



Rieschiecks *Reserve*

Management Plan



September 2012
Manningham City Council

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Message from the Mayor

Manningham Council's vision is for a vibrant, safe and culturally diverse community that fosters participation, connectedness, harmony, social inclusion, health and wellbeing.

Manningham has more than 300 parks and reserves which are valuable assets. Council is strongly committed to providing the highest standard recreation and relaxation facilities to the community, so they can be enjoyed today and by future generations. Competing priorities and limits to development funding, means it is crucial that Council works with the community to produce Management Plans to prioritise the development, management and conservation of our recreational areas.

Rieschiecks Reserve is an important recreation reserve in Doncaster East that offers the local and wider community a wide range of structured recreation, heritage and sporting facilities, opportunities and informal activities such as walking, jogging, exercising and playground use. The Rieschiecks Reserve Management Plan 2012 has been developed in conjunction with the local community and stakeholders to provide a guide for the future use, management and maintenance of the Reserve.

I would like to thank the community for their contribution to the consultation process to date as it has greatly assisted us to identify the issues and opportunities that have shaped the development of this Management Plan.



GEOFF GOUGH
Mayor

Executive Summary

Manningham's Open Space Strategy (2004) recommends providing a Management Plan for reserves which have a range of uses and for which the planning is complex, including sporting, conservation, community recreation, linear parks and reserves of Municipal significance. These recreation areas accommodate a range of facilities and services and /or open space areas with a range of uses and purposes including formal and informal recreation, landscape and environmental values. They are important community assets and due to competing priorities and limited funding, planning and prioritising the development, management and conservation of these areas is crucial. Rieschiecks Reserve is classified in Manningham's Public Open Space Strategy (2004) as Community Recreation Reserve of Regional significance.

Rieschiecks Reserve, located in Doncaster East, is an important community recreation reserve serving the local area of Doncaster East and Doncaster as well as the majority of schools in Manningham and schools further afield through the athletics facility. The German heritage of the district is represented well at the Reserve with the historic Waldau Cemetery and Schramms Cottage. The orcharding history of the pioneer families is represented by Heimat House and remnant Pine tree wind breaks.

Activities that take place at the Reserve occur both formally as structured recreation and competition including athletics, football, cricket, scout activities, indoor recreation programs and informally such as dog walking, jogging, exercising and playground use.

Facilities within the Reserve include Schramms Cottage Museum, Heimat Centre, Scout hall/ senior athletics pavilion, playground, athletics track and field facilities, sporting oval used for cricket and junior football, sports pavilion, cricket practice nets, a large area of open space and various carparks.

The Rieschiecks Reserve Management Plan includes an overview of the current uses and a guide for the future use which will be used as a resource document for Council officers involved in the planning, development and management of the Reserve. It will also be available for the community to access so that they are able to understand Council's Vision for the Reserve and are informed of the scope of future works at the site. The document sets out the uses, objectives and proposals for the Reserve, as well as plans showing the proposed development for the Reserve in response to the consultation with park users and local residents. It proposes actions and budgets for developing and maintaining the Reserve. It will be the basis for new capital works funding to enhance and improve the Reserve and associated infrastructure over the next ten years.

Map of Manningham highlighting Rieschiecks Reserve



Following discussions with stakeholders, observation of trends and consultation with residents, the following objectives were prepared to guide the action plan for the future management of Rieschiecks Reserve.

Objective 1: PARK ACCESSIBILITY

Improve physical access including pedestrian, cycling and vehicular access and flow to and through the site.

Objective 2: INFRASTRUCTURE

Assess and improve the infrastructure for formal sport, recreation and community facilities within Rieschiecks Reserve.

Objective 3: OPEN SPACE and LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Improve opportunities whilst retaining existing character for informal and passive recreation values at Rieschiecks Reserve.

Objective 4: HERITAGE VALUE

Protect and conserve the heritage values of the Reserve for current and future generations.

1 Introduction

Rieschiecks Reserve provides areas of open space, a sporting oval, pavilion, recreation centre, Schramms Cottage museum, cricket and football facilities, scout hall, playground, public toilets and carparks. It is located across Victoria Street from Ruffey Lake Park. The Reserve exists within one of the most populated residential communities within Manningham including four primary schools and two secondary colleges in a one kilometre vicinity.

The Reserve is an important asset to the Manningham community and widely used by the local residents and local schools. However, management achieving a balance between the structured sporting and passive recreation opportunities and facilities needs to be maintained.

1.1 Manningham's Open Space

The City of Manningham is located twelve kilometres north-east of Melbourne and covers 113 square kilometres. The municipality has a population of 119,190 residents (June 2010, ABS Census) and includes the suburbs of Bulleen, Doncaster, Doncaster East, Donvale, Lower Templestowe, Templestowe, Park Orchards, Warrandyte, Wonga Park and North Ringwood. The Yarra River provides the northern boundary to Manningham and the Koonung Creek forms the southern boundary.

The Manningham open space network covers 19.8 square kilometres and represents 17% of the area of the municipality. It comprises over 300 parks and reserves. The City has one of the largest networks of parks and open space in Metropolitan Melbourne.

Manningham City Council's vision for public open space is:

"an open space network which provides a range of active and passive recreation opportunities in accordance with community needs, which is readily accessible, conserves and enhances the natural and cultural resources of the municipality, contributes to the local economy, and offers an amenable environment in which to live, work and visit for current and future generations" (2004 Public Open Space Strategy).

Manningham City Council is involved in the provision of open space recreation opportunities because it believes that there are a number of benefits that derive from participation in, and provision of, a diverse range of quality recreation opportunities including social, health, environmental, urban liveability, cultural and economic benefits. Specific benefits in these fields include:

Social/Health

Environment is a major influence on health. By providing high quality open space networks Council can create an environment that is supportive of health and encourages activity that reduces prevention of disease. Activities within open space areas such as walking have health benefits such as improved cardiovascular fitness, lower blood pressure, stronger muscles and bones and decreased stress. Open space areas are also social spaces that provide links with the broader community and encourage social connections.

Environment

Open space provides for important ecological aspects such as waterways, flora and fauna. Vegetation in open space provides habitat for wildlife and opportunities for people to connect with and appreciate nature.

Urban Liveability

Open space brings an aesthetic value to a neighbourhood by providing a "green break" between houses and roads.

Culture

Open space can be a venue for cultural displays, festivals, programs and activities. Open space can also have pre settlement or post settlement cultural and heritage significance associated with specific sites or features.

Economic

The economic benefit of open space can be measured in the spin-off effects of visitation and tourism and the role of high quality open space in attracting residents to Manningham and thus enhancing property values.

1.2 Site History

Until the European incursion into the region, its first people, the Wurundjeri, routinely moved around Manningham’s many comfortable sites in accordance with cultural patterns developed over many thousands of years. In summer the river flats around the Yarra River were a very comfortable place for the Wurundjeri people to settle as food was plentiful, especially around the billabongs. During the wetter colder season when the river was prone to flooding, they moved to higher country in the region with its abundance of timber and fur skinned animals. Movement was a natural part of the settlement pattern for the Wurundjeri. With the coming of the Europeans that pattern was gravely and permanently disrupted.

Investigation into the potential existence of Aboriginal heritage sites of significance within Rieschiecks Reserve revealed there is no record of Aboriginal cultural heritage or of any notified places.* Part of the study site has a Cultural Heritage Sensitive Overlay as it is located within 200 metres of Ruffey Creek (Refer Figure 1.2.1). Cultural Heritage Management Plans are mandatory for listed high impact activities proposed in this area of the overlay. As this relates specifically to undeveloped sites and given the extent of major earthworks that have already occurred in the Reserve, it potentially affects patches of the Reserve such as works proposed on the hillside above Muriel Green Drive and undeveloped areas of Schramms Cottage such as the south-west corner behind the machinery shed. As there is no evidence of significant ground disturbance in this area, proposed works may require a Cultural Heritage Management Plan at the design stage.

*Sources:

- 1) The City of Doncaster and Templestowe – The Archaeological Survey of Aboriginal Sites, Isabel Ellender 1991
- 2) Manningham. From Country to City, Pertzelt and Walters, 2001
- 3) Manningham Planning Scheme



Figure 1.2.1 Cultural Heritage Sensitive

European settlement commenced in the 1850's predominantly by German settler orchardists and the small settlement was known as Waldau (which means clearing in the forest). Over time, orchardists planted the large areas of Pine trees in the area that still exist today. A Lutheran church, the first one in Doncaster, was built on the present day Schramms Cottage site in 1858. Adjacent to the church was Waldau Cemetery, where approximately 150 burials took place between 1854 and 1888. It is a rare surviving example of an independent denominational burial ground in the City of Manningham demonstrating the strong German/Lutheran history of the area. The church was later replaced further south along Victoria Street. Schramms Cottage, an historic stone cottage originally situated in Doncaster Road (at the site of the Municipal Offices), was relocated to the site of the original Lutheran Church building in Victoria Street in 1971. There are Eugene von Guerard drawings dated 1859 of Waldau and the Lutheran Church.

Like much of the City of Manningham, the area around Rieschiecks Reserve was predominantly covered in fruit orchards for over 100 years before residential subdivision began. The Finger family owned and operated an orchard from 1870 to the 1960's on the Rieschiecks Reserve site.

Carl Heinrich (Henry) Finger (1831-1884) purchased fifty acres of land on the corner of Waldau or German Lane (now known as George Street) from Friedrich Straube (of which, a part now forms the current Rieschiecks Reserve), in addition to other land in Waldau in 1870. John Finger (1867-1942) built a house called *Heimat* on the land acquired from his father shortly after his marriage to Christine Hartwich in June 1889. The house was built on the southern side of the large orchard property facing George Street where it still stands in Rieschiecks Reserve. Finger's orchards contained mainly lemon trees.

John and Christine Finger had four daughters of whom their eldest daughter, Bertha Caroline and her husband Friedrich (Fritz) Rieschieck moved into *Heimat* continuing the lemon orchards. Bertha Rieschieck died in 1965 and Fritz in 1968.

Housing estates began to replace orchards in the 1960s and Council purchased the remaining ten hectares of the house and orchard property with the view to turn it into a public reserve in 1967.

Further detail on the history of the site can be sourced from 'Rieschiecks Reserve Conservation Management Plan, 2008.'

Chronology of Rieschiecks Reserve

- 1837 First Europeans (including Major Newman) with pastoral interests in the general area.
- 1853 Rieschiecks Reserve land is pastoral and Major Newman has a yearly grazing lease but no farmers were on this land. First German settlers moved into the Doncaster area.
- 1854 Year of first burial at Friedrich Straube's private cemetery which later became the church cemetery for the Waldau community.
- 1856 The name of the area known as Doncaster changed from Breslau to Waldau with the original street names reflecting the small community's German heritage (i.e. Wilhelm St, Bismarck St and Waldau Lane).
- 1858 Lutheran Church built (within boundaries of current Schramms Cottage site).
- 1890 Heimat House built by Johann Finger, a German orchardist whose eldest daughter married Fritz Rieschieck.
- 1914-18 All German street names in Victoria changed to Anglo Saxon names (King St, Victoria St and George St).
- 1967 Land known colloquially as Rieschiecks Reserve but officially as George Street Reserve was acquired by Council. Ruffey Creek running through this land had already been filled. Residential subdivision of surrounding area began.
- 1969 Doncaster Heights Junior Football Club established at the Reserve.
- 1970 Owens Street Reserve acquired.
- 1972-76 Schramms Cottage and other historic buildings relocated to its present site. It is officially re-opened in February 1976.
- 1973 Rieschiecks Pavilion constructed. Advisory committee formed.
- 1974/75 Cricket club commences at the Reserve.
- 1976 Doncaster Hockey Club becomes a tenant at the Reserve.
- 1977 Scouts began to use the Rieschiecks Pavilion for their activities, the athletics track and field facilities were developed and the Doncaster Athletics Club, Doncaster Women's Athletics Club and Doncaster Little Athletics Club commenced operation at the Reserve. Reserve officially named Rieschiecks Reserve (from George Street Reserve).
- 1980 Competition between the hockey and football clubs for exclusive use of the ground.
- 1985 Council resolved to continue to maintain and upgrade Rieschiecks Reserve Athletics Track as a venue for local and inter club/school competition.
- 1986 Scout hall and senior athletics building constructed jointly funded by Council and George Rieschiecks Association. Two cricket practice nets constructed.
- 1987 Last recorded meeting of the Rieschiecks Reserve Advisory Committee.
- 1988 The Scout/athletics building was officially named "Victoria Street Activity Centre."
- 1991 Committee room/control booth for the Little Athletics Club constructed.
- 1993 The Little Athletics Club, Senior Athletics Club and Council jointly funded the installation of flood lighting around the athletics track.
- 1995 Council endorses Management Plan for Rieschiecks Reserve.

1996	Rieschiecks Pavilion partly destroyed by fire and refurbishment works included a first aid and canteen facility.
1997	Upgrade of athletics track.
1999	Doncaster Hockey Club relocated to Mullum Mullum Reserve. Council considered redeveloping the playing field into three baseball diamonds.
2006	Review of the 1995 Management Plan commenced but not completed.
2006	Heimat Centre constructed which was purpose built for TRY Youth and Community Services. The original Heimat House was restored.
2010	TRY Youth and Community Services ceased operations from Heimat Centre. Flooding of athletics track occurred.
2011	Donvale Doncaster Heights Auskick commences at the Reserve.

Relevant Management Plans

Rieschiecks Reserve Management Plan 1995

The previous Management Plan for Rieschiecks Reserve was completed and endorsed by Council in 1995. Revision of the 1995 Management Plan commenced in 2006 but was halted during the consultation phase and not completed at this time.

The majority of recommendations from the 1995 Management Plan were implemented soon thereafter and work on the 2012 Management Plan has shown that similar issues to the 1995 recommendations still exist that include park traffic management, the effect of the facilities on the local residents and the public address (PA) system.

The 1995 Rieschiecks Reserve Management Plan provided a 3-year capital development plan. Works completed included:

- Major upgrade to the athletics track and field facilities to bring the venue up to an acceptable competition standard for local and state meets;
- Improvements to the Muriel Green Drive carpark with the addition of parking bays, security lighting and a sealed surface;
- Provision of disabled carparking spaces near Schramms Cottage, Rieschiecks Pavilion and Heimat Centre;
- Improved visual appearance of the Reserve with planting of trees and shrubs around buildings and along boundaries; and
- Disbandment of the Rieschiecks Reserve Advisory Committee and for Council to directly manage the Reserve.

Rieschiecks Reserve Conservation Management Plan 2008

This plan was developed as part of the review of the 1995 Management Plan but was never formally endorsed by Council. The aim of this report is to establish the cultural heritage significance of Rieschiecks Reserve and its heritage components and provide heritage policies and management guidelines to retain this significance. This plan informs and guides the heritage recommendations of this Management Plan.

1.3 Methodology

Consultation on the review and development of the Management Plan included:

- An understanding of State and Municipal policy context (Refer Appendix 1);
- Rieschiecks Reserve Resident's Update and 'Our Community's Voice' Feedback Form distributed to 1141 residents;
- Key stakeholder consultation including meetings with sport and recreation clubs and discussions with state sporting bodies;
- Feedback from 12 schools/sports associations regarding the athletics facility;
- Feedback forms sent to seven schools within a 1.2 kilometre radius;
- Meetings with relevant Council officers and authorities (i.e. VicRoads, Melbourne Water);
- An undertaking of demographic and use trends (Refer Appendix 3);
- Analysis of existing conditions, risk assessment, use and facilities;
- Concept plans for specific recommendations; and
- A review of current management priorities and issues.

The key stakeholders consulted included:

- Local residents
- Doncaster Templestowe Historical Society
- Doncaster Heights Junior Football Club
- Manningham Cricket Club
- Doncaster Athletics Club
- Doncaster Little Athletics Centre
- Victorian Masters Athletics Club
- Manningham Triathlon Multisports
- 1st Doncaster East Scouts
- Step into Life Doncaster
- U3A Manningham
- Manningham and non Manningham primary and secondary schools and sports associations (who book athletic facility)
- Athletics Victoria;
- Little Athletics Victoria
- Kevin Heinze Garden Centre
- Melbourne Water
- VicRoads and
- Bus drivers driving school groups to athletics facility

2 Existing Conditions

2.1 Study Area

Rieschiecks Reserve is owned by Manningham City Council and is located at the corner of Victoria and George Streets, Doncaster East. The main features of Rieschiecks Reserve include Schramms Cottage complex, mature Pine trees, Scout hall/athletics pavilion, athletics track, sporting oval, sports pavilion, playground and Heimat Centre. It is proposed to incorporate Owens Reserve into Rieschiecks Reserve.

Bounded by George Street to the south, Victoria Street to the west and residences from neighbouring streets on the north and east sides, Rieschiecks Reserve covers an area of approximately 12.6 hectares. Rieschiecks Reserve has car/pedestrian access via five separate carparks and pedestrian access from Owens, George and Victoria Streets. There are also bus stops outside the Reserve on George and Victoria Streets, a shared path on Victoria Street and an on road bicycle lane on George Street.

2.2 Land Tenure and Planning Controls

Land Tenure

The study area consists of four parcels of land:

- 125 George Street (TP346009) acquired in 1967. This property boundary extends onto the constructed part of George and Victoria Streets. There are also two Melbourne Water main drains (George Street and Ruffey Creek) and a sewer that run underneath the athletics track;
- 10-12 Owens Street (LP 85976) acquired in 1970;
- 123A George Street (LP99673) acquired in 1974; and
- 80-90 Victoria Street (Lot 1 TP122939) transferred in 1990. This property boundary extends onto the constructed part of Victoria Street.

Existing Planning Controls

The study area is affected by two planning zones in the Manningham Planning Scheme reflecting the different purposes of the Reserve:

- Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ), recognising the majority of the Reserve for public recreation and open space, protect and conserve areas of significance, and where appropriate, provide for commercial use; and
- Public Use Zone (PUZ5) in the north east corner of the study area (Schramms Cottage Precinct), specifically reflecting the use of this land for a cemetery. The land now includes the museum and the cemetery which has not been active for more than one hundred years.



Figure 2.2.1 Land Parcels Affected by Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ)/ Zoning of subject land.



The **Special Building Overlay (SBO)** was introduced into the Manningham Planning Scheme, June 2003 as Amendment C13. It defines land in urban areas liable to inundation by overland flows from the urban drainage system as determined by, or in consultation with, the floodplain management authority.

Figure 2.2.2 Land Parcels affected by Special Building Overlay

Historically, the beginning stages of Ruffey Creek flowed from the east of Rieschiecks Reserve. Nowadays, this water flow is contained in the Ruffey Creek drain under Rieschiecks Reserve and surfaces in Ruffey Lake Park. The overlay identifies the extent of overland flooding during a 1 in 100 year rainfall event and identifies land in urban areas liable to inundation by overland flows from the urban drainage system as determined by the flood plain management authority (in this case, Melbourne Water). This overlay effects construction within the sports field, cricket nets and athletics facility and the limitations are explained in further detail Sections 6.4 Sports Oval and Cricket Training Nets and 6.5 Athletics Track.

The entire study site (excluding Owens Street Reserve), is affected by a **Heritage Overlay (HO)** in Manningham's Planning Scheme. The purpose of this overlay is to conserve and enhance heritage places of natural or cultural significance and ensure that development does not adversely affect the significance of the heritage place. A heritage place includes both the listed heritage item and its associated land.

The subject land comprises a number of heritage elements which are included separately in the Heritage Overlay. The Heritage Overlays include; HO69 'Heimat' at 125 George Street (covering all of Rieschiecks Reserve excluding land related to Schramm's Cottage Complex).



Figure 2.2.3 Land Parcels Affected by Heritage

A section in the north-west corner of the site is also included as HO169 Schramms Cottage Heritage Precinct, HO173 Schramms Cottage and HO174 Lutheran Cemetery. The heritage significance of Rieschiecks Reserve is an important component of this Management Plan and actions reflecting the guidelines and policies of Rieschiecks Reserve Conservation Management Plan 2008 are put forward in the relevant sections.

Proposed Overlay

As part of Amendment C54 to the Manningham Planning Scheme, it is proposed to apply Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO7) to the entire study area as part of a wider precinct that includes Ruffey Lake Park. Following Ministerial approval this overlay will

acknowledge that Monterey Pine trees contribute to the landscape and conditions will apply in their management.

2.3 Key Attributes of Rieschiecks Reserve Environs

Residential Character

Rieschiecks Reserve abuts residences to the north and east. The area comprises predominantly low-density residential development of single detached dwellings on relatively large blocks of land. However, there are increasing levels of one and two storey medium density infill residential development occurring. The area surrounding Rieschiecks Reserve is affected by the Residential 3 Zone (R3Z) which is the most protective urban zone. It is anticipated that only incremental development change will be occurring in this area. Doncaster East is the most populated suburb of Manningham and houses 24% of the total Manningham population. However, substantial residential growth is anticipated in DD08/9 (Design and Development Overlay) which is located as close as 800m along Doncaster Road south of Rieschiecks Reserve and 1200m west along George Street. This may impact club membership at the various sports and activities offered at the Reserve and casual use of the athletics track with a potential increase in the number of Reserve users.

Community Facilities

Ruffey Lake Park

Ruffey Lake Park is located on the western boundary of Rieschiecks Reserve across Victoria Street. At 68 hectares in size, it is considered to be the “jewel in the crown” of Manningham’s open space with a regional catchment serving the entire Municipality and further afield. As well as providing two separate play spaces with access to all amenities, Ruffey Lake Park is well renowned throughout Melbourne as a popular dog walking destination and is used as a venue for many of Manningham’s major events. The Park also forms part of the Ruffey Creek sub catchment area and is one of six drainage catchments of significance within Manningham. This sub catchment area ends in Rieschiecks Reserve.

Local Schools

There is a total school aged population (5-17 year olds) of 4,797 pupils in the vicinity of Rieschiecks Reserve. This includes five primary schools and two secondary colleges which exist within 1.2 kilometres proximity to the Reserve. The schools are:

- Doncaster Gardens Primary School, Doncaster East
- Serpell Primary School, Templestowe
- St Charles Borromeo Primary School, Templestowe
- St Peter and St Paul’s Primary School, Doncaster East
- Doncaster Primary School, Doncaster
- East Doncaster Secondary College, East Doncaster
- Doncaster Secondary College, Doncaster

These and many other Manningham schools (with the exception of St Charles Borromeo Primary School) book the athletics facility for training and/or athletics competitions. Doncaster Gardens Primary School also books the sportsground on a weekly basis for various sporting activities and as an evacuation point for the school.

Activity Centres

The closest activity centres are Jackson Court (1 kilometre distance) and Donburn (1.5 kilometres distance) Neighbourhood Activity Centres. Westfield Shopping Centre is located two kilometres from Rieschiecks Reserve. These activity centres are regarded as having minimal impact on the residents and stakeholders of Rieschiecks Reserve.

3 Reserve Utilisation

Rieschiecks is a very popular and well utilised reserve providing a range of facilities and spaces to cater for formal and informal recreation activities. The Reserve is highly valued by local residents for a range of uses most predominantly exercising at the athletics track and sportsground, walking with dogs, children or grandchildren and using the playspace. There are a number of clubs using the Reserve for formalised sporting and recreation activities including the historical society, athletics, football, cricket and scouting.

A key function of the Rieschiecks Reserve Management Plan is to identify opportunities for improvements and upgrade of park infrastructure and facilities to enhance the park users' experience and reduce the impact of large sporting events on local residents.

Opportunities for improvements and upgrades were identified through consultation with local residents and user groups of the Reserve and were considered in line with Council and statutory policy guidelines and availability of resources.

3.1 Informal Recreation Activities

3.1.1 Walking



Consultation revealed that walking for exercise, with others and with dogs is a popular activity throughout the Reserve. The athletics track is particularly popular as it is open to the public at non event times with a high quality surface that absorbs impact and so many adults choose to walk or jog the track for exercise.

Action

- Continue to keep the athletics track open and accessible to Manningham residents and the public for informal track use and exercise outside of event use times.

3.1.2 Dog Activities

Manningham Council's Domestic Animals Act 1994 Schedule 2 classifies the Reserve as an off lead reserve provided dogs are kept under effective control at all times. Dogs must be on-lead at Rieschiecks Reserve within 15 metres of the children's playground, an organised sporting event (cricket, football), an approved function or public meeting and within the Schramms Cottage complex. Dogs are prohibited at all times from the athletics facility. Ruffey Lake Park is considered by many dog walkers as the reserve of choice in preference to Rieschiecks Reserve.

Action

- Retain existing dog controls and update signage as appropriate.

3.1.3 Play

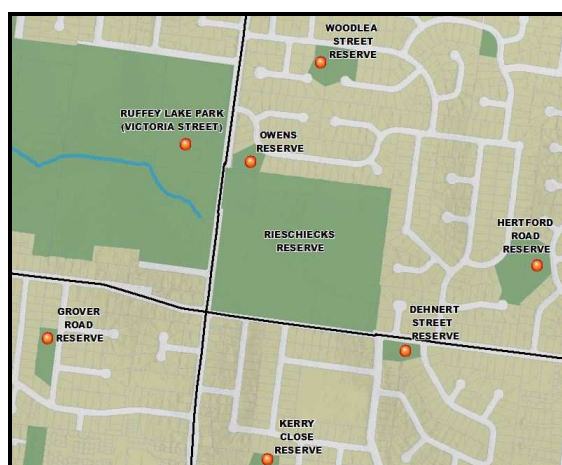
There is one play space on the study site at Owens Street which caters for 1-5 years with junior play equipment, drinking fountain and park benches. This was upgraded in 2008 as a need was expressed by local residents to cater for play at their neighbourhood park. The playground is not widely used and consultation identified the need for further planting. There are also unstructured play opportunities identified as being utilized by residents in the open space north of the athletics facility. The issues with having the playground in its existing location are; it is not readily accessible for those attending sports events in the southern section of the Reserve and it duplicates the regional play space located across the road in Ruffey Lake Park. Space is at a premium in the formal sporting precinct and there is not another appropriate area for formal play in Rieschiecks Reserve.

Other play spaces in a 700 metre radius include Woodlea, Dehnert, Hertford, Grover and Kerry Reserves, catering for a range of ages with a wide variety of play opportunities. There are two play spaces located in particularly close vicinity to Rieschiecks Reserve. They are:

- Ruffey Lake Park: The Victoria Street playspace located directly across from Rieschiecks Reserve is large and caters extremely well for a regional catchment with interesting play opportunities for all ages. There is a pathway through Rieschiecks Reserve from Owens Street to Victoria Street and a safe crossing point on Victoria Street, both of which provide access for local residents; and
- Dehnert Reserve: Located directly across George Street, play caters for children, 2-10 years with formal play opportunities. Dehnert Reserve is accessible from Rieschiecks Reserve with pedestrian lights on George Street.

Residents in a 600 metre radius of Rieschiecks Reserve are very well catered for with formal play and informal recreation opportunities for all ages. Other nearby reserves which contain informal recreation opportunities include; netball, basketball and cricket at Woodlea Reserve, and basketball at Leawarra and Hertford Reserves.

Surrounding Playspaces.



Owens Reserve



Actions

- Retain existing formal play opportunities that cater for the younger age group that compliment and not duplicate play at nearby reserves.
- Plant additional shade trees around the playspace.

3.1.4 Social Activities/Events



Relay For Life

A local reserve provides an area of green open space to benefit those that live around it. Our open spaces not only provide areas to recreate, play, relax and appreciate nature they also provide important focal points for cultural and social activities and events within our local communities. Rieschiecks Reserve provides a number of opportunities for events including:

- Outdoor sporting events such as athletic carnivals and cricket matches;
- Fund raising events such as Relay for Life;
- Social events including private functions and activities at Heimat Centre; and
- Heritage events at Schramms Cottage.

The Reserve is generally busy with day-to-day activities booked through its various facilities and community events are generally held and well catered for at Ruffey Lake Park across Victoria Street. The 'Manningham Relay for Life' fund-raiser which takes place on the athletics track is currently one of the few community events to take place at the Reserve. Doncaster Templestowe Historical Society also host events at Schramms Cottage to promote the heritage and history of the area.

As the Reserve in general is so heavily utilised by user groups, there is limited opportunity to host community social events and activities. However, there is an opportunity to encourage the local residents to attend such events and activities. 'Know your neighbour' themed events also assist building friendships and welcoming new people to the area, which in turn reduces social isolation and promotes tolerance and respect.

Action

- Investigate opportunities to include local residents in community events such as Relay for Life and heritage events at Schramms Cottage Museum.

3.2 Formal Recreation Activities

Rieschiecks Reserve is well utilised by formal sport, recreation and cultural groups in the southern area of the Reserve (George Street vicinity) is at maximum capacity with athletics, football, cricket, personal training and Heimat Centre activities. The following clubs have formal agreements with the facilities at Rieschiecks Reserve:

Club	Facility
• Doncaster Athletics Club	Athletics Facility, Victoria Street Pavilion
• Doncaster Little Athletics Centre	Athletics Facility, Rieschiecks Pavilion, Little Athletics Clubroom
• Victorian Masters Athletics Club	Athletics Facility, Victoria Street Pavilion
• Manningham Triathlon Multisports	Athletics Facility, Rieschiecks Pavilion
• Doncaster Heights Junior Football Club	Sportsground, Rieschiecks Pavilion
• Doncaster Heights Auskick	Sportsground, Rieschiecks Pavilion
• Manningham Cricket Club	Sportsground, Rieschiecks Pavilion
• Step into Life Doncaster	Sportsground
• Doncaster Templestowe Historical Society	Schramms Cottage
• 1st Doncaster East Scouts	Victoria Street Pavilion
• Manningham U3A	Athletics Carpark

Athletics

The four tenants of the athletics facility operate separately from each other and the juniors use separate clubrooms and storage facilities to the seniors. Feedback from clubs and Council officers suggest many operational activities and facilities are duplicated and general efficiency would be improved if the clubs combined facilities and formed a committee with representative membership from all athletic clubs. Benchmarking other athletic facilities that are similar to Rieschiecks Reserve demonstrates an overarching committee is the trend in athletics and effective method of managing tenancy arrangements. A Council officer would need to facilitate forming this new committee. The benefits of forming a Rieschiecks Reserve Athletics Committee include:

- Elimination of duplicating equipment;
- Consolidation of storage and clubroom facilities;
- Streamlining the communication channel to Council (one person is more efficient than 4 people);
- Improved communication between clubs; and
- Improved operational efficiency including maintenance, upgrades and programming.

Action

- Form a new committee with representation from Doncaster Athletics Club, Doncaster Little Athletics Centre, Victorian Masters Athletics Club and Manningham Triathlon Multisports.

3.2.1 Doncaster Athletics Club

The Doncaster Athletics Club is an affiliate member of Athletics Victoria and competes in Athletics Victoria's summer and winter competitions. These include 4-5 Shield competitions at Rieschiecks Reserve against other clubs on Saturday afternoon and

cross country competition during the winter months at other venues. The 2010/11 season had 140 members of which 70 were active members.

The club has a seasonal allocation with Council for annual use of the track and a Licence Agreement for all year use of the Victoria Street Pavilion (formerly known as Victoria Street Activities Centre). The Licence Agreement is currently in over hold and due for renewal.

Action

- Renew the Licence Agreement with Doncaster Athletics Club for use of Victoria Street Pavilion (until relocation to Rieschiecks Pavilion).

3.2.2 Doncaster Little Athletics Centre

The emphasis at Little Athletics is participation and skills development for children aged 5-15 years. There are six clubs that make up the Doncaster Little Athletics Centre: Bulleen Templestowe, Doncaster Heights, Doncaster Lions, Doncaster Saints, East Doncaster and Templestowe All Saints. The majority of their 580 members live in Doncaster or Doncaster East. The club has a Seasonal Agreement (1st October to 31st March) with Council for use of the athletic facilities and Rieschiecks Pavilion. They also have sole use of the Little Athletics Clubroom for which there is no formal agreement or maintenance schedule.

Action

- Investigate a lease and maintenance schedule for the use of the Little Athletics Clubroom by Doncaster Little Athletics Centre.

3.2.3 Victorian Masters Athletics Club Doncaster

Victorian Masters Athletics aims to promote fitness, health and athletic competition among men and women aged 30 years plus. The Doncaster branch of this organisation has 50 members, with 25 active members. Their annual seasonal allocation with Council for the track and pavilion allows use for competition Monday evening.

3.2.4 Manningham Triathlon Multisports

Manningham Triathlon Multisports has 30 members (all active) who have an annual seasonal allocation with Council to use the athletics track and Rieschiecks Pavilion all year for training purposes Wednesday evening.

3.2.5 Doncaster Heights Junior Football Club

Formed in 1969 at Rieschiecks Reserve with one team, the club now has 8 teams registered (2012) in the Yarra Junior Football League. Doncaster Heights Junior Football Club was the first club to officially call Rieschiecks Reserve their home. Their home ground is now Templestowe Reserve and they are a partner club to Templestowe Football Club (seniors), Donvale Doncaster Heights Auskick and Templestowe Auskick. The club primarily uses Rieschiecks Reserve for training purposes, Auskick program and hopes to increase usage of the ground for competition. The club has a Licence Agreement with Council to play on the sportsground and use of Rieschiecks Pavilion.

3.2.6 Manningham Cricket Club

Established in the 1960's as Doncaster United Cricket Club, the Club was renamed Manningham Cricket Club in 1996. The club has been at Rieschiecks Reserve since 1974 and currently has three junior teams, three senior teams and a veteran's team in the Eastern Cricket Association. The club also operates a Milo 'in2cricket' program for sub juniors with 15-20 members participating in the clinic. The Club has a Licence Agreement

with Council for the two cricket pitches on the sportsground and use of Rieschiecks Pavilion.

3.2.7 Step into Life Doncaster

The commercial franchise of the personal training business, Step into Life Doncaster has been in operation at Rieschiecks Reserve since April 2009 where clientele has grown to 65 members in 2011. While clients always meet at Rieschiecks Reserve, the group either uses the sportsground or walk/run off site around the local streets. Step into Life Doncaster has an annual seasonal allocation with Council for use of the sportsground only.

3.2.8 Doncaster Templestowe Historical Society

The Doncaster Templestowe Historical Society Inc. was formed in 1967, given permission to occupy Schramms Cottage in its original location on Doncaster Road in 1968 and moved to Rieschiecks Reserve when Schramms Cottage was deconstructed and relocated in 1975. The Society manages Schramms Cottage museum, maintains a local history archive and promotes knowledge and understanding of the history of the local area. The Society has never been on a formal tenancy agreement with Council and it is important for Council to formalise community groups' occupancy in Council buildings and to document an agreement that clearly identifies use and obligations of both Council and the group.

The Doncaster Templestowe Historical Society is committed to preserving and promoting Manningham's history and heritage. In recognition of their services, Council now provides the Society with an annual community grant of \$5,000. This agreement extends until 2015 and the funding contributes towards delivering educational activities, developing marketing material and conserving the historical collection.

The Society is in the process of seeking accreditation from Museums Australia through the Museum Accreditation Program which, when completed, will make Schramms Cottage a nationally accredited tourism business. Not only will this accreditation provide a framework to promote the museum's achievements and meet industry standards for exhibitions and public programs but it will also recognise the museum nationally as an accredited tourism business.

There are 130 members in this community group with all volunteers aged 55+ years and the majority of members 70+ years. The group finds it difficult to recruit new members and increasingly, the bulk of the work is falling to a small group within their membership. The hours of operation are limited by the number of volunteer hours available and the Museum is only open 2.00-5.00 pm Sunday and public holidays. Maintenance of the buildings within the Schramms Cottage site has been a major concern with the Society since 2007. Council will undertake all major maintenance of buildings and this will allow the Society to focus on their role of educating the public and collecting and maintaining historic archives.

Actions

- Put the Doncaster Templestowe Historical Society on a formal tenancy agreement for use of Schramms Cottage.
- Support the Historical Society towards gaining full museum accreditation through the Museums Australia Accreditation Program.

3.2.9 1st Doncaster East Scouts

Council is very supportive of the Scouts and recognises their contribution to our youth community. The primary purpose of scouting is recreation. Scouts cater for both sexes ranging from six years to 26 years. There are 70 families involved making it the largest

Scout group in Manningham. They have a joey mob, two cub packs and a venturer unit. Usage of the hall includes; formal scouting activities held Monday to Thursday evenings, hall for general night time hire 4-5 times year, Mother's group and brass band practice every Sunday.

The 1st Doncaster East Scout Group share the Victoria Street Pavilion with Doncaster Athletics Club. The building is owned by Council and the lease agreement which expired in 2000 is in over hold whilst being renewed. A long term goal of the 1st Doncaster East Scouts is to offer a café style place for young people to access on a casual basis. This potential scouting activity would offer trained peer educators to be given the opportunity to develop their position in the local community.

Action

- Renew the Lease Agreement for the Scout Hall (Victoria Street Pavilion).

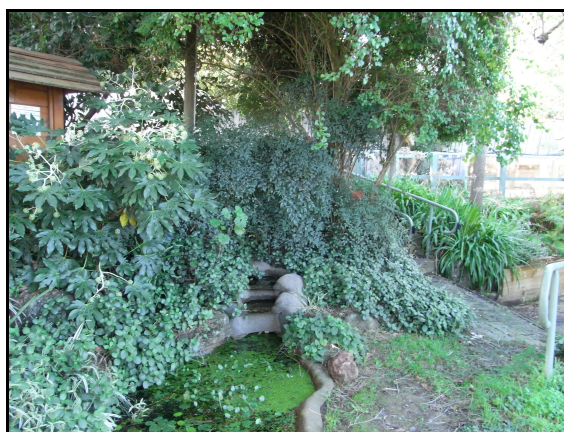
3.2.10 Manningham U3A

There is no formal pétanque facility at Rieschiecks Reserve but Manningham U3A take advantage of a suitable site with the large granitic sand carpark with up to 20 players playing pétanque Monday, 9.00-10.00 am. Manningham U3A is based at The Pines Learning & Activity Centre and has a formal annual agreement with Council to use this carpark. This is a short term arrangement as once the carpark is sealed Manningham U3A will need to find an alternative pétanque piste that suits their needs.

Action

- Assist Manningham U3A to find an alternative pétanque piste once the athletics carpark is sealed.

3.2.11 Kevin Heinze Garden Centre



Kevin Heinze Garden Centre (KHGC) has been providing horticultural therapy programs for children and adults with disability or disadvantage since 1979. KHGC is currently located at 39 Wetherby Road, Doncaster, at the SP Ausnet site. KHGC's lease expires at the end 2014. KHGC requires a more secure site and is seeking a long term agreement in order to secure its future. Council has been working closely with KHGC to identify a suitable new site.

Many sites in Manningham have been considered closely and the northern section of Rieschiecks Reserve has been identified as the most suitable site for KHGC in Manningham for the following reasons:

- The space required by KHGC (approximately 4,000 m²) and site topography suits their needs adequately allowing for a community garden for people with disabilities, a sensory garden and a nursery area;

- There is potential to either extend or build adjacent to the existing Victoria Street Pavilion without significant site disturbance;
- KHGC has positive synergies with two of the existing tenants; Doncaster Templestowe Historical Society and 1st Doncaster East Scouts;
- The Doncaster Templestowe Historical Society, in particular requires assistance in garden maintenance and KHGC has expressed the Schramms Cottage gardens could be maintained by their horticulturalists as part of their program; and
- The site is safe, particularly for children as there is one access, and the site is fenced on three sides and located away from major roads.

The benefits for Manningham Council, Reserve tenants and local residents in having KHGC as tenants at Rieschiecks Reserve include:

- KHGC's daytime presence will contribute to positive surveillance of this northern area in the Reserve. KHGC's programs operate 10.00 am - 3.00 pm weekdays, with staff onsite only until 4.30 pm. These hours of operation compliment the Scout, Athletics gymnasium and Historical Society's activities which operate from 4.00 pm - 10.00 pm weekdays and weekends;
- The Doncaster Templestowe Historical Society, in particular requires assistance in garden maintenance and KHGC has expressed the Schramms Cottage gardens could be maintained by their horticulturalists as part of their programs;
- The area will still have an open space function for local residents including a beautiful 'open' garden for the community to enjoy;
- The program's philosophy of helping people to grow, especially those who are generally disadvantaged in our society provides a positive and welcome vibe to our community;
- Generally, there are no more than 30 people on site at any time. Their programs are not noisy; this would go against their philosophy of tranquillity for participants;
- The philosophy of KHGC is to provide a tranquil and peaceful setting in order to heal the mind, body and spirit. KHGC's activities will not be a noise issue with adjoining residents. KHGC has coexisted with residents abutting their current site for over 32 years without complaint;
- KHGC generates little traffic and existing car parking is adequate. Most participants arrive by mini bus and only ten staff and volunteer carparks are required; and
- This area of open space has been identified as being currently underutilised by tenants and local residents and KHGC will provide an extra element for the community.

The implications to the proposed utilisation of the Reserve are fairly minimal and include:

- The Doncaster Athletics Club is a tenant in the Victoria Street Pavilion. The Doncaster Little Athletics Centre and Victorian Masters Athletics Club are tenants in Rieschiecks Pavilion. If KHGC were to re-locate to the northern open space this would present an opportunity to consolidate all the athletics clubs in one renovated building, Rieschiecks Pavilion (refer 6.1 Rieschiecks Pavilion). However, the relocation costs of Doncaster Athletics Club will be sourced externally to the Management Plan;
- Perceived loss of open space for local residents. Residents access this part of the Reserve from Owens Street for informal recreation activities. In addition, the proposed path alongside the eastern boundary linking this northern area to George

Street includes a portion of open space that is currently within the athletics facility (refer Section 7.1 Path Networks);

- Perceived loss of views for residents on the Reserve's northern boundary;
- The retention of some open space is important in this area and once boundaries for KHGC are established, there would be no scope to extend them in the future;
- Loss of overflow carparking for major athletic events. Such large events occur 1-2 times annually and this area is not suitable for public parking in wet weather. While the area of overflow parking north of the existing formal carpark (see below) would remain available for large events, the majority of overflow carparking would be in the surrounding local streets; and
- Impact of the extra KHGC activities and infrastructure on the Scouts. The Scouts gave feedback this open space area is underutilised and there would be a positive synergy between the two groups.

Action

- Support Kevin Heinze Garden Centre in their re-location to Rieschiecks Reserve with detailed design work in the proposed 4,000m² area.
- Include input from residents on the northern boundary in the landscape design of KHGC.

4 Open Space and Landscape Values

The Reserve's landscape is valued for its variety in topography, vegetation and heritage buildings. The topography heading north is steep with a large informal grassed area, there is a steep sloped grass area where a cut was made in the slope for the formal sportsground, the perimeter of the Reserve is treed with a mixture of Eucalypts, native bushes, Melaleucas and Pine trees. There is also a formal garden in front of Heimat House to reflect its past history.

Successful elements of the existing park landscape promoted by this Management Plan include: protecting heritage trees and windbreaks, retaining a portion of open space for informal recreation activities, improving both street frontages and featuring heritage buildings in appropriate era landscaping.

Rieschiecks Reserve is well treed for the amount of activities and infrastructure contained within the Reserve. There are some areas requiring infill tree planting, particularly along residential boundaries, around the playspace and landscaped areas around buildings. The landscape within the Museum requires a higher level of maintenance. With the exception of the area around the playground (refer Section 3.1.3 Play), there is not much further scope to plant additional trees. The trees inside the fence along George Street encroaches the sportsground and there have been instances of players running into the low branches. Trees will need to be replaced on the southern side of the fence.

Actions

- Infill planting along residential boundaries.
- Infill tree planting throughout the Reserve.
- Enhance landscape around heritage buildings.
- Replace existing Melaleucas with more appropriate landscaping outside the perimeter fence on George Street.

4.1 Native Vegetation

Considering the Reserve in its wider context, Rieschiecks Reserve is in the catchment area for Ruffey Creek. Ruffey Biosite 30 as identified in Sites of (Biological) Significance Review 2004 begins approximately 200 metres downstream of Rieschiecks Reserve. There is also remnant vegetation above Victoria Street embankment to the boundary fence of Schramms Museum.

4.1.1 Victoria Street Embankment



The most significant area that requires careful consideration of conservation values is vegetation on top of the Victoria Street embankment which contains both remnant ground storey species and medium to large shrubs.

This embankment below Waldau Cemetery/ Schramms Cottage contains the following species;

- Cherry Ballart, *Exocarpos cupressiformis*
- Black Sheoke, *Allocasuarina littoralis*
- Sweet Burasria, *Burasria spinosa*
- Hedge Wattle, *Acacia paradoxa*
- Cotton Fireweed, *Senecio quadridentatus*
- Spear-grass, *Austrostipa* sp
- Wallaby-grasses, *Austrodanthonia* spp. including *A. fulva*, *A. tenuior* and *A. racemosa*
- Grey tussock-grass, *Poa sieberiana*
- Black-anther Flax-lily, *Dianella revoluta*
- Wattle Mat-rush, *Lomandra filiformis* ssp. *filiformis*

Of the above species, Black Sheoke, *Allocasuarina littoralis* is of particular interest as it is considered endangered in Manningham. These specimens are the last remaining naturally occurring plants in Doncaster, and on any Council owned land in the municipality. These particular specimens haven't produced seed for many years.

The southern section of the Victoria Street embankment (up to 25 metres) will be taken back to allow room for the slip lane north of the existing Muriel Green Drive entry (refer Section 8.4 Muriel Green Drive). This embankment below Schramms Cottage was created about 40 years ago to create a consistent gradient for Victoria Street. The embankment contains remnant vegetation which may be lost in this particular section if works to stabilise the embankment to create a shared path and a slip lane are undertaken. The site contains both remnant ground storey species and medium to large shrubs including *Exocarpos cupressiformis*. This significant vegetation would need to be established to as an offset site across the road at Ruffey Lake Park to ensure this vegetation is re-located.

The state of the existing embankment is deteriorating and currently poses a safety risk with erosion causing sections to slide onto the footpath below. It needs to be stabilised in order to make the path safe. Conservation of the existing remnant vegetation needs to be

considered when stabilising the embankment. The preferred method is to construct a partial height sleeper retaining wall without widening the footpath. While this will stabilise the embankment, prevent rock falls and retain remnant vegetation, it means this section of the footpath cannot be widened into a shared path. Any remnant vegetation affected by construction works must be appropriately propagated from seed or translocated at least two years in advance of works being undertaken to an approved offset site in Ruffey Lake Park. All affected existing vegetation present (plants and soil) should be re-located under the Bushland Maintenance Officer's supervision. Completion of this Victoria Street bicycle link will be considered when planning for the widening of Victoria Street occurs.

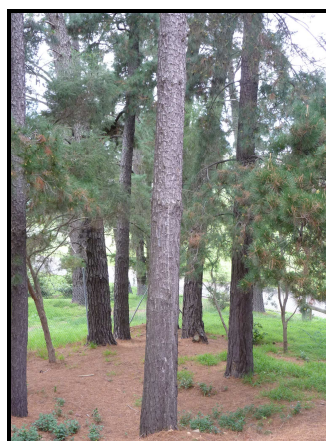
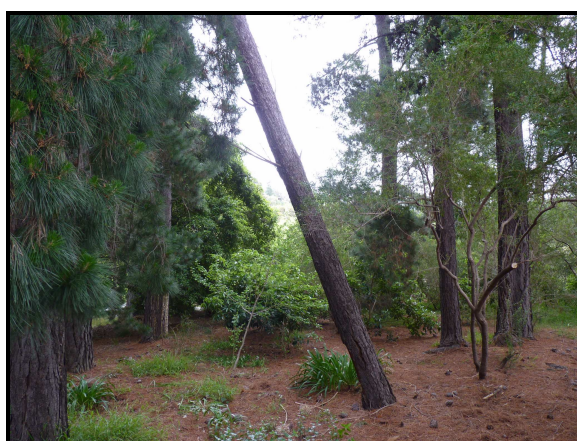
Actions

- Extend the sleeper retaining wall along the Victoria Street embankment.
- Preserve any remnant vegetation affected by construction works on the Victoria Street embankment appropriately.

References:

- 1) Sites of (Biological) Significance Review 2004, Report by Paul Foreman, Manningham City Council
- 2) Locally Threatened Species list for Manningham, Graeme Lorimer

4.2 Pine Tree Management



Monterey Pine tree windbreaks are a valued part of the Manningham landscape and of Rieschiecks Reserve. They represent the property boundaries of the former Finger family orchard and historic Heimat House. A large section of this windbreak occurs in a row along the ridge on the northern part of the Reserve. There are rows of Monterey Pine tree plantings along Victoria Street in the south western corner, east of the playground in the Owen Street vicinity a few other single specimens scattered through the site. Residents and tenant groups gave feedback that that some of these Pine trees are old and sparse and worried about them dropping boughs. While all of the Pine tree windbreaks are worthy of retention and should be retained wherever possible, it is necessary to follow up safety concerns with an inspection from an arborist.

In the Rieschiecks Reserve Conservation Management Plan 2008, the remnant Pine tree windbreaks are rated as 'Primary Significance' and provide 'significant views' over the Reserve, both the primary reasons for the site being of local significance. It states, "Views of Rieschiecks Reserve from within and outside the site should be protected. The views to the Reserve and the remnant Pine windbreaks which are a landmark from the surrounding Doncaster area contribute substantially to the qualities of the place."

The Schramms Cottage complex area is heavily treed with Pines and shrubs. It is a possibility there may be remnant plantings from the church and cemetery period donated

by Von Mueller and the Rieschiecks Reserve Conservation Management Plan 2008 recommends for an arborist to ensure that significant early cemetery plantings or Pines forming part of the windbreaks are not removed. However, these Pine trees would only be removed if they were dead, dying or posing a safety hazard and it is not anticipated to remove any of the more recently planted Pines as they are not affecting the views of Schramms Cottage.

Most of the significant Pine trees in Rieschiecks Reserve are believed to date from the 1940's, a time when the land was utilised as an orchard. Given they have a life span of approximately 80 years; many of them are nearing the end of their life span. As part of a planning permit, approximately 25 Pine trees were felled in early 2011 throughout the Reserve as a result of their advanced age and deteriorating health. Amendment C54 to Manningham Planning Scheme proposed a SLO7 over Rieschiecks Reserve to provide planning protection to the existing Pine trees.

It is proposed to continue a Pine tree theme into the future as an integral part of the Reserve's character. It takes about 20 years for newly planted Pine trees to make a noticeable contribution to the landscape. Consequently, if the Pine trees are to continue as an important component of the Rieschiecks Reserve landscape, a program of replacement needs to be considered now.

This plan proposes (over time) to plant new Pines in windbreaks that replicate the historical windbreak alignment when the orchard belonged to the pioneer farming families. The technique for replacing existing Pines involves replanting 'blocks' of trees when a sufficient gap emerges through natural decline. Refer to the Rieschiecks Reserve Development Plan for the proposed Pine tree replacement program.

Replacement trees need to be carefully considered. Replacement trees could be Monterey Pine or other large species which do not naturalise as easily. Suggested replacement species are included in The Monterey Pine and Cypress Tree Assessment (2003).

Actions

- Retain the significant windbreaks that occur along the ridge in the northern part of the Reserve and the Victoria Street Pine tree windbreak in the south western corner.
- Retain the Pine tree theme in Schramms Cottage and throughout the Reserve and replace those that are damaged, hazardous or have become senescent with appropriate specimens to retain the Pine tree theme.
- Inspect Monterey Pine trees as requested by tenant groups and residents.

4.3 Northern Hillside Open Space



Rieschiecks Reserve is predominantly made up of formal sport and recreation facilities and the informal open space component is located in the northern section and makes up about 25% of the total Reserve size. The steep topography of this northern section gives the Reserve commanding views overlooking the athletics facility and sportsground framed by the remnant Monterey Pine tree windbreaks. These views are considered significant in the Rieschiecks Reserve Conservation Management Plan 2008.

Community consultation revealed this 'green space' (as well as the sportsground) are considered valued elements of the Reserve used for walking (with and without dogs), playing with children/ grand children and scout activities. While the open grassed area is valued by locals and does contain some remnant small trees and ground storey (Black Wattles, Nodding Saltbush and Wallaby Grass), the landscaping in this vicinity requires attention with weed removal and additional planting.

Currently, a combination of steep topography, high cyclone fencing around the athletics facility and scarce path networks separates the northern hillside from the sportsground and athletics facility and this area is only accessible from the Victoria Street Pavilion carpark and Owens Street. Links from the northern open space to other areas in the Reserve are currently inadequate and two new paths are proposed (refer Section 7.1 Path Networks):

- North-south through the Reserve from Owens Street to the sportsground and athletics track; and
- From the Northern hillside heading south along the eastern boundary to George Street.

A secondary use of the northern area of open space is a carpark to cater for extremely large numbers to the athletics facility. This occurs 1-2 times a year for regional or state level athletic events. There is no formal carpark and the area gets muddy and very wet underfoot after rain. This creates problems with cars getting bogged when it is used as a carpark in wet conditions.

The Scouts suggested investigating ways to make better complimentary use of this open space area. There was a mix of suggestions from the community to either develop this area for adventure based informal recreation or to leave this space as it is. Ruffey Lake Park across the road is a regional destination which currently offers such adventure activities and a large expanse of passive open space. However, as this area in Rieschiecks Reserve is identified as being currently under utilised, there is scope to make better use of it with a community group that already has synergies with the Reserve and existing user groups. Refer Section 3.2.11 Kevin Heinze Garden Centre for further details on an identified group for this area. In the event of another community group moving to this section of the Reserve, this section of open space will not be available as an overflow carpark for large athletic events.

Action

- Maintain a balance of open space and appropriate usage by another community group.

References:

- 1) Manningham Monterey Pine and Cypress Tree Assessment by Michael Smith, August 2003
- 2) Rieschiecks Reserve Conservation Management Plan 2008
- 3) 2008 Hazard Assessment Report by Homewood Consulting

5 Heritage Value

Rieschiecks Reserve has significant cultural heritage value highlighted by the presence of Waldau Cemetery which indicates its connection with early German settlement in the Doncaster area and Heimat House which indicates the long ownership and use of the property as an orchard by the Rieschieck/Finger families. One aim of this Management Plan is to protect and conserve these heritage values for current and future generations.

5.1 Schramms Cottage Museum



Schramms Cottage has been operating as a museum since 1976 when it was relocated to the north western corner of Rieschiecks Reserve. It is also the site of Waldau Cemetery which is of historical significance for early German settlement in the area. The enclosed site contains relocated buildings and artefacts from the Doncaster region and is managed by the Doncaster Templestowe Historical Society. Along with Schramms Cottage and Waldau Cemetery, Atkins' Orchard Cottage, Templestowe Cemetery Gazebo, Fingers' barn, Sloyd room, replica of the Doncaster Tram and various farming and orchard machinery are also located on the site. Details of the historic cemetery and the other buildings can be found in Rieschiecks Reserve Conservation Management Plan 2008.

The Waldau Cemetery was closed to burials in 1888 and maintained by John Finger until he died in 1942. The Doncaster Templestowe Historical Society maintains and restores this historical cemetery. The original layout and understanding of the cemetery is currently obscured by the location of Atkin's Cottage and the Sloyd Room over the original extent. The Rieschiecks Reserve Conservation Management Plan 2008 recommends relocating Atkin's Cottage and the Sloyd Room in order to reinstate the original extent of the cemetery for protection and interpretation purposes. The Management Plan notes it is unlikely these buildings could be relocated comfortably within the current complex boundaries therefore extension of the complex area is recommended, which could occur east or north of the current complex.

Schramms Cottage is considered part of Rieschiecks Reserve but is separated by a tall cyclone wire fence from the remainder of the Reserve and is only accessible when the museum volunteers are on site (Sunday 2-5pm). The fence was erected as a security measure to protect the Waldau Cemetery and museum items.

Lack of visibility and accessible street frontage is an issue for the site. Schramms Cottage sits high on the top of a hill on Victoria Street overlooking Ruffey Lake Park and access is limited to either Muriel Green Drive for vehicles or from Owens Street and Victoria Street (same vicinity) for pedestrians. Schramms Cottage is also hidden by thick vegetation which gives the museum limited visibility from the carpark. Feedback from the Historical Society suggests Manningham residents are still finding out about Schramms Cottage but

many are unaware of its existence. Results from the 2007 'Have Your Say' survey reflect 66% of respondents are aware of Schramms Cottage complex and what it offers.

Schramms Cottage is a representative example of an outdoor museum typical of those established in the 1960's and 1970's, by communities in order to save historic buildings. While significance of this site needs to be retained, a balance is required in order to recognise the site currently restricts exposure and visitation levels. A recommendation of Rieschiecks Reserve Conservation Management Plan 2008 is to replace the fence around Schramms Cottage with a low simple timber picket fence in line with fences for that era. Improving the entrance and replacing the melaleucas inside the boundary fence with more appropriate landscaping would also increase the site's exposure as well as the views to and within the complex.

The major implication of this measure is the amount of work then required to bring the site to a safe and secure level as it would be effectively, integrated into the rest of Rieschiecks Reserve and enjoyed by everyone as they would a public park. These measures would improve accessibility, exposure and patronage of Schramms Cottage from other areas of the Reserve, local residents (including visiting friends and relatives' tourism market), Ruffey Lake Park visitors and Victoria Street traffic. These measures would include improvements to Muriel Green Drive (Section 8.4), additional heritage signage (Section 7.6 Signage) and directional pedestrian signage from Ruffey Lake Park and the playground (Section 7.1).

As no major works have been undertaken at Schramms Cottage since it was re-located in the 1970's, occupational and safety legislation has changed significantly in this period and it is timely to now address these issues in the context of this Management Plan. A risk assessment of the site revealed the following issues which need to be addressed to bring the site to an acceptable 'safe' level regardless, as a public facility:

- Pathways are steep, uneven, or slippery in places and in need of repair;
- Inadequate disability access around the site;
- Inadequate storage of historical items which present unsupervised access to old equipment and farm machinery; and
- Inadequate toilet facilities that are not Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant or weatherproof.

As well as reducing risk to visitors infrastructure improvements will protect Council's asset and make Schramms Cottage more attractive and presentable to the public. Along with official museum accreditation, improvements will assist to resolve another major issue of low visitation levels which range from a maximum of 10-15 visitors on a busy day to a great deal less during the colder winter months. Other concepts worth further consideration and discussion to increase exposure and ultimately visitation to Schramms Cottage include:

- Locating a compatible community group such as Kevin Heinze Garden Centre (KHGC) in the northern section of the Reserve will not only resolve their garden maintenance issue but their presence will increase surveillance of Schramms Cottage and attract visitors that would be otherwise unaware of the museum;
- Consider Schramms Cottage as a tourism opportunity in a wider context, promoting it on a broader level whether it is in literature distributed on a regional or Melbourne wide level or social media tools/ internet. It is currently promoted as an historical place of interest in the official Spring Racing Carnival guide and as part of 'Discover Your Own Backyard' 2012 campaign. There are other opportunities in a regional tourism context that potentially could be explored that may include other museums such as Schwerkoldt Cottage and other Melbourne celebrations;

- Site improvements to attract local tourist opportunities including wedding destination for services and photos and catering for the high number of Manningham residents who have visiting friends and relatives to entertain/ keep occupied; and
- Investigating the possibility of a café operating from an existing building within Schramms Cottage complex.

The Doncaster Templestowe Historical Society also identified the following issues and opportunities:

- Insufficient room in the orchard machinery shed to display all the orchard machines. A suggestion was to extend the shed but the only option is to extend from the rear of the existing building which is not possible without the removal of a number of Pine trees. Storage is an issue for the Historical Society not only for historic machinery but also for items applicable to operating any community group. The site is possibly at capacity for historic items and it may be at the point where the Society is not a position to accept any more historical artefacts from the community; and
- There is currently no facility within Schramms Cottage for the Historical Society to hold meetings or events. There was a suggestion to incorporate new toilets and storage in a separate building either outside the museum complex or extending the site's boundary on the northern side. The central location of a toilet block within a heritage focused precinct is not ideal and replacement toilets are more suited on the carpark boundary. The Rieschiecks Reserve Conservation Management Plan 2008 recommends any functional requirements be accommodated in the existing buildings rather than in new buildings. The toilets do not meet DDA compliancy, are not weatherproof and require complete replacement. Their new location should be away from the heritage focus towards the boundary fence near the carpark. However, the nearby Scout Hall or Heimat Centre does provide the Historical Society an opportunity to hire a facility for meetings and events and a new building for these purposes is not justified.

Actions

- Investigate external funding opportunities for Schramms Cottage.
- Open up and incorporate the site as part of the Reserve (as per Schwerkolt Cottage and Museum Complex, City of Whitehorse) including an appropriate security system and protection from vandalism.
- Replace the existing Schramms Cottage circumference fence with a fence more sympathetic to the heritage of this precinct.
- Investigate re-location of Atkins Cottage and Sloyd Room away from the original extent of Waldau Cemetery.
- Improve signage on Victoria Street and Ruffey Lake Park Victoria Street playspace to improve exposure to Schramms Cottage.
- Improve the main path network throughout Schramms Cottage complex including disability access.
- Upgrade minor paths throughout Schramms Cottage.
- Restrict general public access to define public areas throughout Schramms Cottage complex with fencing and gates.
- Replace the Schramms Cottage toilet facilities at a more suitable location on the carpark boundary retaining room for buses to turn around.

- Support the Historical Society with hire arrangements for the Scout Hall or Heimat Centre for meetings and events.
- Continue promoting Schramms Cottage through various tourism avenues and as a destination for visiting friends and relatives with Manningham residents.
- Create an association with Kevin Heinze Garden Centre to assist with upkeep of Schramms Cottage grounds.
- Improve the entrance to Schramms Cottage to make the museum more welcoming.
- Replace the melaleucas inside the boundary fence of Schramms Cottage with a more appropriate landscaping.
- Investigate the possibility of a café operating from Schramms Cottage complex.

5.2 Heimat Centre



Johann and Christine Finger built a house called *Heimat* in 1889. The house was built on the southern side of a large orchard property facing George Street where it still stands. A detailed history of the former Rieschieck/Finger property can be found in Rieschiecks Reserve Conservation Management Plan 2008 which states the “Heimat Centre is of local significance as an excellent example of a Victorian brick cottage.”

In 2006, an addition to the original house was purpose built for TRY Youth and Community Services and the original Heimat House was restored and used as office space for Eastern Region & Leisure Services (ERLS). This is now known as the Heimat Centre and has since been used for recreation programs with childcare and as a hall for hire. In 2010, TRY Youth and Community Services ceased operations from Heimat Centre and management of this centre has since been with Council. YMCA Youth Services and Bulleen and Templestowe Community House were temporary tenants until August 2012. The future of Heimat Centre will be a determined through an Expression of Interest process undertaken to seek a suitable tenant(s). Council will manage the large hall and multi purpose room in the Heimat Centre for community and commercial room hire purposes. It has been identified refurbishment works need to be undertaken in the heritage section and former crèche room to ensure the space is appropriate for use by a new anchor tenant.

Traffic management of the Reserve has been assessed and existing car parking demands during athletic events is at full capacity. While proposed use of Heimat Centre is not expected to significantly increase parking demands on the site, consideration needs to be given on the proposed effect of traffic management in the Expressions of Interest assessment process.

Resident feedback regarding the excessive level of noise at Heimat Centre night functions has been an ongoing issue. EPA regulations state it is illegal to use sound amplification after 11pm Saturday yet functions are currently allowed to run until 12am. Hiring conditions have been altered since February 2012 to disallow bookings for under age, 18th and 21st birthday parties and it is anticipated this change will attract less Saturday night bookings. Nonetheless, changes will also be made to hirer's conditions to include turning down the volume of music from 11pm to comply with EPA legislation. Reports of noise disturbance from police or local residents may result in a \$100 forfeit of the bond.

Actions

- Secure suitable tenant(s) in the Heimat Centre determined through an EOI process.
- Council to continue managing the large hall and multi purpose room at Heimat Centre as community hire venues.
- Refurbish the heritage section and former crèche room of Heimat Centre.
- Ensure traffic management implications are assessed during the Expression of Interest process for the Heimat Centre.
- Include an addition to the Heimat Centre Hirer Checklist to ensure music is turned down from 11pm to comply with EPA legislation and any reports of noise disturbance from police or local residents may result in a \$100 forfeit of bond.

5.3 Other Heritage Elements

The original street names bounding Rieschiecks Reserve reflected the small community's German heritage with names such as Wilhelm Street (King St), Bismarck Street (Victoria St), and Waldau or German Lane (George St). The names were replaced during the First World War and the present names were adopted. A display of plaques of these original street names on relevant street corners in the vicinity of the Reserve as an appropriate reflection of this heritage value is an action in the Tourism Strategic Plan for Manningham City Council 2007.

Action

- Install plaques in the footpath at the corners of King Street, Victoria Street and George Street reflecting their original German names and history.

6 Sport and Recreation Facilities

Rieschiecks Reserve is a well used community reserve providing a number of different facilities and formal recreation activities. As Melbourne's population increases, there is increasing pressure for Councils to provide greater recreation opportunities and to continually improve facilities and amenity. Rieschiecks Reserve services a significant portion of the municipal and local community and requires ongoing management and maintenance to keep up with community expectations and provide quality and safe facilities for its users. The existing facilities on the study site are all owned by Council. The major facilities are discussed in the following section.

6.1 Rieschiecks Pavilion



The original pavilion was built in 1972 and partially refurbished due to fire damage in 1996. The pavilion is shared between football (winter season) and cricket (summer season) tenants in one half and Little Athletics (summer season) and school athletic bookings (all year round) in the other half.

Tenants and main users include:

- Manningham Cricket Club
- Doncaster Heights Junior Football Club
- Doncaster Little Athletics Centre
- Manningham Triathlon Multisports
- Group bookings (schools and sports associations) for the athletics facility

The existing building envelope is in accordance with Council's Sporting Pavilion Development Guidelines. The building also meets Council's requirements for storage and canteen. However, the floor plan is now outdated and the pavilion is inadequate for the needs of the user groups as some of its rooms are no longer used as originally intended. Manningham Cricket Club is the main user of the pavilion using the toilets, canteen, change rooms and storage. The Football Club use the pavilion for training purposes and social functions and the Little Athletics Centre for toilets, storage and canteen. Consultation with all tenant clubs revealed the playing surface of the sportsground and athletics track was a priority over the pavilion. However, the following issues and opportunities for the pavilion include:

- The opportunity to include public toilets as part of the pavilion refurbishment to replace the existing public toilets in the athletics facility. The new toilets will be effective servicing users of the Reserve in this more central location (refer Section 7.2.1 Public Toilets);
- The cricket club has four teams playing competition each Saturday. Currently the existing two change rooms are shared by all four teams. While the change rooms are in use, there is no social space for the club. Their social space currently doubles up as the same space as the change rooms;
- Rieschiecks Reserve is a secondary venue for the tenant junior football club. While the club uses their primary venue, Templestowe Reserve for some social functions it does require the canteen, social space and change rooms at Rieschiecks Pavilion. If the club has need to use the Reserve for competition in the future, the umpire and time keeping rooms will also be required;
- Little Athletics primarily use the pavilion for the canteen and toilets. The Athletics' users indicated the canteen is too small for their needs. Council provides 15m² for clubs' canteen facilities (Sporting Pavilion Development Guidelines) and this is met at Rieschiecks Reserve. An extension to the existing canteen is possible however, it will be at the club's cost;
- Schools hire the first aid room, pavilion toilets and social space when they hire the track. Canteen is also available to be opened by Little Athletics upon request;
- The athletics clubs use separate pavilions and there is potential for Doncaster Little Athletics Centre, Victorian Masters Athletics Club and Doncaster Athletics Club to consolidate their resources and share the same pavilion. Doncaster Athletics Club's gymnasium would need to be relocated to the building if KHGC proceeds.

An extension to the existing building envelope is required to meet relocation requirements; and

- Storage is an issue for clubs. Storage provided to all tenants is in line with Council's Sporting Pavilion Development Guidelines. Both the football and cricket clubs have use of two storage rooms inside the pavilion and in addition, the football club also have use of a temporary storage shed adjacent to the pavilion which will need to be removed. The athletics' clubs have access to storage inside the pavilion and two storage sheds trackside. Step into Life currently has no storage facilities at Rieschiecks Reserve and transport equipment to each training session. Storage and pavilion usage has been offered as an option in their tenancy agreement.

Actions

- Improve the functionality of the Rieschiecks Pavilion's internal floor plan with consideration given to improved storage, canteen, social area, change rooms and disability access to internal and public toilets.
- Football club to remove temporary shed alongside Rieschiecks Pavilion.
- Provide a public toilet in the Rieschiecks Pavilion building footprint to replace the public toilet within the athletics facility.

6.2 Victoria Street Pavilion



Formerly known as Victoria Street Activities Centre, Victoria Street Pavilion was constructed in 1986 for the usage of the George Rieschiecks Association Inc. The Association was formed in 1982 to support the promotion of athletics and scouting activities in the Doncaster area and comprises representatives of;

- Doncaster Athletics Club
- Victorian Masters Athletics – Doncaster Venue
- 1st Doncaster East Scout Group

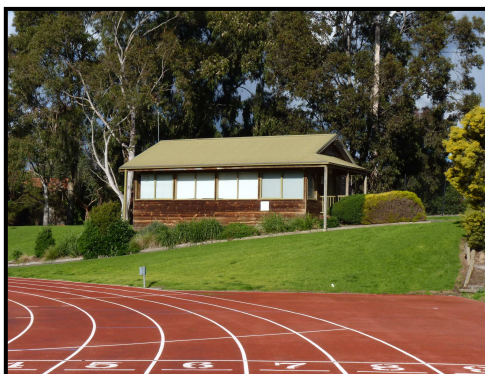
While the Association no longer exists, the clubs continue to use this pavilion. The current layout includes a hall, kitchen, office, store room for the Scouts, a kitchenette/meeting area and gymnasium for the athletics and shared toilets for both groups. Doncaster Athletics Club uses this pavilion primarily for gymnasium training and meetings weekday evenings. The Victorian Masters Athletics Club uses the pavilion for informal weekly gatherings after training on the track. Section 6.1 has identified an opportunity to consolidate resources that could potentially re-locate the senior athletic clubs closer to the track with the Little Athletics. 1st Doncaster East Scout Group uses their pavilion for scouting activities Monday–Thursday evenings.

Recent works undertaken by Council for both groups include upgrade to toilets and kitchens in 2010/11. Consultation with the tenant clubs revealed both groups are generally satisfied with the pavilion however, the Scouts indicated the need for a building extension to include a foyer, waiting area, storage for a trailer and a meeting room as their main issue. Council does not fund foyers, waiting areas or meeting rooms in community pavilions and these additions would be at the Scout group's own costs. Storage space is available at the newly refurbished Scout facility at Zerbes Reserve which can be shared across the district. The 1st Doncaster East Scout Group is encouraged to work with the Manningham District Scout Association to resolve storage issues.

Action

- Investigate KHGC relocating to the athletics gymnasium area if gymnasium can be incorporated into refurbished Rieschiecks Pavilion.

6.3 Little Athletics Clubroom



This building is located in the south-east corner of the Reserve and was built in 1991 funded jointly by Council and Doncaster Little Athletics Centre on a 2:1 basis. There is no formal tenancy agreement for this building. The only tenant for this pavilion is Doncaster Little Athletics Centre.

The main function of this building is as a club/meeting room, marshalling events and downloading results. The football club has an arrangement with the Athletics Club to use it

throughout the winter season for meetings as needed and the Doncaster Little Athletics Centre makes the Club Room available for hire to schools. There was no feedback during consultation with the Athletics clubs regarding this building. This building may be used to incorporate the photo finish computer equipment that requires a permanent locality.

Actions

- Investigate a lease and maintenance schedule for the use of the Little Athletics Clubroom by Doncaster Little Athletics Centre.
- Inclusion of photo finish computer equipment into the Little Athletics Clubroom.

6.4 Sportsground and Cricket Training Nets



The sportsground is used by the tenant cricket club (as two cricket grounds) in summer, the football club (as one football ground) in winter and Step into Life all year. The cricket

grounds have overlapping boundaries and are the two smallest cricket grounds in Manningham. The two cricket training nets are also used by the cricket club for training purposes. The sportsground is also popular for informal recreation activities such as Tai Chi, dog walking, informal games and exercise.

Manningham's Seasonal Sports Pricing Policy classifies this sportsground as Grade 2. It meets all the criteria determined for this grade. Due to the configuration of two cricket grounds and one football ground, this sportsground cannot meet the criteria of a boundary fence for a Grade 1 ground and will remain at Grade 2. The sportsground has been identified for upgrade to improve playing conditions for both summer and winter sports with grass conversion, drainage upgrade and irrigation upgrade. The cricket nets were ageing and required drainage improvements. However, the sportsground and cricket nets are located in a floodway (zoned with a Special Building Overlay), and restrictions by Melbourne Water are placed on any building works constructed based on impact on flows, safety issues and insurance issues. As part of Council's 2011/12 Capital Works Program, the existing nets were replaced with two new cricket nets and site preparations allowing for a third net in the future. The final design ensured minimum cut and fill within the flood plain with some localised drainage constructed near the cricket nets.

Improved subsurface drainage in conjunction with the stormwater harvesting system installation at Ruffey Lake Park has also been included (funding pending) for the purpose of irrigating the sportsground. The final design has also ensured the link from Muriel Green Drive to the southern section of the Reserve is maintained with a pathway constructed between the cricket nets and athletics fence.

The Football Club uses the sportsground for midweek training, practice games and a separate Auskick program that operates weekly. Competition is currently played at their primary ground, Templestowe Reserve. The Football Club may play over flow competition games at Rieschiecks Reserve in the future. However, it needs to be noted that while fencing around football grounds serves as a safety precaution to separate players and umpires from spectators, the configuration of two cricket grounds during the summer season will not allow this conventional style of fencing for football. This also applies to permanent coaches boxes. If football competition is played, temporary coach's boxes and temporary lines painted behind the boundary for spectators to stand behind will have to suffice in lieu of a permanent boundary fence.

There have also been occasional incidents with cricket balls being hit into Rieschiecks Pavilion carpark which can potentially damage cars. The centre cricket wickets will be slightly reconfigured to reduce any risk of cricket balls hitting cars parked in the vicinity.

Actions

- Upgrade sportsground to improve playing conditions for both summer and winter sports to include: improved drainage, improved irrigation, realignment of cricket pitches and conversion to a drought tolerant grass.
- Support irrigation to the sports oval through a stormwater harvesting system at Ruffey Lake Park through Water Initiatives Program.
- Install low cyclone fence around the sportsground perimeter from the northern end of the overflow carpark (George Street) to the northern end of Rieschiecks Pavilion carpark to prevent cricket balls hitting parked cars (refer Action 9.2, no. 49).

6.5 Athletics Track



Council has been supporting athletics in Manningham since the athletics track was built in 1972. It is known colloquially as Doncaster Athletics Track and is a very popular regional facility open to the public all hours. Four clubs currently utilise the athletics facilities formally and other users include schools and sports associations who book the track and local residents who use the track at other times. The respective State Associations for athletics, Little Athletics Victoria and Athletics Victoria both regard the Doncaster track as very important infrastructure and vital for their region/state events. Demographically, the facility is in the heartland of residential Melbourne and is regarded as a good standard.

The athletics facility is available for bookings outside of the times the tenant clubs nominate in their tenancy agreements (closed on Friday for programmed maintenance). It is a very popular venue with Manningham schools and schools and school/ sports associations in the wider region. For example in the period, July 2010-June 2011, 21 primary schools (including 15 Manningham primary schools), 27 secondary schools (including 6 Manningham secondary schools) and 17 school/sports associations booked the facility for sports carnivals and training.

A total of 12 booking groups provided feedback. They all rated the quality of the track and equipment, security and safety, the setting and the assistance and co-operation from the Little Athletics club very highly. There was mixed feedback regarding the cleanliness and number of toilets available but these issues have since been rectified. Other comments included the lack of appropriate change facilities for people with disabilities and a suggestion to put the booking system on-line.

While local residents submitted minimal feedback regarding the track, anecdotal evidence suggests it is very popular throughout the day with not just locals but also casual users from further afield who use the track for training and exercise. The track surface provides a superior surface to regular public surfaces for running and walking that especially benefits older adults and those who are prone to injuries.

Consultation revealed the following issues and opportunities include:

- Flooding of the athletics track is occurring on average 1-2 times annually in recent years after major rainfall events. There is a bubble-up pit on the George Street Main Drain immediately upstream of the athletics track which surcharges when there is backflow from Ruffey Creek or when the capacity of the underground drainage system is exceeded, causing overland flow across the Athletics Track, which leaves dirt build up on the track surface which can only be removed through high pressure cleaning. Two storage sheds are also located in the floodway. However, there has not been any feedback regarding water damaged equipment in recent high rainfall events when the track has flooded. While it is not ideal for structures to be located in a floodway, a balance needs to be reached between risk to property damage and practicality of accessing equipment. Melbourne Water has

identified the need to ensure there is free passage and temporary storage of flood waters in a high rainfall event and has advised no other building works occur within the Special Building Overlay (SBO). In recent negotiations with Melbourne Water regarding proposed building works in Rieschiecks Reserve, Council was advised no additional building works were to be carried out in the SBO due to the potential impact on neighbouring residents in a major rainfall event (refer also to 2.2 Land Tenure and Planning Controls). It is important details of flooding events are recorded including dates, rainfall measurement, extent of surcharge and clean up details. While Council should record the details, the athletics clubs are often able to assist with the details.

- The athletics club indicated a need for additional storage. They currently have two storage rooms inside the pavilion, a recently erected temporary shed adjacent to the public toilets and two storage sheds trackside. The trackside sheds which total 163 metres square are both divided in half for use by the seniors and juniors respectively; one shed used for storage of training equipment, the other shed is used for storage of competition equipment. The equipment is owned by the clubs and hired out to the schools and sports associations as required. Athletics does differ from other sports as the nature of their sport does require a large amount of equipment. The club has indicated an opportunity to extend their storage at the rear of an existing shed with an unroofed fenced area.

There are two issues with building additional storage area near the athletics track. The first issue is the SBO (Special Building Overlay) where the existing sheds have been constructed (refer to above point). Based on these recent negotiations, the Management Plan recommends the existing location of storage sheds within the athletics facility is not appropriate and that as part of any future replacement they will be relocated. The outcome in the short term is that no building works (including cyclone fencing) are permitted to be constructed near the existing sheds.

The second issue is 2012 benchmarking of athletic facilities of similar size and use to Rieschiecks Reserve reveals the Doncaster athletics clubs have more storage than other clubs. There is an opportunity for the Doncaster Little Athletics Centre and Doncaster Athletics Club to work together to consolidate equipment and maximise existing storage options. For example, the multiple barbeques in the Little Athletics shed could be reduced to 1-2 BBQs and some space available in the Senior Athletics shed could be used to store some equipment from the Little Athletics' storage shed.

- The condition of the track is deteriorating with parts of the track lifting. An inspection of the track surface by a specialist reported no obvious delaminating/lifting had occurred due to flood waters. In conjunction with the high level of use the track experiences, these factors have contributed to the wear and tear. The track was completely refurbished in 1997 with further works undertaken in 2004/05 to resurface the inside lane. Given the high usage and flood damage, the life of the track is realistically 10 years. An assessment of its current condition taking into account the potential for ongoing flooding issues recommends the existing type of surface (textured spray coating on a 1millimetre granule base mat) as the best surface as it allows water to move through the track surface and escape.
- An issue with the surface of all athletics tracks is the high level of wear and tear of the lane one. While all races require the inner lanes, not all races require the outer lanes; hence the uneven level of wear. There are six gate barriers located around the track to discourage training on the inner lanes. This system does not work very effectively as most people continue to run in lane one and then run around each barrier on its approach. This system of discouraging use of lane 1 is common

amongst athletics tracks and a more effective alternative could be to differentiate the colour of the surface of the inside and training lanes.

- A temporary fixed camera facility has been constructed in a portable on the athletics carpark verge overlooking the front straight finish line for the purpose of photo finishes. Ideally Doncaster Athletics Club retains a fixed camera for their Shield Events (approximately 6) during the summer months as it is an Athletics Victoria requirement that competitors must qualify for national competition with a photo finish time. The other demand for this equipment is from approximately two schools per year. Potentially, the Doncaster Little Athletics Centre may move from using automatic timing gates to the fixed camera facility. The equipment is expensive to hire and generally not accessible to many schools and sports associations to hire. The Rieschiecks Reserve Conservation Management Plan 2008 proposes that existing buildings are considered to accommodate proposals in the Reserve rather than new buildings. While the facility is warranted by the club's activities, the temporary facility needs to be re-located from the car park into a permanent facility inside the athletics facility. It is recommended to investigate utilising the existing club room (located 35 metres from the finish line) to house the computer equipment and install a minimal permanent facility to house the camera in an appropriate location above the finish line. Consideration given to the construction and set up of the 'box' will need to ensure it is weather and insect proof (to prevent short circuits and overheating from the sun). There are fixed cameras set up in Melbourne sports facilities in a box on a pole within 50 metres from the control equipment. It is not necessary for the operator to sit in line with the finish line, but they do require a clear view and training to use the associated equipment. The tenant clubs are responsible for the purchase of all their equipment and given the demand for the timing equipment are primarily by the tenant clubs, the new facility will be at the clubs' initial and on-going expense.
- The existing discus area and track flood lights are currently inadequate for twilight competitions and all year training. While the clubs estimate they currently operate at 60% capacity, residents on the eastern boundary gave feedback these lights shine into their houses. A lighting specialist has recommended a full system replacement with higher poles. In accordance with Council's floodlighting policy, clubs are responsible for the flood lighting maintenance costs. Council contribute 50% funding of a sports lighting upgrade with the remaining 50% funded by the sporting clubs.
- There is currently limited spectator viewing area at the finish line. The majority of running races finish in this vicinity and it is a critical viewing area for spectators. Converting the nearby garden bed into a spectator area is appropriate.
- Drainage in the discus sector area is an issue as it gets muddy and the entrance to the discus is rutted. Terracing this slope and extending the fence will improve this area which has been identified as a risk issue.
- The end of each shot put area gets dusty in the summer and muddy in the winter. While it doesn't affect performance, resurfacing this area in rubber will improve the amenity.
- An opportunity to add a third shot put throw circle with a grass fall area on the track infield was identified. Although recognised as a low priority, this would decongest the shot put throw circle which is located adjacent to the 1500 metre start area. If the numbers of little athletics increases significantly over the years, then consideration should be given to installing a third permanent shot put throw circle. However, congestion at this part of the track can be resolved through programming or temporary shot put circles set up as needed.

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- There was feedback from schools regarding the lack of wet weather shelter at the track. The only shelter from rain is a small area under the verandah outside the canteen. Whilst the existing shade sails work well for sun protection, there is a need to also protect athletes and spectators from rain. Feedback about the shelters from the athletics clubs is to ensure visibility of the athletics track is maximised and sufficient room for people standing at the back is ensured.
 - The main entrance for athletes and spectators is from the athletics carpark. While this is the main carpark for athletics, there is no formal entrance or gateway that welcomes you to the facility and directs you to this entrance.
 - A need for a flagpole was identified. There is a flagpole located outside Rieschiecks Pavilion on the carpark side but this does not serve the athletics clubs. The installation of flagpoles is at clubs' cost.
 - The need for a fourth drinking fountain located at the beginning of the front straight was identified. There are three existing drinking fountains which are located at the back of the spectator area and on the back straight. The extra drinking fountain is considered appropriate for large events and has been since installed.
 - The public address (PA) system has been an on-going issue with the residents for many years. The PA system should only be used to marshal competitors and events and not to call races or events. While Council and the athletics clubs have been committed to improving the PA system to minimise its effect on surrounding residents, feedback in 2011 reveals problems still exist. A new PA system was installed (October 2011) by the club and tested by Council's Local Laws Unit and found to be within recommended Environment Protection Association's (EPA) decibel levels when used correctly. The issue still arises when hirers (i.e. schools) do not use the PA system correctly. Wording in the confirmation letter for athletics track hire will include how to use the PA system correctly and increase the hirer's awareness of residents living in the vicinity who can be affected by excessive noise levels.
 - Disability access could be improved. While access from the athletics carpark to the toilets and pavilion is sufficient, the gradient of the pathway to the athletics track alongside the discus area is steep and requires improvement.
 - The clubs requested converting the 'old' pole vault run ups to two extra long/triple jumps. This involves constructing a jump (sand) pit at either end. Of the five facilities benchmarked (who hold same level of competition as Doncaster), four facilities have only two long/triple jumps and one facility has four long/triple jumps (same as Doncaster). It is considered a low priority to have six long/triple jumps and is not a recommendation of this Management Plan.
 - The area between the track and long/triple jumps is partly laid with synthetic grass which alleviates drainage issues. It is recommended to complete laying synthetic grass in this vicinity as required.
 - The infield is used for the "On-track Program" and its playing surface could be improved with drought tolerant grasses.

Actions

- Ensure there are no further building works in the SBO (Special Building Overlay) and relocate existing sheds when they are due for replacement.
- Council (with assistance from the Athletics clubs) to document flooding events (date of flooding, depth of water, time frame of flooding, facilities affected, photographs and clean up details) to ensure there is sufficient and accurate data to monitor the effect of high rainfall events on the track surface and other facilities.

- Consolidate athletics clubs' storage capacity by reviewing storage options inside the pavilion and existing trackside sheds.
- Resurface the athletics track in line with programmed replacement.
- Update the signage on the track gates and around the athletics facility.
- Replace existing portable in athletics carpark with a pole mounted fixed camera monitored from Little Athletics Clubroom.
- Upgrade athletic track field lighting in line with Council's floodlighting policy and in consultation with the Athletic clubs and residents on the eastern boundary.
- Remove garden bed at athletics track finish line and extend terraced viewing area.
- Improve drainage, extend fencing and terrace slope to improve access and safety in the discus/ hammer throw area.
- Install a rubberised surface around each shot put throwing circle.
- Replace existing shade sails with a combination of all weather shelters and shade sails when replacement is required.
- Improve the main entrance into the athletics facility.
- Monitor the new public address system to ensure noise levels are maintained at accepted EPA levels.
- Confirmation letter for athletics hire to include correct usage of the PA system and a reminder the athletics facility is in a residential area.
- Regrade the pathway between the hammer throw and spectator seating to 1:20.
- Complete the installation of synthetic grass between the long/triple jumps as required.
- Improve the playing surface of the athletic track's infield with drought tolerant grasses.

7 Reserve Infrastructure

Rieschiecks Reserve contains a diversity of infrastructure catering for informal and formal recreation needs. Reserve infrastructure can provide opportunities to foster increased activity levels by providing safe, attractive and accessible environments resulting in healthier lifestyles.

7.1 Path Networks

If thoughtfully planned, a path network within a reserve not only links residents to sport and recreation facilities but it also enhances people's sense of independence (especially children) and connectivity to their local community as Reserve paths can be used to walk or cycle to schools, bus stops, shops and friends' houses. The existing path network in Rieschiecks Reserve is currently inadequate and consultation with all the groups and local residents expressed need for improved links. Existing and proposed paths can be improved throughout the Reserve linking pedestrians and cyclists to facilities in the different areas. The path network needs to ensure pedestrians who access the Reserve from Owens Street and Victoria Street/ Ruffey Lake Park are connected adequately to the facilities in the central and southern parts of Rieschiecks Reserve including the athletics facility, sportsground, bus stops and Heimat Centre. Issues and opportunities include:

- The existing path from the northern end of the athletics facility to the top of Muriel Green Drive is steep and poses a slipping risk when wet. While the location of this path is convenient for the Doncaster Athletics Club, it can be more effectively

located for all users requiring north-south Reserve access. The cost of upgrading this path to an acceptable gradient is also costly and the benefits of upgrading it in its current location do not match its benefits. Relocating the pedestrian gate 35 metres west adjacent to the existing double gate provides improved pedestrian access from the northern end of the Reserve into the athletics facility. The existing steep path will be replaced with a link using Muriel Green Drive;

- Another opportunity for pedestrians from the northern end (particularly the Owen Street residents with a back gate) to access the southern part of the Reserve is a new path along the eastern boundary to George Street. This would involve either realigning the athletics fence along the north eastern corner and eastern boundary or installing a gate in the northern end of the athletics facility (in consultation with athletics clubs);
- The path connecting Owens Street to Schramms Cottage requires completion in order to completely link Owens Street to Schramms Cottage entrance and carpark;
- Muriel Green Drive is proposed to be realigned (Refer Section 8.4 Muriel Green Drive). The existing access at Victoria Street will be retained as a pedestrian path linking Victoria Street/Ruffey Lake Park pedestrians alongside the realigned Muriel Green Drive to the cricket nets and the western access into the athletics facility on a gravel path;
- As discussed in Section 6.4, Sportsground and Cricket Nets, a link between the cricket nets and hammer throw fence (athletics) will be retained and extended around the sportsground towards Rieschiecks Pavilion to enable Owen Street/Victoria Street pedestrians' access to the central and southern parts of the Reserve. The athletics fence was moved approximately two metres east into the hammer throw area when the cricket nets were upgraded. Future allowance of this path should incorporate a sealed path; in the meantime, this path will remain grassed;
- The southern end of the path connecting Owens Street to Victoria Street is steep. The gradient can be improved through realigning the path making it easier to walk, push a pram and ride a bicycle through this part of the Reserve;
- Pedestrians and cyclists will have access to a proposed new shared path that will link George Street and Victoria Street through the redesigned corner overflow carpark. Cyclists travelling south along Victoria Street will particularly benefit as they will bypass this busy intersection when turning east along George Street; and
- Pedestrian paths are located on both sides of George Street and the surrounding local streets. While the existing pedestrian path on the Eastern side (Rieschiecks Reserve) of Victoria Street meets PPN (Principle Path Network) standards, there is no pedestrian path on the Western side of Victoria Street (Ruffey Lake Park frontage). A pedestrian path here will not affect residents' ability to access Rieschiecks Reserve but will be considered in the future planning of any Victoria Street road work.

Actions

- Replace existing steep path on north side of athletics track with a link using Muriel Green Drive and maintain pedestrian access at the double gates nearby.
- Create a link from the northern open space to George Street along the eastern boundary of the Reserve with either a new external path east of the athletics facility or through the installation of a gate on the northern boundary of the athletics facility fence.

- Complete the path linking Owens Street to Schramms Cottage/Victoria Street Pavilion carpark.
- Retain the existing Victoria Street access of Muriel Green Drive as a pedestrian path that links and winds along Muriel Green Drive to the cricket nets and athletics facility western access.
- Create a shared path link between George Street and Victoria Street along the perimeter of the sportsground.
- Upgrade the pedestrian link from Muriel Green Drive along the athletics fence towards Rieschiecks Pavilion with a sealed path.
- Regrade the lower end of the existing path from Owens Street to Victoria Street.

7.2 Toilet Facilities

The main issues regarding toilets are cleaning responsibilities and adequate number for athletic events. The only feedback regarding the toilets at the Reserve came from the athletics clubs and school athletics bookings. The toilets within Schramms Cottage complex are covered in Section 5.1 Schramms Cottage Museum.

7.2.1 Public Toilets



The Reserve's existing public toilets are located within the athletics track facility and are used by the general public, athletics club members, school bookings for the athletics track and sportsground and Step into Life patrons. This amenity block is made up of one disability toilet, three female toilets, two male toilets and a urinal with large internal foyers. Access to the toilets complies with Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010. There are issues with the poor internal layout of the toilets, insufficient toilets for larger events and the loss of toilet facilities for other

Reserve users when an event is in progress. One public toilet is considered adequate for the Reserve and will serve the general Reserve users more effectively if located outside the athletics facility in a more central location. It is recommended to locate the public toilet as part of the refurbished pavilion accessible from Rieschiecks Pavilion carpark. The public toilet will be managed and cleaned as per all other Council public toilets.

7.2.2 Athletic Event Toilets

Currently schools and sports associations who book the athletics track have access to the public toilets plus two female, two male toilets accessible externally from Rieschiecks Pavilion and another three female, three male toilets accessible internally from Rieschiecks Pavilion. The number of toilets available for events at Rieschiecks Reserve is comparable to the number of toilets available at other athletic facilities. These pavilion toilets have become a compulsory part of the facility booking since 2011 as it was identified the number of toilets available during large athletic events were insufficient. Prior to this arrangement, schools were choosing not to book the pavilion with reasons including; the extra cost involved, no need for the pavilion and the staff would rather have the children outside and cheering (rather than inside the pavilion). However, use of the pavilion and its toilets have now been included as part of school bookings to ensure there is adequate access to toilets. Schools tend to reserve the inside pavilion toilets for staff only while students are allowed to use the external pavilion toilets. During large school

athletic events, there is generally access for females to six toilets. In the case of all female school events, schools do have the option of allowing girls to use the male toilets provided school staff provide appropriate supervision. When an alternative Reserve public toilet is constructed, the existing public toilet block will be converted into a locked athletic event toilet facility with an upgrade including additional toilets, removal of the internal foyer and minor expansion of the building footprint. The cleaning of these toilets will be managed through the Council facility booking officer as required per events whereby toilets are cleaned prior to and upon completion of an event by a cleaning contractor.

7.2.3 Rieschiecks Pavilion Toilets

In addition to the Little Athletics Centre opening the Rieschiecks Pavilion for school bookings, the tenant clubs also use these toilets (Doncaster Little Athletics Centre, Manningham Cricket Club and Doncaster Heights Junior Football Club). The number of toilets is currently considered adequate for the tenant clubs and will be revised when future plans to upgrade the pavilion commence. Once there is a new public toilet and toilets specifically for athletic events, the Rieschiecks Pavilion toilets will be accessible to and managed by the tenant clubs only. This is consistent with tenants and pavilion facilities at other Manningham Reserves.

7.2.4 Portable Toilets

For major athletic carnivals (regional or state level) that attract large numbers, the event organiser hires portable toilets to cater for the extra numbers. These events occur four times annually with up to 2,000 people in attendance and it is not warranted to construct sufficient permanent toilets to cater for these events.

Actions

- Review the operation of the toilets (cleanliness, availability) every 12 months.
- Include new public toilet as part of the Rieschiecks Pavilion refurbishment.
- Convert the existing public toilets into an athletics only toilet facility with additional toilets.

7.3 Fitness Equipment

There is a focus on sport and physical activities in the southern part of the Reserve and resident feedback promoted some interest for additional fitness activities at the Reserve. Some basic fitness stations could be utilised for stretching and training exercises by the football club, cricket club, athletics clubs and local residents who train at the athletics track and sportsground. This will give all park users an extra option for exercise.

Action

- Investigate the installation of fitness stations in the southern part of the Reserve.

7.4 BBQ and Picnic Facilities

There are no picnic or barbeque facilities at Rieschiecks Reserve. Ruffey Lake Park caters well with these facilities including shelters, picnic tables, barbecues and public toilets. There was no feedback from the community regarding the need for these facilities at Rieschiecks Reserve. However, a recommendation in the Conservation Management Plan 2008 is to consider installing barbecue/picnic facilities in the northern section of the Reserve in order to increase exposure of Schramms Cottage Museum. They will only be considered if there is a redevelopment in the northern area of the Reserve.

7.5 Reserve Seating

The only informal seating at Rieschiecks Reserve is by the playground and there was very little feedback regarding the need for additional seating by local residents. However, the installation of park seats in the northern section of the Reserve to take advantage of the fantastic views and act as surveillance of the area as well as park seats in the southern part of the Reserve around the sportsground and Heimat Centre will be a useful addition.

Action

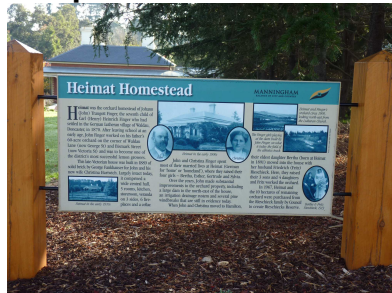
- Provide additional seating at appropriate locations throughout the Reserve.

7.6 Signage

Entrance



Interpretive



Regulatory



There is currently a range of signage at Rieschiecks Reserve most of which provide important functions. The different signs promote clubs, entrance, directional, regulatory and interpretive signage as well as commemorative plaques.

The only issue identified with signage through consultation was the need to allow 24 hour emergency vehicle access. However, there are some signs that are in poor condition, outdated and containing repeated information. There is also an opportunity to install additional interpretive signs to explain the historic Pine tree wind breaks, Schramms Cottage and Heimat House.

Actions

- Install additional interpretive signage highlighting the historical significance of the Reserve.
- Replace and update Manningham Council signs taking into account Council's Outdoor Signage policy.

7.7 Reserve Lighting

Aside from sportsground lighting, Rieschiecks Reserve has lighting in Schramms Cottage/ Victoria Street Pavilion carpark, Rieschiecks Pavilion carpark and the athletics carpark. Consultation with the user groups and residents reveals more lighting would increase safety on Muriel Green Drive and Schramms Cottage/Victoria Street Pavilion carpark. There is currently no lighting on Muriel Green Drive and one carpark light and a security light in the carpark. An audit of lighting has identified the need for improved lighting along Muriel Green Drive and in the carpark.

Actions

- Provide lighting along Muriel Green Drive.
- Provide additional lighting in Schramms Cottage/ Victoria Street Pavilion carpark.

7.8 Fencing

Fencing in and around Rieschiecks Reserve consists of bollards, post and wire fencing and cyclone fencing. Any upgrades of bollards or fencing should ensure consistency of styles throughout the Reserve.

The bollards are all old and require removal and/or replacement. The wire fencing on George St adjacent to the sportsground does not stop cricket balls from rolling through and onto the road and requires replacement with a standard sportsground surround cyclone fence. This fencing needs to be extended around the perimeter of the sportsground to prevent cricket balls from hitting cars in the Rieschiecks Pavilion carpark and Overflow carpark (George St).

There is high cyclone fencing around Schramms Cottage complex (discussed in Section 5.1) and also around the athletics facility. Feedback from schools indicated the security offered from the enclosed athletics facility was a major reason for many schools in choosing this athletics track and its feeling of keeping the students safe was considered one of the facility's best features. The fence is in need of repairs and its current height isn't always enough to deter people jumping the fence into the facility. The recommendation is to replace the fence in the same style with consideration given to a slightly higher height.

Actions

- Replace vehicle barriers and bollards as required.
- Install low cyclone fence around the southern (George St) and western sportsground perimeter (overflow carpark) to the northern end of Rieschiecks Pavilion carpark moving the fence line slightly north on George St to allow tree planting.
- Replace the fencing surrounding the athletics facility with a higher cyclone fence measuring approximately 2200mm.

7.9 Drinking Fountains

Drinking fountains at the Reserve are only located within the athletics facility. Other than the athletics clubs requesting a fourth drinking fountain to be installed trackside (Refer Section 6.5 Athletics Track), no other feedback regarding drinking fountains was received. There are no plans to install drinking fountains outside the athletics facility.

7.10 Waste Management and Litter

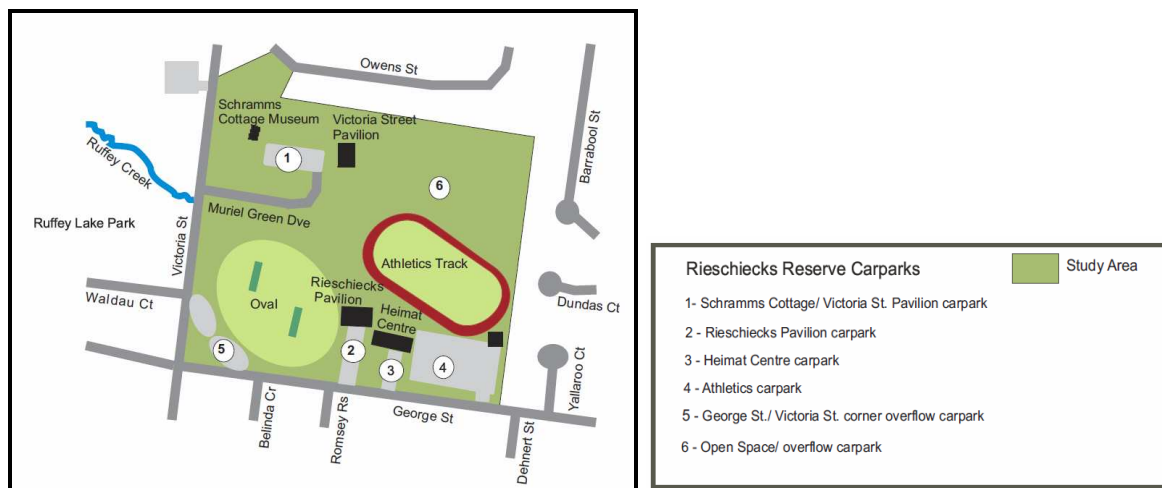
All garbage and recycling bins belong to the various tenants at the Reserve and are emptied regularly and fortnightly respectively as part of the residential waste service. There was not any feedback regarding litter and these bins seem to satisfy the needs of the Reserve users. There is one large cardboard recycling skip located in the Rieschiecks pavilion carpark. This is available for all tenants to use.

8 Traffic Management & Infrastructure

The activities at Rieschiecks Reserve are supported by six separate formal and informal carparks and one internal road (Muriel Green Drive). The carparks primarily cater for cars only and there are no official parking bays for buses or secure facilities for bicycle parking. The site has frontages to both George Street (Council controlled local arterial road) and Victoria Street (VicRoads controlled primary arterial road) which cross at a signalised intersection. There are also pedestrian lights on George Street between Worthing Ave and Yallaroo Court 100 metres east of the Reserve mostly servicing nearby Doncaster Gardens Primary School.

Traffic management in and around the site has been identified as a major issue. A parking demand survey was undertaken in November 2009 to ascertain parking demand and a traffic management study was conducted in 2011 to assess existing and anticipated parking and traffic conditions and implications.

For the purpose of this Management Plan the carparks will be identified as follows:



8.1 Buses



It is not uncommon for Athletic carnivals to attract up to 15 buses to the site. Observation and feedback includes the following issues:

- There is no dedicated pedestrian path provided between George Street and the athletics track entry gate and children (especially) who travel to the site by bus alight on George Street, accessing the athletics track by walking informally through the athletics carpark. This practise presents potential safety issues:

- Buses either remain parked on George Street or move into the Athletics carpark and park in the southern end closest to the road (presumably under the shade of the trees). When the buses remain on George Street during the warmer months, some drivers keep their engines running (cabin air conditioning) for the duration of the event drawing complaints from nearby residents about constant noise. Feedback from bus drivers indicated they are particular about keeping their buses clean and park on the street to avoid the granitic sand from the carpark from being walked into their buses. Buses parked on George Street also limit the visibility of cars exiting the Reserve's carparks, especially the Heimat Centre carpark. The Athletics carpark could include differentiating line marking for car and bus areas depending on usage requirements. Signage can clearly define the parking bay usage for each particular day for either buses, cars or a combination of both to use the carpark. This should also decrease the need for on street bus parking;
- The access point for buses turning from George Street in either an easterly or westerly direction into the Athletics carpark is a little tight. Widening the access point to the carpark will improve turning manoeuvrability of buses;
- There is insufficient room for buses to turn right into George Street from the Athletics carpark. Rather than making this right hand turn, the buses currently cross George Street into Dehnert Street and drive through the local road network before reaching George Street further west. While it is not ideal for buses to travel through local streets, they currently do so during off peak travel hours and to date, there have been no incidents. Modifying the access points to the carpark to improve turning manoeuvrability of buses will prove difficult at this site and will only be considered if the need arises in the future; and
- The Heimat Centre carpark is primarily used by Heimat Centre patrons. There is a steep grade at the access point making it unsuitable for buses to enter. Signage directing bus drivers not to enter the Heimat Centre and Rieschiecks Pavilion carpark will avoid this problem.

Actions

- Create pedestrian access from George Street through the Athletics carpark to the main athletics entrance.
- Construct a timber post and pipe rail fence between the Athletics carpark and George Street to direct pedestrians from buses to the athletics entrance.
- Seal the Athletics carpark including differentiated line marking for car and bus areas and appropriate signage.
- Widen George Street entrance of the Athletics carpark.
- Update all signage at carpark access points (including directions for buses as appropriate).

8.2 Carparking

There are approximately 338 off-street carparking spaces within both sealed and unsealed parking areas over six separate carparks on-site and 337 on-street spaces (within 200 metres of the study area), the majority of which are unrestricted during business hours. Issues and feedback concerning carpark can be divided into carpark infrastructure and traffic management in and around the site.

8.2.1 Carpark Infrastructure

Schramms Cottage/Victoria St. Pavilion carpark is used by Scouts, Historical Society and senior athletics and was upgraded following the 1995 Management Plan. Tenant groups

can open a gate to use the grassed area adjacent to the carpark as overflow parking for busy sessions and events. The carpark's design is wider than it needs to be, especially at the western end next to Schramms Cottage. The south western corner of this carpark has been identified as the location for replacement Schramms Cottage toilets (refer Section 5.1 Schramms Cottage). It is important room is retained to allow buses turn around whilst visiting Schramms Cottage. See also Section 7.6 Lighting for recommendations.

Rieschiecks Pavilion carpark is primarily for the use of football and cricket clubs. Cricket matches and athletics competition concur on Saturday mornings and there needs to be signage to indicate appropriate carpark usage for the different sports. The potential of cricket balls hitting cars was also identified as an issue. Signage to alert patrons and changing the orientation of the wickets slightly when reconfiguring the sportsground will help to alleviate this issue (see Section 6.4).

The Athletics carpark is unsealed and its ongoing maintenance is costly. Grading is required every six weeks to maintain it at an acceptable standard. Sealing the carpark surface will resolve potholes and dust issues and line marking will provide a bus parking area and create safe pedestrian links. Hooning in the early morning hours has also been identified as an ongoing issue and preventing cars from entering this carpark is the only realistic resolution as the other option of installing speed humps will discourage buses from entering and using this carpark. Two manual gates were installed in the athletics carpark in 2006 but have not been used due to the difficulty for the multiple user groups operating them effectively. Replacing these gates with automatic gates will resolve the hooning problem and will not pose user issues. In order to prevent hooning in the other three George Street carparks, speed humps will be installed.

The Corner Overflow carpark has separate access points on both George and Victoria Streets and the two carparks do not connect. They are both informal and function as overflow parking. Reconfiguring them into one sealed carpark accessible only from George Street will provide opportunities to improve the functionality of the site's parking and accessibility including, an increased parking supply, improved pedestrian safety and reduced maintenance. Refer also to 8.4 Muriel Green Drive Section below.

Action

- Reconfigure, seal and landscape the Corner Overflow carpark with a single entrance/exit from George Street.
- Replace the two manual gates in the Athletics carpark with two automatic gates.
- Install speed humps in Rieschiecks Pavilion carpark, Heimat Centre carpark and Corner Overflow carpark.

8.2.2 Traffic Management



Traffic management, particularly for athletic events has been identified as an issue and followed up with a parking demand survey in 2009 and a Traffic Management Study in 2011. Parking demand surveys were undertaken during busy periods when both the athletics track and Heimat Centre were being used in order to gauge the sites and local streets regular parking demands.

Existing parking demands at the site can be high during athletics events, with on-site parking at full capacity and high demand for on-street parking in the area. Feedback from residents suggests there is parking congestion in the surrounding local streets during athletic events. While these streets are busy, the 2009 and 2011 parking demand surveys indicated available carparking spaces during the peak demand period of regular athletics competition. Weekly athletic competitions do not warrant parking restrictions in local streets.

There are also 3-4 regional/state level athletics events held each year which can result in significant parking demand at the site, well beyond its capacity with many cars illegally parked at the end of parking aisles and on grass verges and in surrounding streets impeding pedestrian and cyclist access and safety. In such cases, Council allows the open space area in the northern part of the Reserve to be opened up and used for overflow parking. Residential feedback regarding the lack of available parking for local residents does occur after such large regional/state athletic competitions. Such events are considered an exception rather part of the site's regular parking demands. However, issues regarding large events need to be considered. If they coincide with heavy rainfall the condition of the informal parking surface is adversely affected, making it muddy. This compromises driver safety and causes deterioration to the grassed area. This overflow parking will not be available should KHGC progress.

Notifying residents in advance of the impending event would allow them to plan their day around the volume of anticipated traffic. However, this is difficult when such events are rescheduled from another venue at late notice.

A separate assessment of Schramms Cottage/Victoria Street Pavilion carpark, accessed from Muriel Green Drive, was undertaken independently of the five carparks provided along George Street. The supply of up to 38 car spaces is able to accommodate demand. There are two evenings a week where an overlap of scouting and athletics training activities causes some concern with carparking availability. User groups may consider accessing the informal grassed area adjacent to the formal carpark which is available for overflow carparking.

Vehicle barriers throughout the Reserve installed to control vehicular access and protect vegetation from vehicles in the Reserve have now deteriorated and where still required, need to be replaced with new bollards.

Actions

- Athletic clubs to provide traffic management plans to Council of major athletics events at a regional/state level.
- Advertise forthcoming major athletic events on Council's website to local residents two weeks in advance.
- Encourage Scout and Historical Society to make use of informal car spaces adjacent to Schramms Cottage/Victoria St. Pavilion carpark for overflow parking.

8.3 Active and Public Transport

8.3.1 Cycling (including Victoria Street Embankment)

Council's off road bicycle network includes a shared path running north-south along Victoria Street (between King Street and George Street) but there is a 100 metre gap where the Victoria Street embankment is located (Schramms Cottage/ Waldau Cemetery are located at the top of this embankment). Issues associated with continuing the shared path in this 100 metre gap include; potential loss of remnant vegetation, ongoing embankment erosion (Section 4.2.1 Victoria Street Embankment) and the implications of a proposed slip lane at the Muriel Green intersection (Section 8.4).

While there are identified constraints for cyclists crossing Victoria Street between Ruffey Lake Park and Rieschiecks Reserve, cyclists currently use a pedestrian refuge located outside Schramms Cottage. While this pedestrian refuge is not designed specifically for cyclists, it does link directly to the shared paths on either side of Victoria Street.

A bicycle route from George Street to King Street utilising the existing residential street network from Crellin Street to link Hertford Road to Nedlands Court is planned as part of the Bicycle Strategy 2006. This will provide safe bicycle links for residents between George Street and King Street and will strengthen the link between Rieschiecks Reserve, Zerbes Reserve and Blackburn Road. This is due for completion June 2012 and mainly involves on-road directional signage.

There is currently no bicycle parking in the Reserve. The provision of bicycle end of trip facilities will increase bicycle usage to the site. The provision of safe cycling routes and end of trip bicycle facilities at recreation precincts such as Rieschiecks Reserve is integral to promoting cycling as an easy, healthy and safe transport or recreation option.

Actions

- Ensure a bicycle route is included when the planning for the Victoria Street road widening is undertaken which will complete the Victoria Street shared pathway between King Street and George Street.
- Provide bicycle parking in a convenient location with reference to on site facilities.
- Provide directional signage for bicycles.

8.3.2 Public Transport

Bus routes 279 and 305 (two of the three routes passing the site) are in the top five of Manningham's most utilised bus routes. This may indicate a high number of passengers flow past the Reserve but there is no data available to determine specifically if people are boarding/alighting at the Reserve itself.

Furthermore, the 908 (King St) and 907 (Doncaster Rd) SmartBuses operate nearby and are around 750m (10 min walk) from the site, which provide high frequency services and may potentially be utilised by Reserve users to access the site. While it is not realistic for schools to travel to athletic events by public transport, greater use of public transport by local adults and families participating in the various sport and recreation activities at Rieschiecks Reserve would alleviate carparking demand.

Action

- Promote public transport options to the user groups.

8.4 Muriel Green Drive



Formal construction of Muriel Green Drive occurred in 1973 to improve access to the Waldau Cemetery and Schramms Cottage which at the time, was being relocated and re-established on site. The road now also provides access to the Scout Hall and athletics pavilion. Schramms Cottage/Victoria Street Pavilion carpark was upgraded as a recommendation of the 1995 Management Plan. This carpark is used by the Historical Society, Scouts, Senior Athletics, overflow parking for major athletic events and Ruffey Lake Park weekend visitors. Muriel Green Drive is considered well used and feedback from stakeholders and residents noted the following issues:

- Muriel Green Drive is narrow and difficult to negotiate oncoming traffic;
- Visibility along the roadway is inadequate which could be improved with street lighting (See Section 7.6 Lighting); and
- The intersection of Muriel Green Drive and Victoria Street is narrow, with a steep culvert and limited sight distance to the north, for exiting vehicles;

An option is to realign the Victoria Street end of the roadway further south along Victoria Street and to incorporate a slip lane. The existing Victoria Street access would be retained as pedestrian access (refer Section 7.1 Path Networks).

Action

- Create a slip lane and re-locate the entrance to Muriel Green Drive further south.

8.5 Victoria Street Road Widening

Victoria Street is earmarked for future widening as part of the Manningham Road Use Hierarchy (RUH) developed by VicRoads in consultation with Manningham Council and other stakeholders. This will enable cars an alternative route between the north eastern suburbs and the eastern suburbs with Victoria Street (between George Street and King Street), identified as a 'Preferred Traffic Route'. The aim being to direct northbound traffic from the Eastern Freeway away from Doncaster Hill via Victoria Street, King Street and onto Williamsons Road. Additionally, Council's Arterial Road Improvement Strategy 2008, which is due for a review this financial year, lists Victoria Street as the 4th priority for road upgrade after Templestowe Road, King Street and Springvale Road. The Victoria Street widening is anticipated to commence in the medium term (post 10-years). A number of constraints and opportunities have been identified between Owens Street to George Street:

- A Heritage Overlay is applicable to the entire property which includes the Victoria Street embankment, Schramms Cottage (Waldau Cemetery) and the Pine trees adjacent to the roadway;

- The existing alignment of Victoria St currently does not stay within existing allotment boundaries, so the extent of title boundaries is not a serious consideration in determining suitable future alignments of Victoria St;
- Considering the above Council's preference would be for future widening between Owens Reserve and the southern boundary of Ruffey Lake Park to be accommodated to the west. In this case the proposed slip lane servicing Muriel Green Drive would not be impacted; and
- An underpass at the bottom of the Victoria Street hill would form a safe link for bicycles and pedestrians between Ruffey Lake Park and Rieschiecks Reserve to allow the two Reserves to be effectively linked. This would benefit cyclists, walkers, runners and other recreational pursuits. The underpass would be wide and bright to ensure public safety. At the time of construction additional culverts would be installed under Victoria St to ensure better flood protection of Victoria St. This would be long term and completed as part of the road widening project in conjunction with VicRoads.

*Reference: Rieschiecks Reserve Traffic Management Study by GTA Consultants (2011)

9 Actions

The following table provides a summary of all actions. They include costing a priority rating and list unit or stakeholder responsible for implementation. Currently the five year Capital Works Program does not include any additional funding for Priority 3 actions. Note that all costings are at 2012/13 values. Shaded boxes denote external funding sources.

9.1 Objective 1: PARK ACCESSIBILITY

Improve physical access including pedestrian, cycling and vehicular access and flow to and through the site.

Actions					Unit Responsible
1.	Continue to keep the athletics track open and accessible to Manningham residents and the public for informal track use and exercise outside of event use times.	nil			Parks & Recreation
2.	Retain existing dog controls and update signage as appropriate.	nil			Health & Local Laws
3.	Retain existing formal play opportunities that cater for the younger age group that compliment and not duplicate play at nearby reserves.	nil			Economic & Environmental Planning
4.	Investigate opportunities to include local residents in community events such as Relay for Life and heritage events at Schramms Cottage Museum.	nil			Economic & Environmental Planning
5.	Form a new committee with representation from Doncaster Athletics Club, Doncaster Little Athletics Centre, Victorian Masters Athletics Club and Manningham Triathlon Multisports.	nil			Parks & Recreation
6.	Renew the Licence Agreement with Doncaster Athletics Club for use of Victoria Street Pavilion (until relocation to Rieschiecks Pavilion).	nil			Property & Valuation Services
7.	Investigate a lease and maintenance schedule for the use of the Little Athletics Clubroom by Doncaster Little Athletics Centre.	nil			Property & Valuation Services
8.	Put the Doncaster Templestowe Historical Society on a formal tenancy agreement for use of Schramms Cottage.	nil			Property & Valuation Services
9.	Renew the Lease Agreement for the Scout Hall (Victoria Street Pavilion).	nil			Property & Valuation Services
10.	Assist Manningham U3A to find an alternative pétanque piste once the Athletics carpark is sealed.	nil			Parks & Recreation
11.	Support Kevin Heinze Garden Centre in their re-location to Rieschiecks Reserve with detailed design work in the proposed 4,000m ² area.	nil			Social & Community Services
12.	Secure suitable tenant(s) in the Heimat Centre determined through an EOI process.	nil			Social & Community Services
13.	Council to continue managing the large hall and multi purpose room at Heimat Centre as community hire venues.	nil			Corporate Support

14.	Ensure traffic management implications are assessed during the Expression of Interest process for the Heimat Centre.	nil			Social & Community Services
15.	Include an addition to the Heimat Centre Hirer Checklist to ensure music is turned down from 11pm to comply with EPA legislation and any reports of noise disturbance from police or local residents may result in a \$100 forfeit of bond.	nil			Corporate Support
16.	Investigate a lease and maintenance schedule for the use of the Little Athletics Clubroom by Doncaster Little Athletics Centre.	nil			Property & Valuation Services

9.2 Objective 2: INFRASTRUCTURE

Assess and improve the infrastructure for formal sport, recreation and community facilities within Rieschiecks Reserve.

17.	Improve the functionality of the Rieschiecks Pavilion's internal floor plan with consideration given to improved storage, canteen, social area, change rooms and disability access to internal and public toilets.		700,000		Parks & Recreation
18.	Football club to remove temporary shed alongside Rieschiecks Pavilion.	n/a			Doncaster Heights Junior Football Club
19.	Provide a public toilet in the Rieschiecks Pavilion building footprint to replace the public toilet within the athletics facility		Refer no. 42		Parks & Recreation
20.	Investigate KHGC relocating to the athletics gymnasium area if gymnasium can be incorporated into refurbished Rieschiecks Pavilion	Nil to Council			Parks & Recreation
21.	Inclusion of photo finish computer equipment into the Little Athletics Clubroom.	Nil to Council			Athletics Club
22.	Upgrade sportsground to improve playing conditions for both summer and winter sports to include: improved drainage, improved irrigation, realignment of cricket pitches and conversion to a drought tolerant grass.			203,000	Parks & Recreation
23.	Support irrigation to the sports oval through a stormwater harvesting system at Ruffey Lake Park through Water Initiatives Program.	250,000: (Water Initiatives Program)+ 109,000: external funding			Parks & Recreation
24.	Ensure there are no further building works in the SBO (Special Building Overlay) and relocate existing sheds when they are due for replacement.	nil			Parks & Recreation
25.	Council (with assistance from the Athletics clubs) to document flooding events (date of flooding, depth of water, time frame of flooding, facilities affected, photographs) to ensure there is sufficient and accurate data to monitor the effect of high rainfall events on the track surface and other facilities.	nil			Parks & Recreation

26.	Resurface the athletics track in line with programmed replacement.	450,000 (Asset Management Strategy)			Parks & Recreation
27.	Replace existing portable in athletics carpark with a pole mounted fixed camera monitored from Little Athletics Clubroom.	n/a			Doncaster Athletics Club
28.	Upgrade athletic track field lighting in line with Council's floodlighting policy and in consultation with the Athletic clubs and residents on the eastern boundary.			\$12,000 Council/ \$12,000 club	Parks & Recreation/ Doncaster Athletics Club
29.	Remove garden bed at athletics track finish line and extend terraced viewing area.			26,000	Parks & Recreation
30.	Improve drainage, extend fencing and terrace slope to improve access and safety in the discus/ hammer throw area.			29,000	Parks & Recreation
31.	Install a rubberised surface around each shot put throwing circle.		1,120		Parks & Recreation
32.	Replace existing shade sails with a combination of all weather shelters and shade sails when replacement is required.			250,000	Parks & Recreation
33.	Improve the main entrance into the athletics facility.			10,000	Economic & Environmental Planning
34.	Consolidate athletics clubs' storage capacity by reviewing storage options inside the pavilion and existing trackside sheds.	nil			Parks & Recreation
35.	Monitor the new public address system to ensure noise levels are maintained at accepted EPA levels.	nil			Health & Local Laws
36.	Confirmation letter for athletics hire to include correct usage of the PA system and a reminder the athletics facility is in a residential area	nil			Parks & Recreation
37.	Update the signage on the track gates and around the athletics facility.			Refer no. 78	Economic & Environmental Planning
38.	Regrade the pathway between the hammer throw and spectator seating to 1:20.			5,400	Parks & Recreation
39.	Complete the installation of synthetic grass between the long/triple jumps as required.		55,900		Parks & Recreation
40.	Improve the playing surface of the athletic track's infield with drought tolerant grasses.			15,000	Parks & Recreation
41.	Review the operation of the toilets (cleanliness, availability) every 12 months.	nil			Parks & Recreation
42.	Include a new public toilet as part of the Rieschiecks Pavilion refurbishment;	n/a			Strategic Projects
43.	Convert the existing public toilets into an athletics only toilet facility with additional toilets.	200,000			Strategic Projects
44.	Investigate the installation of fitness stations in the southern part of the Reserve.	6,800 playspace budget			Economic & Environmental Planning
45.	Provide additional seating at appropriate			10,000	Economic & Environmental

	locations throughout the Reserve.				Planning
46.	Replace and update Manningham Council signs taking into account Council's Outdoor Signage policy.			35,500	Economic & Environmental Planning
47.	Provide lighting along Muriel Green Drive.			15,000	Engineering & Technical Services
48.	Provide additional lighting in Schramms Cottage/ Victoria Street Pavilion carpark.			7,500	Engineering & Technical Services
49.	Replace vehicle barriers and bollards as required.			9,700	Economic & Environmental Planning
50.	Install low cyclone fence around the southern (George St) and western sportsground perimeter (overflow carpark) to the northern end of Rieschiecks Pavilion carpark moving the fence line slightly north on George St to allow tree planting.			29,700	Parks & Recreation
51.	Replace the fencing surrounding the athletics facility with a higher cyclone fence measuring approximately 2200mm.			46,000	Parks & Recreation
52.	Construct a timber post and pipe rail fence between the athletics carpark and George Street to direct pedestrians from buses to the athletics entrance.		12,000		Parks & Recreation
53.	Seal the Athletics carpark including differentiated line marking for car and bus areas and appropriate signage.		336,000		Engineering & Technical Services
54.	Widen George Street entrance of the Athletics carpark.		3,000		Engineering & Technical Services
55.	Update all signage at carpark access points			Refer no. 78	Economic & Environmental Planning
56.	Reconfigure, seal and landscape the Corner Overflow carpark with a single entrance/exit from George Street.			354,000	Engineering & Technical Services
57.	Replace the two manual gates in the Athletics carpark with two automatic gates.		50,000		Engineering & Technical Services
58.	Install speed humps in Rieschiecks Pavilion carpark, Heimat Centre carpark and Corner Overflow carpark.		30,000		Engineering & Technical Services
59.	Athletics Club to provide traffic management plans to Council of major athletics events at a regional/state level.	nil Club			Parks & Recreation
60.	Advertise forthcoming major athletic events on Council's website to local residents two weeks in advance.	nil			Parks & Recreation
61.	Encourage Scout, Historical Society and athletics clubs to make use of informal car spaces adjacent to Schramms Cottage/Victoria Street Pavilion carpark for overflow parking.	nil			Parks & Recreation
62.	Ensure a bicycle route is included when the planning for the Victoria Street road widening is undertaken which will complete the Victoria Street shared pathway between King Street and George Street.	nil			Engineering & Technical Services

63.	Provide bicycle parking in a convenient location with reference to on site facilities.			3,000	Economic & Environmental Planning
64.	Provide directional signage for bicycles.			Refer no. 78	Economic & Environmental Planning
65.	Promote public transport options to the user groups.	nil			Economic & Environmental Planning
66.	Create a slip lane and re-locate the entrance to Muriel Green Drive further south.			250,000	Engineering & Technical Services

9.3 Objective 3: OPEN SPACE and LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Improve opportunities whilst retaining existing character for informal and passive recreation values at Rieschiecks Reserve.

67.	Plant additional shade trees around the playspace.			2,500	Economic & Environmental Planning
68.	Infill planting along residential boundaries.			21,000	Economic & Environmental Planning
69.	Include input from residents on the northern boundary in the landscape design of KHGC	nil			Economic & Environmental Planning
70.	Infill tree planting throughout the Reserve.			12,500	Economic & Environmental Planning
71.	Enhance landscape around heritage buildings.			8,000	Economic & Environmental Planning
72.	Replace existing Melaleucas with more appropriate landscaping outside the perimeter fence on George Street.		3,500		Economic & Environmental Planning
73.	Extend the sleeper retaining wall along the Victoria Street embankment.			85,000	Engineering & Technical Services
74.	Preserve any remnant vegetation affected by construction works on the Victoria Street embankment appropriately.	20,500	1,500	1,500	Economic & Environmental Planning
75.	Retain the significant windbreaks that occur along the ridge in the northern part of the Reserve and the Victoria Street Pine tree windbreak in the south western corner.	nil			Economic & Environmental Planning
76.	Retain the Pine tree theme in Schramms Cottage and throughout the Reserve and replace those that are damaged, hazardous or have become senescent with appropriate specimens to retain the Pine tree theme.	4,000	4,000	4,000	Economic & Environmental Planning
77.	Inspect Monterey Pine trees as requested by tenant groups and residents.	Operational Budget			Parks and Recreation
78.	Maintain a balance of open space and appropriate usage by another community group.	nil			Economic & Environmental Planning
79.	Replace existing steep path on north side of athletics track with a link using Muriel Green Drive and maintain			5,000	Economic & Environmental Planning

	pedestrian access at the double gates nearby.				
80.	Create a link from the northern open space to George Street along the eastern boundary of the Reserve with either a new external path east of the athletics facility or through the installation of a gate on the northern boundary of the athletics facility fence.			40,000	Economic & Environmental Planning
81.	Complete the path linking Owens Street to Schramms Cottage/Victoria Street Pavilion carpark.			2,800	Economic & Environmental Planning
82.	Retain the existing Victoria Street access of Muriel Green Drive as a pedestrian path that links and winds along Muriel green drive to the cricket nets and athletics facility western access.	nil			Economic & Environmental Planning
83.	Create a shared path link between George Street and Victoria Street along the perimeter of the sportsground.			24,000	Engineering & Technical Services
84.	Upgrade the pedestrian link from Muriel Green Drive along the athletics fence towards Rieschiecks Pavilion with a sealed path.			11,000	Economic & Environmental Planning
85.	Regrade the lower end of the existing path from Owens Street to Victoria Street.			4,000	Economic & Environmental Planning
86.	Create pedestrian access from George Street through the Athletics carpark to the main athletics entrance.			4,400	Parks & Recreation

9.4 Objective 4: HERITAGE VALUE

Protect and conserve the heritage values of the Reserve for current and future generations.

87.	Support the Historical Society towards gaining full museum accreditation through the Museums Australia Accreditation Program.	nil			Economic & Environmental Planning
88.	Investigate external funding opportunities for Schramms Cottage	nil			Arts & Cultural Programs
89.	Open up and incorporate the site as part of the Reserve (as per Schwerkoldt Cottage and Museum Complex, City of Whitehorse) including an appropriate security system and protection from vandalism.			30,000	Economic & Environmental Planning
90.	Replace the existing Schramms Cottage circumference fence with a fence more sympathetic to the heritage of this precinct.			30,000	Economic & Environmental Planning
91.	Investigate re-location of Atkins Cottage and Sloyd Room away from the original extent of Waldau Cemetery.			3,000	Economic & Environmental Planning
92.	Improve signage on Victoria Street and Ruffey Lake Park Victoria Street playspace to improve exposure to Schramms Cottage.			Refer no. 78	Economic & Environmental Planning

93.	Improve the main path network throughout Schramms Cottage complex including disability access.	20,000			Economic & Environmental Planning
94.	Upgrade minor paths throughout Schramms Cottage	4,000			Economic & Environmental Planning
95.	Restrict general public access to define public areas throughout Schramms Cottage complex with fencing and gates.	4,500			Economic & Environmental Planning
96.	Replace the Schramms Cottage toilet facilities at a more suitable location on the carpark boundary retaining room for buses to turn around.			200,000	Economic & Environmental Planning
97.	Support the Historical Society to commence an arrangement to hire the Scout Hall for meetings and events.	nil			Arts & Culture
98.	Continue promoting Schramms Cottage through various tourism avenues and as a destination for visiting friends and relatives with Manningham residents.	nil			Economic & Environmental Planning
99.	Create an association with Kevin Heinze Garden Centre to assist with upkeep of Schramms Cottage grounds.	nil			Social & Community Services
100	Improve the entrance to Schramms Cottage to make the museum more welcoming.	15,000			Economic & Environmental Planning
101	Replace the melaleucas inside the boundary fence of Schramms Cottage with more appropriate landscaping.			5,200	Economic & Environmental Planning
102	Investigate the possibility of a café operating from Schramms Cottage complex.				Economic & Environmental Planning
103	Refurbish the heritage section and former crèche room of Heimat Centre.	35,000			Social & Community Services
104	Install plaques in the footpath at the corners of King Street, Victoria Street and George Street reflecting their original German names and history.			8,000	Economic & Environmental Planning
105	Install additional interpretive signage highlighting the historical significance of the Reserve.			16,000	Economic & Environmental Planning
		303,000	1,197,020	1,743,700	3,243,720
TOTAL		3,243,720			

Financial Resource Implications

All recommendations discussed in the Management Plan, including the associated capital costs (approximate), are listed in the above table. The total cost listed in this table is the approximate budget required by Council to implement the Rieschiecks Reserve Management Plan. Please note that the cost estimates are preliminary only and will be subject to further detailed cost preparation as part of the Council's annual Capital Works Budget process. Recommendations from this Management Plan with a cost implication will only be implemented after appropriate funding has been allocated and approved in Council's Capital Works Budget.

Following Council endorsement of the Management Plan a business case will be developed to refer budget allocation to the capital works program. The works will then be further prioritised based on available funding being allocated into the annual five and ten year capital works program.

Monitoring and review of the Management Plan

Ongoing monitoring of this plan will be undertaken via communication with users to ensure that objectives and recommendations remain relevant and meet the needs of the community. A full review of the Management Plan will be carried out by Council five years after the completion of all the Capital Works recommended in this Management Plan.

Consultation

Ensure proper, meaningful, transparent, consultative processes be conducted by Manningham Council Officers with the local community (residents, users and supporters of the park), regarding any plans for developments, proposals, building permits, zoning or upgrades which will affect the amenity of the park for local residents.

Safety Management

A risk assessment was undertaken at the Reserve by Council's Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) and Risk Management Consultant. The issues identified have either since been addressed or will be addressed as part of the Management Plan.

Appendix 1

Planning and Policy Context

This section provides the planning and policy context for this Management Plan within a State and Municipal framework.

9.1 Relevant State Planning Strategies and Policies

Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006
Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978
Linking People and Spaces
Melbourne 2030 (2002)
Melbourne Water Guidelines for Development in Flood-prone Areas October 2008
Native Vegetation Management Framework (Net Gain)
Planning and Environments Act 1987

9.2 Relevant Local Planning Strategies and Policies

“Active for Life” Recreation Strategy 2010-2025
Arterial Road Improvement Strategy 2008
Asset Management Strategy
Bicycle Strategy (2006)
Bushland Management Action Plan Draft (2006)
Disability Access and Equity Policy (2004)
Domestic Animal Strategy (2004)
Doncaster East Village Structure Plan 2011
Doncaster Hill Pedestrian and Cycling Plan 2010
Draft Principal Pedestrian Network Plan 2012 - 2021
ENV1 Advertising
ENV1.2 Outdoor Advertising on Council Owned and Managed Property
ENV3 Pine and Cypress Trees
Manningham City Council Outdoor Signage Policy 2011
Floodlighting Policy for Council Reserves
Manningham City Council Outdoor Signage Policy 2011
Manningham Council Plan 2009 - 2013
Manningham Local Law
Manningham Open Space Strategy 2004 (Under Review)
Manningham Planning Scheme (MPS)
Manningham Sporting Pavilion Development Guidelines (2008)
Manningham Strategic Water Management Plan (SWMP) 2008
Manningham Urban and Park Design Guidelines 2010
Municipal Public Health Plan (2009 – 2013)
Policy Manual - Section 4 - Environmental Amenity
Rieschiecks Reserve Conservation Management Plan 2008
Rieschiecks Reserve Management Plan 1995
Seasonal Sports Pricing Policy (2008)
Tourism Strategic Plan for Manningham City Council 2007

Appendix 2 Community Consultation

2007 Consultation

The consultation process for Rieschiecks Reserve Management Plan commenced in 2007. All major stakeholders of the Reserve were consulted in Meetings and a survey was sent out in December 2007 to 1,800 households. The aim of consultation was to inform the community about the preparation of a Management Plan, ascertain local community usage, valued attributes, and issues which should be addressed. Data from the survey was not reported upon at the time as the Management Plan process was halted. Following is a brief summary of the findings:

- 42% of respondents visit the Reserve a minimum of 2-3 times each week, with 52% of those using the athletics track and 89% of those using Rieschiecks Reserve for walking/running or exercise;
- 65% of respondents visit the Reserve on both weekdays and weekends;
- When prompted what would encourage residents to visit the Reserve more often, 36% stated improved walking/cycling paths, 34% stated more planting/landscaping and 29% stated improved access between Rieschiecks Reserve and Ruffey Lake Park;
- 43% requested improved seating around the sportsground;
- 30% stated the existing toilet facilities were adequate at the athletics facility;
- 30% stated there was adequate shade at the athletics facility but there was not adequate shade for cricket;
- 28% stated there was adequate lighting at the athletics facility while 18% stated the lighting was inadequate at Schramms Cottage;
- 44% stated they do not experience traffic management problems at the athletics, Rieschiecks pavilion and Heimat Centre. This could be attributing to the fact 78% walk or run to the Reserve where they would not use the carparks;
- 36-40% felt the signage was adequate for athletics, Heimat Centre and cricket. This was not asked in relation to Schramms Cottage;
- 88% of respondents who answered the questions are aged 35+ years with 26% of those aged 65+ years. Only 2.4% of those who responded were aged younger than 24 years;
- The most popular activities participated in are: Walking/running (29%), exercise (14%) and dog walking (14%);
- The most popular features at the Reserve are: Open grassed area (32%), Athletics track (20%), Cricket/football (17%) & Schramms Cottage (9%);
- 19% said traffic management improvements need to be made around the athletics site and 12% said traffic management improvements were needed around the sports pavilion; and
- 66% of respondents are aware of Schramms Cottage and what it offers and 33% of respondents visit it between once a month and 2-3 times a year.

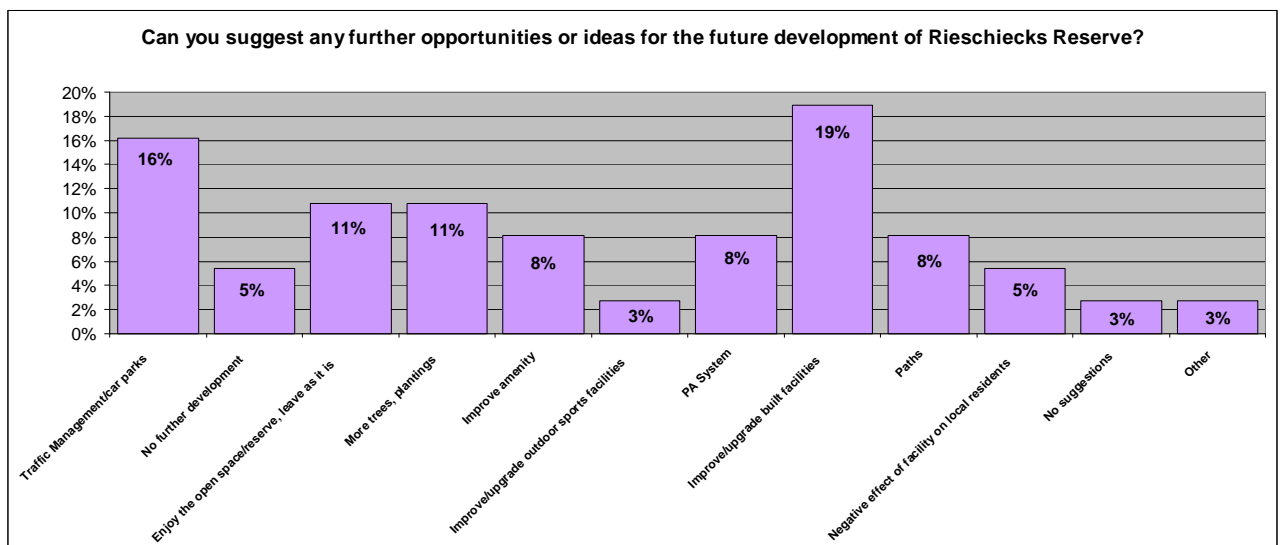
2010/ 2011 Resident Consultation

Community consultation for the development of the Rieschiecks Reserve Management Plan recommenced in March 2010 and included:

- Meetings between Council officers and stakeholders;
- An update sent to 1,100 residents in May 2011 informing the community about the preparation of the 2011 Management Plan, updating them with progress and inviting them to submit comments on a Feedback Form called 'Our Community's Voice;'
- Feedback from 12 schools/sports associations (Manningham and non Manningham) who book the athletics facility for sport carnivals and athletics training asking for their feedback relating specifically to the athletics facility; and
- Further opportunity for consultation occurred during the public exhibition of the Draft Management Plan in 2012.

There were three questions asked on Rieschiecks Reserve Feedback Form 'Our Community's Voice, two of which are summarised below. The third question was also an option for residents to mark suggestions on a map of the Reserve. The questionnaire was completed on a voluntary basis and the results gained are not statistically conclusive and should only be viewed as a tool to draw out common themes.

The feedback received through the feedback was a very low response rate (<3%). However, together with the stakeholder meetings, the entire consultation process provided some very useful information and has been used to develop the Management Plan and guide the actions.



2011 Athletics Facility Consultation

A combination of 13 Manningham and non Manningham schools and school sports associations gave feedback in 2011:

- Our Holy Redeemer Primary School
- Bulleen Heights School
- St Peter's and St Paul's Primary School
- Doncaster Primary School
- Eltham East Primary School
- Balwyn High School
- Billanook College
- Camberwell Grammar School
- Alphington Grammar School
- Associated Grammar Schools of Victoria
- East Doncaster District Sports Association
- Victorian Primary Deaf Sports Association
- Doncaster District Primary School Sports Association

They were asked to comment on specific elements pertaining to the athletics facility. The comments were generally consistent amongst the group, the main comments being:

- The athletics track and facilities is a quality venue which is always in good condition;
- Lovely setting;
- The facility is in close proximity to the school or member schools of the school sports association;
- The athletics club staff offer great support to the schools with equipment;
- The fenced facility offers very good security, especially to groups who have children with disabilities;
- The cleanliness and number of toilets had a mixed response with the larger school and district size events stating there were not enough toilets. Smaller groups were generally satisfied with them. Some schools thought the cleanliness was not always up to standard;
- Schools were satisfied with the booking process but there was one suggestion to put bookings on-line to make it easier. Schools could generally get the date they wanted, as long as they booked well in advance;
- Sun shade was adequate but schools required more shelter from rain; and
- The cost to hire the facility through Council and also hire equipment from the athletics club was an issue with some groups. Most schools did not hire the pavilion because of the extra cost.

Appendix 3

Demographic Analysis

Rieschiecks Reserve Management Plan Demographic Analysis

Purpose:

To provide a social demographic analysis of the East Doncaster and Doncaster communities with consideration to population, age structure, household composition, car ownership, occupation and country of birth based on 2006 census data.

Background:

Rieschiecks Reserve is centrally located within the municipality in the suburb of Doncaster East, bordering the suburb of Doncaster.



Doncaster East, an established residential area, covers a land area of 1,101 hectares with a density of 23.53 people per hectare. Doncaster (inc. Doncaster Hill) is an established residential and commercial area and covers a land area of 890 hectares with a density of 20.21 people per hectare.

Population growth is expected in the future in Doncaster, largely from the potential development of about 4,000 apartments in the Doncaster Hill urban village.

The Reserve draws from both these local catchments particularly for informal and

unstructured recreation uses. For this reason an analysis of enumerated data for both Doncaster and Doncaster East has been used for the purposes of this Management Plan.

Rieschiecks Reserve athletics track is heavily used for school athletic carnivals from schools and school sports associations in the wider eastern and north eastern suburbs drawing a regional catchment for the facility.

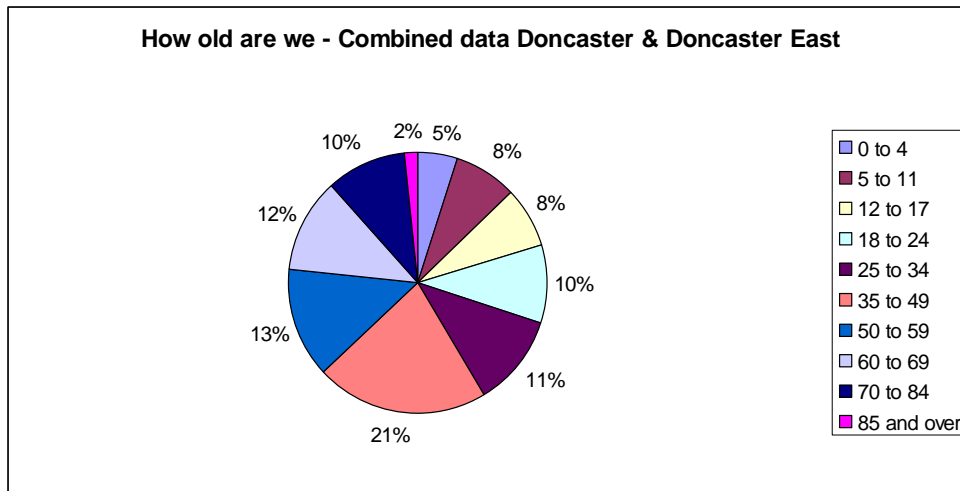
Combined Demographic Data (Doncaster & Doncaster East) Analysis (Source: Census Data 2006)

Population characteristics

Total Population	26,121	18,170	44,291	
Males	12,557	8,700	21,257	48%
Females	13,564	9,47	23,034	52%

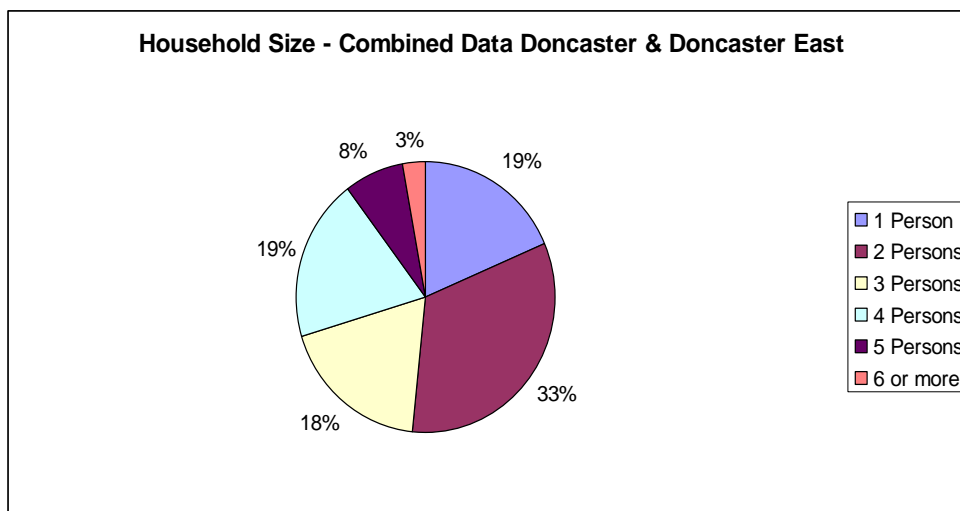
Age Characteristics

- The largest proportion of residents (21%) is aged 35 - 49.
- Those aged 50+ equate to 37% of the total population.
- Those aged 0 -17years equate to 21% of the population.



Household Composition

- The highest proportion of residents (33%) lives in a 2 person household.
- 37% of the total population live in households of 3–4 persons.
- 19% live in 1 person households.



Family Type – Doncaster East

Analysis of the family types in Doncaster East in 2006 compared to City of Manningham shows that there was a similar proportion of couple families with child(ren) as well as a similar proportion of one-parent families. Overall, 53.3% of total families were couple families with child(ren), and 12.3% were one-parent families, compared with 52.5% and 11.6% respectively for City of Manningham.

The largest changes in family types in Doncaster East between 2001 and 2006 were:

- Couples without child(ren) (+127);
- One parent families with child(ren) 15 years and over (+62); and
- Couples with child(ren) under 15 years (-70).

Comparing Household types between Doncaster East and City of Manningham in 2006 reveals a similar proportion of Family households, as well as a similar proportion of lone

person households. Family households accounted for 79.4% of total households in Doncaster East while lone person households comprised 16.7%, (79.5% and 16.5% respectively for City of Manningham).

Between 2001 and 2006 in Doncaster East, there was an increase in the number of Family households (87), an increase in lone person households (100) and an increase in group households (5).

Family Type – Doncaster

Analysis of the family types in Doncaster (inc. Doncaster Hill) in 2006 compared to City of Manningham shows that there was a smaller proportion of couple families with child(ren) but a larger proportion of one-parent families. Overall, 46.5% of total families were couple families with child(ren), and 13.7% were one-parent families, compared with 52.5% and 11.6% respectively for City of Manningham.

The largest changes in family types in Doncaster (inc. Doncaster Hill) between 2001 and 2006 were:

- Couples without child(ren) (+163);
- One parent families with child(ren) 15 years and over (+121); and
- Couples with child(ren) 15 years and over (-166).

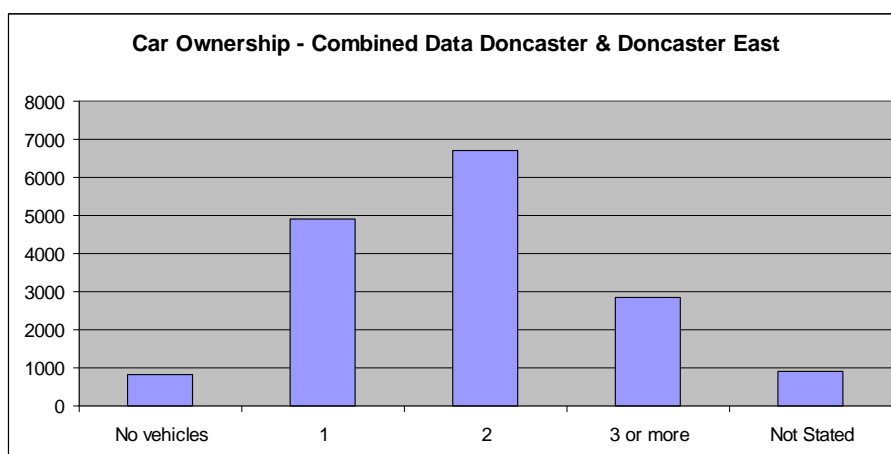
Comparing Household types between Doncaster (inc. Doncaster Hill) and City of Manningham in 2006 reveals a smaller proportion of family households, but a larger proportion of lone person households. Family households accounted for 75.4% of total households in Doncaster (inc. Doncaster Hill) while lone person households comprised 20.1%, (79.5% and 16.5% respectively for City of Manningham).

Between 2001 and 2006 in Doncaster (inc. Doncaster Hill), there was an increase in the number of Family households (180), an increase in lone person households (337) and a decrease in group households (-53).

Car Ownership

- There is a high degree of car ownership in Doncaster and Doncaster East.
- 71% of residents own 2 or more vehicles.

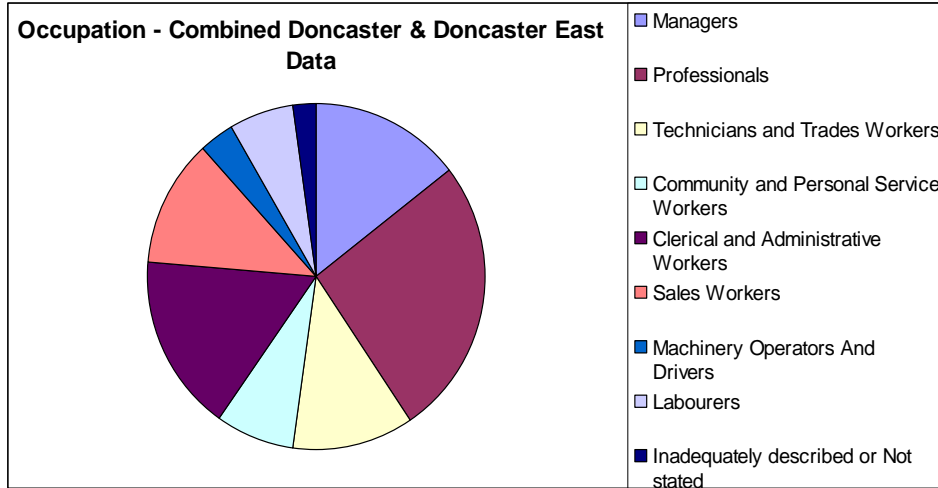
Nil vehicles = 824
1 vehicle = 4,910
2 vehicles = 6,703
3 or more vehicles = 2,856
Not stated = 905



Occupation

21,668 people aged 15 years and over were in the labour force:-

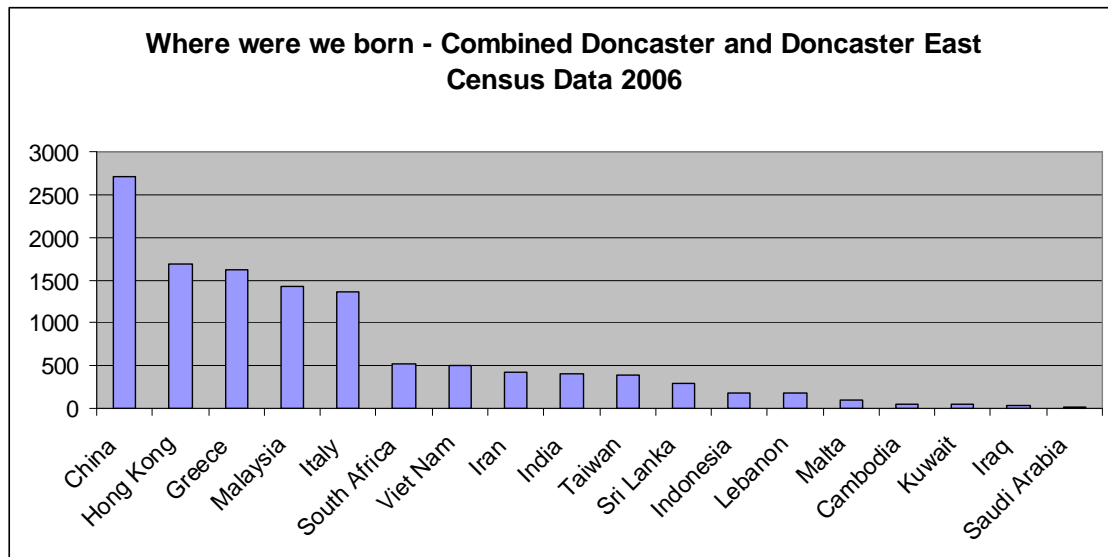
59% were employed full-time and 33% were employed part-time.



Proficiency in English

Speaks another language and English not well or not at all	2,758
Doncaster incl. Doncaster Hill	1,227
Doncaster East	1,531

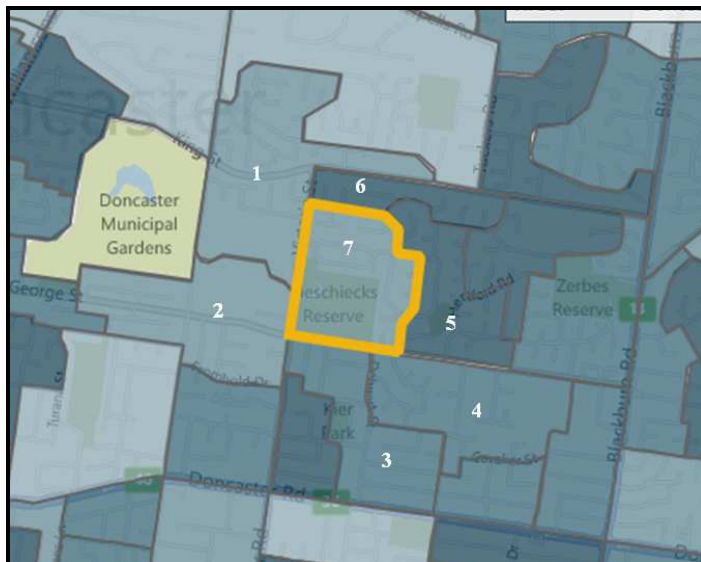
Country of Birth



China	2,703
Hong Kong	1,691
Greece	1,616
Malaysia	1,427
Italy	1,361
South Africa	520
Viet Nam	496
Iran	415
India	412
Taiwan	387
Sri Lanka	295
Indonesia	186
Lebanon	177
Malta	90
Cambodia	51
Kuwait	49
Iraq	37
Saudi Arabia	9

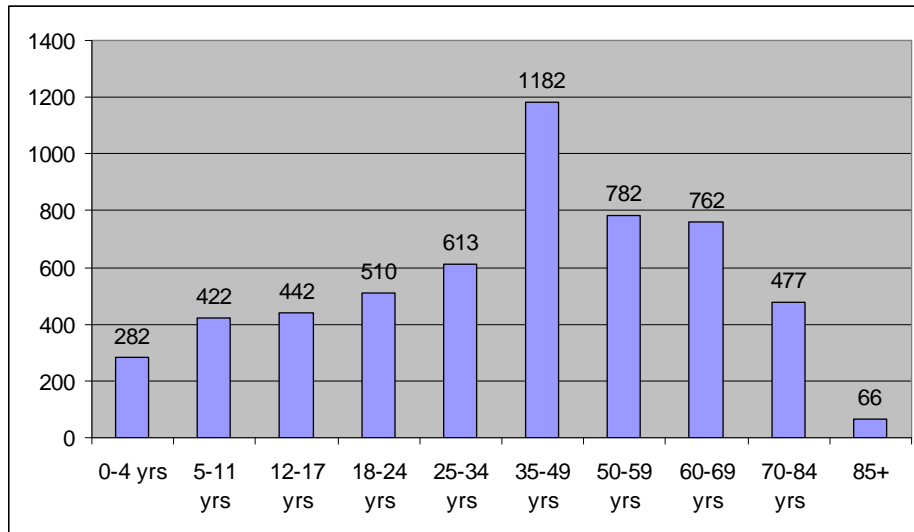
Collector Districts Analysis

A further analysis of 7 collector districts surrounding the Reserve was undertaken to provide a greater understanding of the local catchment.



Age Characteristics

The median age of the combined collector districts is 42 years.

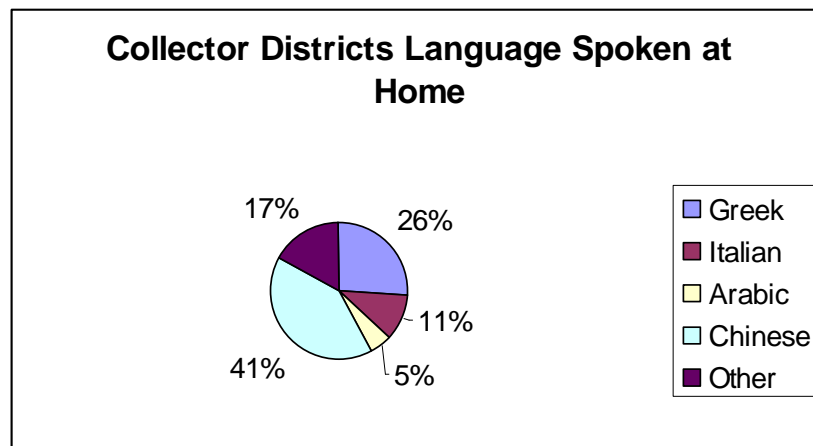


Country of Birth

The total number of persons born overseas for the combined collector districts is 2,389.

Language Spoken at Home

The highest proportion of persons speak Chinese (983) followed by Greek (627), Italian (267) and Arabic (129).



Household Type

- The average number of persons per household for the combined collector districts is 2.8.
- There are a significant number of households with children aged 15 years and under and a significant number of couples without children.
- 37% of lone person households are occupied by persons 65 years and over.

RIESCHIECKS RESERVE MASTERPLAN

LEGEND

-  Existing Pine Tree Wind Rows
-  Additional Tree Planting
-  New Toilet Facilities

KEY

- 1 Additional shade trees;
- 2 Upgrade or extend existing path network;
- 3 Retain the Pine tree theme and significant windbreaks;
- 4 Relocate Kevin Heinze Garden Centre
- 5 Investigate relocation of Atkins Cottage and Sloyd Room;
- 6 Replace Schramms Cottage circumference fence;
- 7 Define non public areas in Schramms Cottage complex;
- 8 Upgrade the various outbuildings;
- 9 Investigate relocation of athletics gymnasium to Rieschiecks Pavilion
- 10 Improve the entrance to Schramms Cottage;
- 11 Replace Melaleucas with more appropriate species;
- 12 Install plaques reflecting original German names;
- 13 Improve and potentially extend the pavilion floor plan;
- 14 Remove temporary shed;
- 15 Upgrade sports ground;
- 16 Create pedestrian access from George Street to athletics entrance;
- 17 Provide irrigation to the sports oval from a stormwater harvesting system at Ruffey Lake Park;
- 18 Remove pathway and pedestrian gate;
- 19 Install new pedestrian gate into the athletics facility;
- 20 Retain and upgrade western pedestrian link;
- 21 Investigate provision of lighting;
- 22 Create a slip lane and re-locate the entrance to Muriel Green Drive;
- 23 Update signage;
- 24 Resurface athletics track;
- 25 Regrade pathway to 1:20 grade;
- 26 Replace portable with a pole mounted fixed camera;
- 27 Remove garden bed and extend viewing area;
- 28 Improve drainage, extend fencing and terrace slope;
- 29 Install a rubberised surface around each throwing circle;
- 30 Construct all weather shelters;
- 31 Improve the main entrance to athletics area;
- 32 Upgrade athletics track lighting;
- 33 Convert public toilets into an athletics only toilet facility;
- 34 Seal athletics carpark with line marking for cars and buses;
- 35 Provision of photo finish equipment
- 36 Construct a timber post and pipe rail fence;
- 37 Reconfigure and seal the carpark;
- 38 Investigate the installation of fitness stations;
- 39 Provide bicycle parking;
- 40 Extend the sleeper retaining wall;
- 41 Lay synthetic grass between the long/triple jumps as required;
- 42 Improve the playing surface of the infield of athletic track;
- 43 Refurbish the heritage section and former crèche room;
- 44 Create a shared path link;
- 45 Provide additional seating;
- 46 Replace vehicle barriers and bollards as required;
- 47 Install low cyclone fence moving the fence line to the north;
- 48 Replace the fencing surrounding the athletics facility;
- 49 Install auto gates;
- 50 Widen carpark entrance;
- 51 Install speed humps

