*WCS Plans 1972*

# WARRINGAL CONSERVATION SOCIETY
# BANYULE RIVER FLATS CONSERVATION PROJECT
*[This document dates from circa 1972]*

The Banyule River Flats are part of the Yarra River Flood Plain. The area is bounded by Buckingham Drive, Banyule Rd, Somerset Drive and the Yarra River, extending upstream to the Plenty River junction.

## PROJECT

It has been developed over a period of 12 months by a study group of the Society, following concern over the possible destruction of this unique wetlands complex b sporting facilities.

In May 1971 the study group adopted the area as a project, and following excursions, a questionnaire, and consultation with conservationists, flora and fauna experts, and local bodies involved with the area, a plan was evolved for the preservation and conservational development of the Banyule River Flats.

## PHASE I

### NATIVE PLANT GARDEN

Situated at the northern end of the Flats, adjacent to Banyule Rd. To consist of a landscaped area, planted with Australian native treees and shrubs, creating a garden with botanical, educational and reference value, becoming a showplace of the City of Heidelberg.

### OVAL/WETLANDS SEPARATION

The active recreational areas (the ovals) to be separated from the wetlands by an earth mounding with dense plantings to

(a) provide sound and sight screen between the ovals and wetlands
(b) prevent indiscriminate intrusion into wetlands
(c)provide a sheltered spectator platform facing the ovals.

### WETLANDS RETAINING WALL

An earth-fill wall could be constructed to retain local rain and flood waters, providing a control over the wetlands water supply to ensure that an adequate feeding and breeding environment was sustained for water-birds, e.g. Ibis, egrets, herons, swamp-hens.

### PLANTINGS

Due to the long historyof farming on the river-flats, extensive plantings of aquatic and land plants would be required to supplement the possible natural re-growth of original species.

Thus the area would be planted throughout to enhance its appearance and to provide protection, feeding and breeding grounds for the more than 160 species of birds sighted in the general area.

### FOOT TRACKS

To be established within the area to afford visitors a view of the general area, and lead them to notable physical features on the Flats.

## PHASE II :

The Inner Billabong [*i.e. the area south of theBillabong to the Yarra]*: for indigenous native plant regeneration and plantings, specialised study, and as a resting and undisturbed breeding ground for birds.

## PHASE III:

Eastern sector of billabong and river – intended to create a buffer zone to isolate the billabong from possible development and to establish a Nature Reserve or Sanctuary along the River valley, connecting with the proposed Plenty River Reserve.