

DPA Action (Activity) Plan 2012=2014: Final Summary of Progress

Note: Items in italics were not part of original Action Plan, but were added during the period of the plan

| Theme one: Undertake strategic revegetation and related work in the parklands with the aim of promoting native flora and fauna | Priority | DN & IM | Progress / Achievements |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|---|
| 1.1. Conduct regular maintenance on previously planted areas | 1 | DN / IM | Weeding group held weekly and park care days held regularly throughout 2012 / 2013 / 2014 |
| 1.2. Work with the rangers to identify appropriate sites for strategic revegetation work that creates more native animal habitat | 2 | | On-going. The DPA focus has been on planting on Mt Puffalo and other volunteer groups (e.g, NMIT) have collaborated on other areas. Improved native animal habitats are a by-product of all the revegetation and related work done in the park. |
| 1.3. Implement "Adopt an Area" with schools, residents, companies, put in signage and post map and photo on website | 3 | | On hold due to ranger staff shortages in 2013, and lack of consensus about whether this approach is viable |
| 1.4. Implement master plan recommendation of planting and landscaping the Rockbeare Grove, Ivanhoe, entrance | 4 | | On hold due to ranger staff shortages in 2013 |
| <i>1.5. Work with the Ranger to establish and maintain an ongoing myna bird eradication program</i> | | <i>MM</i> | <i>In progress: around 200 birds as at end August 2013</i> |

1.6. Work with the Ranger to develop, coordinate and maintain a nest box program for the park to attract and protect native bird species

MM In progress. Funding received from Leader Grants Program (\$1000), plus DPA and DCMC (\$500 each). Around 90 nest boxes at end August 2013

1.7. Review the effectiveness of "dog on and off lead areas" in the parkland

Pete Wiltshire to organise a "dog owners meeting" to discuss options for extending the off leash area

1.8 Develop strategies to prevent, control and manage litter in the park

Thursday morning group is often dedicated to litter management. Clean up Australia day held in parklands annually.

Theme two: Celebrate the history, heritage and environment of the parklands and the DPA

**CN &
LK**

Progress / Achievements

| | | | |
|---|---|----|--|
| 2.1. Investigate conserving historical remnants within the parklands eg the weirs and historically significant vegetation like Pine Ridge and installing interpretive signage | 1 | | No progress on conserving historical remnants, to be investigated in 2015 Activity Plan. Funding for an interpretive heritage trail brochure and website is currently being sought and the need for physical interpretive signage will be examined in light of this. |
| 2.2. Apply for major awards for the parklands and DPA activities | 2 | | Several successful awards and grant applications including: Winner, Banyule-Darebin Sustainability Awards Nov 2012. Leader Grants program for nesting boxes, July 2013. Community grant (plants for 2014) submitted in Sept. Applying in for other awards in 2013, with a view to collaborating with DCMC and/or Friends of DC where appropriate |
| 2.3. Catalogue, conserve and make publicly accessible via internet if possible the DPA's historic records | 3 | CN | Cataloguing is virtually complete - some small items still to be done. Conservation progressing well, mainly digitising audiovisual records. Public accessibility commencing through Victorian Collections (http://victoriancollections.net.au/ and search for Darebin Parklands Association) |
| 2.4. Form a committee to plan the celebration of the DPA's 40th birthday in 2013 | 4 | | Complete: 40th birthday celebration was major success, including tree planting by Lady Hamer |
| 2.5. Re-introduce the DPA photographic competition as a financially sustainable event, possibly utilising social media | 5 | | On hold due to lack of a "champion" for this activity |
| 2.6. Investigate audio walking tours of the parklands possibly incorporating oral histories | 6 | | Investigation complete and decision made to develop a heritage trail brochure and website. Funding applied for. |

| Theme three: Support and expand the parklands' role as a centre for environmental education | Priority | Progress / Achievements |
|---|----------|---|
| 3.1. Advocate for better walking and cycling access to the parklands including completion of the Darebin Yarra shared trail and construction of a new shared path along the east side of Yarana Rd Alphington | 1 | GM Funding for completion of shared trail approved by State Gov May 2013. Trail completed through to Sparks Reserve (May 2013) |
| 3.2. Investigate a Bureau of Meteorology weather monitoring station to be used as part of the education program in the parklands | 2 | On hold: Consider incorporating into proposed environment centre |
| 3.3. Build financial and political support for a feasibility study of a new catchment environmental and education centre replacing the existing environment centre in the parklands | 3 | IS/DC Complete: funding received from Hamer Foundation, local councils and DPA. Feasibility study completed and report circulated October 2014 |
| <i>3.4. Conduct regular (3 per year) information nights with appropriate guest speakers</i> | SR | <i>On-going, regular information nights held in 2012/2013/2014 on topics such as platypuses, edible weeds, the egg sculpture, bird watching, fish life.</i> |

| Theme four: Foster greater community involvement in the parklands from a more diverse range of groups | Priority | Progress / Achievements |
|--|----------|---|
| 4.1. Develop a membership strategy to retain and increase membership and encourage active involvement | 1 | Partially n progress; "mailchimp" trial for 2014, with specific mailouts to current and past members. No specific "membership strategy" in place |
| 4.2. Actively promote the activities of the DPA to a diversity of organisations eg groups for people with disabilities, indigenous organisations, different faith groups etc | 2 | Regular signage of upcoming events appears in the park and on DPA website. |
| 4.3. Investigate creating a "healing place" for meditation and contemplation | 3 | MC / IS A "peace tree" has been planted in memory of Reg and a plaque officially placed on 17/11/13. In light of this, the existing spiritual healing trail, and extensive discussions with the Ranger, Committee meeting of 10.02.14 decided not to pursue this further at this stage. |
| 4.4. Further promote the Spiritual Healing Trail via website and walking tours | 4 | PW / CC In progress: see item 2.6 |
| <i>4.5. Conduct a Junior Ranger program</i> | | <i>PW / MT On-going, regular junior ranger activities in 2012/2013/2014 include catch-a-carp, bonfire nights, spotlight walks, etc.</i> |
| <i>4.6. Communicate regularly with members and the broader community through DPA newsletter, Facebook page, and member emails</i> | | <i>IM / MS / MC On-going, regular newsletter and member emails have occurred throughout 2012/2013/2014. FB page maintained regularly.</i> |
| <i>4.7. Maintain and regularly update the DPA website</i> | | <i>CN / PW On-going, website has been maintained throughout 2012/2013</i> |

Theme five: Encourage philanthropic support, sponsorship and bequests

Priority

Progress / Achievements

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| 1. Investigate independent Deductible Gift Recipient status for the DPA to facilitate bequests and donations | 1 | SR | In progress - decision taken to go for DGR in collaboration with DCMC |
| 2. Investigate a tax deductible building fund to support major projects like the proposed new catchment environment and education centre | 2 | | On hold depending on DGR status - see above |
| 3. Investigate engaging a pro bono law firm to advise the committee. | 3 | SR | Little real progress despite substantial effort. On hold. |
| 4. Investigate sponsorship of individual events. | 4 | | On-going process, although "sponsorship" has rarely occurred (more likely to be small grant) |
| 5. Enlist a patron | 5 | | No progress |