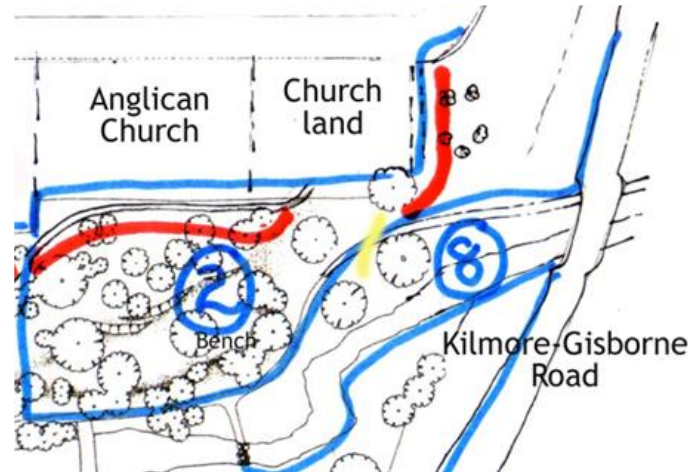




Greening of Riddell



Zone 2

The *Poa labillarderie* hill behind the church was planted in Oct-Nov 2000.

2 *Brachychrion discolor* - Lace Bark tree, and 3 *Brachychrion rupestris* - Bottle trees were planted in May 2007. Woody weeds—oak, elm, plum, and hawthorn were cut from the hillside by Garry Millett in 2008. Low bench built by Garry Millett with Robin Godfrey, 2008. *Poas* planted behind low bench in 2008 and small patch of indigenous grasslands species—Jan 2009.

When John Hawker from Heritage Victoria first walked from Lake Park to old Smiths' nursery with John Ball, he said that he thought this area should be the transition space between the exotic plantings of Lake Park and the indigenous species of Wybejong. In this area we should plant more flowering plants, eg. grevilleas and flowering native plants. Blackberry, ash, fennel, hawthorn, ivy, bramble have been sprayed or cut and paint with Garlon over many years.

Actions

- A handrail is to be built down the hill behind the church to ameliorate risk on an existing track.
- Oak suckers under big oak trees are recut each year.
- A 150mm thick mulch blanket was spread under mature oaks out to the drip line and should be continued when clean mulch is available.
- Chilean Needlegrass on top of cliff needs to be monitored continually.
- Communicate with Anglican Church before this weed seeds every year.



Low bench and cork oak

2008 and 2019



Actions

Hazard Reduction burns -periodic burn starting in May till September, can burn in the rain. (As David Wandin, Wurundjeri elder, says –when a gentle wind blows and after the third dew of the season is the time to burn).



Successful fuel reduction burn in east Wybejong Park in July 2019.

Good green growth in November 2019

Photos by Lyn Hovey

A Fire Management Plan is crucial in the eastern end of the park where run off at the bottom of the hill, nutrients from domestic dwellings and gardens, and abundant weed seed grows rampant tall grass.

In 2015 a meeting was held on site at the eastern end of the Park attended by representatives from Greening of Riddell, the local CFA, regional officers from Parks Vic, a Parks Vic fire division officer and a MRSC fire officer. The purpose was to inspect the Poa site behind the church and sign off a document to allow a fuel reduction burn. Fire officers said it was a low priority in their planned reduction burns in the Macedon Ranges area. Fire devastated a large area near Lancefield in October 2015 and our burn paperwork was not acted upon.

In July 2019 we brush cut around the area, removed sticks and thick bark, cut lower branches, burnt the poas one by one around the edge to create a fire break, then allowed the central biomass to burn. It was a day of light wind, we had backpack sprayers, fire rake hoes and a long hose off the tap at No 9 Melvins Road. There were 5 volunteers in attendance.



Melaleuca lanceolata