

Riverine

The riverine is a natural and cultural treasure. Located near the original farmyard, this unique area encompasses the Werribee River, acres of native woodlands and a flourishing orchard.

Wurundjeri history along Wirribi Yaluk, known today as Werribee River, dates back over 40,000 years with acknowledged cultural heritage sites offering a rare insight into the Kurung Jang Balluk clan (kurung jang meaning 'people of the red earth'), and their harmonious relationship with mother earth.

This section of the river formed a natural boundary between the Wurundjeri, Wathaurung and Boonerwung communities and acted as a major exchange route for locally gathered, hunted and created resources.

Parks Victoria is working closely with the Wurundjeri and local communities to ensure the many cultural heritage sites in this area are protected. A revegetation program of native plants is also being undertaken in conjunction with the Wurundjeri to enhance the natural environment and sustain a habitat for the variety of bird and animal species living here.

Keep your eyes peeled as you wander though. You may spot a dulaiwurrong (platypus) at play, a bundabun (longneck tortoise) basking in the sun or an iuk (eel) rippling through the reeds. Perhaps a barruth (marsupial mouse) may dart through one of approximately twelve native grasses. Look above. Through the eucalyptus and river reds a bird of prey, a swamp harrier or whistler, may silently glide by.

Stop for a moment, look back and see the ancestral footprints in the sand.

European influences are also visible in this area. An old ruin preceding the Chirside family rests by the banks of the river. The bluestone ford, dating back to the Chirside era, was the original river crossing on the old Geelong to Melbourne road. A set of stairs, known as the Church Steps, provided access for the students of Corpus Christi College to the river and orchard area. A boathouse once located near the base of the steps played host to a number of water based activities for the seminary students.

Contemporary art has recently been incorporated into this diverse setting, which forms part of the Werribee Park Sculpture Walk. For further information about each sculpture collect an information leaflet from the starting point of the walk, located at the rear of the bluestone Laundry.

Take your time to appreciate the mix of treasures within this area, ranging from ancient to contemporary, natural to man-made.





Werribee Park

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Melway Map: 201 D1

Opening Hours:

November – April

10.00am – 5.00pm daily

May – October

10.00am – 4.00pm weekdays

10.00am – 5.00pm weekends

Closed Christmas Day.

Parking & Transport:

Free car parking is available,

or for an alternative transport

option the Werribee Park

Shuttle service operates daily

from the Victorian Arts

Centre, telephone

(03) 9748 5094 for

reservations.

