

Rushall Reserve – Signage Review – 2/07/2019

In response to the requirement in the previous Council resolution that Officers provide a further report including –

“A review of appropriate improvements to directional and interpretive signage ...”

Previous and current park user feedback regarding signage has been:

- Install some signage to let cyclists know the path into Rushall Reserve is a ‘no through way’.
- Improve the directional signage for cyclists on the shared path at the intersection into Rushall Reserve to provide clearer direction for them.
- Provide signage to encourage cyclists to slow down on the Koonda Lat path.
- Provide signage to notify park users that the reserve is a dog off-lead park.

Directional Signage

- Review of Existing

1. The existing trail signage, which evolved from the Merri Creek Trail Review 2007 and has been implemented in this area by the Cities of Yarra and Darebin. This signage may include location name, directions, a map, and warnings (image 1).

Pros

- The signs provide a large amount of information – including location and directional information.
- The signs provide consistency along the Merri Creek trail as they have been used by Darebin, Yarra and Moreland.

Cons

- The amount of detail and colour scheme makes them illegible for cyclists in motion.
- They are often tagged and become more illegible.
- The height of the directional signage makes them less likely to be seen by cyclists in motion.
- The directional information is not always useful or relevant.
- The signs are costly to manufacture.



2. Prior to this suite of signage being introduced, Yarra had used a variety of trail signage, including low upright signs (image 2).



Pros

- The signage is clear and legible.
- The height of the signs makes them more visible to cyclists.
- The signs are durable.
- The use of recycled plastic is consistent with Councils approach to reducing waste and recycling.

Cons

- The signs are inconsistent with those being implemented by the other Merri Creek Councils.
- The signs are large, intrusive and can contain only limited information.
- The colour and shape of the signs is limited by the product manufacturing method.

3. In other locations on the Linear Park shared path finger-blade signage in blue and white has been used for way-finding (image 3).

Pros

- The size, colour scheme and simplicity of the signs are legible to cyclists.
- The signage is consistent with on road cycle route signage.

Cons

- The height of the signs makes them less visible to cyclists.
- Using on road cycle signage on shared paths promotes the message that the paths are for cyclists, rather than shared paths with priority for pedestrians.



4. Stencils on the surface. At this stage we only have standard shared path information on the stencils, showing users to keep left, be aware of pedestrians and cyclists on the path, and keep dogs on lead (image 4).



Pros

- The stencils provide key information for path users and signify that the path is a shared path.
- The stencils are easily seen by path users and in the line of vision for pedestrians and cyclists.
- The stencils are consistently used on the shared path network across Melbourne.

Cons

- The existing stencils don't provide route or way finding information.
- Stencils need to be reinstalled regularly as they fade over time.

- Recommendations

- (a) Install a stencil on the path into Rushall Reserve indicating 'no through way' or similar.
- (b) Install stencils on the Koonda Lat path giving direction to cyclists to 'slow down'.
- (c) Council is involved in an IMAP group focussing on developing consistent way finding signage for pedestrians. Once these guidelines are finalised they can be considered against the existing shared path sign and stencil signage suite to develop consistency in directional signage.

Park Signage

- Existing

The existing signage states “Rushall Recreation Reserve, Jointly Developed By: City of Fitzroy, State Electricity Commission Of Vic and Merri Creek Management Committee”.



Pros

- References the parties involved of the reserve development.
- Contains the name of the reserve.

Cons

- There is no information on the dog off lead status of the park.
- There is no Yarra contact information for park users to report issues.
- There is no Wildlife rescue contact information provided.
- The sign does not fit with the current standard design for park signage being rolled out across all Yarra Parks.

- Recommendations

- a) Install park name signage providing information on park use. Include the status of Rushall Reserve as a dog off-lead park, as well as contact information for wildlife rescue services on the sign. Sign design and materials to be consistent with the “Yarra City Council Standard Signage – Sign Types for entries, parks, open space and facilities”. These parks signs (image right) have been rolled out to most parks in Yarra since the development of the standards.
- b) Propose removing the existing old park name signage.

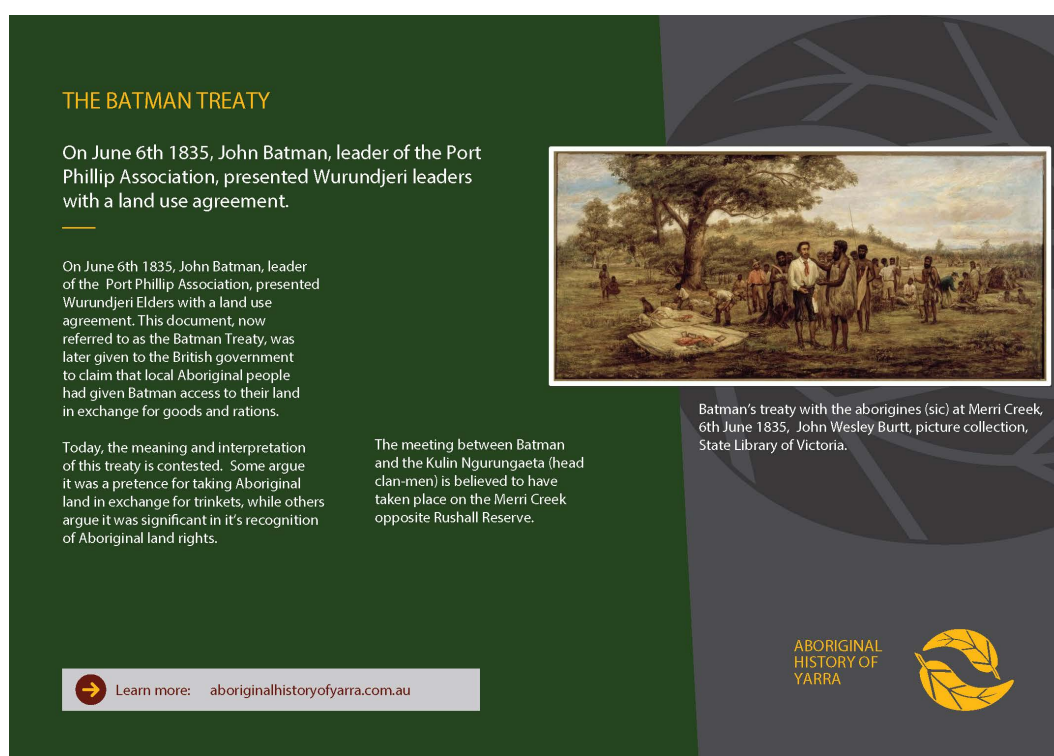


Interpretive Signage

One of the recommendations in the Cultural Heritage Management Plan (2016) for the site is to include interpretive signage in Rushall Reserve -

'The site of the Batman Treaty is registered on the east bank of the Merri Creek; Rushall Reserve is located on the west bank of the creek and overlooks this site. This intangible cultural heritage place is historically important as it represents the location of the only occurrence of European settlers of Australia signing a treaty with Aboriginal people. An interpretive cultural signage program that commemorates this important historic event should be incorporated into the proposed activity.

The signage program's content and final design needs to be agreed upon between the City of Yarra and the Wurundjeri Tribe Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council Inc. prior to works being undertaken in Rushall Reserve. The program should include a metal sign of at least 60 x 60 cm which includes the date, details and a brief discussion of the importance of the Batman Treaty site. An image of the treaty signing event should also be included on this sign. The WTL&CCHCI must approve all aspects of the sign's information and design prior to its construction. The City of Yarra will be responsible for funding this signage program.'



This type of signage would be consistent with that used in Atherton Gardens, Fitzroy, to interpret locations of indigenous cultural significance.

- Recommendation

- Consult with the Wurundjeri Tribe Council on the proposed interpretative sign design and location to mark the significance of the location in relation to the indigenous heritage of Melbourne.
- Fabricate and install the signage – style and materials to be consistent with interpretive signage currently being used in Yarra.