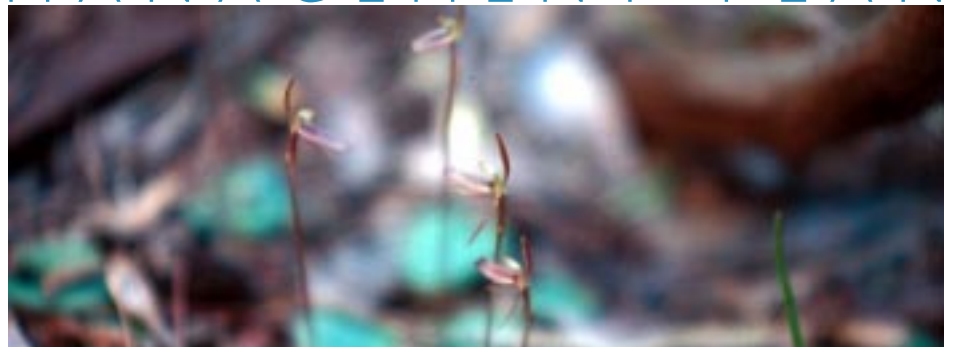


# Long Hollow Heathland

MANAGEMENT PLAN



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Long Hollow Heathland is an area of remnant vegetation and has a key role in Bayside's bushland and open space network. It contains woodlands of regional significance and heathlands of State significance in addition to being the only location for a number of locally significant species.

It is the site of the most diverse single remnant of the noted 'Sandringham Flora' and is the most biodiverse remnant of Heathland within Bayside.

Significance values consist of the remnants of a swamp depression, 'The Long Hollow Swamp', of local significance and there are 12 species of indigenous orchids recorded in the Heathland. Of these, 8 are listed as rare in the Melbourne Metropolitan area.

It is a popular local reserve with an active Friends Group.



*The primary management objective of the Heathland is the maintenance of the diversity of indigenous vegetation.*

This plan aims to protect the indigenous remnant vegetation found in Long Hollow Heathland and to ensure its diversity is maintained through management including fire, weeding and education of the general community. As an area of remnant vegetation in suburbia, Long Hollow Heathland is at least locally

significant and worthy of protective management. It is the site of the largest remnants of regionally significant Low Woodland community and Open Heath vegetation of state significance (Cropper 1996). Cropper (1996) also states that Long Hollow is the most biodiverse remnant of Heathland within Bayside.



# Background

The Office of the Registrar of Geographic Names approved the name 'Long Hollow Heathland' in February 1999. Prior to this, the Heathland was known as the Beaumaris Campus Heathland. The area is situated approximately 20 kilometres south east of the Melbourne GPO.

The Heathland is an uneven rectangle in shape with the east and west sides approximately 215 metres in length and the north and south sides 188 metres and 113 metres respectively. The area covered is approximately 2.2 hectares. Long Hollow is covered in remnant vegetation comprising heathland, woodland and even-aged stands of Coast Tea-tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*).

The Government of Victoria purchased the area of land from Balcombe Road to Gramatan Avenue in 1957, for educational purposes. In 1964 the State Electricity Commission of Victoria purchased the area on the corner of Gramatan Avenue and Reserve Road. The Heathland area was transferred from the ownership of the Education Department to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (now DNRE) in 1993.

Prior to the formation of the Long Hollow Heathland Group, previously the Beaumaris Heathland Group, the former City of Sandringham carried out limited maintenance in the area. Vegetation management consisted of clearing of Coast Tea-tree and subsequent mowing of the understorey. Following their formation in 1982, works by the Long Hollow Heathland Group have concentrated on clearing of Coast Tea-

tree, regenerative burning and weed control with an added emphasis on environmental education. One of the management directions was the removal of Coast Tea-tree.

The Group produced two plans, which directed works in the Heathland. They were a Restoration Plan and a Site Clearing Plan.

A number of controlled burns and a number of unplanned burns have occurred in the Heathland. Post-burn weed control has been priority of the Heathland Group. The quality and diversity of the indigenous vegetation in the Heathland can be attributed largely to the work carried out by this group.

Pavey (1996) indicates that the Heathland is considered Principal habitat in Bayside and this is due to the high diversity of birds.

The existing vegetation of the Heathland is comprised of mature stands of Coast-Tea-tree, heathland vegetation in various stages of development, wet heath vegetation and woodland with heath understorey. It is the only reserve in the municipality with woodland vegetation and is also the sole location for 28 species. 21 regionally rare species can also be found in the Heathland.

The Heathland is Crown land and is managed by the appointed Committee of Management, Bayside City Council.

This plan is based upon knowledge of the Reserve with an advisory committee consisting of a member from each of:

- The Long Hollow Heathland Group
- Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc.
- Bayside City Council
- Department of Natural Resources & Environment.



## Vegetation Management

Vegetation management should include a priority for natural regeneration of the indigenous floral community within the Heathland. As the largest remnant of the original 'Sandringham Flora', it is important that ecological relationships within the Heathland be maintained and conserved. This includes the staged eradication of Coast Tea-tree from the Heathland, (excluding Coast Tea-tree in the vegetative buffer system outside the Reserve, which protects the Heathland from external pressures).

### SIGNIFICANT SPECIES

Some orchid species have been identified within the Heathland as rare within the Melbourne Metropolitan area. As such, the remaining orchid colonies need to be protected and maintained accordingly. This may require maintenance of some tree canopy to insure the survival of these colonies.

The Wet Heath community is another significant community that needs to be conserved and where necessary regenerated to maintain ecological relationships.

Determine and conserve significant species.

### WEED CONTROL

Weed control within the Heathland is an ongoing issue and weed control within the Heathland should be carried out in accordance with Council contract specifications and updated annually in the specification review. Eradication of pest plant species within the Heathland should be conducted.

## Fauna Management

Further surveys are required within the Heathland to determine what species are present within the Heathland and which of these species are significant. Once identified, management strategies can be established to best manage these species and the floral communities in which they occur. This will enable planting or maintaining provision of appropriate habitat for native fauna and their contribution to the ecosystem.

Control, and where possible, eradication of introduced animals using best practise methods of removal should also be conducted within the Heathland.

## Fire Risk Management

Control of wildfire is an issue within urban areas. Should wildfire occur within the Heathland, control is to be conducted with minimum damage to the Heathland. Preventative measures to protect facilities and abutting properties through the reduction of potential fire hazards within the Heathland. Large branches of deadfall should be scattered to reduce fire hazard and where necessary, fine fuel portions of deadfall removed.

Formal access points need to be clear for all relevant emergency services.

## Ecological Fire Regimes

Fire is an important management tool within the Heathland for maintaining vegetation diversity. Appropriate fire regimes for the Heathland should continue and be carried out in accordance with Council contract specifications.

## Access & Visitor Management

Recreational opportunities within the Heathland need to be consistent with conservation objectives. Degradation within the Heathland can occur from visitor access, especially with informal cubby-house building and the informal BMX track. Informal paths within the track network should be rationalised and closed where necessary to allow regeneration of soil stored seed.

Dog droppings bring excessive nutrients foreign to the heathland community into the Reserve. Excess nutrients can lead to an increase in weed species, which can out-compete the indigenous vegetation. Dogs running off leash through the Reserve damage delicate regenerating species, such as orchid colonies and those species regenerating after burns. Soil stored seed may also be disturbed.

Long Hollow Heathland is designated as a dog 'on-leash' area, as are all Bushland reserves, due to the sensitivity of the site to disturbance by dogs.

Provision of appropriate interpretational signs and information to visitors regarding the natural and cultural features of the Heathland may assist to increase their care of the area.

## Informal BMX track

Long Hollow has had an ongoing problem with the creation of an informal and unauthorised BMX track within the Heathland. As a significant area of remnant heathland within Bayside, a BMX track within Long Hollow does not

comply with the primary objective of this Management plan, which is to maintain the biodiversity of indigenous vegetation, nor is it considered 'appropriate' enjoyment of Long Hollow.

Active steps must be taken, in conjunction with an education campaign within the school, to ensure the long-term removal of the track. Importance of conserving the vegetation must be communicated to those involved with the BMX track.

It is critical that the track is removed as a high priority and the area re-established with indigenous vegetation, either via a regenerative burn or revegetation with locally indigenous species.

### Promotion & Awareness

It is important to involve a range of interested groups and individuals in the management of the Heathland to increase general awareness of the

importance of remnant vegetation. Increased promotion of the Heathland through local papers, guided walks and active working bees may increase appreciation of the area.

However, it is the aim of this plan that the conservation status of Long Hollow Heathland be maintained, with only low-key interpretational facilities provided, to enhance the appropriate enjoyment and level of awareness of the visitors to the Heathland.

### Hydrology

Once part of an extensive swamp system, Long Hollow Heathland is now mostly drained. As a result, many wet heath species dependent on the former swamp system are now in decline, or may have disappeared completely. Comprehensive planning and design is required if the hydrology of Long Hollow Heathland is to be restored.



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It is expected that a review of the management plan and expert advice will be conducted every three years.

## High Priority Actions

- 1.1 Implement a monitoring program and review of the indigenous vegetation as stated by Cropper (1996).
- 1.2 Remove BMX track and re-establish area with indigenous vegetation, either via a regenerative burn or revegetation with locally indigenous species.
- 1.3 Implement actions/education campaign in conjunction with the school, to ensure the long-term removal of the BMX track by emphasising importance of conserving the vegetation.
- 1.4 Remove cubby houses.
- 1.5 Involve students from the Sandringham Secondary College Beaumaris Campus in the management of the Heathland through participation in activities including weed control, monitoring activities and through the curriculum.

- 1.6 Annually review the status of significant species.
- 1.7 Educate pet owners addressing the following issues:
  - 1.7.1 waste products and their effect on the Heathland
  - 1.7.2 responsible pet ownership.
- 1.8 Educate users of issues regarding:
  - 1.8.1 dumping of garden and household debris—to prevent introduction of weeds
  - 1.8.2 building of cubby houses.
- 1.9 Develop vegetative buffers between the external boundaries of the Heathland and the remnant vegetation.
- 1.10 Contact various Universities and Institutions that have conducted studies or monitoring within the Heathland and obtain copies of their data.
- 1.11 Carry out weed control as per specifications overleaf.

## Medium Priority Actions

- 2.1 Gradually replace the invasive coastal over-storey species with other indigenous species over a 10-year period.



# Management

## PRESCRIPTIONS

- 2.2 Close and revegetate all informal tracks in the Heathland.
  - 2.3 Continue to support the Heathland's role in the vegetation corridor.
  - 2.4 Repair the fencing around the Winifred Waddell Sanctuary.
  - 2.5 Introduce a Neighbourhood Watch-style program to help reduce vandalism.
  - 2.6 Rezone the Heathland to a conservation-orientated zoning.
- Low Priority Actions**
- 3.1 Investigate the causes of dieback in the Eucalyptus species in the Woodland.
  - 3.2 Develop and implement a plan for the enhancement of wet heath.
  - 3.3 Identify the sources of nutrient enrichment in the Heathland and determine methods for reducing or eliminating nutrient enrichment in the Heathland.
  - 3.4 Develop methods to reduce the impact of pollution in the Heathland.
  - 3.5 Maintain the paths and the boardwalk including clearing of deadfall and pruning of pathside vegetation.
  - 3.6 Assess the requirements for bins throughout the Heathland.



### Zone 19

Annual cut & paint of Rubus spp.

Shall be 95% free of following weeds:  
Leptospermum laevigatum, Acacia sophorae, Pittosporum undulatum, Hedera helix.

Shall be 50% free of all weeds, especially:  
Holcus lanatus, Hypochoeris radicata, Cynodon dactylon.

### Zone 20

Annual cut and paint of Rubus spp.

Shall be 80% free of all weeds capable of setting seed.

### Zone 21

Shall be 95% free of Pittosporum undulatum.

Annual spray of Rubus spp.

### Zone 22

All internal pathways shall be 95% weed free.

1m of either side of path shall be 80% weed free.

All internal pathways shall be clear of vegetation to a width of 0.5m and to a height of 1.8m.

### Zone 23

Shall be 50% free of Pennisetum clandestinum, Cynodon dactylon, Hypochoeris radicata and all exotic grasses.

Annual spray of Rubus spp.

Shall be 95% free of Foeniculum vulgare.

### Zone 24

Shall be 80% free of all weeds including seedlings and saplings of Leptospermum laevigatum, Acacia sophorae and Pittosporum undulatum.

### Zone 24a

Shall be 95% free of all weeds.

### Zone 24b

Shall be 80% free of all weeds including seedlings and saplings of Leptospermum laevigatum, Acacia sophorae, Pittosporum undulatum.

### Zone 24c

Shall be 80% free of all weeds including seedlings and saplings of Leptospermum laevigatum, Acacia sophorae, Pittosporum undulatum.

2m wide strip on the northern boundary, adjacent to driveway, shall be 95% free of all weeds.

### Zone 24d

Shall be 50% free of all weeds.

### Zone 24e

1999 burn site shall be 95% free of all weeds for the following three (3) years.

### Zone 25

Shall be 80% free of all weeds.

### Zone 26

Annual spot spray of Cynodon dactylon.

### Zone 27

Shall be 80% free of all weeds.

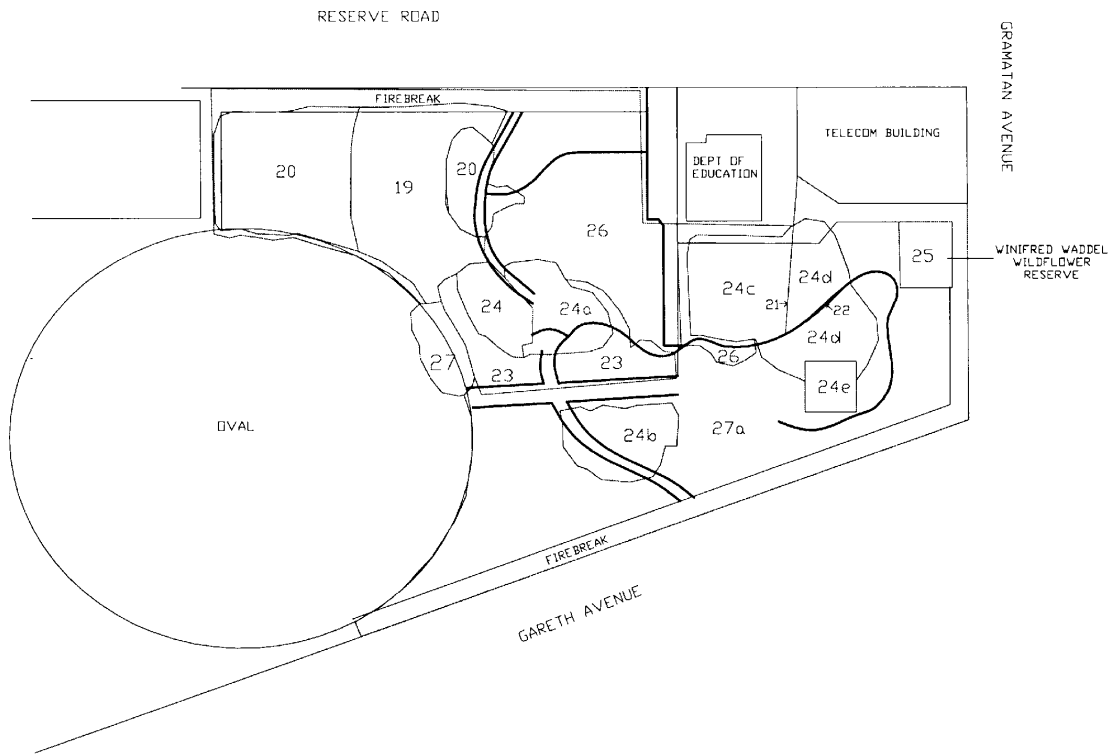
1m wide strip along boundary of zone shall be 95% free of all weeds.

### Zone 27a



Twice a year spray of all exotic climbing vines including Tradescantia albiflora, Salpichroa organifolia.

Annual spray of Rubus spp., Foeniculum vulgare.

# Mapped Details



## LEGEND

-  WEED ZONE (REFER SPECIFICATION FOR WEED ZONE KEY & DESCRIPTION)
-  PATHS



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