

Renaming a section of RF Miles Reserve Project

Engagement Report – August 2023



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Engagement Details



Purpose

In July-August 2023, Frankston City Council engaged with the community to seek their feedback on the preferred naming options, as well as provide feedback, on renaming the section of land in RF Miles Reserve, between Station Street and Seaford Road, limited to the walking path and gardens.

Objectives

This consultation process sought to:

- Understand the community's feedback on the preferred naming options.
- Ensure the community's input has influenced the final recommendation to Council on the preferred name for the site.
- Engage through cost-efficient and timely methods.
- Meet Council, legislative and policy requirements for community engagement.

Consultation highlights

This consultation was undertaken by Council to seek community feedback on the preferred naming option for the parcel of land in RF Miles Reserve (located between Station Street and Seaford Road, and limited to the walking pathway and gardens). The community engagement period was between 14 July and 13 August 2023.

We welcomed feedback via:

- Online survey.
- Community submissions.

The community were invited to respond on which name they preferred out of:

- Pallim Parn (Salt Water) Gardens
- Yoke (Eel) Gardens
- No change, retain the existing official name of RF Miles Reserve

The community were also invited to share any comments or questions.

There were 326 contributions in total. 40% of people came to the online engagement from social media, and 33% came from postcards/posters. This has resulted in a good mix of demographics, with participants from all age groups (excluding 86+, and lower numbers of younger people), and from all suburbs (with the exception of Langwarrin South).

Overall feedback from this consultation is that the community supported Pallim Parn (Salt Water) Gardens as the preferred name for the parcel of land (53.7%), followed by the preference of not changing the name from RF Miles (25.8%).

The survey provided an opportunity for the community to provide feedback. Comments received were 52% negative, with several comments questioning why Council was doing this, with some references to the previous engagement and queries regarding implementation of the Master Plan on the Gardens Vision.

Key engagement statistics

The core components of this consultation included:

- Engage Frankston webpage, including a survey, quick poll and interactive map (323 contributors).
- Written submissions (3 contributors)
- Article in Frankston City News and E-news.
- Corflute posters located at each entry point of the site
- Postcard deliveries to residents in close proximity the reserve, 1,200 households.
- 3 Facebook posts advertising the project (16,205 people reached, and 1,570 responses).

Calculating these numbers, over 20,000 experienced a direct notification of this consultation.

Barriers to engagement

During community consultations, there are often limitations to the engagement activities. There were few limitations identified with this project, as highlighted below:

Limitation on the level of influence

Naming of features and locations must adhere to the statutory requirements, as specified in the Victorian Government's *Naming rules for places in Victoria – Statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities – 2022* (Naming Rules). A number of principles, as stated in the Naming Rules, include:

Principle C – Linking the name to place.

Principle D – Ensuring names are not duplicated.

Principle E – Recognition and use of Traditional Owner languages.

Principle H – Dual names.

Non-negotiables

Non-negotiables included aspects of the project that had already been decided, including:

- The area that was to be renamed was limited to the walking path and gardens along Kananook Creek between Station Street and Seaford Road.

- The naming options proposed: As it was resolved by Council to proceed with naming the site an indigenous name, the proposed naming options falls to the Bunurong Land Corporation Aboriginal Council. As per the Naming Rules, naming authorities must consult with the relevant Traditional Owner group prior to any public consultation on the proposed name in Traditional owner language.
- Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC), the Traditional Owner Group representatives, have formal requirements that must be followed when requesting to use Bunurong traditional language (BLCAC language request information sheet), including consulting with BLCAC prior to the use of Bunurong language or place naming with Bunurong country, including the institution of a dual naming system.

Community consultation process

Input into the Project was gathered in the following key ways during the community consultation period:

Table 1

External stakeholders	Consultation
Whole municipality	Online survey via Engage Frankston page
Residents living nearby	Distribution of information flyers (postcard format)
RF Miles Reserve visitors	Corflute Posters installed at the two entrances to the Reserve
Stakeholders	Direct communication via email, newsletters and letters

Consultation materials

Posters

To help inform the local community, a poster was created to provide details on how they could provide their input into the community engagement for renaming the Reserve. The posters were displayed at entry points at the reserve site.

The poster included:

1. Details on why we were seeking community input
2. The preferred naming options, with details on the background on the names
3. Details on how the community could provide feedback, including a QR code

The poster has been provided in the Appendix.

Post Cards

Post cards were created to provide details on how they could provide their input into the community engagement for renaming the Reserve. The postcard was distributed to all residents in the local area to the Reserve, approximately 1,200 households.

Similar to the poster, the post cards included:

1. Details on why we were seeking community input
2. The preferred naming options, with details on the background on the names
3. Details on how the community could provide feedback, including a QR code

The post card and distribution zone has been provided in the Appendix.

Online

Online Survey

An online survey was created on Engage Frankston for the Frankston City and wider community to share their feedback online. The survey was open from 14 July – 13 August 2023. Due to the nature of the limited consultation, the question was restricted to the following questions:

- Which name do you prefer?
 - Pallim Parn (Salt Water) Gardens
 - Yoke (Eel) Gardens
 - No change, retain the existing official name of RF Miles Reserve
- Do you have any comments or questions?

Social Media

Community members were informed about the engagement through a series of posts on council's Facebook page.

These posts raised awareness about the renaming project and encouraged the community provide feedback via the Engage Frankston survey.

Stakeholders

The key stakeholders, as listed below, were informed about the engagement via letter, email or newsletters, at its commencement period.

- The family of RF Miles.
- Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (land owner).

- Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation.
- Kananook Creek Association.
- Frankston Environmental Friends Network.

Consultation outcomes



Community feedback

Overall, Frankston City Council received 326 responses from community members. This is broken down as follows:

- 323 people completed the online survey. The majority of survey respondents were residents of Seaford (39.20%).
- 3 email response were received to the consultation.
- 40% of people came to the online engagement from social media and 33% came from postcards/posters.

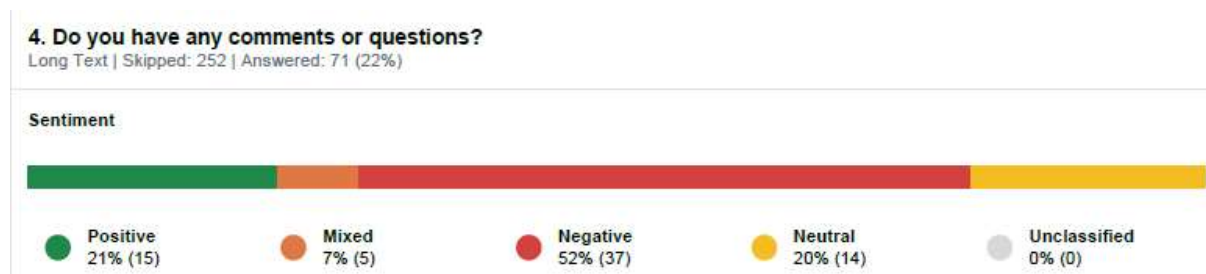
The main demographics of community members Council engaged with were between the ages of 26 – 65 years and were local to the area (Seaford).

Key summary

The outcomes of the community feedback is as follows:

- **Preference for Pallim Parn:** 53.7%
- **Preference for Yoke:** 16.9%
- **Preference for 'no change', retain official name of RF Miles:** 25.8%
- **No response provided:** 3.6%

The community was also provided the opportunity to give comments. The following section image provides an overview of the sentiment of the comments provided, and discussion of the comments is outlined in the sections below.:



Positive insights

Many community members were happy to be given the opportunity to contribute to the renaming process and be heard on their preference. Some comments made by community members are provided below:

"Thanks for asking!"

"It's such a lovely corridor. I would like to see a lot more weed control undertaken in this area. Especially on the ivy etc on the mature trees."

"Thanks for doing this and letting us decide."

"I did not even know that the whole area adjacent to the creek up to Station St was a part of RF Miles Reserve. I like keeping the name for the sports precinct and providing the other section with a new name. As for Yoke maybe keep this for a new name on the northern section, near the old Eel Race Drain."

"I like the sound of Pallim Parn as long as we keep the RF Miles Reserve name also"

"I like Yoke meaning Eel but not "gardens". Nature Reserve would be much better suited. "Gardens" makes it sounds formal and that area is very nice bush walking track... except you keep concreting the walking track 😊. Please stop "upgrading" these gorgeous walking tracks. It is an unnecessary spend of money and also destroys the feel of the walk. You did the same thing at Seaford station and now at the Woolworths area too. You already have the train line walk that is accessible and concreted. The environmental impact continues to grow as you concrete more and more paths for no reason. The run off of rain and the homes of all creatures is negatively impacted."

Yoke Nature Reserve is my vote."

"Like the idea of indigenous name but don't like either of the suggestions. Is there an indigenous word for 'green space' or 'grassy area'?"

"I like the connection with salt water it seems appropriate. I think you are honoring both our indigenous culture and the Mile family."

"Yoke sounds nice and simple. And it reminds us of a sea creature that use to exist in the area."

"Pallim parn gives the connection back to the land very appropriate"

Constructive Feedback

The project received various feedback indicating that many community members did not wish for the name to change, or questioned why the process was being undertaken.

Some comments made by community members are provided below:

“Currently a historic name associated with the community originally chosen to reflect/celebrate the work that this person gave to the community and should remain as such for future generations to aspire.”

“Kananook Creek is itself an Aboriginal name so I would change the name of this small section from RF Miles to be Kananook Creek Reserve or Kananook Creek Indigenous Gardens. I don't believe Pallim Parn or Yoke will resonate as a name the community will readily refer to or remember for such a small area of reserve.”

“Why waste money on a new name and signage when there should be more pressing matters to address.”

“There is no need or reason to annex this section from the main section of the 'RF Miles Reserve'. This whole reserve is currently named RF Miles Reserve to honor the very significant contribution that RF Miles made to the formation of Seaford as we know it today. Not only was he the Mayor of Frankston on numerous occasions and a long-serving Councillor, but he also made a large contribution to the formation of Seaford Football and Cricket Clubs. The current Seaford is very much the manifestation of his vision. Annexing this section, from the sporting grounds and park, is both confusing and unnecessary.”

“I think the council should stop wasting time and money on name changes”

“No need to change something that everyone knows!”

“Why change it? Quite unnecessary. Aboriginal culture is already acknowledged with the name Kananook Creek.”

“Why change? We already embrace first nations culture in so many ways in Frankston. Let us also embrace those who have worked and built our local community.”

“How about a bit of respect for the heritage of the name that already exists. Why was it named RF Reserve? We are losing our heritage and there is no respect for those that built Frankston up from nothing in the early days.”

“Raoul F Miles has been a significant person in public life in Frankston, including at the Council, and the reserve should continue to carry his name.”

Conclusion



Recommendations

Overall survey results indicated that the majority preferred the name Pallim Parn (salt water) Gardens. However, a majority of the commentary provided questioned why the name was being changed, along with 25.7% of the survey responses preferring no change from RF Miles Reserve.

Based on the survey responses alone and in-line with Council's previous resolution in renaming the parcel of land to an indigenous name, it is recommended that the parcel of land in RF Miles Reserve (between Station Street and Seaford Road, limited to the walking path and gardens) be officially re-named to Pallim Parn (salt water) Gardens.

It is also recommended that Council note the negative sentiment and comments received, and consider this in any future re-naming and similar proposals.

Next steps

Council acknowledges and expresses gratitude to all the members of the community who have participated in this engagement activity informing the renaming of the parcel of land in RF Miles Reserve.

Next steps for this project are as follows:

1. Seek Council endorsement to rename the parcel of land Pallim Parn (salt water) Gardens.
2. Commence lodging the proposed name with Geographic Names Victoria (GNV).
3. Inform the community and stakeholders of the decision.
4. Erect signage at the location, in line with the development project vision and Master Plan.

Appendices



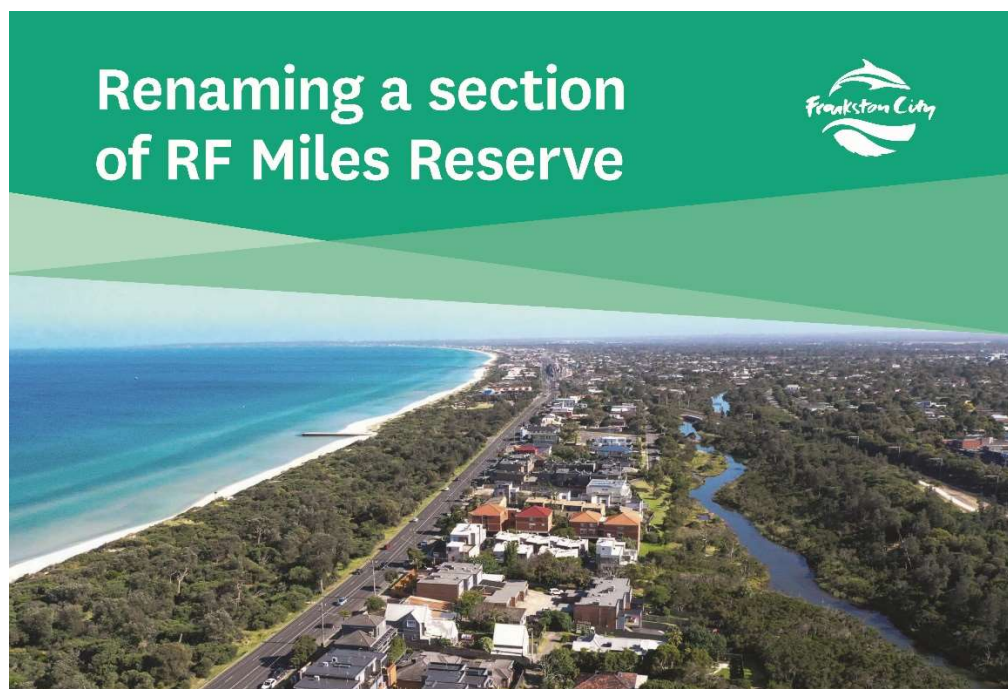
Appendix A Consultation materials

Appendix B Print media

Appendix C Social media

Appendix A - Consultation materials

Poster



Why are we renaming this part of the reserve?

Council is asking for community input to rename the section of reserve alongside Kananook Creek, commonly known as Kananook Creek Reserve (officially named RF Miles Reserve). Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation have selected two names that reflect the reserve's indigenous significance: Pallim Parn (Salt Water) Gardens and Yoke (Eel) Gardens.

Pallim Parn (Salt Water) Gardens was chosen because it represents the reserve's proximity to the bay and highlights the importance of water to the Bunurong people. Water is vital to their culture as it provides food sources from the ocean.

Yoke (Eel) Gardens was chosen because eels were abundant in the area, and it symbolises their connection to water.

The renaming initiative only applies to the walking path and garden, while the existing sporting fields, pavilion, and playground will remain unchanged.

Have you say

Vote for Pallim Parn (Salt Water) Gardens or Yoke (Eel) Gardens, or vote to keep the RF Miles Reserve name at Engage Frankston by 5pm, Sunday 13 August, 2023.



CONTACT
EngServices@frankston.vic.gov.au
Phone 1300 322 322



Postcard



Renaming a section of RF Miles Reserve



Renaming a section of RF Miles Reserve

Council is asking for community input to rename a section of RF Miles Reserve, commonly known as Kananook Creek Reserve (officially named RF Miles Reserve).

The renaming initiative only applies to the walking path and garden, while the existing sporting fields, pavilion, and playground will remain unchanged.

Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation have selected two names that reflect the reserve's indigenous significance.

Pallim Parn (Salt Water) Gardens was chosen because it represents the reserve's proximity to the bay and highlights the importance of water to the Bunurong people. Water is vital to their culture as it provides food sources from the ocean.

Yoke (Eel) Gardens was chosen because eels were abundant in the area, and it symbolises their connection to water.

Vote for Pallim Parn (Salt Water) Gardens or Yoke (Eel) Gardens, or vote to keep the RF Miles Reserve name at Engage Frankston by 5pm, Sunday 13 August, 2023.

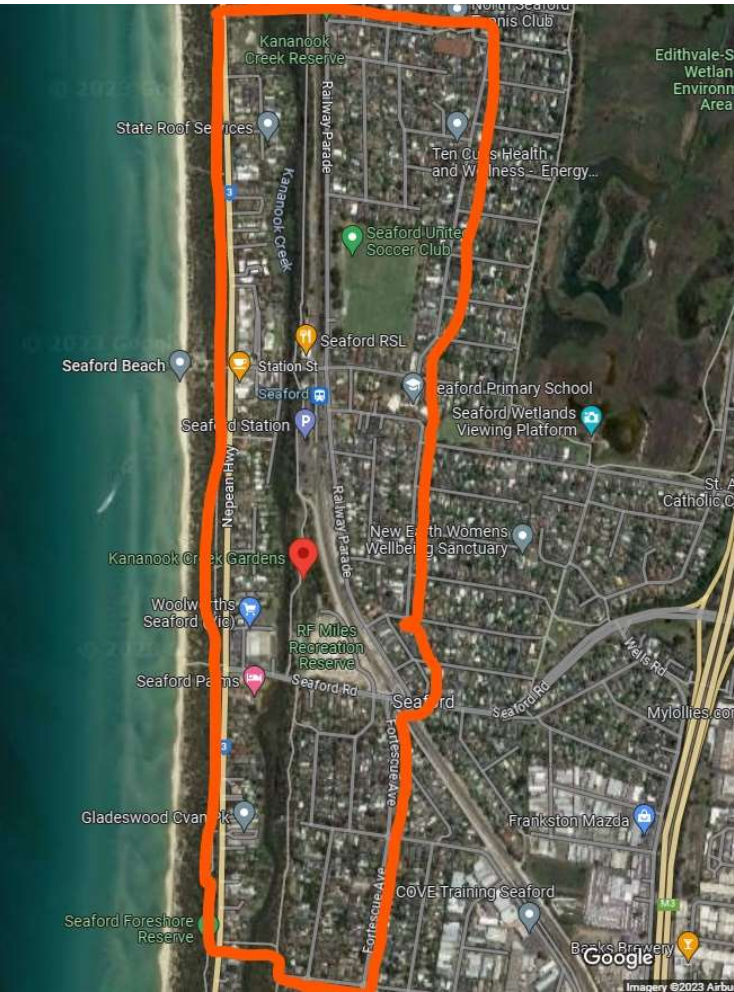


Scan the QR code to have your say

CONTACT
info@frankston.vic.gov.au
Phone 1300 322 322



Postcard Distribution Map



Appendix B - Print media

Frankston City News

July-August edition: Renaming a section of RF Miles Reserve

Link:

<https://www.frankston.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/your-council/media-and-publications/frankston-city-news/pdfs/frankston-news-july-august.pdf>

Renaming a section of RF Miles Reserve

Frankston City Council is asking for community input to rename the picturesque area of reserve alongside Kananook Creek, commonly known as Kananook Creek Reserve but formally named RF Miles Reserve.

Geographic Names Victoria advised that to avoid duplication of existing

names, such as Kananook, a new name could reflect the area's indigenous history. Frankston City Council consulted with the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and proposed two names, Pallim Parn (Salt Water) and Yoke (Eel) Gardens, that authentically represent the reserve's indigenous

significance. Council endorsed community engagement on these proposed names for formally renaming this section of the reserve. The formal renaming focuses solely on the walking path and garden, leaving the existing sporting fields, pavilion, and playground of RF Miles Reserve unaffected.

Vote for Pallim Parn (Salt Water) or Yoke (Eel) Gardens, or to keep the RF Miles Reserve name, at Engage Frankston or **scan the QR code** by 5pm, 13 August 2023. A detailed map is available on Engage Frankston to highlight the area.



Frankston City News July–August 2023

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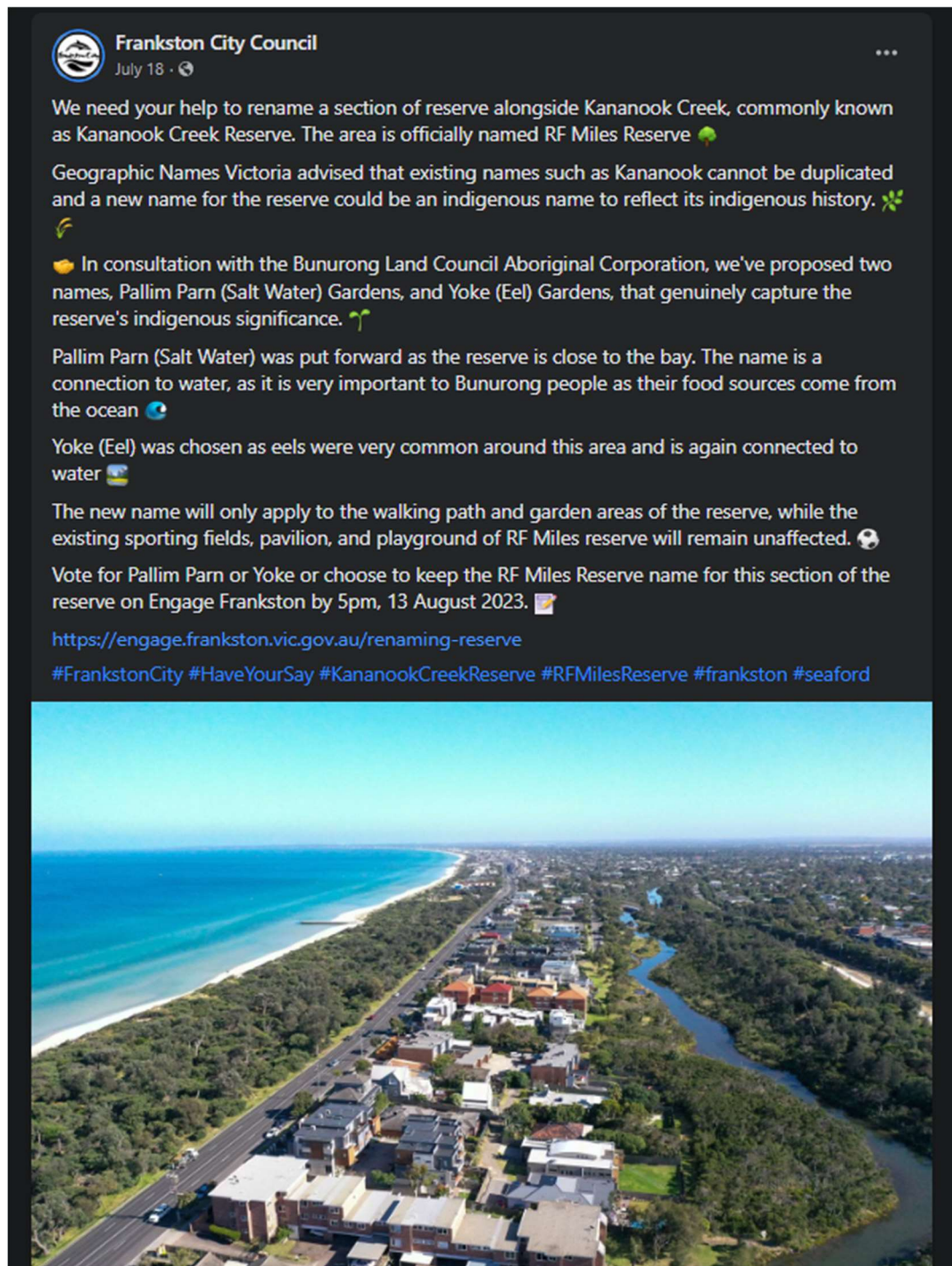
Appendix C - Social media

Facebook

18 July: We need your help to rename a section of reserve alongside Kananook Creek

Link:

<https://www.facebook.com/FrankstonCityCouncil/posts/pfbid02Pr2v3ScyLk3mzhUzw9EzBQBXYhPMySAS7FEHxXuEVzdoy6iUwSvjnATJHPy1F8KLI>




Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation

August 2: What's in a name? For those in Bunurong Country, it's more than just words!

Link:

<https://www.facebook.com/bunurongofficial/posts/pfbid02UJCuzKB6AXgsBGR7mGLNm91SG22EnpmsvKRwFg35NkVh8dMh2DJSCY35dyRVDTCvI>

**Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation** · Follow
August 2 at 6:00 PM · 🌐

What's in a name? For those in Bunurong Country, it's more than just words! [Frankston City Council](#) needs your creative input to rename a section of Kananook Creek Reserve.


The Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation has suggested two fantastic options:

- a) Pallim Parn (Salt Water) Gardens or
- b) Yoke (Eel) Gardens

Both names honour the Indigenous significance of the reserve. Cast your vote for Pallim Parn or Yoke by following the link - <https://bit.ly/3rQPyBn>. Let's make history together! 🌿

Please note the new name will only apply to the reserve's walking path and garden areas, while the existing sporting fields, pavilion, and playground of RF Miles reserve will remain unaffected.



[#bunurongofficial](#) [#bunurongcountry](#) [#frankston](#) [#frankstoncity](#) [#frankstoncitycouncil](#) [#kananookcreek](#)






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Renaming a section of RF Miles Reserve

Following 2021 engagement, we're seeking input on a new name for a section of RF Miles Res...

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2 comments 1 share

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