

Fact sheet

SNAPSHOT OF MARI BYRNONG RIVER

HISTORY

- The name Maribyrnong is a version of the Aboriginal term 'Miring-gnay-bir-nong', which translates as 'I can hear a ringtail possum'.
- It was originally called Saltwater River because seawater from Hobson's Bay penetrated the river for a considerable distance.
- Before European settlement the area around Footscray was used by the Marin Bulluk clan of the Wurundjeri tribe for more than 40,000 years.
- In 1839 a punt was established at Footscray to provide a crossing point for travellers to Williamstown, Geelong and beyond.
- A settlement known as 'Saltwater' evolved around the punt. This site grew into the city named after the English town of Footscray.
- In 1857 David Milburn began Keilor's market garden tradition. He is acknowledged as the first irrigator in Victoria.

PLANTS AND ANIMALS

- Species including:
 - 290 plants
 - 18 fish
 - 100 birds
 - 12 frogs
 - 20 reptiles
 - Eight mammals

GEOGRAPHY

- Originates in the Macedon Ranges and flows for 160 kilometres through Keilor North, Keilor, Kealba, Sunshine North, Maribyrnong, Flemington, Footscray and Yarraville to Port Phillip Bay.
- The Maribyrnong has two main branches, Deep Creek and Jacksons Creek, both of which are fed by tributaries including Boyd Creek and Konagaderra Creek.
- Average annual rainfall exceeds 1000 mm in the ranges to less than 500 mm in the lower plains.

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