

MEDIA RELEASE

Launch of Women's Walk Trail on the Merri Creek, Coburg

The Women's Walk trail will tell the stories of inspiring women who have contributed to the Merri Creek and its local environment. The Victorian Branch of the Australian Water Association (AWA) has collected stories of women leaders, both past and present, to be acknowledged on a Women's Walk which will be established along the Merri Creek, Coburg, between Bell Street and Moreland Road.

The walk will also acknowledge the Aboriginal connection to the land and water which form part of the Merri Creek. AWA has collaborated with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to collect stories of significance to the area and requested Wurundjeri to perform a Welcome to Country on location.

"We want to acknowledge and celebrate the cultural heritage and diversity of the Merri Creek, promote waterway health and eventually do physical works that improve the amenity and environmental health of the waterway", says Meredith Gibbs, Victorian Branch Committee member and co-leader of the Women's Walk project.

"The idea is also a response to the brutal attack of a young woman as she was jogging in broad daylight along this section of the Merri Creek in December 2019; a way to reclaim this area as a safe space for women and all of the community to enjoy", she explains.

"We want the Women's Walk to be about inspiring, connecting and sharing stories and knowledge about our waterways and the important role they play in our cities and our lives. We also hope to connect with other organisations who are already doing great work in revitalising the Merri Creek".

Through the Women's Walk, the AWA seeks to honour inspiring female leaders that demonstrate diversity and sustainability principles. Their stories are shared through an interactive online map of the Women's Walk trail, accessible by scanning a dedicated QR Code for the whole community to enjoy.

We invite anyone interested to join us for the virtual launch of the walk:

Wednesday 20 October 2021 (during National Water Week)

5:30-6:30pm AEST

[Register in advance](#)

Future plans for the walk include a larger scale reveal of a permanent sign to link the trail to its Aboriginal heritage including the QR code link, new plantings, a women's garden, waterway health monitoring activities and so on.

For more information, please visit the [Women's Walk webpage](#)