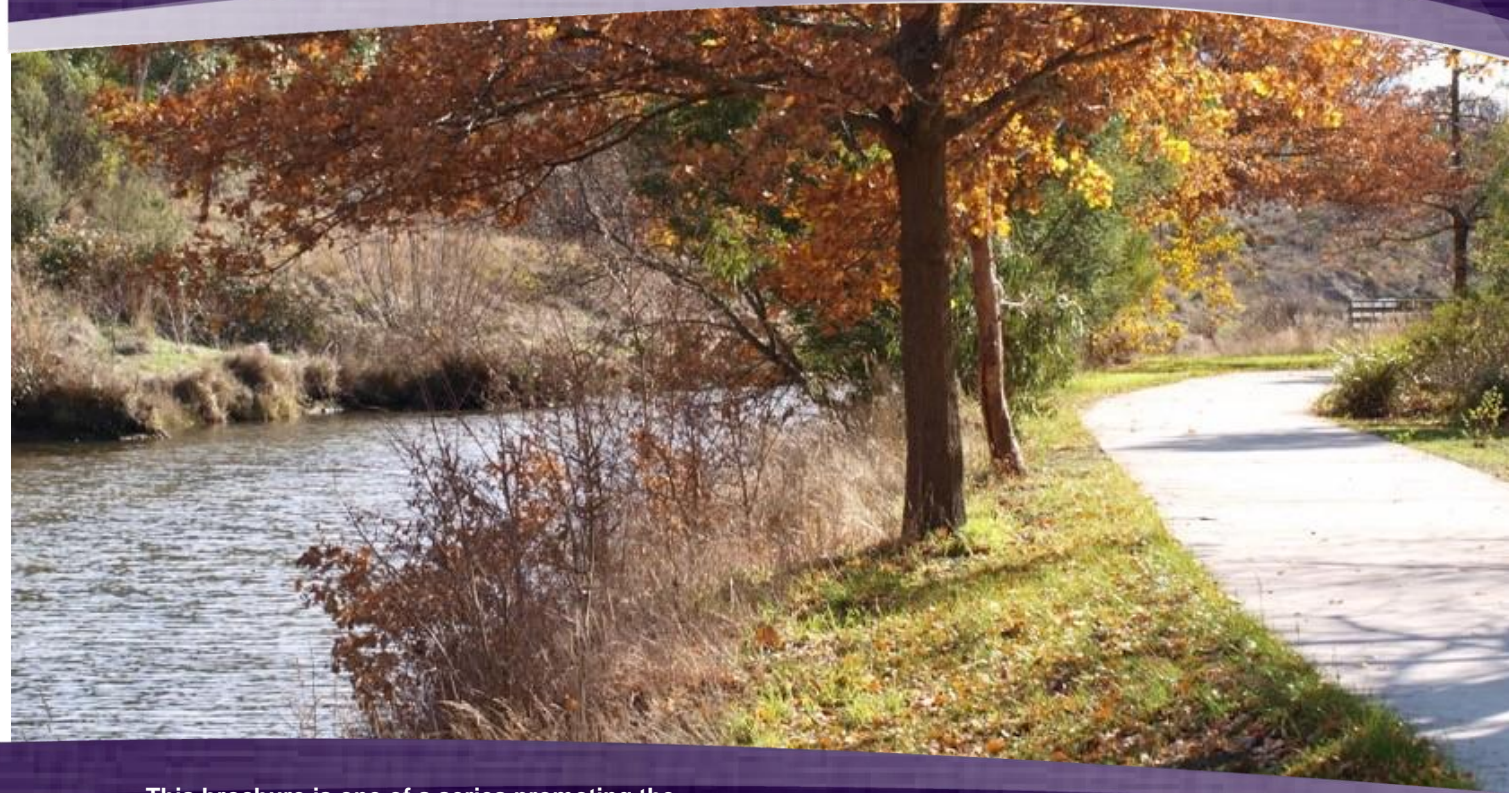
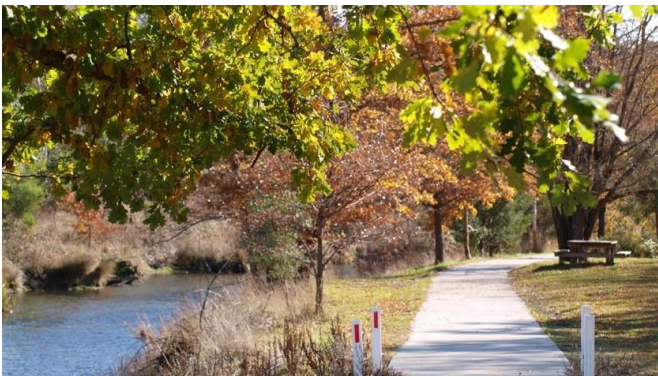


Campaspe River Walk



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APRIL 2016



Campaspe River Walk

Distance: 3.5 kilometres

Duration: up to 2 hours (return)

This easy, riverside walk commences upstream from the Mollison Street Bridge at Langley Street and finishes at the Kyneton Racecourse. Alternatively, there are various access points along the walk.

Visitors will find many information plaques at various points along the walk to assist in understanding the river's heritage:

- Kyneton Botanical Gardens (Established 1858)
- Railway weir
- Old saleyard pig enclosure
- Platypus habitat
- Old swimming pool weirs
- Greenway Lane Cobb & Co crossing
- Footbridge to railway station (only buttresses remaining)
- Sculpture Park either side of Piper Street Bridge featuring local sculptors' works. BBQ facilities are available here.

With settlement came planting of introduced trees such as willow, poplar, cypress, hawthorn, oak and elm. Willow has caused major damage to the river environs.

Although the river may never return to its pre- settlement condition, a sustainable mix of exotic and re-established indigenous species has created a healthy pleasant environment.

The river is home to many species of fish - Redfin, Tench and Yellow Belly. These provide sport for anglers although it should be noted that a fishing license is required. The river is also home to water rats and many native birds such as black and wood ducks, various parrots, egrets and white ibis. It is also a known platypus habitat.

History

It is believed that the original inhabitants, the Dja Dja Wurrung people named the river Yelka. Subsequently the river was re-named Campaspe in 1836 by Major Thomas Mitchell after Alexander the Great's favourite concubine. The river from the Botanical Gardens to the Racecourse has changed dramatically since settlement. Installation of various weirs supplied reliable water for fishing, swimming, steam rail use and general beautification of the river. During the dry season the river often ceases to flow.

Recent works have been completed for all to enjoy. These include formed pathways, a Sculpture Park (either side of Piper Street Bridge), a BBQ installation, seating and picnic spaces.

The river plays an important part in providing a recreation area for local residents and tourists. It is a delightful place for a picnic, a gentle walk with your dog, a jog or some pleasant fishing.

The river walk is maintained by volunteers, Campaspe River and Land Management Group, supported by Macedon Ranges Shire Council., LANDCARE and local service clubs.

