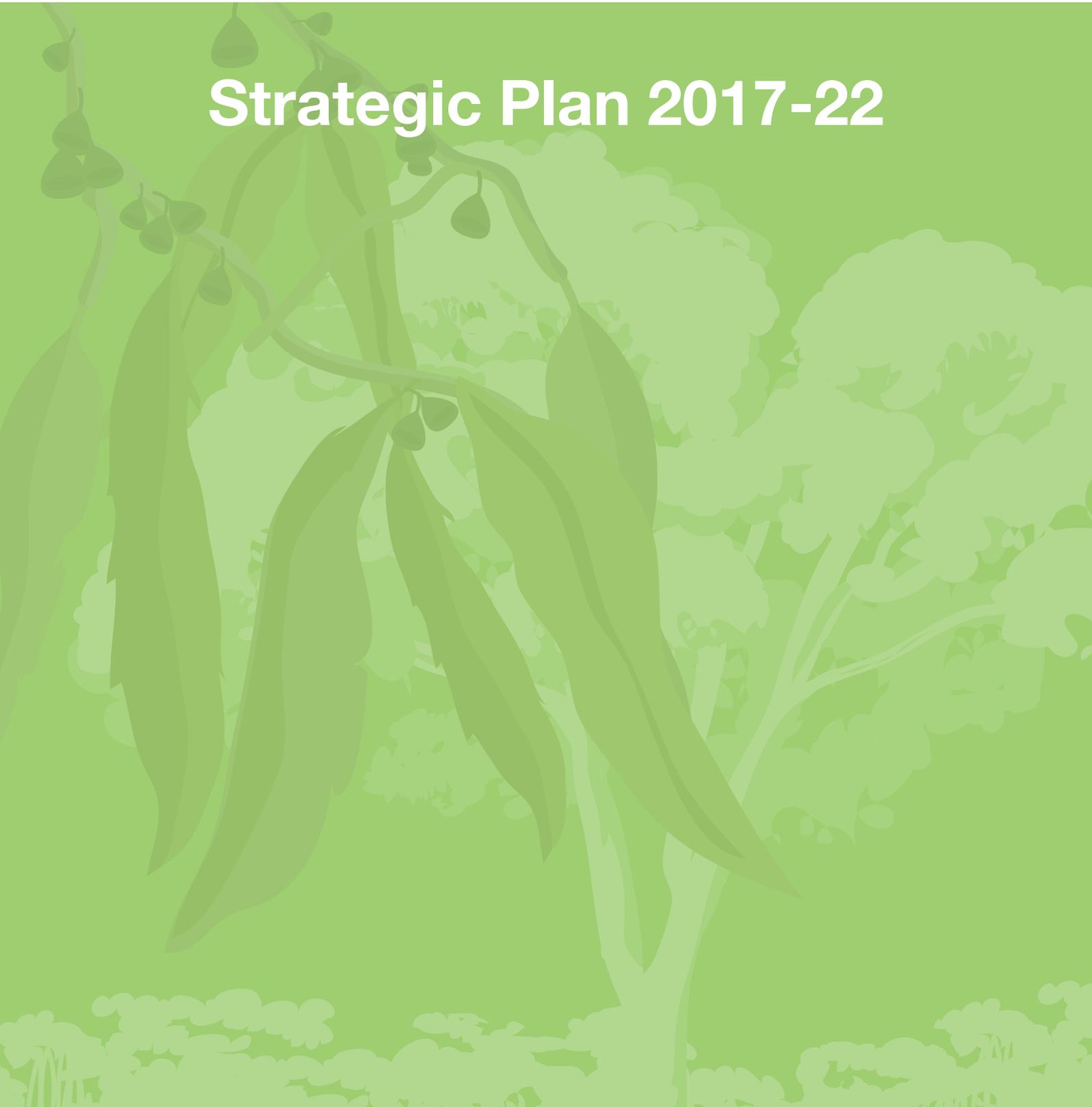


*yarra***4***life*

Building connections for the environment
and people through collaboration

Strategic Plan 2017-22



Acknowledgement of country

The Yarra4Life program works on the lands and waters of the Wurundjeri peoples and acknowledges them as Traditional Owners. We pay respect to their Elders, past and present, as well as other Elders with a connection to the region.

Yarra4Life recognises the Wurundjeri as the first people and custodians of the lands and waters that are vital to the Yarra4Life area. We value their contribution in managing country and seek to embed their traditional knowledge, understanding of culture and connection to Country in the work we undertake.

Yarra4Life Strategic Plan

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This plan is available online at yarra4life.com.au and www.ppwcma.vic.gov.au

Contact us if you require the document in an alternative format.

About Yarra4Life

Region

The Yarra4Life program area takes in roughly 82,000ha of the Yarra Valley, on the eastern outskirts of Melbourne's fringe. It extends from the foothills of the Yarra Ranges in the north to the Cardinia Reservoir in the south and flanked by the Dandenong Ranges to the west and Kurth Kiln Regional Park and Bunyip State Park to the east.

The Yarra Valley is one of Victoria's most valuable, attractive and visited regions; renowned for its rural landscapes, food, wine, rivers and wildlife. Yarra4Life aims to provide stepping stones and connection across the landscape for the area's unique flora and fauna.

History

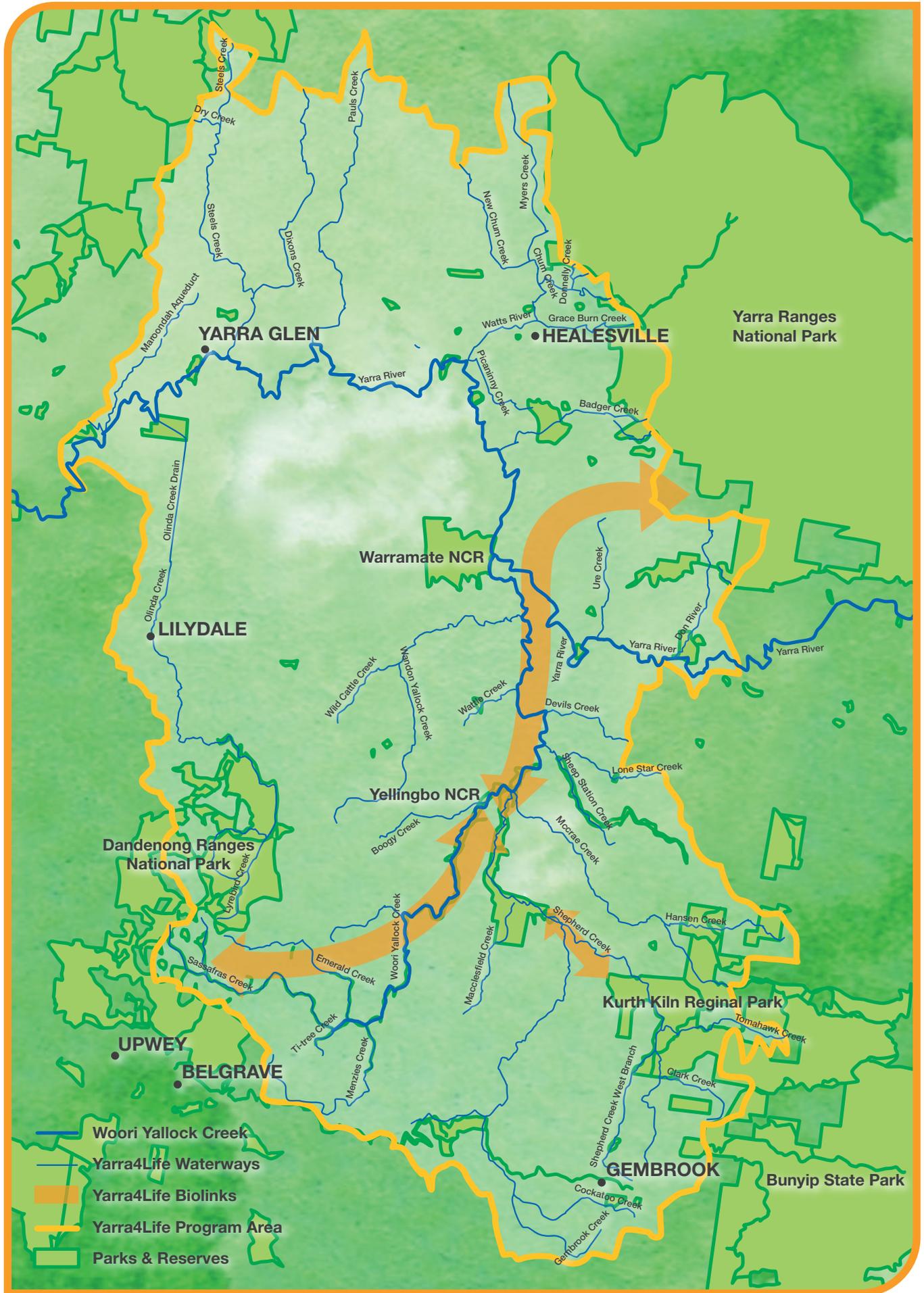
Yarra4Life came into being in 2006, when a group of environment and community organisations came together to work on local environment projects in the Yarra Valley.

Yarra4Life is designed to be a large scale, practical program that focuses on collaboration and the delivery of tangible environmental benefits. Over the last 11 years, Yarra4Life has developed, worked on and supported biodiversity and environmental improvement projects across the region. In particular, the Yarra4Life Coordination Committee has strived to create stepping stones across the landscape connecting Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve to Kurth Kiln, the Dandenong Ranges and Yarra Ranges National Park. All of Yarra4Life's achievements build on the work undertaken over decades by various community groups, government agencies, Landcare groups and local government.

Next page - Yarra4Life area map

Below - Yarra4Life Coordination Committee





Role

Yarra4Life:

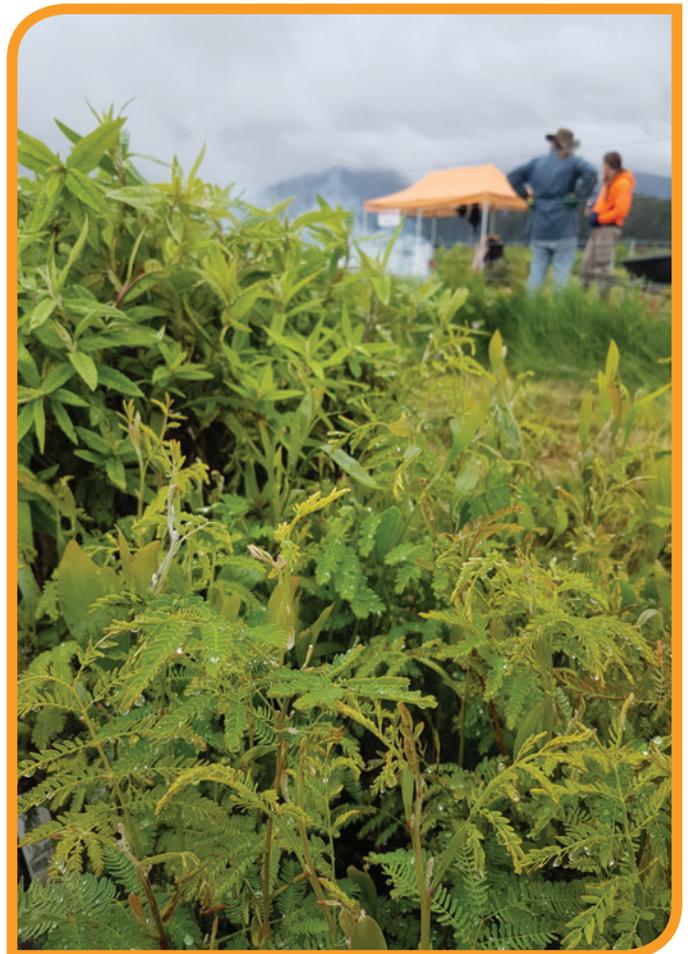
- Plans, coordinates and delivers cross-tenure land management projects that improve habitat across the Yarra4Life landscape.
- Provides opportunities to coordinate and connect works, and a forum to share collective knowledge.
- Builds connections between our community and the environment.
- Works with Traditional Owners and incorporate their goals and aspirations for participation in natural resource management into Yarra4Life activities.



Partners

The Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority coordinates Yarra4Life on behalf of the following organisations:

- Yarra Ranges Landcare Network,
- Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater,
- Friends of Leadbeaters Possum,
- Wurundjeri Tribe Council,
- Conservation Volunteers Australia,
- Trust for Nature,
- Victorian National Parks Association,
- Parks Victoria,
- Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning,
- Zoos Victoria,
- Melbourne Water,
- Yarra Ranges Council,
- Cardinia Shire Council
- Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority



Yarra4Life's Vision

Ecosystems across the Yarra4Life landscape are protected, connected and resilient, and supported by a community that values the natural environment.

How will we achieve this

The Yarra4Life's Vision centres around three key goals. These goals and our plan to achieve them are outlined below.

1. Connect Ecosystems in the Yarra4Life area

Yarra4Life seeks to improve the connectivity and resilience of the region's unique biodiversity by establishing core habitats and connecting them across the landscape. By building resilience across the landscape, the Yarra4Life area will be better placed to support habitat for threatened species that reside in the Yarra4Life area, including iconic species such as the Helmeted Honeyeater and Leadbeater's Possum.

We will do this by:

- Establish stepping stones that provide connections from Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve to the Yarra Ranges in the north, Kurth Kiln regional Park in the South East and the Dandenong Ranges National Park in the west.
- Seeking opportunities to deliver cross tenure land management projects, that build connections across the landscape and that protect threatened species.
- Building Traditional Owner knowledge and practices into our approaches to the local environmental management.

Measures of success:

- The location and amount of on-ground work achieved
- Funding secured to deliver projects
- Number of partners in delivering projects
- Activity leveraged through Yarra4Life, including funding and number of projects
- Traditional Owner involvement

2. Connect people with the natural environment

A strength of Yarra4Life is its connection to the local community. We have a critical role in helping people to better understand and appreciate their local environment. A priority for the Coordination Committee is to continue to work with those communities to bring about changes and to build stronger connections to that local environment. Building community understanding of Traditional Owner Knowledge and practices into understanding and management of the local environment is a critical part of this work.

We will do this by:

- Seeking opportunities to provide Community engagement and education activities
- Provide opportunities to share Traditional Owner Knowledge
- Advocate for the best practice environmental management across the Yarra4Life area

Measures of success:

- Number of Community engagement and education events and attendance at these events
- Number of Traditional Owner knowledge sharing opportunities
- Number of landholders engaged in best practice environmental management through Yarra4Life activities
- Number of other advocacy activities



3. Connect Yarra4Life coordination partners

Yarra4Life is a forum that provides opportunities for people and organisations to work together to improve the Yarra Valley environment.

Yarra4Life is unique. It brings together community and organisations across the region around a common goal for protecting the Yarra Valley environment. It provides a powerful opportunity to collaborate, coordinate and guide the diverse range of work occurring through these partners.

We will achieve this by:

- Convening the Yarra4Life Coordination Committee
 - The Yarra4Life Coordination Committee will meet four times a year
- Actively seeking funding opportunities that adopt a partnership approach
- Being involved in other forums and committees relevant to the Yarra4Life area

Measures of success:

- Number and financial value of projects being coordinated under the Yarra4Life umbrella.
- Number of partners involved in Yarra4Life.
- Number of Yarra4Life meetings and attendance at meetings.
- Number of other forums or committees Yarra4Life has been involved in.

How will we track our progress

We will monitor our progress towards our goals as part of an annual review of our achievements. During each year we will collect the monitoring data noted below each of our three goals. We will review this data as part of the annual review and use it to inform our directions for the coming year.



yarra4life

For more information on Yarra4Life contact

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