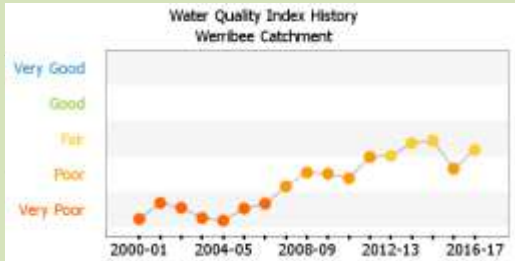


The Werribee River needs...

- A. Better water quality.** Major reports show water quality in the river and catchment waterways, has improved, but only from very poor to fair.



<http://cleanearyarrabay.vic.gov.au/report-card>

- B. More water.** Environmental flows are beneficial, but the reality of climate change calls for more flows which will provide swimmable, fishable, drinkable water for the community.
- C. Smarter litter legislation.** Litter and plastic threaten platypus, fish, birds, amenity, and tourism. Voluntary clean ups cannot cope, costs are rising for all levels of government, harmful chemicals are entering the human food chain. Government, manufacturers, retailers and consumers must work together to lower this ever growing threat.
- D. Planning and setback controls.** These will ensure the community has ample physical and visual access to a natural river, vegetated waterways and wild spaces in the environment.
- E. Protection.** There will be 749,000 people living in 3 towns along the River in the River's 3 municipalities by 2036. The river needs its values and qualities secured and proclaimed, to protect the river for the people for all time.

**Give life to our waterways,
Support Werribee River Association**
werribeeriver@gmail.com



Map: The river starts top left of this catchment map in the Wombat Forest, and flows to the sea in Port Phillip Bay. Much more information about the catchment can be found at: www.werribeeriver.org.au.



Clockwise from top: Platypus, Growing Grass Frog, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper & Rakali or Native Water Rat

WERRIBEE RIVER ASSOCIATION

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WRA hosts the Werribee Riverkeeper

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WRiVA thanks DELWP, Melbourne Water & City of Wyndham

Werribee River

Giving health and life to the community



The Werribee River Association:

- Defends and speaks up for the Werribee River, local waterways, wetlands and Port Phillip Bay
- Protects natural places for the community
- Educates the community about the River, the environment and sustainability



For enquiries: werribeeriver@gmail.com

The Werribee River

1. The river starts in the Wombat State Forest (below) in the Great Dividing Range and flows for about 110 kilometres south-east via Ballan, Bacchus Marsh, Exford, Melton South, and through Werribee to Port Phillip Bay.



2. From the forest the river flows south through cleared farmland until just past Ballan where some of its water is taken by tunnel to Pykes Creek Reservoir, built in 1908-11 in times of reliable rains. The river then passes through Werribee Gorge State Park, (below) which has evidence of ancient sea floors and glaciers.



3. More irrigation water is diverted for farming at Bacchus Marsh where the Lerderderg River, with water extracted to Merrimu Reservoir, joins the Werribee.

The river then flows into Melton Reservoir at Exford (below). In summer water is released down river for irrigation, when the river would normally be dry.



4. Just south of Melton the river winds its way through gorges (below), formed by the river after the last volcanic age then makes its way to the Werribee delta which was created at times of higher sea levels.



5. In Werribee, the diversion weir (below) sends water to irrigation farms, allowing only environmental flows and floods to continue down the river.



6. River red gum woodlands in Werribee (below) offer good habitat for birds and lovely walks for passersby.



7. Irrigated farmland, Werribee River Park, and Ramsar Convention migratory bird wetlands adjoin the river estuary before it meets Port Phillip Bay (below).



The Werribee Catchment

The catchment covers 2,715 square kilometres from steep-sided hills and gorges to flat plains, & is the driest area in Victoria south of the Great Dividing Range. The land is mainly used for agriculture. National and state parks contain areas of high conservation value, and surviving plains grasslands are of national or state significance. Many streams flowing through the lower catchment have their coastal zones covered by the Ramsar migratory bird convention.