

HISTORY OF BNCR

The beautiful Beaconsfield Nature Conservation Reserve I situated in an area once known as Haunted Gully. The Bunurong people were the first to walk this land and the CEC acknowledges that the Reserve is Bunurong country. Gold was discovered in Haunted Gully in 1872. Chinese diggers would arrive in town each Monday morning and walk up 'Chinamans Track' (now know as Bowmans Track) to work at the Haunted Gully gold diggings. Remains of the diggings can be still be found. Following this, eucalyptus distilling and logging occurred in the area.

The area was developed as a reservoir from 1918 by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission. Originally built to service the Naval base on Mornington Peninsula, Beaconsfield Reservoir supplied Hallam, Berwick, Cranbourne, Dandenong, Springvale and towns on the Mornington Peninsula.

Information supplied courtesy of Berwick Pakenham Historical Society publication In the Wake of the Pack Tracks

Eucalyptus Still at Haunted Gully 1902

VISION FOR BNCR

The Beaconsfield NCR will be a first class nature conservation reserve that is managed by the CEC to provide permanent protection and enhancement of the unique natural, cultural and industrial heritage values of the site

JOIN THE BNCR SUPPORTERS GROUP

The BNCR supporters group is an active group incorporating people of all ages who are interested in environmental issues. The purpose of the supporters group is to contribute to the restoration and maintenance of the area through involvement in working bees, open days and themed walks. This is an exciting time for the BNCR as the work is in its infancy so get onboard and be involved.

For further information please contact:

Cardinia Environment Coalition Inc.
PO Box 875 Pakenham VIC 3810
Phone (03) 5941 8446
email cec@dcsi.net.au



**Cardinia
Environment
Coalition Inc.**

View of BNCR from the outlet tower



NEW LIFE FOR BEACONSFIELD RESERVOIR

INTRODUCING BEACONSFIELD NATURE CONSERVATION RESERVE



A PROJECT OF
CARDINIA ENVIRONMENT
COALITION INC

BEACONSFIELD NATURE CONSERVATION RESERVE (BNCR)

The stunning Beaconsfield Nature Conservation Reserve (BNCR) covers a 170 hectare area situated on O'Neil Road, Beaconsfield. This is an environmentally significant location with the presence of vulnerable and endangered flora and fauna. The BNCR was established in recognition of its environmental significance, pursuant to the National Parks (Otways and Other Amendments) Act 2005 and the Crown Lands (Reserves) Act 1978.

The Cardinia Environment Coalition Inc (CEC) has been appointed by the Minister for Planning as Committee of Management for the Reserve. The CEC is a community network of local Landcare and conservation groups based in the Central Western Port catchment.



ACTIVITIES AT BNCR

The Management Plan is examining a number of options for community use and enjoyment of the BNCR. These include

- Environmental education for all ages
- Interpretative trails and guided tours including the Haunted Gully gold diggings and the Reservoir.
- Construction of a viewing platform overlooking the Reservoir
- Development of a visitor's centre
- Open days
- Guided field walks

PLANS FOR BNCR

The CEC is currently producing an extensive management plan for the BNCR. This plan is intended to direct our activities at the BNCR for the next 10 years to ensure that any developments on the site are environmentally sustainable and in keeping with the aims of the Reserve. As part of the plan many aspects of the reserve will be covered including cultural heritage, archaeology, geology, flora and fauna surveys, water quality and fire regimes.

Photos: Courtesy Reiner Richter <http://rnr.id.au>

