

Stringybark Creek Redevelopment Project

Newsletter No. 2

August 2008

Stringybark Creek Site Improvement Project

Welcome to the second Stringybark Creek Redevelopment Project newsletter. This project is being jointly undertaken by the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and Benalla Rural City.

The Project

The first stage of the project involves creating a concept plan for the site and the design and layout of the interpretive signage for the picnic area, camping ground and walking tracks.

The site layout has now been finalised and a map is shown on the back of this newsletter. Effort is currently being focused on the completion of signage designs for the site.

The shootout between the Police and the Kelly Gang will be the main focus of the interpretive material in the historical reserve. The campground signs will tell other interesting aspects of the varied history of the area including the early settlers. This will give the Kelly story some historical and social context.

Relics from these early days are still visible in the area, including homestead ruins and fruit trees, numerous mine shafts and the grave of Emma Heller, one of the early settlers, located off Madhouse Road.

At this stage, no works have occurred at the site. Much needed rain has delayed the start of the carpark development, however this is scheduled to begin shortly.

DSE and Benalla Rural City will continue to seek funding opportunities to undertake all of the improvements shown in the plan.

This will be undertaken in a staged approach as funding and other resources become available. The Stakeholder Reference Group have assisted to identify the priorities for the initial upgrade works, these include the installation of signage, walking tracks and bridges and safety works.

The Site

Visitors to the site at the moment will note that the track from the picnic area to the Kelly Tree is closed. The bridge across Stringybark Creek from the picnic area to the camping ground has also been closed. Please observe these detours as the closures are for visitor safety reasons. These issues will be addressed by the site improvement works identified in the concept plan.



Examples of the infrastructure that requires upgrading to cater for the increasing visitor number to the site



Emma Heller

Emma Bates of Essex in England migrated to Australia, arriving in May 1873, with her husband. By the time Emma died in 1889, she was married to her third husband (twice being widowed) and had 8 children and six step children living at the time of her death. She had an amazing, though probably typical life for the times. She is the only European person to be buried in the Toombullups, having died during a particularly bad winter and a heavy fall of snow. Her grave still stands, located off Mad House Road, close to the Stringybark Creek camping ground.



Project Information

If you have any queries regarding this project, please contact

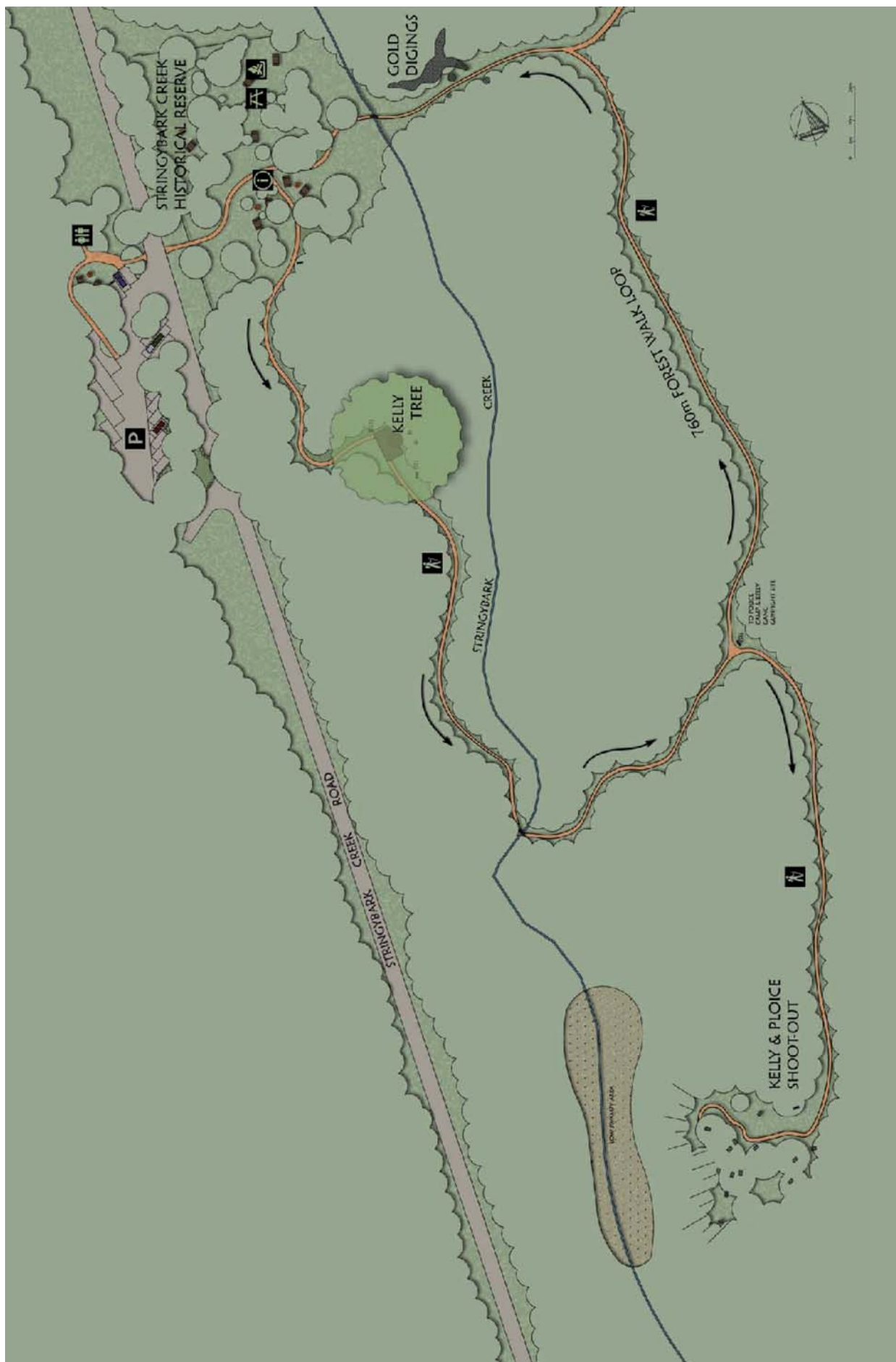
Project Manager

Catherine Spencer

Ph: 03 5733 1249

Email: catherine.spencer@dse.vic.gov.au

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