



# Project Report

## Wax Garden gets an expansion upgrade

Protection and Recruitment of the Wax Garden Reserve's threatened Buloke and Goldfields Grevillea colonies

Threatened Species Protection Initiative (TSPI) under Community Volunteer Action Grants Round 2 Victorian Government.

Hot on the heels of our successful project at View Point we received our grant monies to completely re-fence and enlarge the Wax Garden, a small area (3.84 ha) of unusually high biodiversity and popular walking area for both townspeople and visitors.

The St Arnaud District forester in 1973, Rodney Handmer recognised the unusual vegetation at the site and erected a rabbit-proof fence but the intervening years, drought and determined browsing and grazing animals saw the fence become ineffective. The Reserve was named for the Fairy Waxflower which grew there in profusion but by the 1990s it had disappeared completely.

This rather large job required the removal of the old netting fence, replacement with a substantial 1.5m high rabbit, hare, wallaby and kangaroo proof fence. Working in con-

junction with Parks

Victoria and Dja Dja Wurrung Ranger Team we were able to reposition the new fence to make best use of materials and provide the greatest protected area. With the help of local Rotary Club members we were able to remove the old fence with minimal disturbance to the site.

Once again we were lucky to get help from the Drought Employment Team who had worked with us at View Point and after receiving our grant monies in November had the whole 1 km of 1.5m high fencing up just before Christmas 2016.

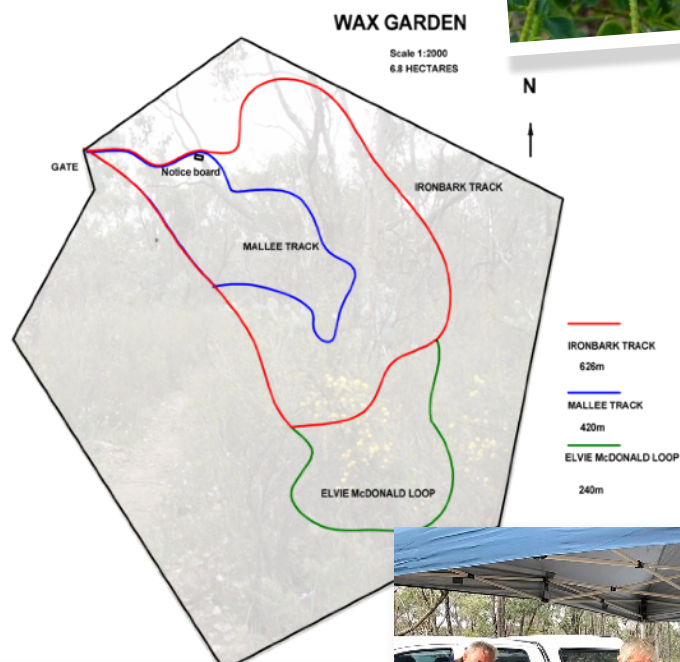


*Danielle Green, Victorian Parliamentary Secretary delivering her speech on behalf of the Victorian Government for support of the project with Anne Hughes on the left listening intently.*



The new Reserve is now 6.84 ha. The Information Board and shelter, erected in 1994, was refurbished and a new track was put in to take walkers into part of the new area. Best of all, during the track work, we rediscovered at least 14 plants of Fairy Waxflower shooting for dear life - they had been browsed right off to near ground level.

We also launched the new Wax Garden brochure.



Although a cold day, the group



*Visitors setting off to walk the park, led by tour host Anne Hughes.*

enjoyed the open fire pit and great company. Thanks to all for making it a successful day.

Anne Hughes  
President



*Wonderful lunch prepared by St Arnaud Rotary Club*



*The crew setting up the corner posts for the project.*