



Wellsford Forest Submission

Phillip Payne

to:

veac

04/07/2017 09:47 AM

Central West Inv.

Sub no. 12

From: Phillip Payne

To: veac@delwp.vic.gov.au,

1 Attachment



Wellsford Forest.docx.zip

Dear VEAC

see attached zip folder for my contribution to acknowledging the intergenerational value and conservation status of the Wellsford Forest, Bendigo.

Please inform me of the decision regarding this natural asset.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Phillip Payne

Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Education, Monash University.

Editor, Special Issues, The Journal of Environmental Education.

Wellsford Forest: Intergenerational Ethics

There are many compelling reasons why the Wellsford Forest should finally be given the protection it urgently warrants within the conservation reserve system.

I won't go over them here.

Rather, I offer a different and important reason. There is a profound need for more semi natural 'places' in local areas whose protected existence will contribute intergenerationally and educationally to fostering a love of and concern for nature, particularly for locals in the Bendigo area, in this instance.

Providing maximum protection for the Wellsford Forest (and, indeed, more resources for Greater Bendigo National Park):

1. Will be an opportunity for children, and indeed all ages, to have ongoing significant environmental experiences. There is a forty year-long, international, researched literature base that provides evidence about 'significant life experiences' in nature that not only provides benefits (health/wellbeing/family) for human /cultural history (anthropocentrism) but also ecological benefits for 'other-than-human' entities/natural history (ecocentrism) and associated nature/wilderness values.
2. It is well known that the ongoing development of natural areas, particularly near urban/city areas, leads to what has been called 'nature deficit disorder', particularly for children who, now, rarely, 'experience' even semi-natural areas. There are pathological consequences to this deficit. Children should not be denied access to nature; it serves as a form of open space preventive medicine.

I could provide many other 'environmental education' reasons why Wellsford Forest must be protected for intergenerational as well as ecological reasons. But I won't. I hope the photo following this short comment helps.

Yours sincerely,

Phillip Payne

(Adjunct Professor of Education, Monash University; Editor Special Issues *The Journal of Environmental Education* *the top ranked international journal in the field).

