

Wirraparinga Loop Trail Update:

The Wirraparinga Loop Trail project is still progressing well, with a solid contribution being made by all stakeholders in a spirit of goodwill and cooperation:

- The Wirraparinga Loop Trail Agreement (MOU) is close to being finalised. Mitcham Council will vote on the MOU early in September. Carrick Hill, the owners of Springwood Park, DEWNR, and BCA have already voted to support the MOU.
Piers Brissenden (DEWNR) took instructions from the stakeholders/landowners and the Crown Solicitor's Office has drafted the final MOU.
It is important to note that landowners only have responsibility for the section of trail that passes over their land and that the public are already using these sections of trail.
Formalising the 9.5km loop trail will provide coordinated outcomes for recreation, tourism, education, heritage, native revegetation, habitat restoration, trail standards, maintenance and signage.
- BCA received \$20,000 from the Federal Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development (supported by Nicolle Flint MP) for trail infrastructure and we have employed a contractor to carry out trail design and construction in Brownhill Creek Valley, including 4 stone creek crossings and a boardwalk/footbridge.
This grant is being matched by cash and in kind labour from BCA, The Friends of Brownhill Creek and the Rotary Club of Brownhill Creek.
- A \$200,000 (5 month) Green Army project was secured thanks to the efforts of Nicolle Flint MP, Federal Member for Boothby.
This project started in May with DEWNR providing excellent support as the host.
The Rotary Club of Brownhill Creek has given \$5,000 for contractors to help the Green Army (chainsawing and heavy clearing of feral vegetation).
- Thanks to Martin Hamilton-Smith MP, Independent State Member for Waite, Ron Bellchambers met with Minister Ian Hunter MLC to seek funding for a safe pedestrian crossing (heritage footbridge) at the White Bridge site.
Martin pursued this budget bid and \$200,000 has been allocated in the 2017-2018 State Budget to construct a dedicated Brownhill Creek Pedestrian Bridge.
This pedestrian bridge will form an integral part of the Wirraparinga Loop Trail and should enhance the heritage of this important site. The design of the bridge will be finalised soon.
- BCA's Education and Revegetation Committee, hosted by Scotch College, is already working on education and revegetation programmes along the proposed loop trail.
Representatives from BCA, Scotch College, Urrbrae Agricultural High School, Urrbrae TAFE, Mercedes College, Mitcham Primary School, along with two NRM Education Officers and the DEWNR ranger for Brownhill Creek Recreation Park meet regularly.
The Ed & Reveg Committee holds an annual event involving at least four schools, provides expert support for school excursions and oversees an 'Our Patch' programme involving schools and community groups (weed control, revegetation and education).
Additional schools will be joining this committee.

- Mitcham Council has completed an upgrade of the Peter Nelson Walking Trail, which is on council land. This section of the proposed Wirraparinga Loop Trail is an important connector trail, part of the Yurrebilla Trail and historically linked to the Rotary Club of Brownhill Creek.

On Saturday 26 August the Rotary Club of Brownhill Creek and the Friends of Brownhill Creek will be helping Mitcham Council with tree planting and rubbish removal along this trail.

- From all accounts Carrick Hill is progressing well with its plan for a visitor centre/trailhead facility and continues to improve its trails and environs. Carrick Hill hosted a Wirraparinga Loop Trail Tourism Forum and Stakeholder Meeting.
- The owners of Springwood Park are generously undertaking works along the trail on Springwood Park, in the tradition of the Yurrebilla and Heysen Trails which cross private property.
- DEWNR/NRM are providing technical and logistical support for the trail in Brownhill Creek Recreation Park.
- The Friends of Brownhill Creek work once a month along the trail in the park and Mitcham Lions Club are continuing with their long running maintenance programme.
- BCA highly values our close relationship with the Kurna Nation Cultural Heritage Association and we are working towards a comprehensive Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Survey and future indigenous employment opportunities associated with the tourism project.
- Mitcham Historical Society donated \$5,000 for interpretive heritage trail signage and is always a strong and influential supporter of local heritage.
- The endangered Southern Brown Bandicoots and endangered Grey Box Woodland in Brownhill Creek Recreation Park are protected under the Federal EPBC Act and are being supported by DEWNR ecologists.
Research and funding for habitat restoration along the loop trail will occur, involving DEWNR, BCA, FOBHC, the Green Army and school groups.
- DEWNR has committed to fully restoring and maintaining the section of creek line immediately downstream of The White Bridge. Native vegetation and habitat has been damaged due to the construction of a temporary road diversion, required during the 3 month repairs being carried out on The White Bridge.

The Wirraparinga Loop Trail will provide a valuable asset for the community and progress is encouraging.