

Darebin Parklands Association Newsletter

Main Stream Melbourne

ScreenSound Australia's Main Stream Melbourne video combines archival films, amateur and newsreel footage and historic photographs to document the place of the Yarra River in our lives. At our next general meeting, on **Tuesday, November 30**, we will view edited highlights of this fascinating video. The presentation will focus on our part of the Yarra River catchment, especially our very own Darebin Creek. The meeting starts at 8 pm, in the ranger's office. All welcome.

What a year!

Fun, fun, fun – that seems to have been the DPA's motto throughout 2004. At the start of this year we decided to focus on involving children and families in the DPA, and this effort has well and truly paid off. We already have almost 90 new Junior Ranger members. Along with their families, these new youngsters have reinvigorated all of us with their energy. If you haven't yet seen the Junior Rangers in action, I invite you to attend our next Park Care Day on November 21. Their enthusiasm and persistence is really something to see! Another successful innovation in 2004 was the introduction of a calendar of community events, including our now legendary bonfire nights and Catch-a-Carp Day. In between all the fun we also put in a lot of hard work, cleaning up the park after the floods of last Christmas,

restoring and revegetating Hidden Valley and planting beautiful wildflowers and shrubs around the main duck pond. We also helped with one of the biggest construction projects the park has seen, the Spiritual Healing Trail (see story page 4).

As this is the DPA's last newsletter for 2004, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter, Rhys, Ben and all the park staff for their support throughout the year. Also, the DPA committee – Sue Course, Monty Grover, Anthony Jones, Sue Kelly, Eve Recht, Isabelle Renaudin, Ingrid Svendsen and David Williams – for their efforts.

I'd like to wish all of our members a safe and happy holiday season. We look forward to your continued support in 2005. If you haven't yet re-joined, please take a moment to fill out the membership form accompanying this newsletter.

– **Graeme Martin, DPA president**

DPA Events 2004/2005

November 21 Park Care Day 1–3 pm

November 30 DPA quarterly meeting

February 22 AGM, 8 pm, ranger's office

May 15 Park Care Day 1 pm–3 pm

May 31 DPA quarterly meeting

June 19 Park Care Day 1 pm–3 pm

August 30 DPA quarterly meeting

September 11 Park Care Day 1 pm–3 pm

November 29 DPA quarterly meeting

Big changes – inside and out

Hello members,

We have been struggling to keep up with our mowing regime and I apologise for that. Our tractor slashing contractors have not been available for the last month for unknown reasons, which has been frustrating from a park management prospective.

Ironically these things happen in the one part of the year you wish they didn't.

Moving on, I have been battling with public liability insurance, or more to the point, finding an underwriter that will insure the DCMC Inc and the parklands. Insurance is a real issue for organisations such as DCMC and the DPA. For a week or so it looked as if the DPA or any volunteer/s would be unable to work in the park because of the lack of insurance cover.

We have resolved the insurance issue for this year and we are currently investigating strategies for insurance with council assistance for the coming years.

The official launch of the Spiritual Healing Trail is on November 12.

You might notice that we have fitted plaques throughout the park, although vandals only took a week to rip out the Mt Puffalo plaques. We used glue, now we will bolt them in!

Darebin Council provided funds to construct the trail while Banyule Council provided funding for the trail brochure and map.

Melbourne Water has committed to repairing the walking trail along the creek just down stream of the footbridge. Works on the trail will continue until the end of the year as we aim to make it accessible for as many people as possible.

We have completed several earthwork projects including placing a power supply around the picnic area and down into the amphitheatre. We also constructed and completed the earth stage and several landscape mounds in the picnic area and one down along the bike path near Parklands Ave.

Melbourne Water has told me that they will start the works on Donaldson Creek and the Darebin Creek on the October 25. Mind you I announced these same works this time last year in the DPA newsletter.

I have no news regarding the shared trial at this stage.

Rhys and Katherine have been painting the Environment Centre to better suit visitors, with colours representing different themes such as geology, botany and water. It is hoped eventually that we will be able to host student study area with a dedicated computer and other resources.

Thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed the bonfire on October 29, and especially to all of the parents who helped take the stress out of the night by supervising their kids around the fire.

Finally, Erin Roberts my trusty assistant of seven years has resigned from the parklands to raise her new daughter Imogen and son Baily. I will miss Erin, as she was great fun to work with and a loyal employee of the DCMC.

Seeya in the Park

– **Peter J. Wiltshire**
RIC

Contact the DPA

Ideas? Inquires? Contact us by email at darebinparklandsassociation@yahoo.com or call Graeme on 9499 3849.

Kids 5, Carp 0

The first ever Darebin Parklands Catch-a-Carp competition on October 23 was a real hit, with around 75 kids taking part. This National Water Week event aimed to promote fishing as a fun way to reduce carp numbers in the creek. The fish haul for day was a lower than expected. However, the five fish caught were mature, and potentially would have spawned many thousands of eggs each over the next month. The competition was timed to happen just before spawning.



The parents and kids had a great time. The first 50 children received free fishing rods and reels, courtesy of Water Watch, which was a very happy surprise courtesy of Ben Scullin, our local Water Watch officer.

The competition winner for the day was Kyle Wiltshire whose prize catch weighed more than two kilos.

One of the important outcomes of the day was that many people now realised that they could actually go fishing in the creek. If you want to fish in the creek, here are some tips:

- You need a fishing licence if you are between 18 and 69 years of age
- Use plain white bread for bait: just make a ball on your hook.
- If you do catch fish, please let Ben know what size and where you

caught them. You can email Ben on Ben.Scullin@banyule.vic.gov.au

- If you do go fishing and catch anything other than a carp, such as an eel or tortoise, please cut the line off and let it go. Don't try to remove the hook; it will rust away.
- Humanely kill carp and take them home. I suggest that you bury them in the garden for compost.

After the success of this event, we reckon we will put another carp competition on the calendar next year.

We would like to thank the two companies that supported the day: **COMPLEAT ANGLER** (387 Flinders Lane, Melbourne), which provided the rods and reels at a very reasonable price and **AUSSIE ANGLER** (30 Sherbourne Road, Greensborough), which provided the prizes.

– Graeme Martin

Last Park Care Day for 2004!

At the September Park Care Day we planted wildflowers and shrubs around the main duckpond. At the November 21 Park Care Day we will plant seeds to grow seedlings for the park, and also prepare the lower part of the new bike trail for planting next year.

Meet at 1 pm, at the ranger's office. BYO gloves. Afternoon tea provided.

2004/2005 Park Care Days



Cut out and keep!



Sunday, November 21, 1 pm – 3 pm

Sunday, May 15, 1 pm – 3 pm

Sunday, June 19, 1 pm – 3 pm

Sunday, September 11, 1 pm – 3 pm

Healing Trail launched

As this edition of the newsletter went to press, Darebin Parklands' Spiritual Healing Trail was due for its long-awaited official launch.



The Spiritual Healing Trail is a gift from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community as a gesture of reconciliation. It aims

to promote personal good health through improving our emotional and spiritual well being and a sense of being connected to the land where we reside, to others and most importantly ourselves.

How does the trail work? The Spiritual Healing Trail is simple. All you have to do is follow the



map and directions in the brochure to get from site to site, and allow the instructions for each site to lead you through your healing journey.

The beautifully illustrated trail leaflet is available from the new noticeboard at the start of the trail, near the Smith Street entrance to the park.



All work on the Spiritual Healing Trail has been undertaken with approval from members of the traditional custodians of

the land, the Wurundjeri people, members of the local Aboriginal community, members of the general community and the Darebin and Banyule councils, with guidance from rangers of Darebin Parklands. The DPA is proud to have played a role in making this exciting and unique project happen.

Winners are grinners!

Congratulations to the winners of the Junior Rangers' end of year competition: Lily R, Isobel S, Alannah J, Joshua B and Alice B. These five lucky winners get to go to the Junior Ranger camp out.

Welcome new Junior Rangers

Welcome to: Ruby D, Angus D, Eleanor F, Callum F, Sara W, Dan W, Dion W, Ainslee W, Morgan MacE, Gwilym MacE, Matilda H, Adelaide H, Cedar B, Issey B, Felix B, Patrick F-S, Nathan F-S, Emerson S, Paris S, Cassi J, Georgia J, Jesse J, Giacomo B, Miro B, Zoe R, Morgan N, Billy W, Alexandria M, Cameron M and James P.

Did we accidentally leave your name off the list? Drop us a line at

darebinparklandsassociation@yahoo.com

and we'll put your name in the next edition.

New Junior Ranger cards

Paid-up Junior Rangers will receive their 2005 membership cards at the first event next year. But please don't throw away this year's card! Do the environment a favour and help the DPA save money: keep the plastic cover so that you can use it for your new card.

Help us stay in touch

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