



New faces and special visitors

Following our AGM in May the DPA now has a new committee. Five new committee members put up their hands to join the committee at the AGM, so we now have a great blend of experience and new enthusiasm.

The 2012 committee is:

President: Ingrid Svendsen

Vice-president: Susie Rogers

Secretary: Peter Revill

Treasurer: Meredith Schaap

General members: Debra Nette, Maryanne Newton, Terry Murphy, Mark Creamer, Peter Williams and Ian McMaster.

Thanks are due to all committee members who retired at the AGM, and in particular former vice-president Carina Watson, who has been an invaluable reservoir of energy, ideas and wisdom during her stint.

We have been busy with a number of Junior Ranger events, park care days and other happenings in the parklands during recent months. Highlights have included a talk by Geoff Williams, Australia's foremost expert on platypus

and rakali (native water rats), at our AGM, and the recent Junior Ranger Build a Possum Box workshop.

In May we were thrilled and honoured that the family of the late Sir Rupert Hamer, former Premier of Victoria, came to visit us in the parklands. Ranger Pete Wiltshire and I took Lady April and daughters Julia Hamer and Sarah Brennan on a tour of the parklands, which is a part of the legacy of Sir Rupert. Turn to page 4 for photos and details.

In other exciting news, I would like to congratulate ranger Rohen Davis and her husband Andrea, who are expecting their first baby in December.

This edition is packed with news, including our new "Up and Down the Creek" section, with news from further afield. Please enjoy!

Hope to see you in the parklands soon.

Ingrid Svendsen
President

August info evening

Caring for wildlife

Amy Amato, Wildlife Victoria's development manager, will speak about Wildlife Victoria's work and her rescue experience, including as part of an emergency response team during the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires, at our information evening on Tuesday 28 August. The meeting starts at 8pm in the Gleeson building at the parklands environment centre, end of Separation Street, Alphington. All welcome!

Events calendar

August 17.....	Junior Ranger bonfire night*
August 28.....	Information evening
September 23.....	Junior Ranger water pollution action
October 28.....	Kids Catch a Carp Day*
November 25.....	Park care day
November 27.....	Information evening

Pete's page

News from the ranger in charge

Bikes, an egg, rocks and a baby...

G'day DPA members,

Firstly let me apologise for the damage done to the park by the recent cyclocross event. My mistake was to assume that the event would be the same as last year, which was much smaller and had minimal impact on the parklands, and so I did not get full details on the course layout beforehand.

This year it was a much larger event and the course the organisers laid out mistakenly went into the picnic area and amphitheatre. I wasn't at the park early that morning so you can imagine my surprise to find the park packed with people and the course going across the picnic area and into the amphitheatre.

So once again I am sorry and I will fix the parklands and not allow any further cyclocross or other active events into that area of the park.

The positive aspect of the event was the cyclocross crowd is a diverse group of all ages from children to the elderly and a happy and friendly bunch. The organisers are also very nice people who were very concerned at how upset I was about the park and to their credit came down the day after to help me spread grass seed and repair the worst areas. A big cyclocross group also came to the DPA's park care day the following Sunday.



Moving on, our egg has arrived. Let me be more accurate – our new public art addition has arrived, although it's not in the park as yet. It has been too wet for the 25 tonne crane we need to place it below Mt Puffalo.

The art project has been funded by Darebin

City Council and is called 'The Nest' as the egg sits surrounded by the reed bed that treats the leachate.

The egg itself is made from three varieties of wood – red gum, cypress pine and spotted gum. Most of the timber was sourced from a demolished church in Malvern.

Last month I met with Melbourne Water officers seeking assistance and advice about the restoration of the path the runs along the creek below the Olive Slope. (There used to be a boardwalk in the middle section that is now down at Willowbank Grove in Ivanhoe after the Christmas floods). I have been trying to figure out the best way to rebuild that path so it can withstand regular flooding. I called in Melbourne Water to discuss the hydrology of the site and to find the best solutions to restore the path. Rocks are the answer, large rocks, but how we get them to the location is the key and who will pay for the works.

We will keep plugging away at a cost effective solution as it is an important path for the public.

I am also happy to announce that Rowboat (aka Ranger Rohen) is pregnant, with the baby due in the last week of December. She is off the tools now and pretty much office-bound. You might see her waddling around Snake Grass area now and then but from now on I will be handling all outdoor activities.

We have the Junior Ranger bonfire night coming up on the 17 August. We will be having the bonny at the Horseshoe Mound near the Smith Street, Alphington, entrance to the parklands, so I hope to see plenty of happy faces and this time I will make sure that I can get it lit! [*Don't lose faith in yourself Ranger Pete, just because last year's bonnie proved almost unlightable! Ed*]

See you in the park,

Peter Wiltshire
Head ranger



COMING SOON!

Junior Ranger bonfire night

Marshmallows at the ready – Junior Ranger bonfire night is almost here. The bonfire is a members only event; it's one of the ways we say thanks to our younger members for their help throughout the year. It's on Friday 17 August, from 6,30-8pm, at the Horseshoe Mound, just inside the Smith Street, Alphington, entrance.

Water pollution action day

Find out about the frogs and other creatures that live in the creek at this great free event on Sunday 23 September, from 10am-12 noon. Join the coordinator of North Eastern Melbourne Water Watch, Julia Vanderoord, for activities including painting anti-pollution platypus stencils on drains around the parklands (weather permitting) or wet weather indoor activities will include making waterbugs and origami frogs and frog bingo.

Kids' Catch a Carp Day

Dust off those fishing rods kids! Kids' Catch a Carp Day is on Sunday 28 October, 9.15-11.30am. Come and help to rid the creek of this pest fish.

Full details for all events on our website and Facebook page.



Possums get a box to call home



Timber, screws and hinges were transformed into deluxe wildlife condos at the Junior Ranger Build a Possum Box workshop in June. Thanks once again to Jonathan from Learning by Doing for running the workshop and to the Telstra Kids Foundation, which funded the event. We will be running another one, so if you missed out do not despair.

Have you installed your possum box? Is anyone home? Email info@dpa.org.au and let us know.

You can see more photos or share yours on our [Facebook page](#) and [website](#).

Dirty Deeds (and done dirt cheap!)

At our park care days in May, June and July we blitzed weeds and litter on the Ivanhoe and Alphington floodplains. **Hamish Fitzsimmons**, DPA member and organiser of the recent Dirty Deeds Cyclocross Series joined in...

It was with some trepidation that a bunch of cyclists from Dirty Deeds Cyclocross approached the DPA's park care day last month. After holding our event in the parklands the previous week we were keen to contribute, but a little worried there was a notion that we were a bunch of two-wheeled

hoons. We couldn't have been more wrong. The folks from the DPA welcomed us with gloves and a trailer that needed to be filled with weeds. It turns out some of our regular riders are regulars at DPA events too, and some have signed up as members.

The parklands are beautiful and special to us and we are even keener to grow our relationship. We hope to have an annual working bee and barbecue after any event the parklands are gracious enough to let us have in the future.



Warm welcome for Sir Rupert's family



In May we were honoured to have some very special visitors to the parklands – the family of the late Sir Rupert (Dick) Hamer, former Premier of Victoria and a great patron of the parklands.

We were thrilled to take Lady April and her daughters Sarah Brennan and Julia Hamer a tour, and to tell them of our

respect for Sir Rupert. We took the Hamers back to the old rangers' hut, built by the DPA and opened by Sir Rupert in 1980.

Sir Rupert, the father of the Garden State, played a pivotal role in the parklands. He supported the creation of a park, even when the site was a weed infested wasteland, and helped gain the equivalent of \$1 million in funding to make the wonderful place we enjoy today. We were glad to have the opportunity to tell the Hamer family how grateful we are.



More photos and info about the Hamer visit on website at www.dpa.org.au and Facebook page at www.facebook.com/darebinpark

Up and down the creek



Darebin Creek Management Committee's Gums Along the Creek project, which had been on hold while finalising planting sites, is now going ahead. Thanks to funding from Melbourne Water's Corridors of Green program, DCMC has been spot spraying in preparation for planting overstorey trees along the Darebin Creek between McKimmies Road in Bundoora to Childs Road in Mill Park. We will also plant along some lower sections of Henderson's Creek, a tributary of the Darebin. Although the areas to be planted aren't quite as large as first thought, it is a great outcome for the creek as the other areas will be planted out by Melbourne Water in the future.

Darebin Creek Froggers recently had a film night at the environment centre Gleeson building. About 15 people came along to watch *Cane Toads The Conquest* and learn about the scourge of northern Australia, the cane toad (*Bufo marinus*), which appear to be heading towards Victoria. No film night would be complete without popcorn, and we also heard from Brendan Casey, a volunteer with Toad Busters, who spoke about his work in the Northern Territory. With the new projector screen and speakers, the film night was a great success and hopefully the first of many. The next Froggers' event is a native fish identification workshop at La Trobe Wildlife Reserve, which is already booked out. Check the DCMC coordination homepage for the current event flier at www.dcmc.org.au.

Recent Friends of Darebin Creek activities have been a weeding day at Electric Spur in West Heidelberg, run by Emma from Banyule Bush Crew, and a planting and hand weeding day in South Morang, run by City of Whittlesea Bush Crew. To mark National Tree Day in July the Friends planted along the creek near Gronn Street in Reservoir. From previous plantings here the stretch of creek is starting to really take shape, thanks to Friends, volunteers and the City of Darebin Bush Crew.

At the next Friends of Darebin Creek meeting on 16 August, we are having a creek update with Emma from Banyule Bush Crew and Michelle from Darebin Bush Crew. They will tell

us a bit about the work they have been doing and their observations of life along the creek. All are welcome to attend.

An idea has been floated for the Darebin Parklands to host a Ride to Work Day Breakfast for cyclists in mid-October. It would be a chance to highlight the work of the DPA and the Friends of Darebin Creek as well as the shared trail extension. More details to come in the next DPA newsletter. If anyone is keen to help out just let me know.

For details of upcoming events, see www.friendsofdarebin creek.org.au

Cheers,

Peter Grenfell
DCMC projects officer

Platypus guru: 'They're out there'



A fascinating talk by Geoff Williams from the Australian Platypus Conservancy was a highlight of our AMG in May. The good news is we'll be seeing more of these intriguing critters around the Darebin in future. Learn more about the APC at www.platypus.asn.au/

Get the parklands book

Darebin Parklands: Escaping the Claws of the Machine by Dr Sarah Mirams, with foreword by former Australian of the Year Professor Tim Flannery, is available in good bookshops (including locally at Andrew's in Ivanhoe and Fairfield Books) and online at www.dpa.org.au for \$39.95, or you can pick up a copy in person from the environment centre or from any DPA event.

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