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## **DAREBIN PARKLANDS COMMUNITY EVENTS GUIDE LAUNCHED**

A new guide to community events and environmental activities in Darebin Parklands has been launched.

Published by the Darebin Parklands Association (DPA), the guide contains information about the DPA's Junior Ranger Club and events such as bonfire night, the Darebin Parklands Picnic Races, Catch-a-Carp Day and community park care days.

"The brochure is a great resource for people who want to get more involved in the parklands but don't know what activities and events are on offer," DPA president Ingrid Svendsen said.

"Many people want to do something positive for the environment, but it isn't always easy to know what.

"For adults and children, environmental issues like global warming, deforestation, drought and habitat destruction can seem overwhelming.

"The DPA is making it easier for local people to make a difference. Joining in activities in the parklands is a great way for friends and families to get together and feel good about doing something for the environment and the local community."

Funded by an Australia Post Landcare grant, the guide is on the DPA's website at [www.dpa.org.au](http://www.dpa.org.au) and copies are available at the parklands' environment centre and through Banyule and Darebin councils.

Established in 1973, the Ivanhoe-based DPA is a United Nations-award winning environment group working to create more habitat for native animals and to retain the parklands as a wildlife haven and a place to appreciate nature.

"Our members have worked with the community for 35 years revegetating, clearing weeds and rubbish, growing trees and helping improve creek water quality," Ms Svendsen said.

"We have helped to transform the parklands from a degraded horse paddock and former tip into one of Melbourne's best urban conservation parks, home to echidnas, 70 species of birds, flying foxes, kangaroos and native frogs and fish. Recently a platypus was officially spotted nearby and koalas are predicted to return soon."

**Further info and photos: Ingrid Svendsen, 0409 007 530**

