

Locked out is a comment being bandied about in my area of Trentham-Daylesford. I disagree strongly with that view. Your recommendations give a balanced view of recreation and protection of assets. Please advertise your maps simply and freely available to those who do not go on-line to view them. I value these assets and would be delighted to see them implemented.

VEAC –Central West
Investigation

comment and submission

Gael Elliott

The Knowledge Lodestone

-A Guide to Asset Management of the Wombat Forest-

The Core Asset.

A National Park in the Wombat

Forest will be the essence of Victoria.

Lerderderg gorges

are the source of life water

for the state. Mosses, ferns and fungi

filter the detritus to animate trees

which in turn buffer and earth-shadow.

The wait of seasons

groomed by twigs of time and tickled

by amazing spells of warmth, ice and plagues

of residents has played for millennia.

Adjustments to its rhythm and pace,

depend on the placement of stars, moon,

sun, meteors and ozone layers.

Listen for the thrum of worm,

the murble of wombat, slide of rock falls

and thunder grumble. Its song

is as natural as the plop of water

or hail clatter or currawong carrion call.

Dance in solitude, to the forest beat of feet

like ants. Keen as wind in the front of a gale

or be yellow robin wary of the mournful

riff of the fantail cuckoo up down, up down.

Intangible Assets

Value the healers of the land,
hidden in country towns
and among the litter of suburbs,
or high rise edifices lengthening in height
for breath. These collectors of plastic bags and beer rings
that choke the platypus, the weed pullers of broom
and cherry laurel, revegetation Landcarers,
the wanderers who peek at nature, walkers, peddlers and striders,
artists, scribes and recorders of our environment
embrace the knowledge lodestone.

Asset Takers

use and fling, dig and remove, log and shred, live in the tick toc of now.
Future picnics in barren wastelands of furnaces gasping, sprouts of cities
encroaching with threads of bitumen
clogging arteries of forest, the burble and rumble
of Sunday mud-flingers that score the tracks,
lives like loaded guns stalking and ventilating
signs of forest, or hammer shakes cracking
the skeleton of its foundations, is not their burden.

Asset Management

Who will be the far-sighted
falcon to determine the future of the Wombat Forest?
Who will inspire the colourists of the future?
It will be decided by the quill-scratch
of the up down, down up
stroke of a pen.

Gael Elliott 8/11/2018