



SOUTH WEST VICTORIA LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT STUDY

Consultation & Community Values Report

June 2013

CONSULTATION & COMMUNITY VALUES

Community values are sourced through communication and consultation with the people who live or work in, or visit the study area.

Landscapes hold different values for different people. Some people may enjoy the scenic values and settings of landscapes. Others may appreciate the habitats they provide for wildlife or their potential for productivity and economic return.

Purpose

Seeking the opinion of the community is essential for understanding what values are placed on the landscape.

The key objectives of the consultation program developed for this project were to:

- inform the community, key stakeholders and specialist advisors about the project and its progress at each stage;
- invite input at each stage of the project;
- determine perceptions and values in relation to landscape character in order to better inform the character analysis being undertaken; and,
- determine perceptions and values to assist in the identification of the most significant landscapes in the study area.

This required involvement of a broad cross-section of individuals who have extensive contacts, knowledge and experience of, and connection to, the south west Victorian landscape.

Stakeholders

Project Reference Groups

Focused engagement was undertaken with two Project Reference Groups made up of key stakeholders to be closely involved in the project. These stakeholders had specialist knowledge, skills, information and resources and represented various groups in the public. The Project Reference Groups had already been established as part of the Regional Growth Plans project.

The groups were divided by area as shown on the map opposite - South West and Central West regions.

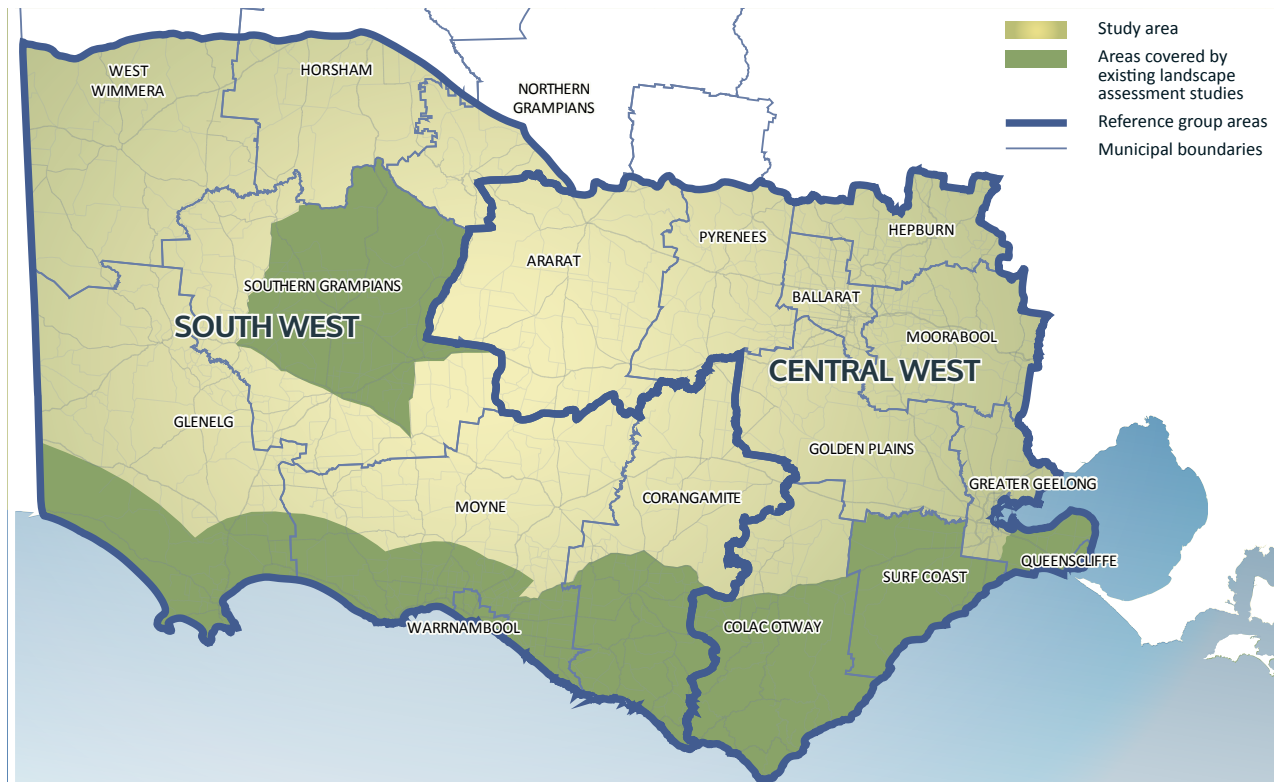
The two Project Reference Groups comprised representatives from:

- Corangamite Council
- Glenelg Shire Council
- Moyne Shire Council
- Southern Grampians Shire Council
- City of Greater Geelong
- Colac Otway Shire
- Ararat Rural City Council
- City of Ballarat
- Golden Plains Shire Council
- Hepburn Shire Council
- Moorabool Shire Council
- Pyrenees Shire Council
- Horsham Rural City Council
- Northern Grampians Shire
- West Wimmera Shire Council
- Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CMA)
- Glenelg Hopkins CMA
- Wimmera CMA
- Heritage Victoria
- Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV)
- Department of Primary Industries (DPI)
- Department of Sustainability and Environment
- Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD)

Four meetings were held at key stages of the project to update on progress, discuss draft outcomes, seek feedback and provide material to members for dissemination to other interested parties.

COVER IMAGE: View from Mount Rouse looking towards Mount Napier, image courtesy of Tracey Kruger

Figure 1 Reference Group Areas



There were two separate Reference Groups arranged by area, the same meetings were held with each group

Interested Groups & Individuals

Given the large extent of the study area and the number of people affected, broad scale engagement was also undertaken.

Interested groups and individuals were invited to participate via DPCD’s project website, Council websites, word-of-mouth and direct phone or email contact.

Project Reference Group members also assisted in identifying many of these stakeholders. The Project Reference Group helped to disseminate information about the project to this wider audience, particularly Council representatives via their websites. They also provided names of people and organisations to be nominated to participate in the project as part of the community photographic exercise.

Interested parties could request to be included on an email mailing list, whereby they were kept informed of the project’s progress and invited to comment on the outputs of each stage. An email was sent out each time the website was updated and a new Bulletin was available. Around 120 people were on the email list.

Consultation Method

Consultation with the public occurred using a variety of means. A summary of the method is shown in the following table:

STAGE 1	Analysis & Research	Community Bulletin 1 Project Website set up Project Reference Group meetings round 1
STAGE 2	Landscape Character Analysis	Community Bulletin 2 Community Photo Exercise Project Reference Group meetings round 2 Website updated
STAGE 3	Landscape Significance Assessment	Community Bulletin 3 Project Reference Group meetings round 3 Website updated
STAGE 4	Final Recommendations	Project Reference Group meetings round 4 Website updated

Community Bulletins

Community Bulletins were prepared to:

- inform the community about the study progress;
- seek feedback at key stages; and,
- provide details about how to be involved in the project.

The aims and content of each Bulletin were as follows:

Bulletin 1

Bulletin 1 announced the project commencement, provided background information and included feedback questions (as per those included on the website, refer opposite).

Bulletin 2

Bulletin 2 explained the key findings of the landscape character assessment. Bulletin 2 thanked everyone who had submitted photos and information and explained that further opportunities would be available to contribute as the study progressed.

Bulletin 3

Bulletin 3 included a map of significant landscapes and views and invited people to refer to the detailed documentation for comment. It included feedback questions about the significance work.

A copy of the Bulletins can be found at Appendix 1.



Website

The website for the project was created as a single page on DPCD’s website. It was prepared to:

- inform the community about the study progress;
- provide access to the draft work and community Bulletins;
- seek feedback throughout the process; and,
- provide details about how to be involved in the project.

The site was updated at key stages of the project to include Community Bulletins as they were released and draft and final documents of the findings of the character and significance assessment.

All Councils were encouraged to provide information and links to the project website on their websites.

Stage 1

During Stage 1 of the project, the website asked for the following community input:

As a starting point, what would you consider to be:

- a landscape feature, place or view that is significant, scenic or beautiful;
- a landscape feature, place or view that captures the character of your area;
- a significant aspect of the landscape which is intangible or non-visual, such as its cultural, heritage or ecological value; and,
- a ‘threat’ to the landscape, i.e. a feature, place or view that you believe has been spoiled.

People were also invited to send emails and / or photos both in relation to the points outlined or any other important issue.

Stage 2

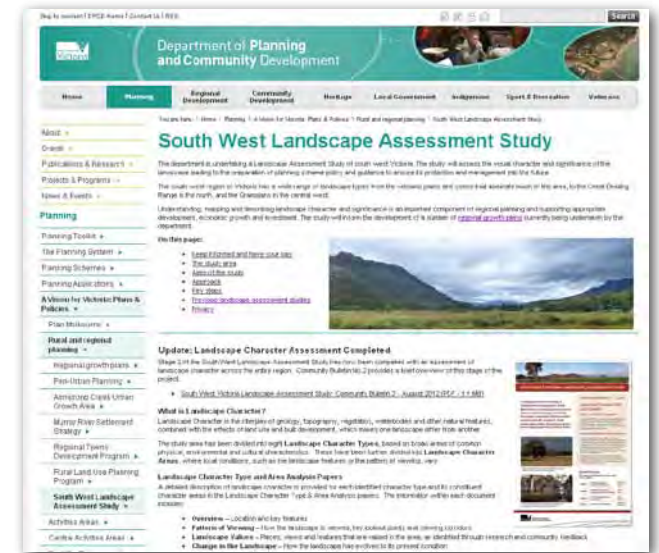
During Stage 2 of the project, the website was updated with Community Bulletin 2 and the draft character papers for public viewing and comment. The community were invited to keep informed and have their say.

Stage 3

During Stage 3 of the project, the website was updated to include all draft Landscape Analysis Papers for areas and views assessed as being potentially of state or regional significance. The broader community was invited to provide their feedback on all draft material outlining areas and views of significance. Consultation on draft material commenced on 12 December 2012 and concluded on 18 January 2013.

Stage 4

The website was updated at Stage 4 with the completed documents for community information.



Community Photographic Exercise

A community photographic exercise was undertaken as part of the project in order to:


- identify community views and values in relation to landscape character, landscape significance, intangible and non-visual aspects of landscape and threats to landscapes.

It also provided details about how to be involved in the project.

Key community members, nominated by Project Reference Group members, were asked via email and follow up phone calls to take photographs and fill in an accompanying survey form. Several individuals who expressed interest in the project were also invited to respond to the exercise. A copy of this form can be found at Appendix 2.

Participants were asked to take two photos each relating to each of the following themes:

- a landscape feature, place or view that you consider to be significance, scenic or beautiful;
- a landscape feature, place or view that captures the character of your area;
- a significant aspect of the landscape which is intangible or non-visual, such as its cultural, heritage or ecological values; and,
- a 'threat' to the landscape i.e. a feature, place or view that you believe has been spoiled.



SOUTH WEST VICTORIA LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT STUDY
COMMUNITY PHOTOGRAPHIC EXERCISE

THE STUDY & YOUR INVOLVEMENT

The Department of Planning and Community Development is undertaking a Landscape Assessment Study of south west Victoria. The study will evaluate the visual character and significance of the landscape, resulting in the preparation of planning scheme policy and guidance to ensure its protection and management into the future.

The photo exercise is an essential part of the study and will be used to gain a better understanding of the community's perceptions and values of landscapes within South West Victoria. It will also provide insight into the issues, challenges and threats that exist in managing those landscapes. Some of the photos will be selected to display in meetings and in the final report we prepare for the project.

For more information you can check our website www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/southwestlandscapes

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Complete the consent page, if this is not completed we cannot use your photos.
- Take a maximum of **eight** photos
- There are four themes which are described on the following pages, take two photos for each theme and write a caption to describe why you have chosen each photo
- The photos and captions will be used to gain an insight into your values and perceptions of the landscape.
- Please do not include any photographs of people as we will be unable to use them
- **Please reduce your images to less than 500KB**

SUBMITTING YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS:

There are two ways you can submit your completed form:


BY EMAIL

Save the form and return by email to :
southwestlandscapes@dpcd.vic.gov.au

BY POST


Print out the form and return it by post to:

Project Manager
South West Landscape Assessment Study
Department of Planning and Community Development
Level 10, 1 Spring Street,
Melbourne, Victoria, 3000



Please return your photos by **Monday 11th June, 2012**

southwestlandscapes@dpcd.vic.gov.au



COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES ON THE LANDSCAPE

Key Findings

The community was invited to provide feedback in relation to their views and values of landscape in the South West region in Stages 1 and 2. The invitation was extended via the website, Bulletin 1, the community photographic exercise and Council representatives in the PRG.

The feedback that was received related to different parts of the South West region and highlighted the range of values that people place upon the landscape.

A summary of the feedback follows, themed under the headings:

- Landscape Character
- Landscape Significance
- Intangible & Non-visual Significance
- Spoiled Landscapes & Threats
- Other Feedback

A number of responses related to locations outside of the study area. These were still included in the analysis as they nonetheless provide insight into people's thoughts, feelings and values of their local landscapes that have in themselves have relevance to the study.

A copy of all the feedback in tabulated form can be found at Appendix 3.



*Lake Kennedy with Mount Napier in view
Photo provided by Tracey Kruger*

Landscape Character

Which feature, place or view captures the character of the area?

Features, places and views that were identified as capturing the character of a part of the study area were:

- Seasonal wetlands, river red gums, paddock trees (dead or alive) and lakes, characteristic of West Wimmera

...The West Wimmera is unique because of the seasonal wetlands and the majestic river red gums. It is the wetlands that make each season have its different smell – be it a muddy smell of flourishing wetlands, or the sweet dry smell of drying grass and parched earth.....

Excerpt from Rachel Farran's submission

- Resilient lakes and transient wildlife populations, characteristic of the area at Lake Colongulac
- Primary industry such as agriculture, depicted through images of livestock around Mount Warrenheip

Features, places or views that were identified which are not in the study area:

- Natural rolling hills with volcanic rises in the background depicted at Tarrone North Road, Tarrone
- Agricultural and varied landscape depicted at Landers Lane, Tarrone



Landers Lane, Tarrone "The landscape is typically interesting and varied with many gullies, wetlands and stony barriers"
Photo provided by Genevieve Gleeson



Colin White's Road, Edenhope "the beauty of dead paddock trees"



Edenhope looking over paddock trees at sunset
Both photos provided by Rachel Farren, Landcare facilitator (Kowree Farm Tree Group)



Mountain duck grazing on fresh growth as Lake Colongulac refills
Photo provided by Stuart McCallum, Friends of Bannockburn Bush, Greening Australia



*"Sheep, farmed for wool and meat, grazing under leaden skies (typical scene in winter)
Photo provided by Jo Stephens & Kay Paton, Yendon History Group*

Landscape Significance

Which feature, place or view is significant, scenic or beautiful and why?

Where would you take a visitor to show them the best view of the landscape?

Significant features identified were:

- Mount Leura and Mount Sugarloaf, outstanding volcanic features
- Mount Elephant
- Western District Lakes, including Lake Terangom and Lake Bookar

...Lake Gnotuk and the Leura maar are just two examples of the outstanding volcanic features of the Western District. They give great pleasure to locals and visitors alike...

Excerpt from Keith Staff's submission

- Glenelg River, a heritage river which is "pretty much unspoilt"
- Lake Bunijon, "nestled between the Grampians and rich farmland in the west, the marsh grasses frame the lake as a native bird life sanctuary"
- Botanic gardens throughout the district which contain "weird and wonderful specimens"
- Wildflowers at the Grampians

The mountain that kept its head

SUGARLOAF — the mountain in the news at Camperdown — didn't lose its head during the week end after all.

However, in the drama to save the peak, several local residents lost theirs.

The owner of the mountain, Mr. Lindsay Alexander, had threatened to tear the top off it on Saturday unless a petition circulating in the district was stopped.

The petition to be presented to the Mines department, is a protest at the quarrying operations which are slowly eating away the mountain.

Sugarloaf is a Western District landmark — a perfectly symmetrical cone rich in volcanic scoria.

On Saturday, dozens of Camperdown people marched to the top of the 1000-foot high peak intent on frustrating any attempts to bulldoze the top off the mountain.

And for their trouble they were bombarded with fire-crackers by a rival group.

Besides, as it turned out, nobody need have gone to the mountain top.

After early morning talks with a member of the Sugarloaf Preservation Committee, Mr. Alexander gave the mountain a reprieve.

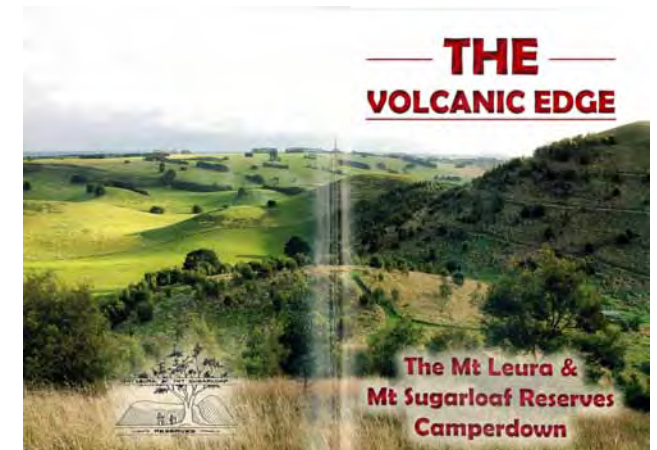
Now the petition — with more than 1000 signatures — is complete and will be sent to Melbourne.

In the meantime, Mount Sugarloaf has its top intact.

The Age article from 1966 about saving Mount Sugarloaf
Provided by Brigid Cole-Adams

Other features identified outside the study area were:

- Lake Gnotuk & Lake Bullen Merri, "twin" lakes, near the study area's edge, outstanding volcanic features of natural beauty, especially viewed from the saddle of land separating them
- Port Campbell's headland and port
- Back Creek at Tarrone, a natural waterway



The Volcanic Edge Booklet: The Mt Leura & Mt Sugarloaf Reserves, Camperdown, provided by Graham Arkinstall



Lake Terangom
Photo provided by Stuart McCallum, Friends of Bannockburn Bush, Greening Australia

Other significant places that were identified were:

- Ditchfield Road, Raglan, an unsealed road through bushland

Other places identified outside the study area were:

- Landers Lane, Tarrone

...Landers Lane has been very significant in our daily lives for 30 years. It is warm, quiet and peaceful landscape ideal for grazing cattle and sheep, our core business. It has also provided a place for family recreational activities such as walking, bike riding, picnics, ferreting, exploring gullies and stony barriers.....

Excerpt from Genevieve Gleeson's submission

- Tarrone North Road, Tarrone, native vegetation

Significant views identified were:

- Views generally in the south west region

... The S-W Vic landscape is characterised by mostly cleared, gently undulating terrain. This leads to panoramic vistas and distant horizons. Features and objects can frequently be seen at great distances, eg, 20km or more....

Excerpt from Kenneth Johnston's submission

- View over Yendon towards Mount Buninyong from the Egerton Road
- Views of the Grampians
- Skyline between Mount Arapiles and the Grampians

...While driving back from Mount Arapiles in the Wimmera Plains some years ago, I remember enjoying the spectacle of rock sentinels growing steadily on the south-east skyline, heralding my approach to Gariwerd-The Grampians. In the flat and relatively featureless farmland, this complex of dark blue-green forested bluffs and ridges dominates the skyline and invites the curious to enter and explore. They are a monumental and majestic sight, a vast timeless remnant of the way this country looked for millennia before Whitefella arrived. They had become a familiar and welcoming sight after decades of walking among their secluded folds and camping in their peaceful embrace...

Excerpt from John Hargreaves' blog provided in his submission

- Views from summits of volcanic craters
- View from Harmans lookout, showing volcanic activity in the area
- Views at the lakes area between the Princes and Hamilton Highways
- View from Mount Sturgeon, Dunkeld
- View from Mount Rouse, extensive and pristine vista of the lava flow precinct, geologically significant
- Views of the Camperdown lakes and Mount Leura complex (including Mount Sugarloaf and cluster of scoria hills inside it)

...I have driven the Volcanic Trail and there are several volcanic sites I would like to show a visitor, but I have a particular love of, and interest in, the Camperdown lakes and the Mt Leura complex....

Excerpt from Brigid Cole-Adam's submission



Back creek at Tarrone
Photo provided by Adrian & Tamako Johnson



View over Yendon towards Mount Buninyong from Egerton Road
Photo provided by Jo Stephens & Kay Paton, Yendon History Group



Mount Leura & Mount Sugarloaf circa 1870, from page 3 of *The Volcanic Edge* booklet provided by Graham Arkinstall, Chairman of the Mount Leura & Mount Sugarloaf Development Committee



Mount Elephant
Photos provided by Andrew Miller



Western District Lakes (top photos and bottom left photo: Lake Terangpom, bottom middle: Lake Corangamite, bottom right: Lake Gnarpurt)
Photos provided by Andrew Miller

Intangible & Non-visual Significance

What significant aspects of the landscape are intangible or non-visual, such as its social, historic or ecological values?

Most of the photos received in response to this theme related to places outside the study area, particularly places within townships and in areas previously studied as part of the Coastal Spaces Landscape Assessment Study. Nonetheless, the places identified highlight the many intangible or non-visual values that people attach to aspects of the landscape.

Significant aspects of the landscape that were identified within the study area because of their intangible or non-visual values were:

- Ballan site of original settlement, historic value
- Western District lakes, including Lake Corangamite and Lake Gnotuk (just outside the study area), and surrounding volcanoes, social, historic and ecological value
- Lake Weering, historic value
- Drystone walls, historic value

The most numerous and impressive network of dry stone walls are located in the Corangamite district. The walls are beautifully crafted and provide functional, aesthetic and heritage value. Dry stone walls are fences without mortar. There are numerous styles and techniques as well as purposes. They provide a direct link to the Anglo-Celtic settlers of the nineteenth century.

Excerpt from The Volcanic Edge booklet provided by Graham Arkinstall

- Budj Bim Mount Eccles and Lake Condah, historic value
- Woorndoo Common and cemetery, ecological value

The colours are those of the Aboriginal flag, representing their past stewardship of the land. The irony is that the yellow foreground is Tall Wheat grass, an introduced environmental weed.

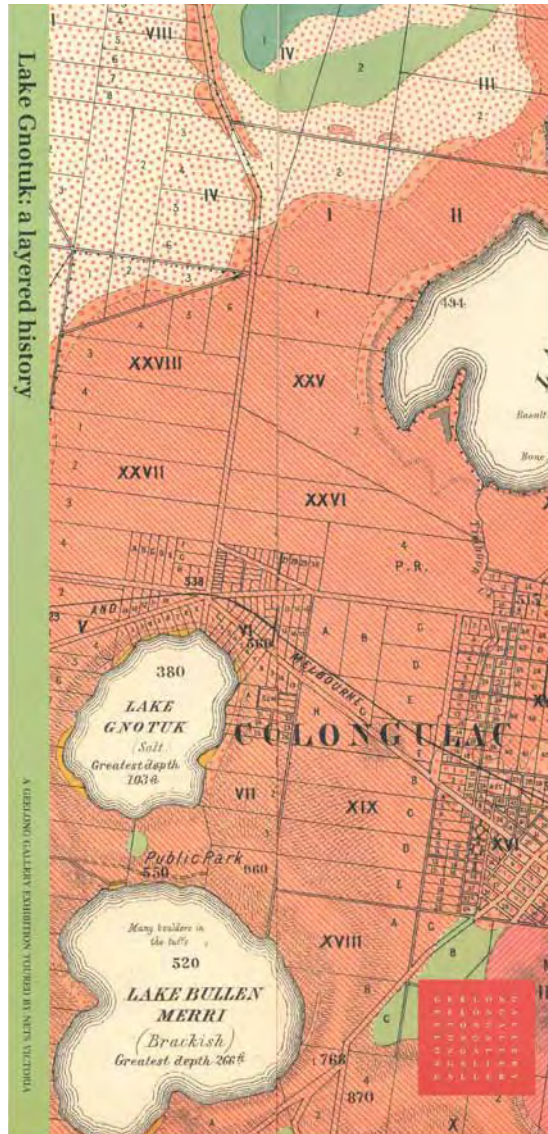
Excerpt from Stuart McCallum's submission



*Lake Weering landscape, representing the Aborigines' past stewardship of the land
Photo provided by Stuart McCallum, Friends of Bannockburn Bush*



*Site of original settlement in Ballan in 1839 on the west bank of the Werribee River just south of the Western Freeway bypassing Ballan
Photo provided by Richard Biden, Ballan Shire Historical Society Inc.*



Front cover of the 'Lake Gnotuk: A layered history' Geelong Art Gallery catalogue
 Provided by Brigid Cole-Adams
 NEED TO GET PERMISSION TO USE

Some submissions provided photos, information and brochures which demonstrated valued intangible and non-visual aspects of the landscape.

Details about the 2005 Geelong Art Gallery exhibition 'Lake Gnotuk: A layered history' were provided by Brigid Cole-Adams and Christine James, two of the artists whose work was part of the exhibition. The exhibition focused on Lake Gnotuk from historic, artistic and scientific perspectives.

Where science and art combine to assist in the interpretation and understanding of the Australian landscape, few occasions have higher claim to fame than those depicting the volcanic crater lakes near Camperdown in western Victoria. Scientists have focussed on the natural history of these systems ever since Eugene von Guérard painted the Bullenmerri-Gnotuk crater lakes in 1857. Like giant rain gauges, the shifts in the water levels of these lakes faithfully record changes in the climatic balance between rainfall and evaporation, making the region a unique repository of natural treasures.

Excerpt from 2005 'Lake Gnotuk' exhibition catalogue

Corangamite Arts Inc. held a community visual arts project to coincide with the art exhibition. Focussed in the Lakes and Craters Region it was titled "I have a volcano in my backyard". A series of eight postcards were produced highlighting the environmental and social significance of the Volcanic Plains. Two of these are shown right.



'Rapturous Lava' by Jodie Anderson (Aged 8), Corangamite Volcanic Landscape Postcard



'Banded Stilts' by Alex Gordon (Aged 14), Corangamite Volcanic Landscape Postcard
 Postcards provided by Fiona Morris and Brigid Cole-Adams



Budj Bim Mount Eccles
Photo provided by Joy Elley, Aboriginal Affairs Victoria



Lake Condah
Photo provided by Joy Elley, Aboriginal Affairs Victoria



Woorndoo Common featuring native grasslands in July 2012 (left) and Woorndoo Cemetery in full bloom in October 2007 (right)
"Both areas are slashed and burned strategically with conservation of the native species being the goal"
Photos provided by Jodie Lekse



*Dry stone walls at Learmonth
Photos provided by Andrew Miller*



*Dry stone walls including the wall in front of Mount Elephant (top left) and Leslie Manor Wall (top right)
Photos provided by Andrew Miller*

Significant aspects of the landscape outside the study area that were identified because of their intangible or non-visual values were:

- Lake Gnotuk, just outside the study area, ecological, social and scientific value

Lake Gnotuk also has great importance ecologically and scientifically (Theme #3). As a closed system crater lake it acts as a giant rain gauge and is internationally significant for scientific research, particularly into the evidence of past climate change which can be found in the lake sediments.

Excerpt from Fiona Morris' submission



*Lake Gnotuk from the northern rim
Photo provided by Fiona Morris*

- Alexandra Gardens, Ararat, for social and historic value
- Railway Station site, Harbours Road, Yendon, historic value
- Stone fence remains, Tarrone North Road, Tarrone, historic value
- Wetland, Faulkners North Road, Tarrone

The Oriental Bridge spans the gap between the island and the main park, capturing the way early Chinese miners of the past crossed cultural boundaries in the formation of the town.

Excerpt from Merlene Fawdry's submission



*Railway station site Harbours Road Yendon
Photo provided by Jo Stephens & Kay Paton, Yendon History Group*



*Faulkners North Road, Tarrone "A black swan and its chicks swimming in a natural wetland, significant and vital for many forms of wildlife"
Photo provided by Adrian & Tamako Johnson*



*Tarrone North Road, Tarrone "Remains of a stone fence once part of the original Tarrone Station"
Photo provided by Adrian & Tamako Johnson*

- Avenue of Honour, Main Street, Yendon, historic value
- Wetlands, stone walls and the occasional very old stone hut, Landers Lane, Tarrone, ecological and historic value

...the area is known for it's wetlands – ideal Brolga and Growling Grass Frog habitat, both of which are endangered species.

Excerpt from Genevieve Gleeson's submission

- No. 2 Silo, Main Street, Willaura for its social value

Main St, Willaura. No. 2 Silo can be seen from any approach to the town. It represents the culture of strength of the people and the cooperative spirit of the town and symbolises survival against the elements and economic downturn from droughts, floods and fires, aiming high in a celebration of survival and future growth.

Excerpt from Merlene Pugh's submission



Avenue of Honour, Main Street, Yendon: "There are 9 oak trees, planted about 1930, which form a canopy right across the road"
Photo provided by Jo Stephens & Kay Paton, Yendon History Group



Stone wall at Landers Lane, Tarrone
Photo provided by Genevieve Gleeson



No. 2 Silo, Main Street, Willaura
Photo provided by Merlene Pugh, Ararat Camera Club

Spoiled Landscapes & Threats

What view, feature or place is under threat or has been spoiled in the area?

Threats to features, places or views and the causes of spoiled landscapes throughout the area that were identified were:

- Quarrying and other digging
- Overlays being ignored
- Wind energy facilities
- Telecommunications masts and towers
- Native vegetation removal particularly along roadsides and removal of old or dead paddock trees
- Agriculture including inappropriate grazing
- Water diversion and damming

Another close second would be the thousands of rows of Cypress Trees that litter the landscape and serve as a constant reminder of European dominance of the landscape.

Excerpt from Richard Hodgen's submission in regard to unattractive landscapes

- Cypress trees
- Lack of understanding about the role of landscapes

What has spoiled this landscape, in my opinion, is a general lack of understanding about the role of these landscape features in healthy agriculture and within the shire as a whole.

Excerpt from Rachel Farran's submission in relation to West Wimmera landscape

- Stormwater management
- Noxious weeds
- Pollution
- Substations
- Toxic algal blooms
- Monocultural bluegum plantations

A major current and increasing threat to the landscape of S-W Vic is posed by major energy projects... Moyne Shire is one region of S-W Vic where the landscape stands to be particularly badly degraded by WEF's. A prime reason for the attraction of WEF's to Moyne Shire is the 500kV High Voltage (HV) Transmission Line that runs east-west through the centre of the Shire. Virtually all WEF's within the Shire will seek to make connection to this HV Line.

Excerpt from Kenneth Johnston's submission



Moyne Gazette 14 June 2012 article provided by Kenneth Johnson describing Tarrone (just outside study area) as an energy zone centre where changes to the landscape have already begun



*“Photograph taken looking north from Kangertong Road at the southern end of Macarthur Wind Energy Farm”
Photo provided by Kenneth Johnston, taken 6 July 2012*

Particular features, places or views that have been spoiled or are under threat throughout the area identified:

- West Wimmera, spoilt by use of centre pivots in agriculture, removal of dead and old paddock trees, poor stormwater management and lack of understanding
- Original settlement site at Ballan, threatened by development
- South of the study area, areas of high agricultural value spoilt by monocultural Bluegum plantations
- Lake Colongulac, spoilt by sewerage effluent and weeds
- Mount Rouse & Mount Shadwell, spoilt by communication towers

...communication towers on the top of Mount Shadwell and Mount Rouse as they are noticeable even from a long distance away

Excerpt from Richard Hodgen's submission in regard to the most unattractive landscape



*Lake Colongulac, spoilt by entry of sewerage effluent from Camperdown township for many years which promoted weed and cyanphyte growth
Photo provided by Stuart McCallum, Friends of Bannockburn Bush*

But suddenly, all was not well. A new and unwelcome sight had me mourning for a vision lost, at least for the duration of my lifetime. There was a vivid orange scar on the slopes of Mt Difficult Range, a large silver telecommunications mast impaled in the middle of the raw wound. A heavy sadness stole into my heart. It seemed an inappropriate and careless disregard for this precious remnant of wilderness, a slap in the face to those of us who care for the silent grandeur of iconic landscapes, an ugly reminder of the relentless march of so-called progress.

*Excerpt from John Hargeaves' blog 'Landscape Under Siege'
3 June 2012, a copy of which was provided in his submission*

- Mount Difficult Range, spoilt by digging and the telecommunications mast
- Whole area, particularly Moyne Shire, spoilt and threatened by wind energy facilities
- View from Mount Buninyong, under threat from an approved wind farm



View from the top of Mount Rouse, Penshurst, loved by Tracey Kruger who provided the photo, and considered spoilt by Richard Hodgens due to the communication tower



“View east from Mount Buninyong overlooking Yendon, under threat from an approved wind farm with over 50 turbines spread right across the area in the middle of the photo from X to Y” provided by Jo Stephens & Kay Paton



Infestations of gorse, blackberry and other noxious weeds along the railway easement, despite recently being sprayed
Photo provided by Jo Stephens & Kay Paton, Yendon History Group

- Views of Grampians, spoilt and threatened by wind farms
- Railway easement, Yendon, spoilt by weeds
- Lake Bookar, threatened by inappropriate grazing and water diversion and damming
- View from Red Rock, Alvie, spoilt by vegetation removal

The sensual undulating landscape has been 'raped' of all its indigenous vegetation. This has destroyed local biodiversity and reduced water quality and quantity in the local shallow lakes. The rainbow is a promise of better things to come as people learn about country and set about replacing our lost botanical heritage.

Excerpt from Stuart McCallum's submission



View from Red Rock, Alvie, considered to be spoiled by indigenous vegetation removal, with rainbow in view
Photo provided by Stuart McCallum, Friends of Bannockburn Bush



Lake Bookar, threatened by agriculture, water diversion & weed invasion
Photo provided by Stuart McCallum, Friends of Bannockburn Bush



Red rock, Alvie, a scoria cliff described as being stolen for road making materials and planted with environmental weeds to deter scoria thieves
Photo provided by Stuart McCallum, Friends of Bannockburn Bush

- Mount Elephant, Mount Leura & Mount Sugarloaf, spoilt by quarrying

...I painted Mt Sugarloaf, deliberately choosing to expose the mining scar that disfigures its perfect symmetry... In my painting I include protesters on the peak to make reference to the remarkable history of Mt Sugarloaf that led to its acquisition by Sir Henry Bolte for the people of Victoria, and this is just a small part of the rich history of the site as a whole Camperdown complex of lakes and mountains.... The problem of scoria mining in scenic areas needs to be addressed. The farms in the marr are permitted to dig into the hills for their own use, but the red patches are visible from the lookout. Larger scale scoria mining businesses want easy access to main roads for their own advantage, but there is scoria available elsewhere, and the scenic volcanic sites need much more protection...

Excerpt from Brigid Cole-Adam's submission



*'The once perfect cone', 2005, artwork by Brigid Cole-Adams, acquired by State Library of Victoria
Image provided by Brigid Cole-Adams*

- Red Rock, Alvie, spoilt by vegetation removal, digging and environmental weeds
- Lake Corangamite, spoilt by water diversion



*Lake Corangamite, ecologically impacted by to the Woody Yaloak diversion scheme in the 1950s
Photo provided by Stuart McCallum, Friends of Bannockburn Bush*

Particular features, places or views that have been spoilt or are under threat outside the study area identified were:

- Lake Bullen Merri, just outside the study area, spoilt by regular toxic algal blooms
- Lake Gnotuk, just outside the study area, threatened
- Cape Bridgewater, spoilt by wind towers
- Landers Lane & Riordans Road, Tarrone, spoilt by substation



*Substation at Riordans Road, Tarrone, outside the study area, spoils the natural beauty of the area
Photo provided by Adrian & Tamako Johnson*

Other Feedback

Other feedback included comments and photos without reference to a particular question, as well as additional information people sent in. Examples of the types of other feedback received included:

- *Work with farmers to protect the landscape rather than just introducing further legislation*
- *The whole community is responsible for landscape preservation*
- *The book 'Designing Place' is a must read as part of the study*
- *Please include details about the Kanawinka Global Geopark, south of Peshurst, in the study.*

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ANALYSIS FEEDBACK

Key Findings

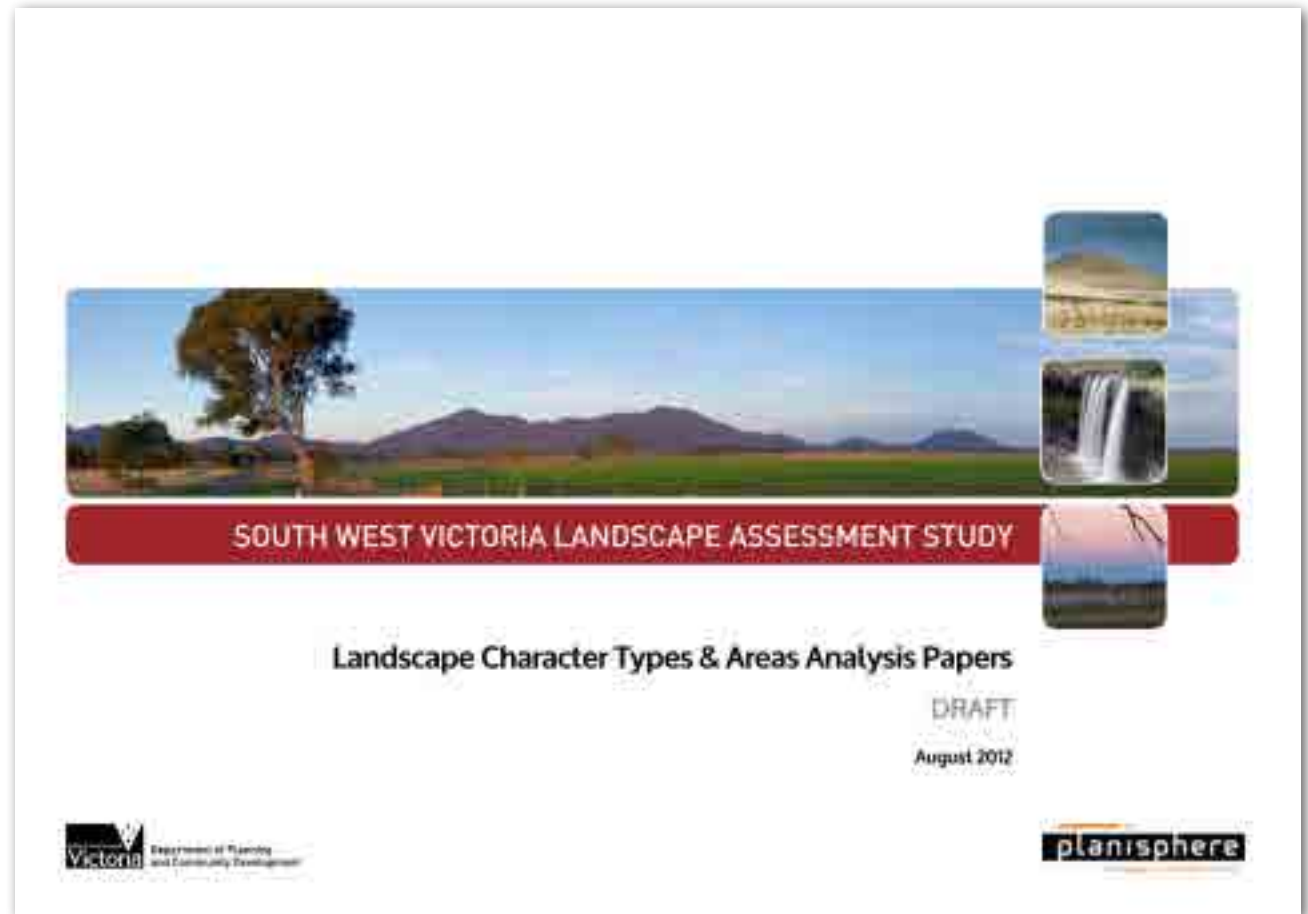
The PRG was invited to provide feedback in response to the first draft of the Landscape Character Types and Areas Analysis papers.

Councils provided specific local detail that was included in the papers. For example, Character Area 3.1 Granite Plateaus was renamed Agricultural Plateaus because the name overemphasised the presence of granite in the area.

The feedback received from the PRG helped refine the papers and confirm their findings, prior to preparing the final draft for consultation with the broader community.

The website was then updated with the final draft of the papers. Bulletin 2 was prepared and sent to interested parties on the mailing list to update them on the project's progress and to seek their feedback on the papers.

Feedback received from the wider community was incorporated into the papers to produce the final version.



LANDSCAPE SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT FEEDBACK

Key Findings

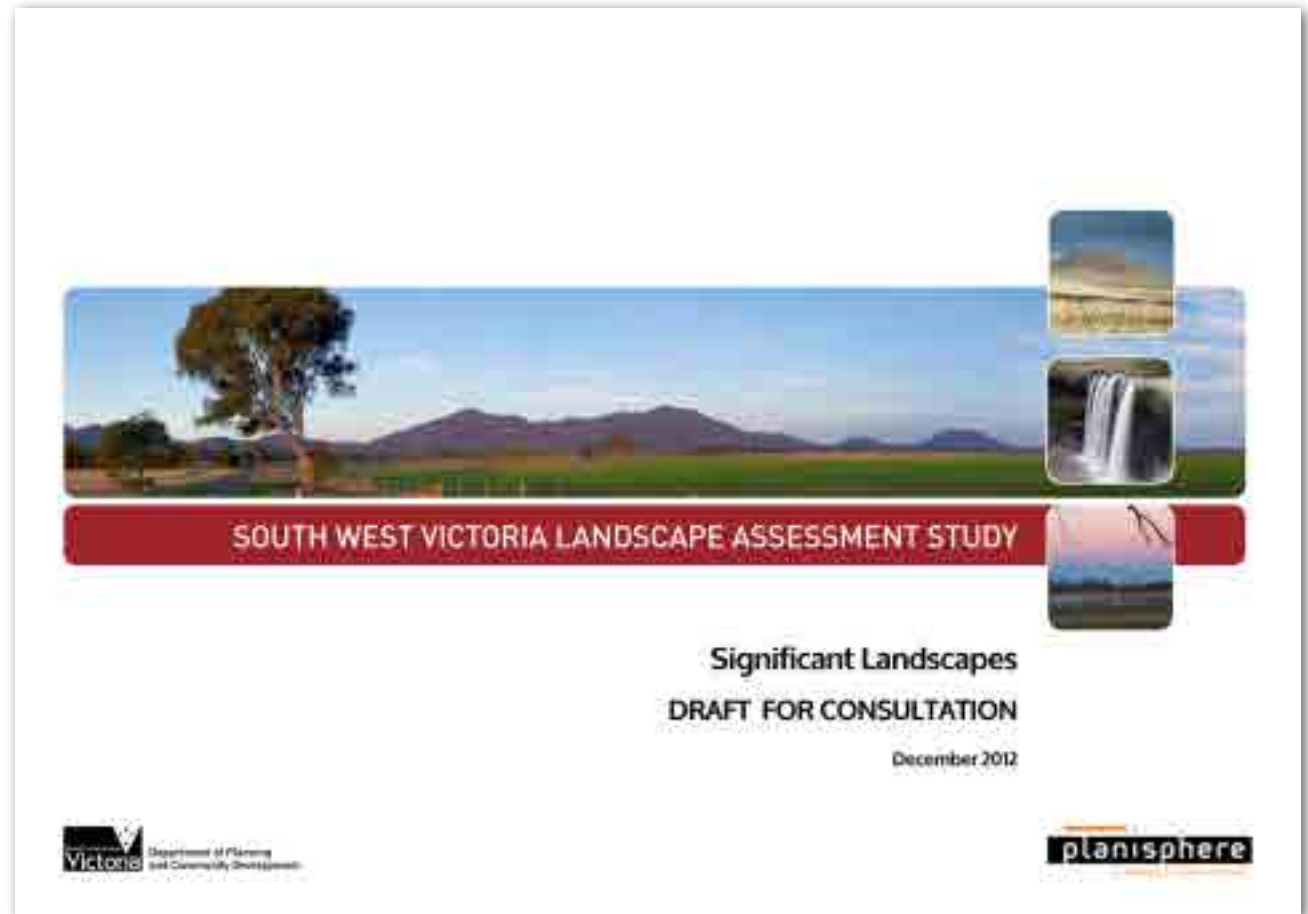
The PRG was again invited to provide initial feedback in response to the draft Landscape Significance Assessment papers.

Comments from the PRG were incorporated and the final draft papers were produced. The website was then updated with Bulletin 3 and interested parties on the mailing list were notified and invited to provide feedback on the draft significance papers.

Detailed comments were received from the community and the papers were further refined in response to the feedback.

Feedback from both Councils and the community provided the invaluable input of detailed local knowledge. This was integral in the process of identifying and confirming significant landscapes and views in each area.

An example of the value of this feedback can be seen in the New Volcanic Region being renamed to become Western Cones and Lava Flows. Responses indicated that the previous name was confusing because the term 'new volcanics' refers to the broader volcanics area.





*Mount Napier from Mount Rouse
Photo provided by Tracey Kruger*