

## 22. Kilmore East Recreation Reserve



**Kilmore East Recreation Reserve** is a small local reserve on the corner of Kilmore East Road and O'Grady's Road. As well as the tennis court, playground and picnic shelter, the Reserve has short walking tracks through woodlands and an arboretum. A variety of native trees, shrubs and ground covers were planted by the local community among natural grasslands containing a variety native grasses and wildflowers. Dry Creek Water Frontage runs north from the Reserve adjacent to O'Shea's Rd.

*This reserve is on the land of the Taungurung People and is part of the corridor of [Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity](#) along Dry Creek. We acknowledge their Elders past and present and emerging, and their care of Country over many millennia. We ask that all people respect this ancient heritage and care for the land we now share.*

## Directions

**From Kilmore:** Turn east at the traffic lights on Union Street and continue east along the Kilmore East Road down the steep hill to Kilmore East and then right into O’Grady’s Road. Park near the tennis courts.

**From Kilmore East Railway Station:** Follow the footpath right along O’Grady’s Road to the Reserve.

## Walking Tracks

Sealed walking tracks loop from the carpark and through the bush, around the tennis courts to the north and across the creek to the south.



Many of the walking tracks and footpaths are narrow and sealed with concrete or bitumen, but the carpark is rough gravel and one creek crossing is steep.



Picnic tables are near the tennis court.



The Reserve has no toilets

## Landform and Geology

West of Kilmore East is a high ridge of ancient *Humevale Siltstone* rising to Monument Hill. Downstream from Kilmore East, the highest hill on the west side of the valley and the Bald Hills on the east side are topped by 17 million-year-old *Pintadeen Basalts*. The basalts probably flowed into the creekline at that time. Since then, Dry Creek has cut a deep valley through the softer *Humevale Siltstones* beside the basalts. The creek is now more than 100m below the basalt hills and the sedimentary ridge of Monument Hill.

Kilmore East Recreation Reserve is on the lower slopes of Monument Hill, with a small creekline cutting into the outwash slopes and exposing the *Humevale Siltstone* and ending in Dry Creek in the north-east corner of the Reserve.

## Vegetation

The Reserve is largely revegetated with a wide variety of local and other native trees (plus some pines), and many local shrubs and understorey species. South of the creekline is a seedbank for local species such as Varnish Wattle.

The Dry Creek Water Frontage along O'Shea's Road has more older trees, mostly Yellow Box and Manna Gums, with an understorey of Silver Wattles Burgan and, unfortunately, Gorse. The ground cover dominated by introduced, salt-tolerant Spiny-headed Mat-rush in many areas.

Plant lists are in preparation.

## Wildlife

The Reserve has a matrix of open taller woodland, denser patches of scrub and open grasslands, making it an ideal place for many birds such as fairywrens and thornbills. The habitat values will increase as the trees grow and mature.

The Reserve is part of the long corridor along Dry Creek north through water frontages to the reserves in Broadford and south to the LB Davern Reserve in Wandong. It is also part of Landcare's Mount Piper to Monument Hill Habitat Highway.

## Aboriginal history

The Reserve is on the land of the Taungurung people, and is included in the corridor of [Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity](#) along Dry Creek.

## History after colonisation

Europeans settled around Kilmore East in the 1830s. Kilmore East township was gazetted in 1872 as part of the construction of the Melbourne Sydney Railway. Kilmore East Railway was originally opened as Kilmore Station on 18 April 1872. It is now listed on the [Victorian Heritage Inventory](#).

Part of the Reserve was a school pine plantation planted in the 1920s and harvested in the 1990s. The Kilmore East community and Sunday Creek/Dry Creek Landcare Group obtained funding and have converted a wasteland to the present reserve enriched with a diversity of native vegetation, some to be used for native seed production.

The Black Saturday Bushfire began near Kilmore East. It did not approach the township but had a big impact on many local people and properties. This is recognised by a Memorial Cairn in the Reserve.

## Management

The Reserve is Crown Land managed by the Kilmore East Recreation Reserve Committee of Management appointed by the State Government. Downstream, the Crown Water Frontage is managed by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change and the stream by the Goulburn Broken Catchment Authority.

The Reserve and Crown Frontage are on the land of the Taungurung People and the Crown land is included in the [Land Use Activity Agreement](#), a part of the [Taungurung Recognition and Settlement Agreement](#).

## Further information

Taungurung Land and Water Council at <https://taungurung.com.au/>. Taungurung Recognition and Settlement Agreement at <https://www.justice.vic.gov.au/your-rights/native-title/taungurung-recognition-and-settlement-agreement>

Goulburn Broken CMA Revegetation Guide: information on different ecological vegetation communities, plant communities and plants in the Sugarloaf zone at <https://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/revegetation/zones/sugarloaf>

## Acknowledgements

This Reserve Note was prepared by BEAM Mitchell Environment Group. Thanks to Mitchell Shire Council and local resident Elyse Kelly for their assistance and support.

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These notes are a work in progress. If you have any comments or additional information on the nature and ecological history of Kilmore East Recreation Reserve, please contact us at

<https://www.beam.org.au/contact>



# Kilmore East Recreation Reserve



Kilmore East Recreation Reserve	Creeks	Roads	Walking tracks
Dry Creek Water Frontage	Railway	Carpark	