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**A voice for our River**



# Melbourne's Special River

The Yarra River is Melbourne's most important natural asset, and all Melburnians are dependent on it. It provides 70% of our piped water and its valley is world renowned for its vineyards and natural beauty. It is the centrepiece of many city cultural events and plays host to sports, recreational and nature-based activities.



Recreation

The Yarra rises east of Melbourne near Mt Baw Baw and flows 240 km to Port Phillip Bay. Its environs are not just our home, they are home for hundreds of different plants and animals, including platypus, koalas, lyrebirds and native fish.



Water Supply



Habitat

However, the impact of our large city is putting the Yarra's health under stress. Most of the river's water is taken to supply our homes and industry, and river flows are now dangerously low. In 2008, they were down to just 11% of their average natural rate. The Yarra is polluted with litter and a cocktail of urban wastes and its water quality falls well short of legal standards. The Yarra's wetlands, floodplains and banks are damaged by weeds, and continue to shrink from the pressure of urban growth. Many wildlife species are now endangered. State Government research shows that only 36% of the Yarra and tributaries are in good condition.

# The Yarra Riverkeeper Association

## Who We Are

We are a not-for-profit community organisation formed in 2004 by a group of citizens who love the Yarra River, and care for its future. Our aim is to protect and restore the Yarra River and its tributaries, from source to mouth, for current and future generations. We are a member of the growing and successful international Waterkeeper movement of community groups around the world caring for their local waterways.

## What We Do

We tell the river's "story", highlighting its wonders and its challenges. We monitor its health and activities affecting it. We run educational events, river tours and give informative presentations to schools, community groups, the authorities and businesses. We work closely with numerous government bodies and NGO's and advocate directly and through the news media for river care.



Education

## What We've Achieved

- Established the first regular boat patrol of the Yarra
- Instrumental in the state government's decisions to cap the amount of water extracted from the river and provide it with environmental flows
- Provided on-water inspection tours to over 300 community and business leaders and politicians
- Delivered over 500 presentations and lectures
- Spoken up for the Yarra in over 250 TV, radio and print media articles
- Earned the reputation of being the pre-eminent voice of the Yarra River



Patrol

**Our continuing work relies on your membership, donations and support.**

# Yes! I/we care about the Yarra and apply to join the Association today.

Applicant (block letters please)

Name/Org: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership** is open to any person or organisation that supports the objectives and rules of the Association and, if accepted as a member, is bound by the rules of the Association for the time being in force.

## Membership Type and Annual Fee:

Person:  Adult \$20.00     Family \$35     Concession \$15

Organisation with (total number of) members or staff:

(less than 50) \$35     (50 to 100) \$65

(more than 100) \$120    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Donations also welcome (thank you)

Please consider \$20, \$50 or \$100

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment options include cash, cheque, money order or direct credit. Please make any cheque or money orders payable to 'Yarra Riverkeeper Association Inc.' and post with this form to:

**Membership Secretary  
Yarra Riverkeeper Association Inc.  
P.O. Box 320, Fairfield VIC 3078**

Direct credit details are **BSB: 033058, AN: 257379, Ref "your surname"**

Any special Interests or expertise? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How did you find out about us? \_\_\_\_\_

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