

Kananook Creek Reserve

Kananook Creek runs parallel to the coastline linking Seaford Wetlands to Frankston Foreshore. Greatly disturbed by past development, today the creek is in much better condition and is home to many indigenous plants and animals. It is one of Frankston's most beautiful natural environments, providing a unique and picturesque place for people to commune with nature in the midst of our urban landscape.

History

Kananook Creek was an important source of fish and eels for the local Boonerwung tribe. There is still evidence of their activities along the banks of Kananook Creek. A plaque, located near the mouth of the creek, commemorates a meeting in 1803 between a party of 14 aborigines and the first white visitor, Charles Grimes.

Kananook Creek was a natural outlet of the Carrum Carrum Swamp, which lay behind the coastal dunes from Mordialloc to Frankston. To reclaim the land for agriculture in the 1870s, Patterson River was cut to drain the swamp. As a consequence, water supply into Kananook Creek was reduced and water quality became poor. Today the water quality is maintained by pumping saltwater into the creek from Patterson Lakes.

From early settlement, Kananook Creek was the centre of the fishing and boat building industries upon which Frankston was founded. In the early 1900s most of the reserve north of Mile Bridge and on the eastern side of the creek was subject to sand mining. Some of the dunes were mined out and indigenous plant communities destroyed.

The Kananook Creek Association (KCA) was formed in 1970 by a group of local residents

who have worked tirelessly in conjunction with Frankston City Council and Melbourne Water on a systematic restoration program for the reserve.

In November 1988 a major wildfire destroyed a large section of the northern part of the reserve. After the fire, the KCA began work on initiating and restoring the walking tracks throughout the reserve. Volunteers have spent countless hours over the years working to restore the bushland and creek environment in the reserve. As a result of their efforts, the reserve is once again becoming a beautiful natural area that provides habitat for local flora and fauna, and a place of peace and relaxation for the local community. In 1996 the reserve received Land for Wildlife Status.

Things to see

Indigenous plants

Kananook Creek Reserve follows an old dune system parallel to the creek. A variety of plant communities with over 200 indigenous species can be found in the reserve. The common trees are Coast Banksias, Sheoaks and Swamp Gums, with a middlestorey of Coast Tea-tree and Coast Beard-heath and an understorey, including White Correa, sedges and rushes. Swamp Paperbark is abundant on the floodplains.

Native animals

Many native animals have been recorded in the reserve, including 15 species of fish and crustaceans, and many frogs and lizards. In the Banksia trees you may spot Rainbow Lorikeets or honeyeaters feeding on the nectar while in the evenings you may see or hear the active Brushtail Possums. The Common Blue-tongue Lizard can be found in amongst the ground litter. Some of the 60 recorded bird species make the creek their home, while others such as water birds visit

on their way to the coast or Seaford Wetlands. Commonly seen are the Black Ducks, White-faced Herons, Cormorants and Spoonbills.

FACT BOX

Location: Frankston, Seaford
Melway Ref: 99 D7, 99 D8, 102 C1
Area: 43 ha
Special features: Kananook Creek, birdlife
Best flowering time: Late winter to early spring
Birds: 60+ species
Walking tracks: 7.5 km
Walking time: 2 hours
Pets: Dogs on lead permitted
Managed by: Frankston City Council and Melbourne Water
Information: ☎ 1300 322 322

Things to do

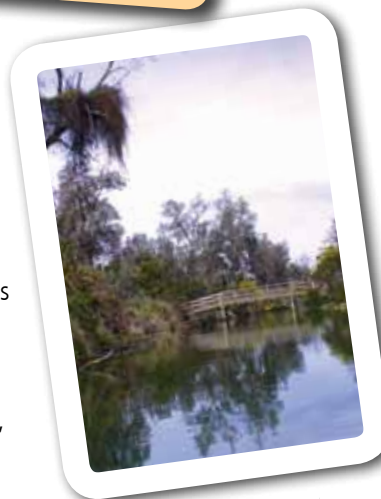
Take some time to explore the natural beauty of this sometimes hidden, beautiful creek reserve.

The 7.5 kilometre Kananook Walking Trail follows the creek from the mouth at Frankston Pier to Eel Race Road. This walk can be extended at the northern end of the reserve either by visiting Seaford Wetlands, one kilometre to the east, or Seaford Foreshore Reserve, 500 metres to the west. You can come in or out of the walking trail at many points along the path as it intersects local roads.

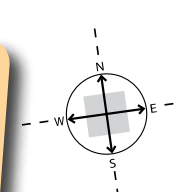
Alternatively, at the southern end of the reserve lies Frankston Foreshore, where you can continue along the scenic boardwalk beside the coast.

One of the most enjoyable ways to experience the creek is to canoe an easy 7.5 kilometre (2 hours) along the navigable waterway. There are several canoe launching points along the creek – Eel Race Road, Riviera Street, Station Street, McCulloch Avenue, Fiocchi Avenue – and there is a boat ramp near the creek mouth.

Fishing, boating, birdwatching and photography are also popular activities. Picnic tables can be found at Beach Street, Fiocchi Avenue, Long Island, Station Street and Riviera Street.



It is important to protect the bushland and maintain the water quality at Kananook Creek to ensure a healthy creek for the fish, a wildlife corridor for native animals and a safe haven for birds.



- Public Transport
 - Parking
 - Bridge
 - Canoe launch
 - Pedestrian crossing
 - Train line
 - Walking Trail
 - Nature Trail
- See page 13 for continuation of Kananook Creek Reserve to the south.

