

SHIRE OF CAMPASPE MEDIA RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 21 October 2015

NEW YORTA YORTA CULTURAL WALK

Campaspe Shire Council has entered into a licence agreement with the Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation (YYNAC) to allow the installation of interpretive signage, seating and bollards for an Aboriginal cultural heritage trail in the bushland area of Victoria Park Reserve, Echuca.

The project will be delivered with a \$20,000 grant provided through the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure's Transport Investing in Regions program. The application for funding was made by the Murray Regional Tourism Board following discussions with YYNAC. As the committee of management for Victoria Park on behalf of the Crown, the project requires Council approval to proceed.

Campaspe spokesperson for Economic Development and Tourism, Cr Paul Jarman, said the aim of the project is to better integrate and showcase Aboriginal cultural heritage in the Echuca area.

"Aboriginal cultural product is currently a missing link in the Murray Region tourism offering and this trail will provide a wonderful opportunity to showcase such a vital part of the area's heritage," Cr Jarman said.

"The walking trail will be known as the Yakoa Dhungala Interpretive Trail; Yakoa and Dhungala being the traditional Yorta Yorta names for the Campaspe and Murray Rivers respectively."

"The trail will highlight the importance of these rivers and land to the Yorta Yorta people. The area contains numerous examples of traditional Yorta Yorta living in this area, evidenced by shell middens, scar trees, stone tools and artefacts, as well as ceremonial and gathering places."

"This area is still used today in gathering materials including reeds and grasses used in the production of traditional basket making."

"It is hoped the trail encourages the development of more Aboriginal cultural tourism products in the area to further enrich the experience of visitors to the region."

The project involves the installation of interpretive signs at eight focus points of interest around the Victoria Park Scenic Drive, two directional signs, a seat at the half-way point and a number of bollards to prevent encroachment by vehicles into sensitive areas.

The walk is approximately 4 kilometres in length and will take about an hour to complete.

In addition to the walking trail infrastructure, the \$20,000 grant will allow for the development of promotional brochures, associated multi-media interpretation and promotional activities.

YYNAC will be responsible for installing and maintaining the heritage trail infrastructure while Council will continue to undertake general maintenance of Scenic Drive such as the removal of fallen trees in order to facilitate vehicle and pedestrian access.

Further information

Campaspe spokesperson for Economic Development and Tourism, Cr Paul Jarman, 1300 666 535
mobile, 0407 825 133

email s.ennis@campaspe.vic.gov.au