Australian border. River Red Gum trees thrive along waterways and in floodplains. Grasslands are home to diverse animals, birds and insects, and many invertebrates in the soil layers.

The people of the Kulin Nation have lived here for around 60,000 years. They are the Traditional Custodians of the land. The Bunurong, Wadawurrung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung manage Country in a complex and sustainable way.



Orange-bellied Parrot:
A Critically Endangered
local species



Together, we can connect to and protect the Werribee River and its waterways



We acknowledge the Bunurong, Wadawurrung and Wurundjeri People as the Traditional Owners of these lands and waters.



Europeans arrive during the 19th century. They build towns and buy land to farm around Werribee. Aboriginal people are displaced and forced to leave their homelands.

Introduced farm animals rapidly consume the grasses and flowering plants on the plains, which do not grow back once depleted. Today, 99% of the grasslands have gone.

The topsoil is now exposed to the weather. The process of sun, rainfall and surface winds causes topsoil and its living creatures to dry out and be lost.

Farming techniques from Europe are not well suited to Australian conditions and can damage the land. One year, the rains do not come. The sun dries out the land. Drought continues for many seasons.

Years pass, farms are sold and new houses and roads are built. As the cities grow, the landscape of the Werribee plains changes. There are not many places now for the native plants and animals to live. The years of drought in Australia persist and have been a struggle.



Along the Werribee River, in the west of Melbourne, it is now so important to be protecting our waterways for our community. Our vision is to surround the river and waterways with natural habitat and landscaping where plants, animals and people can co-exist, experience, learn from and enjoy!

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What can we do?

Learn about the Traditional Owners, place names and history of your region.



Find out about your local environment through guided walks, workshops and community planting days.

Keep pets safely away from wildlife.

Plant a food garden.

Join a Volunteer group.

Grow plants suited to your local area.

Ask your local council or land manager to regenerate waterways, parklands and open spaces that need attention.



Together we can:

Re-establish natural habitat

Protect water quality

Encourage diversity

