

# BEDFORD PARK

## MANAGEMENT PLAN - PART 1

### SECTION - D                      Refer Map for Area Numbers

This is the area between fenced off Area C (on map) near 1st Ringwood Scout Hall and Ringwood Secondary College - (West to East), and between Railway lines - (Ringwood East & Heathmont), and Bedford Road.

#### Area 1 - Scout Hall - Railway to Railway

- (a) This is a natural area - allow natural regeneration or have some plantings after removal of any weeds. e.g. *Acacia petinodes*, etc. Recommend post and rail fence to identify the area to be mowed, and the rest of the area to remain natural (or logs defining the area).
- (b) Requires weed removal - particularly introduced grasses. If water drains into this area, more suitable plants could be planted back into this area, e.g. *Eucalyptus ovata*, etc.
- (c) Shed relocated to allow for campfire area. Rubbish - old building material used. Have campfire area in this area. Place logs from 1(d) in this area. People are dumping rubbish in this area already.
- (d) This area is well worth preserving. It has plants which come under the 1988 Flora & Fauna Act. Logs should be removed. Weed removal by people who know weeds from the indigenous flora. No mowing, but weed removal should take place. Near fence line - removal of introduced plants, e.g. *Acacia petinodes* and Boneseed, etc. No car parking - allow area to regenerate.
- (e) This area contains some very important ground covers, e.g. *Bossiaea prostrata*, *Goodenia <sup>lanata</sup> lanata*, *Hypoxis glabella*, etc. High mowing would be preferable so as to keep these plants, and so prevent the introduction of quick growing weeds (with constant low mowing).

## **Area 2. - Ballet School etc. to Railway & Pathway**

- (a) Careful removal of Acacia Retinodes from the area. Regeneration of indigenous flora is taking place, so care is required when removing "weeds". White Heath and Bluebells are in this area.

Large shed or container at the back of the hall. The space between this and the hall constitutes more of a "safety hazard" than the natural bush. ~~This~~ This area was not noted in the safety audit. In the future maybe an additional 'room' could be added to the building instead of the present container.

- (b) Remove Cotoneasters, Acacia Longifolia (Sallow Wattle), Pittosporum, Blackberries, etc. This will open up the area with the removal of these environmental weeds. Low growing indigenous plants would allow through vision to the hall. Such as Lomandras, Correas, Hovea, etc., and reduce the mowing maintenance.

## **Area 3 - Area Near Railway Line**

- (a) The railway section of this area is very degraded - overgrown with weeds. Fence needs mending - whose property - Council or Railway? Acacia Retinodes requires removal. It is quite dense, and overgrowing other plants. Remove all Pittosporum, Watsonia Bulbs, Acacia Longifolia. Railway line side to pathway to lake is very degraded - possible fire hazard. Remove Acacia Retinodes and allow Cherry Ballart trees to grow. Near 'skating' area path, remove Broom, Cootamundra Wattle, etc.
- (b) Do not touch. Some good areas.
- (c) Clean up behind Youth Hall near skating (<sup>former</sup> ~~former~~) bowl area, e.g. Ivy, Cotoneaster, Pittosporum (not the indigenous flora).

## **Area 4 - Railway End**

- (a) Good flora. Removal of weeds only by people who know the indigenous plants.
- (b) Area overgrown with Blackberries, Pittosporum and Watsonia along pathway area towards Area 4d. Some good regeneration in this area. Good next to path towards fenceline. Care to be taken when removing environmental weeds.

- (c) Trees O.K. Parts of area replanted with native prickly plants, e.g. Hakea Ulicina, Bursaria Spinosa, Leptospermum, etc.
- (d) Remove all introduced trees along fence line (Ringwood Secondary College Side), e.g. Willow (pussy). Remove Ivy, Honeysuckle, etc. bulldoze (Ref Parks and Gardens) the above, avoiding Eucalypts along fence line towards pathline near railway line. Trees should not then be planted under the powerlines.

Other suitable indigenous flora could be planted in this area. Maybe part of a wetlands area, particularly towards the railway line end. Work with Ringwood Secondary College students for beautification of this area. Plans and plant list could be drawn up.

#### **Area 5 - Ref to plans along Youth & CC Hall wall and path**

- (a) Remove trees along wall. Trees should not be planted against the wall, particularly under wires near lighting. Bushes that produce bernes should not be planted in the park. Birds spread the seed and plants become environmental weeds. Suitable plants would be available for planting along walls to:
  - (i) prevent graffiti, and
  - (ii) for safety.

Remove Acacia Retinodes in mown area. Suitable indigenous plants could go back into this area to:

- (i) beautify the area;
  - (ii) reduce mowing;
  - (iii) take away the bare look;
  - (iv) seating.
- (b) (i) Remove Pine Tree and Pittosporum.
  - (ii) Plant a couple more suitable trees/other plants to reduce mowing, but still keep an open area.
  - (iii) Seating.

#### **Area 6 - Indigenous Flora Area**

Removal of environmental weeds only by people who know their plants. Acacia Retinodes and A. Longifolia require removal, also any Pittosporum, etc.

## **COMMENTS**

Refer to map for numbers.

1. People prefer to walk in non built up areas rather than along roadsides, hence the continuity of Bedford Park, Ringwood Lake and path to Heathmont.
2. Paths are used to access Ringwood Lake from the South and South Eastern side or walking from the Ringwood Lake side.
3. Local people use it for a short cut for shopping.
4. Carers have taken people for walks in the area (from Ringwood Lake to Bedford Road).
5. People use the path from Heathmont through Bedford Park on bicycles.
6. A large part of Bedford Park has already been cleared for buildings, car parking, roads, clearance around buildings in Section D. Further areas, towards the Lilydale railway line area, should not be cleared because:
  - (i) of its closeness to Ringwood Lake vegetated area;
  - (ii) the degradation of the Railway line area between the Lake and Bedford Park; and
  - (iii) areas for smaller birds and wildlife, etc.

Regeneration and replanting of Section A, B & C can add greatly to the whole area of Ringwood Lake and Bedford Park. This area could then be included on the walking tracks for Ringwood. Sensitive areas would need to be suitably fenced off, e.g. post and rail, logs, etc. Areas can be defined with Ringwood Council for this purpose.
7. The more areas that are mowed, the more introduction of weeds will take place, ensuring a lot more time in mowing. This can be avoided in areas where low growing indigenous plants can be left or allow to regenerate or replanted.
8. People Involvement
  - (i) Users of the park.

(ii) Local people - local and interested people should have some areas retained in Section D other than buildings and mown areas.

(iii) Young people.

Schools, Scouts, Guides, etc., may be interested because of their particular activities.

#### Section B:

Plans for revegetation with indigenous flora can be drawn up for community involvement. Users of Halls, particularly night users, may not be as interested because they do not use the grounds, therefore may not be aware of the value of the area to Ringwood.

Bedford park contains some of the best sources of indigenous flora in Ringwood, including plants covered by the Flora & Fauna Act of 1988. It is adjacent to the natural area of Ringwood Lake, and it is only the Railway line which divides this area. Unfortunately, the railway area is very degraded, containing lots of weeds.

Bedford Park and Ringwood lake were part of the original water course (called Sandy Gully) running through to Mullum Creek.

9. Replanting in 'safety' appropriate areas with prickly indigenous plants, e.g. *Hakea ulicina*. *Bursaria Spinosa*, etc. Also, may be suitable plantings along 'available' walls to prevent spraying, etc.
10. Careful placement of seating can be a target for graffiti and can also be used to sit at for drinking, etc., at night time.
11. Working 'B' Areas.
  - (i) Clean up around Scout Hall and transfer campfire to the area.
  - (ii) Removal of environmental weeds in Area 4D and 2B, etc.
  - (iii) Removal of bulbs and weeds near Area 4A and 4D.
  - (iv) Removal of *Acacia Retinodes* and *A Longifolia* in various areas (Supervised)
  - (v) Have weed display so that workers can identify weeds.
12. Parking should not intrude into vegetation areas. Further parking could be in the following areas:

- (i) Continuation of drain pipes into from of Youth Hall and CC Hall.  
The area covered over and used for parking.
- (ii) Near Scout Hall. Not in Area 6.