

# Spring Notes 2021

## LOY YANG B

### COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

We are thrilled to be able to announce a continued partnership with Loy Yang B for the next three years. For over 20 years now, the Reserve has benefited greatly from sponsorship with LYB (and its various predecessors) which has funded many "extras" such as paths, signage, the production of educational material, plantings, fencing and scientific surveys which inform our management plans. The pavilion is a fine example of LYB support in promoting the importance of TRRCR for its ecological, educational and social values.

### Featured Fauna



Australia has the **Blue-winged Kookaburra** in northern Australia and the **Laughing Kookaburra**, native to eastern Australia and introduced to the southwest and Tasmania. The Laughing Kookaburra is the **largest kingfisher**. It is stocky at 40-50 cm in length, with a large head, and robust bill that is black on top and pale underneath. Both sexes are similar in color but the female is generally larger with less blue. Usual habitat is open sclerophyll forest and woodland and other areas where there are suitable

trees or running water, such as farmland and city parks and gardens. This species is sedentary and lives in the same territory throughout the year. The kookaburra is careful to honor territory boundaries but will also use trapeze and circular flights to defend its area. Its call is loud and distinctive. It makes two sources of vibrations of two frequencies at the same time and makes multiple harmonics by forcing air from the lungs into the bronchial tubes. The call is of five variable elements - the "kooa", "cackle", rolling "oo-oo-oo", "ha-ha" followed by the "go-go" of the male or "gurgle" of the female. Often the family sings as a chorus. Kookaburras are **almost exclusively carnivorous**, eating snakes, mice, insects, worms, frogs, small reptiles and the young of other birds though unlike many kingfishers they rarely eat fish. Laughing Kookaburras are believed to be **monogamous**, pairing for life. Their nest is a tree hollow or a hole excavated in an aboreal termite mound. The usual clutch is three white eggs though the youngest chick is often killed by the older siblings. Both parents share incubation and care for the young. Populations are listed as least concern in all states. **Funnily enough a flock is called a riot of Kookaburras. Keep an eye out for our resident kookas when you next visit. And an ear open for their calls!**

### Working Bees

- First Saturdays of the month, meeting at The Shed 9.15am.
- In between lockdowns, a small group of volunteers managed to put in about 200 trees, shrubs and grasses which was a terrific effort at short notice. Thanks to LCC for supplying the plants which included peppermint gums, Australian Indigo, lightwoods and poa. Normal working bees scheduled for August and September had to be cancelled.
- A big shout out too, to the Quantum team members who regularly help out with cleaning the pavilion, raking paths and clearing drains. Much appreciated!

### Visitor numbers

- Continued high numbers again during the lockdown, about 2700 per week.
- Be sure to look out for the six cygnets which are attracting lots of photographers.
- Enjoy the sound of frogs croaking – this is a great indicator of eco health.
- Picture below: Don't often see this volume of water flowing through the canyon from Spring rains.



### Projects

- No further news on the plans to replace Deane's Bridge over the weir which will remain closed.
- A design for replacement of the Middle Bridge has been developed. Construction will be funded jointly by LCC and the grant received some time ago from Darren Chester but no indication yet when this may start.
- Weeds! Ongoing work dealing with invasive species.

### Thanks to our Supporters...

- A very generous workplace donation from Latrobe Smart Centre will go towards more seating and picnic tables. Thanks, Georgina for facilitating that.
- Graham Frankland for deliveries of topsoil.
- Pinegro for supply of mulch.
- Melina Bath MLC whose office photocopies this newsletter for us

**TRRCR Committee/Friends**  
Meet 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at the Shed 7pm

**Working Bees**  
First Saturday of the month from 9.15am.  
Meet at the Shed

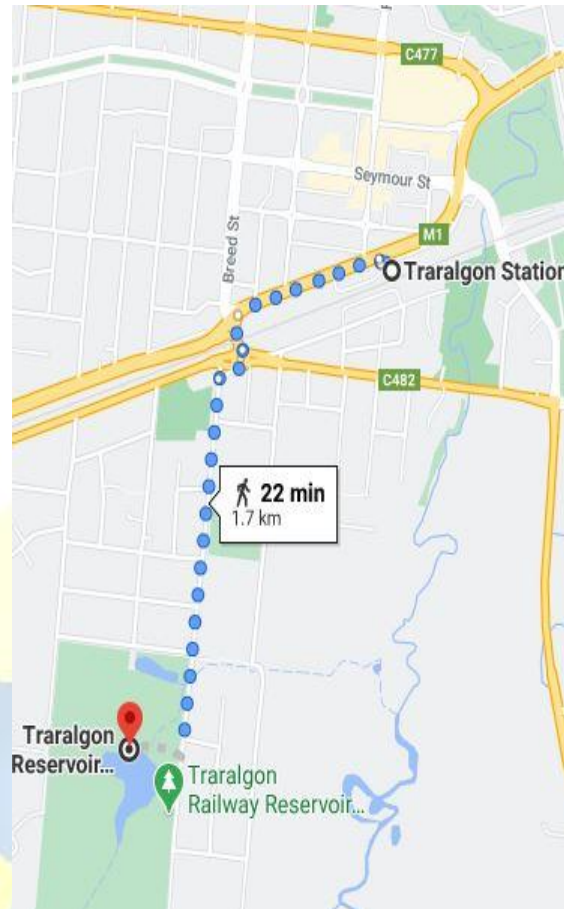
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**Meeting Room/  
Maintenance Shed**  
152 Hickox Street  
Traralgon

**Phone Latrobe City Council**  
1300 367 700



**From Railway Station**  
5-10minutes by car  
10 minutes by bicycle  
25-30 minute walk  
via  
Prince's Hwy  
Breed St  
Hickox St

## Newsletter 6 Spring 2021

# TRARALGON RAILWAY RESERVOIR CONSERVATION RESERVE

SUPPORTED BY:



**Loy Yang B  
Power Station**

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