

Happy birthday to us!

In May 1973 a group of Ivanhoe residents, outraged that the powerful Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works was bulldozing vegetation along the Darebin Creek, started a movement that is still powering on today. The community not only stopped the bulldozers, it fought, lobbied and worked for decades to create the wonderful conservation park we are so fortunate to enjoy today.

This month we celebrate the achievements of those committed people, many of whom are still involved in the DPA and the parklands today, in transforming former tip, quarry and barren horse paddock into an urban wildlife haven. (If you would like to know more about our history, please check out Dr Sarah Mirams' excellent book *Darebin Parklands: Escaping the Claws of the Machine*, available on our website.)

We'll celebrate our 40th birthday after our park care day on 19 May. Please join us and other special guests for a slice of birthday cake and some bubbles. Details on page 3.

Also coming up is our AGM on Tuesday 28 May,

featuring the entertaining edible weed expert Doris Pozzi. Committee elections are held at the AGM and all financial members who support the DPA's goal of maintaining the parklands as a wildlife haven and place to appreciate nature are welcome to nominate. If you enjoy revegetation projects, Junior Ranger Club events or other DPA activities being on the committee is a fun and rewarding way to contribute.

And finally, after six action-packed years as president, I will be standing aside at the AGM (but remaining on the committee). I'm also leaving this newsletter in the capable hands of committee member Ian McMaster, who will take over as editor from the August edition.

I wish the new incumbents as much fun as I've had in my time as both president and newsletter editor.

I look forward to seeing you in the parklands soon.

Ingrid Svendsen
President

May info evening/AGM

Weeds for dinner!

Guest speaker, edible weed expert Doris Pozzi, will talk about the culinary uses of weeds at our AGM on Tuesday 28 May.

The meeting starts at 8pm in the Gleeson Building at the parklands environment centre, end of Separation Street, Alphington. All welcome!

Events calendar 2013

May 19.....	Park care day and 40th birthday celebration
May 28.....	AGM
June 23.....	Park care day
July 21.....	Park care day
Aug 16.....	Junior Ranger bonfire night
Aug 27.....	Information evening
September 15.....	Park care day

Pete's page

News from the ranger in charge

Tackling pest birds no Myna matter

G'day DPA members,

The Heidelberg Road trail is finally open: 22 plus years in the making. Now you can cycle or walk from the Darebin Parklands through to Sparks Reserve and the Ivanhoe Boulevard.

Other great news is that a close friend of Darebin Parklands purchased the entire block of land and the historical house 'Avalon', in Bank Street, Alphington. For those of you that don't know that's the property immediately south of the Hurstbridge railway line and the original homestead that occupied the Western side of Darebin Parklands. This means the threat of development is removed, after years of going to VCAT to protest the recent proposed over development of the site.

We have established an Indian Myna trapping program with nine traps positioned around the park. In the last couple of months we have trapped 85 of the pest birds.

In partnership with Banyule City Council we recently held an Indian Myna day at the park with the guest speaker Julie Gibson from the Yarra Indian Myna Action Group.



We are eventually hoping to get local residents involved as well to trap in their backyards. The DCMC is building a communal CO² chamber to dispose of caught birds to stop trappers from

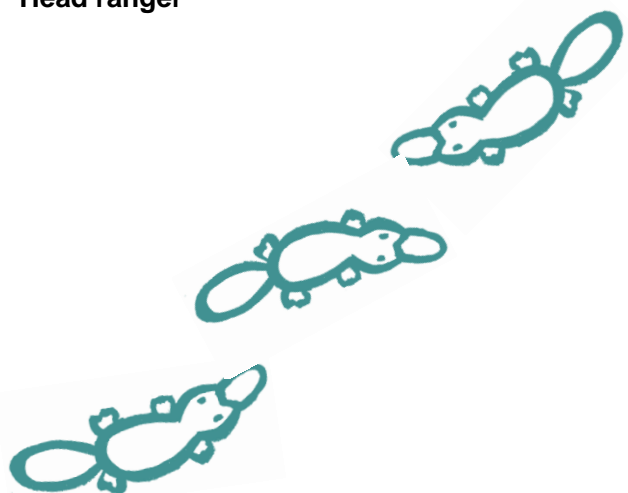
having to do the unpleasant job of killing them. The plan is that people can drop off their traps and we dispose of the birds for them and supply a replacement trap. Early days so far but we are committed to removing as many Indian Mynas from the park as possible.



DPA member Michael Mann places the traps around the park at daybreak and has been monitoring them daily for us. Thanks Michael.

See you in the park,

Peter Wiltshire
Head ranger



Stay up to date between newsletters. Check our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for photo galleries and all the latest news



JR NEWS ROUNDUP

Wildlife spotto!

The highlight of the JR wildlife spotlighting walk with Ranger Pete earlier this month was the sighting of a Boobook Owl! It was one of the only times that Ranger Pete has seen this rare owl in the parklands.

What a unique experience for the Junior Rangers!



Other critters spotted included a rakali (native water rat), kookaburra, tawny frogmouth, spiders, eels, possums and bats.

A big thanks to Ranger Pete.

Junior Ranger camp out – what a night!

A group of lucky prize winners had a fantastic night under the stars at the Junior Ranger camp out on February 15. Ranger Pete helped set up the site, and built a bonfire for toasted marshmallows. Despite the storm clouds the stars came out and Peter took us on a spotlighting tour to see possums, kookaburras and a tawny frogmouth. Congratulations to winners Ben, Levi, Augustus and Toby and thanks to Maree and Susie and families for their assistance. And a very big thank you as always to Ranger Peter and his beaut ute!

Bonfire night coming soon

Members only JR bonfire night is on Friday 16 August. This is always a highlight for members of our Junior Ranger Club. Full event details on our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR BIRTHDAY PARTY

At our next park are day on Sunday 19 May we'll be kicking off our latest revegetation project on Mt Puffalo, on the Alphington side of the parklands, and also celebrating our 40th birthday. We think 40 years of community action and commitment that has helped create a natural oasis in the north is worth celebrating, so we hope you will join us.

Native grass planting starts at 1pm, followed by celebration afternoon tea and birthday cake around 3pm. All equipment supplied.

Details including directions to the site are on our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

The parklands needs you!



We are seeking volunteers to help with weeding and planting in the parklands. A weekly group works under the guidance of rangers, who teach weed and plant identification. Work commences in autumn and usually lasts 2-3 hours on a particular day. Traditionally this has been Thursday but this can be adapted. No previous experience necessary. If interested please email info@dpa.org.au or contact Ian McMaster on 0400 575 639.



Volunteers have played a crucial role in the restoration of the Darebin Parklands from tip to wildlife haven.

Up and down the creek



News from the Darebin Creek Management Committee inc.

On Sunday 28 April DCMC and Friends of Darebin Creek had a nesting box construction workshop. We completed 24 nesting boxes of three different designs aimed at attracting different native fauna species. DCMC staff aim to install the nesting boxes, as well as some more specialised boxes from La Trobe Wildlife Sanctuary, in trees along the creek in the near future using cherry pickers.



Nest builders incorporated!

Funds will also enable the purchase of a nest box pole camera for regular checking of boxes without disturbing the inhabitants.

As mentioned in the February newsletter, DCMC staff have been installing and monitoring nest boxes along the Darebin Creek. Data collected will go a long way to monitoring bird populations.

Our annual Shopping Trolley Muster was on Tuesday 30 April with DCMC staff, Banyule Bush crew and Darebin Bush crew. This year was the lowest ever with only 6 trolleys and 3 motorbikes pulled out of the creek between the Darebin Parklands and the Ring Road. Last year we pulled out 34 trolleys, so it was a nice surprise to see the creek so clear of large dumped items.

The next Friends of Darebin Creek planting day is on Sunday 26 May in Mernda. Come and discover

some of the new areas of Quarry Hills park not currently accessible to the public, with a tree planting at top of the Henderson's Creek catchment. Meet at 105 Hunters Road (corner Cravens Road), Mernda (Melways 183 D1). Please bring sturdy shoes, hat and rain coat if wet – all tools and gloves supplied. Lunch also provided. Thanks to City of Whittlesea.

For other upcoming Friends events go to www.friendsofdarebincreek.org.au

Peter Grenfell, DCMC Project Officer
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Keeping it clean!

A big thank you to all kids, grandparents and everyone in between who collected more than 30 bags of rubbish on Clean Up Australia Day in March. Wackier finds included the front of a television, part of the front end of a car and an inflatable dinghy, complete with paddle. Score of the day goes to DPA member Andrew, who found a shiny new \$20 note, which he kindly donated to the DPA. Thanks to Ranger Pete for helping to organise the event.



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