

Your questions answered



Living Maroondah: a future for our plants, animals and us
Saturday, 16th February 2019

During the Living Maroondah event there were many questions posed to our guest presenters. Due to time constraints, not all of these were able to be answered. Our presenters have now addressed these questions post the event.

Presenter Q&A: Joseph Kaspar

Q. How do you explain the loss of trees I see as a resident, with the findings of your tree canopy cover analysis?

A. The canopy cover in Maroondah has remained stable at ~27% between 2011 and 2016, but that does not mean that there was no localised neighbourhood tree loss. In many areas there were clusters of high tree loss, but there were also many areas that had moderate to high tree growth and this is what would have produced in net the stable statistic.

Q. Given the sampling methods used for the canopy study, how statistically accurate are results?

A. Generally, larger sample sizes provide smaller sampling error. The sample sizes used for the report were very large, with more than 48 000 points assessed in total. If a sample size is not large enough to detect significant change (which did happen in some cases) then the significance tests would show that is the case. More detailed discussion of the statistical validity of the research is outlined in the methodology and discussion of the report.

Q. What is the best way to communicate the concept of 'community ownership' of the value of vegetation to us all in Maroondah, as per indigenous culture.

A. The event we had today was a great start. Education is the key. The more we communicate and educate the community about the collective benefit that trees have, the more people will identify trees as a community asset.

Q. Did you investigate how the trees communicate with each other underground via mycorrhizal fungi and the impact on tree population when a tree dies?

A. No, unfortunately, though this may be a great topic for further scientific research!

Contact us

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